

*The Lay Reader's Script for Sunday*

*March 15<sup>th</sup>, 2020*

**Lay Reader: Ms. Carolyn Padgett**

After the Prelude, please begin the Call to Worship...

**Let us begin with our Call to Worship.**

**One: O come, let us sing to our God and make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation.**

All: We lift our hearts and voices in joy and thanksgiving for being here together in the presence of our beloved God.

**One: Come, let us worship this amazing God, for we belong to God.**

All: We will listen for God's word and live in the hope it inspires.



After the Gloria Patri, and after everyone is seated, please say:

**“Let us pray our Prayer of Illumination”:**

**Loving and caring God, we come this morning in hope—**

**hope that will sustain us in our trying times, our lonely times, our doubting times. Refresh us this morning with the living water of your presence and love.**

**Open us to the possibilities of friendship—**

**the possibilities of encountering you in unexpected ways, the possibilities of seeing the miraculous in everyday life. *Amen.***

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**And now the First Reading, which is Exodus 17:1-7**

**From the wilderness of Sin the whole congregation of the Israelites journeyed by stages, as the LORD commanded. They camped at Rephidim, but there was no water for the people to drink.**

**The people quarrelled with Moses, and said, ‘Give us water to drink.’ Moses said to them, ‘Why do you quarrel with me? Why do you test the LORD?’ But the people thirsted there for water; and the people complained against Moses and said, ‘Why did you bring us out of Egypt, to kill us and our children and livestock with thirst?’**

**So Moses cried out to the LORD, ‘What shall I do with this people? They are almost ready to stone me.’ The LORD said to Moses, ‘Go on ahead of the people, and take some of the elders of Israel with you; take in your hand the staff with which you struck the Nile, and go. I will be standing there in front of you on the rock at Horeb. Strike the rock, and water will come out of it, so that the people may drink.’**

**Moses did so, in the sight of the elders of Israel. He called the place Massah and Meribah, because the Israelites quarrelled and tested the LORD, saying, ‘Is the LORD among us or not?’**

**One: This is the Word of the Lord.**

All: Thanks be to God.