



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN  
CHURCH FORT SCOTT, KANSAS

2nd Sunday after Pentecost  
June 14, 2020

# On Trusting God ... Sometimes

june 14 @ fpc

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SERVING THIS MORNING:

Music Director: Dr. Greg Turner  
Worship Leader: Jeanne Randles  
Vocalist: Heather Turner

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## Prelude

### CALL TO WORSHIP:

Jesus Christ summons us to answer God's call of mercy.  
Christ gathers us and gives us power  
to be healed and to heal,  
to be forgiven and to forgive,  
to be freed from sin and to set others free,  
to tell one another and the world:  
God's presence is at hand. Let us worship God.

### PRAYER FOR THE DAY:

God of wonder, you appeared to Abraham as three persons;  
you reveal your fullness in your Son Jesus Christ.  
Your Spirit fills your people with hope through the peacemaking cross of Jesus.  
Gather us as Christ's faithful disciples and empower us with his good news,  
in the name of our Lord, Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

### FIRST READING: Romans 5:1-8

<sup>1</sup> Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ,  
<sup>2</sup> through whom we have gained access by faith into this grace in which we now stand. And we boast in the hope of the glory of God. <sup>3</sup> Not only so, but we also glory in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; <sup>4</sup> perseverance, character; and character, hope. <sup>5</sup> And hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit, who has been given to us. <sup>6</sup> You see, at just the right time, when we were still powerless, Christ died for the ungodly. <sup>7</sup> Very rarely will anyone die for a righteous person, though for a good person someone might possibly dare to die. <sup>8</sup> But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

### \*OPENING HYMN:

*"When Peace Like a River"*

#428

- 1. When peace like a river attendeth my way, when sorrows like sea billows roll,  
whatever my lot, thou hast taught me to say, "It is well, it is well with my soul."  
It is well, (it is well), with my soul, (with my soul), it is well, it is well with my soul.***
- 2. Though Satan should buffet, though trials should come, let this blest assurance control:  
that Christ has regarded my helpless estate, and has shed his own blood for my soul.  
It is well, (it is well), with my soul, (with my soul), it is well, it is well with my soul.***
- 3. My sin -- O, the bliss of this glorious thought, my sin -- not in part but whole,  
is nailed to the cross and I bear it no more: Praise the Lord, praise the Lord O my soul!  
It is well, (it is well), with my soul, (with my soul), it is well, it is well with my soul.***
- 4. And, Lord, haste the day when my faith shall be sight, the clouds be rolled back as a scroll,  
the trump shall resound and the Lord shall descend: "Even so" -- it is well with my soul.  
It is well, (it is well), with my soul, (with my soul), it is well, it is well with my soul.***

**\*CALL TO CONFESSION:**

The mystery of God brings the promise of life,  
but we doubt the Spirit's power to overcome death.  
The resurrection of Jesus Christ, the Son,  
reveals that nothing is impossible with God.  
Let us confess our sin and receive new life.

**\*UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION:**

**Triune God, Holy Three, Holy One,  
we confess that we do not know how to look for you.  
We do not sense your nearness,  
and if there are angels among us, we are unaware.  
We do not show the hospitality to strangers that Abraham showed to you.  
We do not trust that our hardships can be transformed by your Spirit.  
O Covenant-keeper, forgive us. Let us laugh with joy  
because your grace has made peace among us.  
Send us out with this good news so that we will also receive your blessing;  
through Jesus Christ, our Lord. 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:**

Christ gave his life to save us from the wrath of God.  
**Therefore, since we are justified by faith,  
we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.**  
Trust the good news of the gospel:  
in Jesus Christ our sins are forgiven.

**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.  
(We encourage you to share Christ's peace by texts and phone calls.)

**\*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:**

Eternal, birthing God,  
you bring all things visible and invisible into being.

We pray for the earth you created...  
Your Spirit brooded over creation like a mother bird.  
Heal the oceans' dead zones, the rain forests' slashed  
and burnt scars, and the gashed firmament.

**Lead your people to be good shepherds of your world's life.**

We pray for all people of the earth...  
You placed Adam and Eve in your Eden  
to live together in happiness and mutual caring --  
earthling and life-bearer corresponding to one another  
and living with you. Bring your peace, justice, and compassion  
to every household, village, city, and nation.

**Bind up the wounds of racial hatred;  
break the bows of poverty, disease and hunger;  
speak your "Be still!" to wars of religion and ideology.**

We pray for women and children...  
Eve bore Cain with your help and Sarah gave birth to laughter.  
Protect women during pregnancy, childbirth, and child rearing.  
**Provide safe homes and safe workplaces, safe health care and safe nations,  
where life is received with joy and nurtured to maturity.**

We pray for women whom you call to other missions...  
You called the prophet Miriam to dance and sing on the shores of victory  
and Judge Deborah to lead Israel out of Canaan's grasp.  
The risen Lord called Mary Magdalene and sent her to be the first eyewitness apostle.  
**Grant your people wisdom to respect the gifts you give for the common good.**

We pray for those near to us who need your strength and healing...(prayer cards)

We pray for you to bring the fullness of the age you promise...  
Holy Trinity, giver of love, life, and future, we cannot dream what you see;  
we cannot imagine what you can do.  
Help us to be patient and faithful as we look forward  
to the new life you began and will complete  
through Jesus Christ our Lord, in whose name we pray. **Amen.**

## **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:

God of redemption,  
summon us to Sarah's joy,  
Abraham's wonder, and Paul's confident hope  
through the word and work of the Good Shepherd,  
Jesus Christ our Lord, in whose name we pray. **Amen.**

## SECOND READING: Genesis 18:1-15

<sup>1</sup> The LORD appeared to Abraham near the great trees of Mamre while he was sitting at the entrance to his tent in the heat of the day. <sup>2</sup> Abraham looked up and saw three men standing nearby. When he saw them, he hurried from the entrance of his tent to meet them and bowed low to the ground. <sup>3</sup> He said, "If I have found favor in your eyes, my lord, do not pass your servant by. <sup>4</sup> Let a little water be brought, and then you may all wash your feet and rest under this tree. <sup>5</sup> Let me get you something to eat, so you can be refreshed and then go on your way—now that you have come to your servant." "Very well," they answered, "do as you say." <sup>6</sup> So Abraham hurried into the tent to Sarah. "Quick," he said, "get three seahs of the finest flour and knead it and bake some bread." <sup>7</sup> Then he ran to the herd and selected a choice, tender calf and gave it to a servant, who hurried to prepare it. <sup>8</sup> He then brought some curds and milk and the calf that had been prepared, and set these before them. While they ate, he stood near them under a tree. <sup>9</sup> "Where is your wife Sarah?" they asked him. "There, in the tent," he said. <sup>10</sup> Then one of them said, "I will surely return to you about this time next year, and Sarah your wife will have a son." Now Sarah was listening at the entrance to the tent, which was behind him. <sup>11</sup> Abraham and Sarah were already very old, and Sarah was past the age of childbearing. <sup>12</sup> So Sarah laughed to herself as she thought, "After I am worn out and my lord is old, will I now have this pleasure?" <sup>13</sup> Then the LORD said to Abraham, "Why did Sarah laugh and say, 'Will I really have a child, now that I am old?'" <sup>14</sup> Is anything too hard for the LORD? I will return to you at the appointed time next year, and Sarah will have a son." <sup>15</sup> Sarah was afraid, so she lied and said, "I did not laugh." But he said, "Yes, you did laugh."

**SERMON:**

*"On Trusting God... Sometimes"*

Rev. Dr. Jared Witt

## **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**

Blessed Trinity, three-part harmony,  
in you those who sing for joy  
revel in your glory, and those who cry in pain  
find comfort in their sorrow.  
Thank you for being God with us.  
Thank you for keeping your promises  
to our faith ancestors and to us.  
Thank you for coming near to us in your Son, Jesus Christ.  
Thank you for hope that brings life  
through the inpouring of your Holy Spirit.  
Thank you for the love you hold up before the world  
on the cross of Christ our Savior.  
Even our offerings come from the fruits of your blessings.  
Praise to you, O Holy God!  
Thanks to you, O Holy Three!  
Glory to your name, O God Most High! Amen.

## **\*CLOSING HYMN:**

*"Be Still and Know"*

#450

1. *Be still and know that I am God,  
be still and know that I am God,  
be still and know that I am God.*
2. *The Lord Almighty is our God,  
the Lord Almighty is our God,  
the Lord Almighty is our God.*
3. *In you, O Lord, we put our trust,  
In you, O Lord, we put our trust,  
In you, O Lord, we put our trust.*

## **\*BLESSING**

## **POSTLUDE**

## Household Prayers

### Morning

Holy Presence,  
let me be with you today.  
Awaken my senses to the  
wonders of your creation,  
and fill me with compassion for every person I meet.  
protect me from those who would hurt me;  
make me watchful so that I do not harm anyone.  
Fill my inward being with the love of Christ,  
and in as much as it is possible,  
let others know your presence through me.  
In this way let me glorify you,  
Holy One, Holy Three. Amen.

### Evening

Maker of day and night,  
creator of sun, moon, and all planets and stars,  
thank you for your protection during the hours  
I have passed in your light. Guard me,  
I pray, through the coming dark.  
As I settle into sleep, recall to my mind  
each blessing you gave me while I was awake  
so that I can rejoice in your goodness.  
Grant me peace, rest, and renewal  
as I close my eyes in your presence.  
Watch over me while I am helpless in the world.  
If it is our will to speak to me in dreams  
while my mind is quieted and still,  
grant that I may be attentive to your Word  
and guided by your Spirit when I awake to a new day.  
Let me arise and Join my voice with all the faithful  
in giving you thanks and praise through Jesus Christ, the Light. Amen.