

Co creators with God Exodus 1.8-2.10

August 27, 2017

A new king arose over Egypt who knew not Joseph. A little back story and review from last week Joseph was the 11th and beloved favorite son of the patriarch Jacob. Like many older siblings his big brothers were not delighted with his favored status, so when a traveling caravan came along they sold him off - ancient human trafficking- telling Jacob that Joseph had died. Joseph finds himself in an Egyptian prison where he discovers that he has a gift for dream interpretation. He rises quickly in Pharaoh's court given the responsibility of managing and administering the grain reserves so there was food in Egypt during time of famine. As in Jacob's house Joseph quickly became the fair haired child. But history flows on and across the desert winds of change were blowing. A new king arose over Egypt who knew not Joseph.

For centuries the Israelites had lived as immigrants in Egypt. Forced labor slave labor they did the work the Egyptians seemed not interested in doing - cutting and moving huge blocks of stone. Or as field hands Tomato pickers have a long history as sojourners in a foreign land. Perhaps as a result of hard labor the Israelites survived, thrived, multiplied. panicking the Egyptians. All those jobs were going to foreigners. AND if the Hebrews became too numerous and powerful in the event of war those people could become the oppressors. Pharaoh, who you notice has no name, signifying that he wasn't much of a leader decides a little culling of the flock is in order and instructs the mid wives to do his dirty work. In today's world mid wives are highly trained, certified, licensed professionals. 70 years ago in Texas

thousands of years in the middle east mid wives were women from the tribe who had a gift, skill, talent for getting babies into the world alive Child birth could be deadly for both mom and babe. Mid wives chose life. Pharaoh death. Pharaoh destroys; God creates. God chose the midwives for his team birthing a new creation Frequently when God is engaged in making all things new HE calls as co creators, agents of His change the small, the weak, women, widows, the outcast, the unclean. Mid wives come in contact with lots of unclean blood they are ritually impure. You can't help but notice that the heroes of this story are 6 women. In the overall history of humankind women are insignificant. Even Pharaoh's daughter gets involved at great peril The Egyptians were not shy about offing relatives or any others who threatened their power. Throughout history some other inductees in the Creation Hall of fame could include: David, Ruth, Mary, Mary Mag Those, Jesus called as disciples were definitely not PhD theologians yet Peter is entrusted with the keys of the Kingdom. Hearing God call, the mid wives continue their tasks as usual secure in their faith. God is calling so loudly they can't hear Pharaoh. They cheerfully carry on. I imagine Shiprah (Shifruh) and Puah (Poouh) bustling about whistling as they washed and swaddled healthy baby boys. When Shiprah and Puah experienced God's presence, God's call, they did not protest, "oh no not us We are just simple women who could get killed for defying Pharaoh. They simply stayed calm carrying on. Perhaps they didn't stop to check gender. Meanwhile Moses mother carried on weaving a reed baby boat while her daughter Moses's sister stood guard. Each of us has an invitation to sign on for the Make Creation New mission trip There are plenty of areas where

we are invited to create, to make new, to be midwives bringing forth new life in a foreign land. Even if that foreign land is in Columbus OH.

Sometimes we are quietly nudged to defying authority when our values, our beliefs, ethics are called into in to question.

Each of us has the ability to effect change. How we respond to God's urgings differs depending on the gifts we are given. Yet as the Gradual hymn states we are "one in mission". Judge Hebert felt the need to do something positive to offer a life change to the women he saw repeatedly in his court, and Catch court was born. Some of us cook and serve food. Others build composting toilets, befriend the friendless, welcome the stranger, assist with strategies for living well in a new way in a new place. with vision and hope. We creatively study old problems seeking new solutions. Generosity is far more than money. In Romans Paul writes " do not be conformed by the world but transformed by the renewing of your mind." Not " we have always done it this way, but the old ways are no longer working. We need to share ourselves, our experience, our know how. Opening to a willingness to be vulnerable and learn from the other. Think outside the box. Color outside the lines. In order to do that we need a prayer life that connects us to God so we can discern His will, not mistaking ego gratification for Christian conscience. Social change requires courage, commitment, compassion, community. The people of God working together that the Kingdom may come.

Amen