

# The Lord's My Shepherd

By Stuart Townend (1996)

# Old Orchard Church

July 29, 2012—10:15 to 11:50 a.m.

**Come, ye faithful, raise the strain  
Of triumphant gladness;  
God hath brought his Israel  
Into joy from sadness;  
Loosed from Pharaoh's bitter yoke  
Jacob's sons and daughters;  
Led them with unmoistened foot  
through the Red Sea waters.**



**'Tis the spring of souls  
today;  
Christ hath burst  
his prison,  
And from three days'  
sleep in death  
As a sun hath risen;  
All the winter  
of our sins,  
Long and dark,  
is flying from  
his light,**

**to whom we give  
laud and praise undying.**

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.**

**Cover quote:** John of Damascus, 8th cent. A.D.

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—John of Damascus (8th century)

**Celebrating Jesus,  
Fulfiller of God's Covenant with Moses:  
The Exodus,  
Drama of Christ's Deliverance**

When the time had fully come  
God sent forth his redeemer, Moses,  
to rescue his people from Egypt's slave pits.  
The Exodus was God's mighty act of salvation  
for his people of old.

But blessed be the Lord Jesus Christ,  
a Redeemer greater than great Moses:  
in his dying and in his rising  
he leads all God's people  
out of their enslavement to  
sin, death, and the power of the devil,  
our great enemies.

Stand by and watch God do his saving work!  
Live in confidence and  
follow the lead of his light through the wilderness  
into the Promised Land of glory!



**Scripture Readings**

**Old Testament Lesson:** from Exodus 13 & 14

**Gospel Reading:** Luke 1:67-79

**Christianity in Ephesus, Christianity in St. Louis Series**

“Coming to God One By One, Living Together in the New Age”

Ephesians 2

*Ron Lutjens, pastor, preaching*

**A Post-Cross Meditation on the Exodus**

Israel thought she knew her enemies: they spoke Egyptian and worshipped cats and wallowed in the pride of their culture built on an economy of oppression and slavery. “We have met the enemy—and thank God we are being delivered from him by this fellow, Moses!”

But Israel misunderstood. Do I understand? Egypt was a mirror upon which the people of God could see their own soul reflected. All my enemies typify my heart, the sin in my soul. God came to save me from myself. I am enslaved to self-pity, to lust, to laziness, to arrogance, to a complaining spirit. I am bent in on myself, like all of us. We would be as gods to ourselves—perhaps not terribly base or wicked, only quite in charge. Do we understand? We have met the enemy—and he is us.

O Lord Jesus, you came not only to save me but to show me my enemies. Because of your great love **death** shall rattle me in the end but not ruin me; the **devil** may taunt and tempt and try me, but his back has been broken and I shall stand one day, my foot on his neck. In your triumph over these, my enemies, I greatly rejoice.

But that **I myself** am the third great enemy you came to save me from? Would you teach me that your people got away from pagan falseness and self-will when they left Egypt? Or rather that some of that self-will and falseness was carried through the parted sea in the sin-sick hearts of your people? Must I die as well as my enemies if I am to be saved? Is it I myself that I despise and seek to be rescued from as my own worst enemy? Must I drown the old man in me daily? Must I call myself an idol worshipper and confess a pagan heart prone to wander before I am consoled in the sweet truth that by Mercy I am a chosen child of God?

**O wretched man that I am!**

**Who will deliver me from this body of death?** (Romans 7:24)

Did Christ at the cross slay me that I might live? I am Israel and I am Egypt; I am the beloved and I am the oppressor of my own soul.

Who will deliver me? Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord! Grant then, that freed from myself, I might live enslaved to you forever, O my God. For then I shall be myself.

—Ron Lutjens

