

September 11, 2022

2. Freedom Fromor — **Exodus 15:1–18, NRSV**

Many people find Scripture songs to be especially meaningful, and a well-known one appears at the beginning of Exodus 15. “The Song of the Sea” is an important song in Exodus. It was written from a perspective of celebration, as a response to God’s deliverance and salvation. It is a song of praise and thanks for life—the Hebrew people safely passed through the waters—even as it acknowledges God’s power and judgment: Pharaoh’s army was swallowed by the waters.

The words of deliverance continue to resonate even today, as worshipers praise the power of God to make impossible things happen. During times that have felt difficult or impossible to you, how did you experience God’s power? Do you ever sing and praise God for how the situation is being or has been resolved?

We find other poems and songs for worship in the Psalms. Thousands of years after being written, the words continue to be relevant as they lead people to feel the presence of God. It’s reassuring to know that the God who delivered and led the Hebrew people continues to deliver and lead us today, that the God whose love endures forever continues to be present with us every day. God’s work is timeless.

The recently published *Voices Together* hymnal (MennoMedia, 2020) includes songs that are based on Scripture. Look at “The Lord’s My Shepherd” (Psalm 23, #660) and “The Lord Is My Light” (Psalm 27, #437) for two examples. These songs remind us of God’s care, presence, and salvation; they are a celebration of the relationship between God and humanity.

Thankfully, there are people who continue to use their creativity to set Scripture to melodies. Recently I came across “23,” an original arrangement of Psalm 23 sung by Mennonite siblings Girl Named Tom. I listen to it frequently, because it helps my mind focus on the ways our amazing God is present in our lives and in the world around us. You will find it [here](#).

Happily, we can join the ancient writers in celebration of our God who is present, who delivers us and saves us.

—Mary Ann Weber
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Mary Ann Weber enjoys reading, drinking tea, and spending time with old and new friends. She lives in Goshen, Indiana, with her husband and two cats. A former editor at MennoMedia, Mary Ann now works at Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary, in Elkhart, Indiana, and serves on the pastoral leadership team at Benton Mennonite Church in Goshen.

Resources for this session

URLs for Session 2

- [I Will Sing unto the Lord](#)
- [Yahweh War \(in Exodus\)](#)
- [Christian Pacifism Encounters the Old Testament](#)
- [Song of Moses \(Exodus 15\) with Lyrics](#)

Salt & Light Videos are great for leader preparation or introducing each weekly session. **Brian Quan**, pastor of Toronto Chinese Mennonite Church, is the presenter for unit 1. The videos are closed captioned, free, and available on [MennoMedia's YouTube channel](#).