



7<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time  
February 23, 2014

Rev. Monty Clendenin

Organist: Dr. Susie F. Dempsey

Lay Reader  
Margaret Pope

Elder Greeter  
Virginia MacRae

Ushers  
Glenn and Mary Agnes Hester

*Gathering*

**First Ringing of the Bell** ∞ Music for Meditation  
**Second Ringing of the Bell** ∞ Opening of the Bible  
**Welcome, Joys, Concerns, and Announcements**

**Prelude** *I've Got Peace Like a River* Charles Callahan

*Call to Worship*

*Royal Thanksgiving for Victory* *Psalm 18:1-6,16-19*

One: I love you, O LORD, my strength.

**All: The LORD is my rock, my fortress, and my deliverer, my God, my rock in whom I take refuge, my shield, and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold.**

One: I call upon the LORD, who is worthy to be praised; so I shall be saved from my enemies.

**All: The cords of death encompassed me; the torrents of perdition assailed me; the cords of Sheol entangled me; the snares of death confronted me.**

One: In my distress I called upon the LORD; to my God I cried for help.

**All: From his temple he heard my voice, and my cry to him reached his ears.**

One: He reached down from on high, he took me; he drew me out of mighty waters.

**All: He delivered me from my strong enemy, and from those who hated me; for they were too mighty for me.**

One: They confronted me in the day of my calamity; but the LORD was my support.

**All: He brought me out into a broad place; he delivered me, because he delighted in me.**

is my  
ROCK  
and my  
FORTRESS  
and my  
DELIVERER

**Prayer of Adoration and The Lord's Prayer**

†Hymn *There is a Balm in Gilead* Hymnal #394

†Affirmation of Faith The Apostles' Creed Hymnal Page 14  
*traditional*

**Prayer of Confession**

We confess, O God, the mixed loyalties of our lives. We are Your subjects and depend on You for our well-being, yet we allow ourselves to be diverted from the primary allegiance of our relationship with You. We wander off under another banner – the banner of worldly ambition, of material accumulation, the pursuit of our own pleasures. You have called us to march to a different drummer than that which the world hears, but we often care more about being in step with the world than with You. You have assured us of a victory over the worst that the world can do to us, over the effects of sin in the world and in ourselves, yet act as though defeated. You have raised Jesus from death, ensuring our rising with Him, yet we fear. Forgive the sins that we confess before You now, O God, as well as those that we are unaware of that take glory away from Your name; in the name of Jesus we pray. Amen.

*Assurance of Pardon: Almighty God, who freely pardons all who repent and turn to You, now fulfill in every contrite heart the promise of redeeming grace; forgiving all our sins and cleansing us from an evil conscience; through the perfect sacrifice of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.*

**Moment for Personal, Silent Confession**

**The Kyrie Eleison** -All are invited to sing- Hymnal # 572  
*Lord, have mercy upon us. Christ, have mercy upon us. Lord, have mercy upon us.*

**Declaration of Forgiveness**

†The Gloria Patri

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost; As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen, Amen.

*The Word*

**Prayer for Illumination**

**Old Testament Reading** Hosea 11:1-11 OT Page 842

*God's Compassion Despite Israel's Ingratitude*

One: The Word of the Lord. **All: Thanks be to God.**

**New Testament Reading** Luke 16:1-13 NT Page 79

*The Parable of the Dishonest Manager*

One: The Word of the Lord. **All: Thanks be to God.**

† Please stand if you are able.

**Sermon** **Maximizing Options** Rev. Monty Clendenin

†Hymn *I Love Thy Kingdom, Lord* Hymnal #441

**Prayers of the People**

**Offertory** *There Is A Balm in Gilead* Robert Powell

†Doxology

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise God, all creatures here below: Praise God above, ye heavenly host; Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

†Prayer of Dedication

*Sending*

†Hymn *Lead On, O King Eternal* Hymnal #447

†Charge and Benediction

†Hymn *Song of Hope* Hymnal # 432  
*May the God of hope go with us every day, filling all our lives with love and joy and peace. May the God of justice speed us on our way, bringing light and hope to every land and race. Praying, let us work for peace; singing, share our joy with all; working, for a world that's new; faithful, when we hear Christ's call.*

**Postlude** "Air" with Variations G.F. Handel

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The cross, above all, is a place of powerlessness. Here is the final proof that our own feeble powers can no more alter the stream of life than a magnet can pull down the moon. Here is the death of the ego, the death of the self that insists on being in charge, the self that is continually attempting to impose its own limited version of order and righteousness on the world. But...the cross contradicts itself. For the powerlessness of the cross, if it is fully entered, leads us to a place of power.

Parker J. Palmer  
*The Promise of Paradox*



