



**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH** FORT SCOTT, KANSAS

4th Sunday after Pentecost
June 28, 2020



SERVING THIS MORNING:
Music Director: Dr. Greg Turner
Worship Leader: Linda Jackson
Time with Children: Denise Needham
Greeters: Cyndi and Ashley Goebel
Sound Booth: Oliver and Remy Witt
Ushers: Ben Harrison and Kathy Reed

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WIFI Network: FPC-WiFi Password: 6202233180

PRELUDE

CALL TO WORSHIP:

God calls us by name
into the presence of holiness as God's holy people.
We answer this call by the grace of God
through the power of the Holy Spirit
in the name of God's own Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.
Come, let us worship God.

PRAYER FOR THE DAY:

God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob,
Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,
who gives us birth by water and Holy Spirit,
teach us how to live always
in integrity of body, mind, and spirit,
in obedience to your love,
in the name of Jesus Christ,
to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit,
be all honor and glory now and forever. Amen.

FIRST READING: Genesis 22:1-14

¹ Sometime later God tested Abraham. He said to him, "Abraham!" "Here I am," he replied. ² Then God said, "Take your son, your only son, whom you love—Isaac—and go to the region of Moriah. Sacrifice him there as a burnt offering on a mountain I will show you." ³ Early the next morning Abraham got up and loaded his donkey. He took with him two of his servants and his son Isaac. When he had cut enough wood for the burnt offering, he set out for the place God had told him about. ⁴ On the third day Abraham looked up and saw the place in the distance. ⁵ He said to his servants, "Stay here with the donkey while I and the boy go over there. We will worship and then we will come back to you." ⁶ Abraham took the wood for the burnt offering and placed it on his son Isaac, and he himself carried the fire and the knife. As the two of them went on together, ⁷ Isaac spoke up and said to his father Abraham, "Father?" "Yes, my son?" Abraham replied. "The fire and wood are here," Isaac said, "but where is the lamb for the burnt offering?" ⁸ Abraham answered, "God himself will provide the lamb for the burnt offering, my son." And the two of them went on together. ⁹ When they reached the place God had told him about, Abraham built an altar there and arranged the wood on it. He bound his son Isaac and laid him on the altar, on top of the wood. ¹⁰ Then he reached out his hand and took the knife to slay his son. ¹¹ But the angel of the LORD called out to him from heaven, "Abraham! Abraham!" "Here I am," he replied. ¹² "Do not lay a hand on the boy," he said. "Do not do anything to him. Now I know that you fear God, because you have not withheld from me your son, your only son." ¹³ Abraham looked up and there in a thicket he saw a ram caught by its horns. He went over and took the ram and sacrificed it as a burnt offering instead of his son. ¹⁴ So Abraham called that place The LORD Will Provide. And to this day it is said, "On the mountain of the LORD it will be provided."

OPENING HYMN:

"My Life Is In Your Hands"
Performed by Brooklyn Tabernacle Choir

Household Prayers

Morning

I rise this day in the power of your Holy Spirit, O God.
I lift up my hands, my heart, and my songs
to praise you, O Christ.
Be for me today, my Savior,
the guardian in my weakness,
a friend on my journey,
and my aim for all I seek to do.
May all who speak to me say, "Peace";
may all to whom I speak hear, "Love."
Give visions of Christ in pied beauty
around tables of meeting,
along paths of dappling shadows,
and in the faces of loved ones and strangers.
Whether the day is bright or gloomy, be my light.
Then, when the night begins to fall,
bid me home—be my home,
that I may find my rest
in you, O Three in One. Amen.

Evening

Be my light, O Creator of light,
as evening comes to my home and to me.
Let me see your name written
in sparkling stars, glowing planets, dancing cosmic wind.
Let me hear you pass gently
in the cool of the night's breeze,
on the wings of the night-flying creatures.
And if there are to be storms this night,
so that I shall not see the sky,
and a gale howls with fearful threats,
let me still put my trust in you, rest in you.
Or, because there is a need in the world,
rise up as you give me strength
to bear witness with heart and hands
to the world's true light,
in whose name I pray. 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 & DEACON OFFERING

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Voice in the wilderness,
Lamb upon the tree,
Wind carrying the Word
of salvation to the world—
you who are the One in Three,
thank you for calling us by name,
for providing for our needs, for freeing us to live
in union with Christ. We offer to you
what you have given to us
in joy with love for the common good.
Bless gifts, givers, and receivers
so that we can give you our richest praise
in the name of Jesus Christ the Lord. **Amen.**

CLOSING HYMN:

“How Can I Keep From Singing”

Performed by: NYC Virtual Choir and Orchestra

***BLESSING**

POSTLUDE

CALL TO CONFESSION:

How costly is our broken relationship with God!
The price of sin is a spiritless life, which is no life at all.
Where are joy, peace, or lasting love to be found,
except in the One who creates peace and joy,
who sent Jesus Christ, the beloved Son, to save us from our sin?
Let us confess, repent, and trust God to forgive us our sin.

UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION:

**O God, on lonely Mount Moriah
you put your servant Abraham to the test.
We confess that we have failed
much lesser tests of our faith.
We have allowed sin to run our lives,
to shape how we act toward others,
and to kill our relationship with you.
In your great mercy, forgive us.
Change even our bodies
from implements of destruction
to instruments of your peace;
for the sake of the Lamb of God, Jesus Christ,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and forever. Amen.**

DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS:

God, whose name is “I am”,
provides for our weakness.
Jesus Christ, our embodied “I am”
gave himself for our salvation.
All who are united to Christ in his death
are united to Christ in his resurrection.
The end is eternal life.
I declare to you,
in Jesus Christ your sins are forgiven.

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

RESOURCES FOR RACIAL RECONCILIATION

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)

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE:

Creator of all things seen and unseen,
you blew the Spirit of Christ
into apostles and disciples
enslaved by sin,
freeing your people from death
and captivating us with your steadfast love.
You raised the body of Christ,
the church in the world,
to proclaim the good news of salvation.
For the sake of the world we pray,
Come, Lord Jesus!

We pray for all whom you call
into the work of the church.
May they know the presence of your Spirit
to strengthen, guide, correct, comfort, and challenge.

We pray for all whose lives are touched
by the church's witness.
May they feel the healing hands of Christ Jesus
serving them with gentleness, kindness, grace, and love.

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 the world
into which you call the church.
Help us to be faithful in giving ourselves away
for the sake of the gospel. In your Spirit,
let us show the peace of Christ to a world of violence,
share the bread of heaven with a world of hunger,
offer springs of living water to a world of pollution,
and lead the way of truth and life
with the gifts of faith, hope, and love
until you bring the fullness of your new creation.
Then and now we rejoice with the multitudes:
praise, honor, and glory to you, Holy Trinity,
in the name of the Lord, Jesus Christ. **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:

Terrifying Word, life-giving Word, sanctifying Word,
come to us as ones who crave water in the desert.
Grant that we may hear and respond to you,
yes, in fear and trembling, and also in rejoicing,
through the Lamb that was slaughtered,
Jesus Christ, who, with you and the Holy Spirit,
is worshiped and glorified by all your saints,
now and forever. **Amen.**

SECOND READING: Romans 6:12-23

¹² Therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal body so that you obey its evil desires. ¹³ Do not offer any part of yourself to sin as an instrument of wickedness, but rather offer yourselves to God as those who have been brought from death to life; and offer every part of yourself to him as an instrument of righteousness. ¹⁴ For sin shall no longer be your master, because you are not under the law, but under grace. ¹⁵ What then? Shall we sin because we are not under the law but under grace? By no means! ¹⁶ Don't you know that when you offer yourselves to someone as obedient slaves, you are slaves of the one you obey—whether you are slaves to sin, which leads to death, or to obedience, which leads to righteousness? ¹⁷ But thanks be to God that, though you used to be slaves to sin, you have come to obey from your heart the pattern of teaching that has now claimed your allegiance. ¹⁸ You have been set free from sin and have become slaves to righteousness. ¹⁹ I am using an example from everyday life because of your human limitations. Just as you used to offer yourselves as slaves to impurity and to ever-increasing wickedness, so now offer yourselves as slaves to righteousness leading to holiness. ²⁰ When you were slaves to sin, you were free from the control of righteousness. ²¹ What benefit did you reap at that time from the things you are now ashamed of? Those things result in death! ²² But now that you have been set free from sin and have become slaves of God, the benefit you reap leads to holiness, and the result is eternal life. ²³ For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

SERMON:

“Brought Back From Death to Life”

Rev. Brian Ellison
Stated Clerk, Synod of Mid-America