



**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH** FORT SCOTT, KANSAS

**3rd Sunday after Pentecost
June 21, 2020**



SERVING THIS MORNING:
Music Director: Dr. Greg Turner
Worship Leader: Diana Morriss
Time with Children: Mert Barrows
Greeters: Kathy and Ralph Reed
Sound Booth: Becky and Chris Goebel
Ushers: Leah Lewis and Jill Warford

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WIFI Network: FPC-WiFi Password: 6202233180

PRELUDE

CALL TO WORSHIP:

God cares for us completely
and calls for our total commitment.
**Christ gave his life that we might live
and calls us to give our lives to him.**
Through Christ we have died to sin;
in Christ we are fully alive to God.
Come, let us worship God.

PRAYER FOR THE DAY:

God of covenant,
your compassion reaches beyond
the mere making and keeping of promises.
Teach us to listen to one another with your heart,
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

FIRST READING: Romans 6:1b - 11

¹ What shall we say, then? Shall we go on sinning so that grace may increase? ² By no means! We are those who have died to sin; how can we live in it any longer? ³ Or don't you know that all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? ⁴ We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life. ⁵ For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we will certainly also be united with him in a resurrection like his. ⁶ For we know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body ruled by sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves to sin— ⁷ because anyone who has died has been set free from sin. ⁸ Now if we died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. ⁹ For we know that since Christ was raised from the dead, he cannot die again; death no longer has mastery over him. ¹⁰ The death he died, he died to sin once for all; but the life he lives, he lives to God. ¹¹ In the same way, count yourselves dead to sin but alive to God in Christ Jesus.

*OPENING HYMN:

"Be Thou My Vision"
Performed by Celtic Worship

*CALL TO CONFESSION:

Sin destroys our lives. Sin destroys our relationships.
Sin destroys our hope.
But through faith in the saving death
and resurrection of Jesus Christ,
our lives, our relationships, and our future
are no longer enslaved to sin.
Let us trust the love of God and confess our sin,
that we might receive grace and find true freedom.

Household Prayers

Morning

O God, I praise you
as I arise this morning
You are the giver of all life
and you provide for what you have made.
Be with my spirit this day
and teach me to be thankful for all that you offer.
Move me to be generous with others,
sharing not only goods,
but also time, patience, and kindness.
You know what will happen today.
Guide me so that I do what pleases you.
Be near to me and help me to trust your love.
I pray for all the world today, for what I do
has effects far beyond what I can know or understand.
By your Holy Spirit, let me speak peace, let me do peace,
let me be peace, in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

Evening

Creator of heaven and earth,
light and darkness, day and night,
I thank you for the day just past
that you have given me in your mercy.
I pray for your forgiveness for those things I did
that were displeasing to you and for those missed opportunities
to show my love for you.
Let me rest tonight, trusting in the grace of your Son, Jesus Christ.
Restore my mind and body as I sleep so that when I awake
I will have strength to serve you and your children well.
O beloved God, let me rise to a new day
giving you thanks and praise,
in the name of Jesus Christ the Savior. Amen.

Confession of Belhar (from the Book of Confessions)

We believe that God has revealed himself as the one who wishes to bring about justice and true peace among people;

We believe that God, in a world full of injustice and enmity, is in a special way the God of the destitute, the poor and the wronged

We believe that God calls the church to follow God in this; for God brings justice to the oppressed and gives bread to the hungry;

We believe that God frees the prisoner and restores sight to the blind;

We believe that God supports the downtrodden, protects the stranger, helps orphans and widows and blocks the path of the ungodly;

We believe that for God pure and undefiled religion is to visit the orphans and the widows in their suffering;

We believe that God wishes to teach the church to do what is good and to seek the right;

We believe that the church must therefore stand by people in any form of suffering and need, which implies, among other things, that the church must witness against and strive against any form of injustice, so that justice may roll down like waters, and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream;

We believe that the church as the possession of God must stand where the Lord stands, namely against injustice and with the wronged;

We believe that in following Christ the church must witness against all the powerful and privileged who selfishly seek their own interests and thus control and harm others. Therefore, we reject any ideology which would legitimate forms of injustice and any doctrine which is unwilling to resist such an ideology in the name of the gospel. Amen.

THE RECEIVING OF TITHES & OFFERINGS

*DOXOLOGY:

#34

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
praise God, all creatures here below;
Praise God, above, ye heavenly host:
praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

*PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Holy One, incarnate One, dynamic One, God who is Trinity,
we lift our voices in praise and thanksgiving
for the life in Christ Jesus that we receive from you.

You have shown that your mercy overcomes sin and evil and brings relief from oppression.

We thank you for your steadfast love that keeps covenant with your people.

In Christ we know the depth of your care for all that you create.

We invite the Holy Spirit to help us so that we can praise you eternally
in the name of our risen Lord, Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

CLOSING HYMN:

"Easter Medley"

Performed by Middle Church Virtual Choir (NYC)

*BLESSING

POSTLUDE

*UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION:

**God of Abraham, Sarah, and Isaac, God of Hagar and Ishmael,
who gave us your Son, Jesus Christ the crucified,
send your Holy Spirit to help us confess and truly repent of our sins.
We turn against one another; we fail to care for the weak and poor among us.
We pay no heed to the cries of the powerless; we seek our own advantage.
Your Son emptied himself upon a Roman cross and revealed your eternal, self-giving love.
Forgive us, merciful God. Wipe sin from our lives and let us find ourselves
wholly in Jesus Christ, our Savior.
It is in his name that we pray. Amen.**

CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

#377

**O Lord, have mercy, O Lord have mercy,
O Lord have mercy, have mercy on us.
O Christ have mercy, O Christ have mercy,
O Christ have mercy, have mercy on us.**

*DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS:

God, who loves us, does not abandon or forsake us.
Our Savior hears and answers when we cry out from the wastelands of sin.
Death cannot bind us, for the risen Christ sets us free.
Hear the good news: in Jesus Christ you are forgiven.

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

MOMENT FOR MISSION

PW AWARDS

PASSING OF THE PEACE

Let us offer and receive the peace of Christ as a sign of
God's grace and assurance of forgiveness.

Leader: The peace of Christ be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

(We encourage you to share Christ's peace by remaining where you are)

*SUNG RESPONSE

**Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;
as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end, Amen, Amen.**

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE:

God of our ancestors,
you are the God of our future.
You showed mercy to Hagar and Ishmael in the desert,
just as you answered Sarah's laughter with Isaac's birth.

**We pray that you heal the deathly divisions
between all peoples of the earth today.**

We pray that the church of Jesus Christ
will be so filled with the Holy Spirit,
so committed to the head of the church
that we will have Christ's mind among us.

**May the sword of the Word pierce our hearts
and give us compassion for a suffering world.**

We pray for world leaders and diplomats
who seek to make peace among nations.
**May their success be measured in generations
who live free from fear of war.**

We pray for teachers, school staff and administrators, and students
especially those in high-risk communities.

**May they find strength in you to reach beyond themselves
and so embrace the future with the hope
that you are holding for them.**

We pray for those near to us who need your strength and healing...
We pray especially for those we name now silently or aloud...

We pray for your promised kingdom to come,
when all wars will cease, and there will be no disease;
when courageous faith, hope, and love
cast out hatred and poverty.

**All this we pray in the name of Jesus Christ,
our savior, redeemer, and friend. Amen.**

TIME WITH CHILDREN & THE LORD'S PRAYER

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.
Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.
And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil:
for thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever, Amen.**

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION:

O God, you have the power
to make a desert a place of renewal
and a cross a sign of redemption.
Send your Holy Spirit
so that we can hear you
and entrust ourselves completely to you,
for the sake of Jesus Christ our Savior. **Amen.**

SECOND READING: Genesis 21:8-21

⁸ The child grew and was weaned, and on the day Isaac was weaned Abraham held a great feast. ⁹ But Sarah saw that the son whom Hagar the Egyptian had borne to Abraham was mocking, ¹⁰ and she said to Abraham, "Get rid of that servant woman and her son, for that woman's son will never share in the inheritance with my son Isaac." ¹¹ The matter distressed Abraham greatly because it concerned his son. ¹² But God said to him, "Do not be so distressed about the boy and your slave woman. Listen to whatever Sarah tells you, because it is through Isaac that your offspring will be reckoned. ¹³ I will make the son of the servant into a nation also, because he is your offspring." ¹⁴ Early the next morning Abraham took some food and a skin of water and gave them to Hagar. He set them on her shoulders and then sent her off with the boy. She went on her way and wandered in the Desert of Beersheba. ¹⁵ When the water in the skin was gone, she put the boy under one of the bushes. ¹⁶ Then she went off and sat down about a bowshot away, for she thought, "I cannot watch the boy die." And as she sat there, she began to sob. ¹⁷ God heard the boy crying, and the angel of God called to Hagar from heaven and said to her, "What is the matter, Hagar? Do not be afraid; God has heard the boy crying as he lies there. ¹⁸ Lift the boy up and take him by the hand, for I will make him into a great nation." ¹⁹ Then God opened her eyes and she saw a well of water. So she went and filled the skin with water and gave the boy a drink. ²⁰ God was with the boy as he grew up. He lived in the desert and became an archer. ²¹ While he was living in the Desert of Paran, his mother got a wife for him from Egypt.

SERMON:

"Moving Forward Without Leaving the Past Behind"

Rev. Dr. Jared Witt