

Prayer of the Week:

Eternal Father, at the baptism of Jesus you revealed him to be your Son, and your Holy Spirit descended upon him like a dove: Grant that we, who are born again by water and the Spirit, may be faithful as your adopted children; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

(Source: Book of Common Prayer 2019, Collects of the Christian Year, The First Sunday of Epiphany)

Prayer of Thanksgiving:

Almighty God, Father of all mercies, give you humble thanks for all your goodness and loving-kindness to us and to all whom you have made.

We bless you for our creation, preservation, and all the blessings of this life; but above all for your immeasurable love in the redemption of the world by our Lord Jesus Christ; for the means of grace, and for the hope of glory.

And, we pray, give us such an awareness of your mercies, that with truly thankful hearts we may show forth your praise, not only with our lips, but in our lives, by giving up ourselves to your service, and by walking before you in holiness and righteousness all our days; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory throughout all ages. Amen.

**Harriet Tubman**

January 10th

Intro

Today, let's learn about the incredible life of Harriet Tubman. Harriet worked to free slaves during the Civil War era. She found her inspiration from the story of Moses and the Exodus.

The Biblical Exodus

At the beginning of the book of Exodus, the Israelite people were enslaved by the Pharaoh in Egypt. God called a man named Moses to confront Pharaoh and demand that the Israelites be freed. Moses confronted Pharaoh many times, but Pharaoh refused! After finally agreeing to let them go, Pharaoh changed his mind because he realized building and production would stop the labor of enslaved people.

With God's help, Moses led the Israelites out of slavery in Egypt. They were free!

This story is incredible! An oppressed, enslaved group of people were set free and eventually made it to a land of plenty!

Harriet Tubman has come to be known as a kind of Moses.

Harriet's Story

Even though slavery was all Harriet had known since birth, she knew it was wrong and evil.

She dreamt of freedom and an end to the injustice of enslavement.

As she worked in the plantation fields, she and the other enslaved people sang songs inspired by the story of Moses leading the Israelites out of slavery in Egypt.

One of those songs, now known as Spirituals, went like this:

*When Israel was in Egypt's land
Let my people go
Oppress'd so hard they could not stand
Let my people go*

*Go down, Moses
Way down in Egypt's land
Tell old Pharaoh
Let my people go*

Harriet must've strongly identified with the Israelites. She knew the pain of that work, the risks and fear, and believed that God wanted the same for her people. She had hope in God and for freedom. She desired for this wrong to be made right.

Escape

In 1849, Harriet was going to be sold because her plantation owner died. She decided to visit a Quaker woman at her house to find out if she was a safe white person. Harriet knocked on her door and she said "Thee is most welcome here."

This woman then taught her about the Underground Railroad. The Underground Railroad was a team of safe

houses that assisted people as they escaped enslavement and went north to be free.

She sang the songs she used to sing in the fields, reminding herself that God meant for all people to be free.

Harriet shared this quote when she recounted her story: "I looked at my hands to see if I was still the same person now that I was free. There was such glory over everything. The sun shone like gold through the trees and over the fields, and I felt like I was in heaven."

How Her Story Inspires Us

Harriet Tubman became a conductor of the Underground Railroad, leading many to freedom! Just as Moses led his people to freedom, so did Harriet, which is how she became known as a kind of Moses.

Harriet's life reveals so much of Jesus to us. She never stopped working to help others find freedom. She freed literal captives. She stood up for the oppressed. She knew God wanted all people to be free and that all people were valuable!

The Christian life is one where we live like Jesus and join his redemptive work here and now.

- To free the enslaved and stand up for the oppressed
- To treat all humans with respect and dignity.
- To make things better for all people.

This is the redemptive work of God we are called to be part of... how can YOU join this work?