

## *On Jordan's Stormy Banks*

Words by Samuel Stennett; Music by Christopher Miner

①

On Jordan's stormy banks I stand, and cast a wishful eye  
To Canaan's fair and happy land, where my possessions lie.

②

All o'er those wide extended plains, shines one eternal day  
There, God the Son, forever reigns. and scatters night away.

### **Chorus**

I am bound, I am bound, I am bound for the Promised Land.  
I am bound, I am bound, I am bound for the Promised Land.

③

No chilling winds nor poisonous breath,  
Can reach that healthful shore,  
Sickness, sorrow, pain and death, are felt and feared no more.

④

When shall I see that happy place, and be forever blessed;  
Where shall I see my Father's face, and in His bosom rest.



We celebrate the Lord's Supper weekly—and in a circle, at the end of worship. A word of direction is given, and with this everyone stands and moves to the walls. The cup is passed in two forms: in a chalice and then in small individual cups. You are free to choose.

And as this is the Supper of the Lord Christ, please listen to the instructions we give as to what qualifies a visitor to participate. **But whether you intend to take communion or not, please join us in the circle.**

### **Credits**

**Cover art:** *The Angel's Announcement of Christ's Resurrection to the Women.* Woodcut by Virgil Solis (1514-1562). Found in a 1562 edition of Luther's Bible.

**Song:** "On Jordan's Stormy Banks" Words: public domain.

## *Old Orchard Church*

*April 11, 2010 ✧ 10:15 - 11:45 a.m.*

*The Angel's Announcement...*

*Jesus told them,*

*"This is what is written: The Christ will suffer  
and rise from the dead on the third day, and  
repentance and forgiveness of sins will be  
preached in his name to all nations, beginning at  
Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things."*

*Luke 24:46-48*

# *Celebrating Jesus Christ as The Resurrection Community of Witness And the Baptism of Eleanor Rose Bishop*

From Mary Magdalene on Easter morning,  
To the ten disciples on Easter night,  
To the 500 who saw him at one time,  
Jesus' followers came to understand One Great Thing:  
They had been chosen to bear witness  
To the greatest thing the world had ever seen—  
A dead man resurrected to the energy of an indestructible life!

And this is how the power of the gospel is manifested:  
As we bear witness to the witness  
Of those who saw Jesus alive after his death,  
God confirms the truth of Christ's resurrection  
In the minds and hearts of all those he reconciled to himself  
In the death of his eternal Son.

O Jesus, we are grateful for the privilege of bearing witness,  
Of being a living letter from you  
To someone in despair,  
To someone who grieves,  
To someone alone,  
To someone self-satisfied.  
Blessed be your Name for calling us to take up our place  
In the outer edge of that great cloud of witnesses.  
Alleluia and Amen!

## *Today's Scripture*

Old Testament Lesson: Isaiah 19:19-25  
Gospel Lesson: John 20:19-31

## *Today's Sermon*

“How To Be a Witness”

John 21:1-19

*Mark Robertson, seminary intern, preaching*

## *A 21st Century Witness to Jesus Christ*

It is my greatest hope that, in telling my own story, I will show my own people—Palestinian followers of Islam who have been used by corrupt regimes for hundreds of years—that the truth can set them free.

I tell my story as well to let the Israeli people know that there is hope. If I, the son of a terrorist organization dedicated to the extinction of Israel, can reach a point where I not only learned to love the Jewish people but risked my life for them, there is a light of hope.

My story holds a message for Christians too. We must learn from the sorrows of my people, who carry a heavy burden trying to work their way into God's favor. We have to get beyond the religious rules we make for ourselves. Instead, we must love people—on all sides of the world—unconditionally. If we are going to represent Jesus to the world, we have to live his message of love. If we want to follow Jesus, we must also expect to be persecuted. We should be happy to be persecuted for his sake.

To Middle East experts, government decision makers, scholars, and leaders of intelligence agencies, I write with the hope that a simple story will contribute to your understanding of the problems and potential solutions in one of the most troubled regions of the world....

After reading this book, please do not think that I have become some kind of super follower of Jesus. I'm still struggling. The little I know and understand about my faith came from Bible studies and reading. In other words, I am a follower of Jesus Christ but am only beginning to become a disciple.

I was born and raised in a religious environment that insisted salvation was all about works. I have a lot to unlearn to make room for the truth....

Like many other followers of Christ, I have repented of my sins, and I know that Jesus is the Son of God who became a man, died for our sins, rose from the dead, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. I have been baptized. Yet I feel that I am barely inside the gate of the Kingdom of God. I have been told that there is much, much more. And I want it all.

In the meantime, I still struggle with the world, the flesh, and the devil. I still have misconceptions and confusion. I wrestle with what sometimes seem like invincible issues. Yet I have hope that I, like the apostle Paul who described himself to Timothy as “**the worst of sinners**” (1 Timothy 1:16), will become whatever God wants me to be, as long as I don't give up.

So if you meet me in the street, please don't ask me for advice or what I think this or that Scripture verse means, because you're probably already way ahead of me. Instead of looking at me as a spiritual trophy, pray for me, that I will grow in my faith and that I won't step on too many toes as I learn to dance with the Bridegroom.

—Mosab Hassan Yousef in *Son of Hamas* (2010)