



Songs of Hope

June 5-13, 2019
Leipzig, Dresden, Prague

Name _____

Day 1: Wednesday, June 5 – Arrive in Leipzig

The Pilgrim's Creed

I am not in control.
I am not in a hurry.
I greet others in peace.
I walk in faith and hope.
I bring back only what God gives me.

This creed has accompanied pilgrims who walk the Camino de Santiago de Compostela for centuries. As we begin our pilgrimage can you pray this creed and let it shape your experience?

What are your hopes for this time? What is your prayer?

Day 2: Thursday, June 6 – Leipzig

“The aim and final end of all music should be none other than the glory of God and the refreshment of the soul.” -Johann Sebastian Bach

Today we will hear the story of how people used music and peaceful demonstration to overthrow oppression.

What feels oppressive to you today? What liberation do you yearn for in the center of your heart? Can you name it? Can you sing it?

Day 3: Friday, June 7 – Torgau and Wittenberg

“Faith is a living, daring confidence in God's grace, so sure and certain that a man could stake his life on it a thousand times.” - Martin Luther

Today we will visit the site of Luther's teaching and work. Can you imagine the courage that it took to boldly take on the Church? What would make that worth the danger?

What needs to be reformed in your life? In your family? In our church or country?

Day 4: Saturday, June 8 – Dresden

Of the Empire

We will be known as a culture that feared death and adored power, that tried to vanquish insecurity for the few and cared little for the penury of the many. We will be known as a culture that taught and rewarded the amazing of things, that spoke little if at all about the quality of life for people (other people), for dogs, for rivers. All the world, in our eyes, they will say, was a commodity. And they will say that this structure was held together politically, which it was, and they will say also that our politics was no more than an apparatus to accommodate the feelings of the heart, and that the heart, in those days, was small, and hard and full of meanness.

- Mary Oliver

Empires have caused suffering and pain indiscriminately throughout history. Today, as we bear witness to the destruction and rebuilding of Dresden, what troubles you? What gives you hope?

Day 5: Sunday, June 9 – Travel to Prague

Today we will travel to Prague through some beautiful country. We will find time to gather around word and sacrament.

Divine Invitation by Hafiz

You have been invited to meet
The Friend.

No one can resist a Divine Invitation.

That narrows down all our choices
To just two:

We can come to God
Dressed for Dancing,

Or

Be carried on a stretcher
To God's Ward.

So how will you respond to God's invitation?

Day 6: Monday, June 10 – Prague

*"In the out-of-the-way places of the heart,
Where your thoughts never think to wander,
This beginning has been quietly forming,
Waiting until you were ready to emerge."
-John O'Donahue*

Can you imagine that God has been preparing you for this experience for a long time? What patient love God has for us! Now you are here and ready for what God has to give you. Can you be open to it?

What did you see today that sparked your imagination?

Day 7: Tuesday, June 11 – Old Town Prague

"I hope, by God's grace, that I am truly a Christian, not deviating from the faith, and that I would rather suffer the penalty of a terrible death than wish to affirm anything outside of the faith or transgress the commandments of our Lord Jesus Christ." – Jan Hus

Jan Hus was martyred for preaching many of the same doctrines that Martin Luther would espouse a century later.

How do we celebrate the saints who proclaimed the gospel but were not "successful" by worldly standards?

Day 8: Wednesday, June 12 – Jewish Resistance

“Wherever men and women are persecuted because of their race, religion, or political views, that place must - at that moment - become the center of the universe.”

– Elie Wiesel

Hitler’s plan to make Prague a city devoid of Jews but with a museum to their memory was thwarted by the success of allied forces in WWII. Jewish art and music have survived and thrived.

What image or sound connected with you today?

Where is the “center of the universe” by Wiesel’s definition today?

Day 9: Thursday, June 13 – Headed Home

*And the end of all our exploring
Will be to arrive where we started
And to know the place for the first time.
- t.s. eliot*

As we end this portion of our trip, our paths will diverge. Some of us will continue on to Vienna. Others will travel to another country for vacation. Many will return home.

Eventually we all will return home. Can your homecoming be different this time? What are you bringing back in the suitcase of your soul?