



Saturday, March 21st and Sunday, March 22nd

Preacher: Rev. Marc A. Lavarin

Sermon Title: Navigating Divine Detours

Scripture: Exodus 13:17-22 (NKJV)

Then it came to pass, when Pharaoh had let the people go, that God did not lead them by way of the land of the Philistines, although that was near; for God said, “Lest perhaps the people change their minds when they see war, and return to Egypt.” So God led the people around by way of the wilderness of the Red Sea. And the children of Israel went up in orderly ranks out of the land of Egypt. And Moses took the bones of Joseph with him, for he had placed the children of Israel under solemn oath, saying, “God will surely visit you, and you shall carry up my bones from here with you.” So they took their journey from Succoth and camped in Etham at the edge of the wilderness. And the Lord went before them by day in a pillar of cloud to lead the way, and by night in a pillar of fire to give them light, so as to go by day and night. He did not take away the pillar of cloud by day or the pillar of fire by night from before the people.

Sermon Summary:

Have you ever been late to an appointment? You rush into your vehicle, head down the road, only to be confronted with bumper to bumper traffic. As you approach the traffic, you realize that it's been blocked off, and now you have to head towards an unexpected detour. It's frustrating. You're already late, and now you have to travel a long and unfamiliar route. It can seem as if you're never going to get to your destination. Life can be like that. Full of unexpected left, right, and U-turns. Navigating life's detours makes us prioritize our journey and not our destination. Along the way of navigating divine detours we discover that:

1. God will bring us the longest route to change our perspective.
2. God wants to aid you and assist you in fulfilling your promises
3. God wants you to experience provision

Life Application Questions:

1. All of us are en route to some destination. Think about what you're seeing or experiencing on this journey that is currently discouraging you. Rev. Lavarin mentioned that divine detours are intended to change our perspective.
 - a. Do you see opportunities to shift your perspective this week?
 - b. What are some areas in your life where you can begin to see the glass half full rather than half empty?
2. The children of Israel had to carry the weight of the bones, but no one person was carrying the weight by themselves. Who is helping you to carry the weight along this journey? How have you celebrated them recently?
3. Rev. Lavarin reminded us that "God has to undo the hurt of the last season before God can bring us into the promises of a new season." As painful as it may be, think about the hurts that you need reversed. How have they clouded your vision or stunted your growth? Who can be your conversation partner as you process this pain and move towards healing?

Spirit Work:

1. The sermon forced us to consider the delays and detours God orchestrates in our lives. Take out a piece of paper and write down a list of 5 things in your life that you got later than you desired. (These could be career accomplishments, degrees, relationships, financial goals, social statuses, etc.) Now create a list of all of the lessons you learned while waiting on these things to show up. Let this list serve as inspiration in your current season of delay or detour. Think about the new lessons God wants to add to the list or the old lessons that God needs to repeat before bringing you into this next promise.
2. *The Sound of Healing.* Healing is rarely instantaneous, it is almost always a process. One of the things that assists us most in our healing process is worship - rejoicing in the presence of God as we sing. During this pandemic we are unable to worship collectively, but that doesn't mean we should forsake worship. Take some time this week to make a playlist of worship music. Think about those songs that bring you joy in church and download them to your personal device for your own personal worship time. May these songs bring you comfort and healing during this season.