



**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH** FORT SCOTT, KANSAS

5th Sunday after Pentecost
July 5, 2020



Can God Weave It All Together?

july 5 @ fpc

image: textileschool.com

SERVING THIS MORNING:
Music Director: Dr. Greg Turner
Worship Leader: Jill Warford

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Prelude

CALL TO WORSHIP:

Beloved of God,
the winter is past,
the flowers appear on the earth,
the time for joy has come.
Let us lift our voices in praise to our Creator.

PRAYER FOR THE DAY:

Author of life, you cast your glory all around us;
you invade our sleep; you reveal yourself in ancient stories and the
give-and-take of common life.
By the power of your Spirit, come to us now,
for you have called us to this place.
We pray in the name of Jesus—our hope, our confidence—
and your beloved Son. Amen.

FIRST READING: Genesis 24:34-38, 42-49, 58-67

³⁴ So the man said, "I am Abraham's servant." ³⁵ The LORD has blessed my master abundantly, and he has become wealthy. He has given him sheep and cattle, silver and gold, male and female servants, and camels and donkeys. ³⁶ My master's wife Sarah has borne him a son in her old age, and he has given him everything he owns. ³⁷ And my master made me swear an oath, and said, 'You must not get a wife for my son from the daughters of the Canaanites, in whose land I live, ³⁸ but go to my father's family and to my own clan, and get a wife for my son.' ... ⁴² "When I came to the spring today, I said, 'LORD, God of my master Abraham, if you will, please grant success to the journey on which I have come. ⁴³ See, I am standing beside this spring. If a young woman comes out to draw water and I say to her, "Please let me drink a little water from your jar," ⁴⁴ and if she says to me, "Drink, and I'll draw water for your camels too," let her be the one the LORD has chosen for my master's son.' ⁴⁵ "Before I finished praying in my heart, Rebekah came out, with her jar on her shoulder. She went down to the spring and drew water, and I said to her, 'Please give me a drink.' ⁴⁶ "She quickly lowered her jar from her shoulder and said, 'Drink, and I'll water your camels too.' So I drank, and she watered the camels also. ⁴⁷ "I asked her, 'Whose daughter are you?' "She said, 'The daughter of Bethuel son of Nahor, whom Milkah bore to him.' "Then I put the ring in her nose and the bracelets on her arms, ⁴⁸ and I bowed down and worshiped the LORD. I praised the LORD, the God of my master Abraham, who had led me on the right road to get the granddaughter of my master's brother for his son. ⁴⁹ Now if you will show kindness and faithfulness to my master, tell me; and if not, tell me, so I may know which way to turn." ... ⁵⁸ So they called Rebekah and asked her, "Will you go with this man?" "I will go," she said. ⁵⁹ So they sent their sister Rebekah on her way, along with her nurse and Abraham's servant and his men. ⁶⁰ And they blessed Rebekah and said to her, "Our sister, may you increase to thousands upon thousands; may your offspring possess the cities of their enemies." ⁶¹ Then Rebekah and her attendants got ready and mounted the camels and went back with the man. So the servant took Rebekah and left. ⁶² Now Isaac had come from Beer Lahai Roi, for he was living in the Negev. ⁶³ He went out to the field one evening to meditate, and as he looked up, he saw camels approaching. ⁶⁴ Rebekah also looked up and saw Isaac. She got down from her camel ⁶⁵ and asked the servant, "Who is that man in the field coming to meet us?" "He is my master," the servant answered. So she took her veil and covered herself. ⁶⁶ Then the servant told Isaac all he had done. ⁶⁷ Isaac brought her into the tent of his mother Sarah, and he married Rebekah. So she became his wife, and he loved her; and Isaac was comforted after his mother's death.

OPENING HYMN:

"It Is Well With My Soul"
Performed by The Nashville Studio Singer Community

arr. by David Wise

CALL TO CONFESSION:

Jesus said:

Come to me, all you that are weary and are
carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest.
Take my yoke upon you and learn from me;
for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.
For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.

UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION:

**Lord, we marvel at the thought of a well-fitted yoke,
a burden scaled to match our frames;
we do not know how to rest in the promise of such labor.
Some of us are weary from unceasing responsibility;
others find no welcome in the marketplace.
We confound your vision for our common life.
Forgive our blind striving, our stifled concern,
the judgments we cast on others.
Make yourself known to us in the silence.
Shape your children for the commonwealth of your love.
In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.**

DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS:

Sisters and brothers, hear this gospel word:
Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit;
and there are varieties of services, but the same Lord;
and there are varieties of activities,
but it is the same God who activates all of them in everyone.
To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good.
I declare to you now, in the name of Jesus Christ, that your sin is forgiven.
You have been freed for service in his name.

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:

God of life,
we come to you from many places:
some hearts overflow with joy and gratitude,
others are barely hanging on to hope and faith.
For some this is an ordinary morning;
for others, every step feels fragile.
**Holy One, meet us where we are and bind us
to each other, that in the community of your love we might
discover our wholeness.**
We name before you now the concerns of our hearts.

God of every beginning,
we pray for your children:
for infants harbored in their mothers' wombs,
for children exploring the world and testing
their imaginations,
for youth discovering their own integrity.
We pray for children who cannot take safety
and comfort for granted.
God of life, we pray for your children all over the world.

Author of time,
we ask your blessing on our work and our rest:
in jobs that feed our souls and in jobs that
do not satisfy,
in volunteer service and routine daily tasks,
in long hours of caregiving and in hours we
do not know how to fill—
come to us and show us how we might serve you.
We pray for those whose needs we know.
We pray especially for those we name now silently or aloud...

God of all creation,
enlarge the circles of our concern.
Teach us to care for brothers and sisters
whose names we cannot say:
those whose challenges are daunting,
though their needs are like our own.
**Teach us to care for the earth on
whose gifts we all depend.**
Holy God, we pray for your world
as we call on the name of your Son.
And all God's children said: **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:

Merciful God,
in this moment of stillness,
wash us clean of our presumptions.
Receive us as your weary children.
Then, by the power of your Spirit,
bless us with a word that revives,
for we pray in the name of Jesus,
your living Word. Amen.

SECOND READING: Romans 7:15-25

¹⁵ I do not understand what I do. For what I want to do I do not do, but what I hate I do. ¹⁶ And if I do what I do not want to do, I agree that the law is good. ¹⁷ As it is, it is no longer I myself who do it, but it is sin living in me. ¹⁸ For I know that good itself does not dwell in me, that is, in my sinful nature. For I have the desire to do what is good, but I cannot carry it out. ¹⁹ For I do not do the good I want to do, but the evil I do not want to do—this I keep on doing. ²⁰ Now if I do what I do not want to do, it is no longer I who do it, but it is sin living in me that does it. ²¹ So I find this law at work: Although I want to do good, evil is right there with me. ²² For in my inner being I delight in God's law; ²³ but I see another law at work in me, waging war against the law of my mind and making me a prisoner of the law of sin at work within me. ²⁴ What a wretched man I am! Who will rescue me from this body that is subject to death? ²⁵ Thanks be to God, who delivers me through Jesus Christ our Lord! So then, I myself in my mind am a slave to God's law, but in my sinful nature a slave to the law of sin.

SERMON:

"Can God Weave It All Together?"

Rev. Dr. Jared Witt

Apostle's Creed:

**I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth,
And in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost,
born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried;
he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead;
he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty;
from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic Church; the communion of saints;
the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.**

THE RECEIVING OF TITHES & OFFERINGS

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Gracious Creator,
you have laced our lives with blessing.
As we present these offerings, we also tender our lives.
Make us your bold and faithful people,
willing to go forward in faith wherever you would lead us,
that we might be a comfort in the world.
We pray in the name of Jesus,
by the gift of your empowering Spirit. Amen.

CLOSING HYMN:

"Beautiful Savior"
Performed by: St. Olaf (Virtual) Choir

***BLESSING**

POSTLUDE

Household Prayers

Morning

As the darkness recedes, open my eyes to the gift of this day;
help me to trust you with all that it will hold.
In the hours to come, as my plans are interrupted, tune
my ear to the sound of your voice,
my eye to the movement of your Spirit,
my heart to the strength of your desire,
that I might glimpse your hidden graces
and be strengthened in your service,
for I would be your instrument. Amen.

Evening

Merciful God,
I come weary, grateful for the chance to meet you in the silence,
eager to be washed again in your claim.
Lift from me the burdens I do not easily yield.
In your gracious provision, fit me with a better yoke
that I might rest as a child secure and rise with a teachable spirit. Amen.