



**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH** FORT SCOTT, KANSAS

6th Sunday after Pentecost
July 12, 2020



SERVING THIS MORNING:
Music Director: Dr. Greg Turner
Worship Leader: Deb McCoy

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Prelude

CALL TO WORSHIP:

Your word is a lamp to our feet
and a light to our path.

**Your word is our heritage forever,
the joy of our hearts.**

PRAYER FOR THE DAY:

Author of Life, Living Word, Holy Breath,
we have stumbled through the week
and groped our way back to this place.
Illumine the steps before us
and write your word on our hearts,
for we carry the name of Jesus
and would walk in the light of his love. Amen.

FIRST READING: **Genesis 25:19-34**

¹⁹ This is the account of the family line of Abraham's son Isaac. Abraham became the father of Isaac, ²⁰ and Isaac was forty years old when he married Rebekah daughter of Bethuel the Aramean from Paddan Aram and sister of Laban the Aramean. ²¹ Isaac prayed to the LORD on behalf of his wife, because she was childless. The LORD answered his prayer, and his wife Rebekah became pregnant. ²² The babies jostled each other within her, and she said, "Why is this happening to me?" So she went to inquire of the LORD. ²³ The LORD said to her, "Two nations are in your womb, and two peoples from within you will be separated; one people will be stronger than the other, and the older will serve the younger." ²⁴ When the time came for her to give birth, there were twin boys in her womb. ²⁵ The first to come out was red, and his whole body was like a hairy garment; so they named him Esau. ²⁶ After this, his brother came out, with his hand grasping Esau's heel; so he was named Jacob. Isaac was sixty years old when Rebekah gave birth to them. ²⁷ The boys grew up, and Esau became a skillful hunter, a man of the open country, while Jacob was content to stay at home among the tents. ²⁸ Isaac, who had a taste for wild game, loved Esau, but Rebekah loved Jacob. ²⁹ Once when Jacob was cooking some stew, Esau came in from the open country, famished. ³⁰ He said to Jacob, "Quick, let me have some of that red stew! I'm famished!" (That is why he was also called Edom.) ³¹ Jacob replied, "First sell me your birthright." ³² "Look, I am about to die," Esau said. "What good is the birthright to me?" ³³ But Jacob said, "Swear to me first." So he swore an oath to him, selling his birthright to Jacob. ³⁴ Then Jacob gave Esau some bread and some lentil stew. He ate and drank, and then got up and left. So Esau despised his birthright.

OPENING HYMN:

"Amazing Grace"

Performed by Life Church Virtual Choir

CALL TO CONFESSION:

The Scriptures are shot through with stories
of people just like us:
men who grieved, women who questioned,
siblings who did not get along,
parents who chose favorites.
God's word of grace is meant for people just like us.
There is no need for pretense in this place.
Let us go to God in prayer.

UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION:

**Patient and persistent God,
we come, polished and presentable,
to this comfortable room
as if we knew what to expect,
as if this were a safe and predictable place,
as if we could simply observe.
Holy One, forgive our tepid expectations.
In the mystery of your love, overshadow us.
Plant the seeds of your gospel in each of our hearts
until we bloom and spill with your passion
to serve in a world that is wasting. Amen.**

DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS:

There is therefore now no condemnation
for those who are in Christ Jesus.
The Spirit of God dwells in you.
If you hear nothing else today, hear these words:
there is no condemnation.
In the name of Jesus, you 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.
People: **And also with you.**

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE:

Holy God,
we were yours before we drew breath,
and still we will be yours when
the pulse of life ceases.
In every fragile, reckless moment,
we belong to you.

We thank you for the desire of our parents who gave us life.
May the love we have received spill gratitude from our hearts.
May the wounds we carry open our hearts to the needs of others.
May we recognize in your mercy the faithfulness
that judges and redeems every human bond.

We lift to you now all that seems irreconcilable
in our families . . .
in our schools and workplaces . . .
in our nation . . .
in your church . . .
in your world . . .
We pray for those we identify as leaders in every sphere of life. . . .
We pray for our president and for all whose decisions weigh heavily on others. . . .

Even so, Lord, give us the courage to name ourselves
as those whose responsibility is great.
Teach us to act, to tend the world you love:
to sow more than we reap,
to heal more than we wound,
to make room for others as you made room for us.
We pray especially for those we name now silently or aloud...

Redeeming God,
stake your claim upon us now,
until we hear your gospel echo in each stranger's story
and see your image reflected on every wounded face,
for we pray in the name of Jesus,
who unsettles our lives for the sake of your love. 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 life,
by the power of your Spirit come to us now.
Plow our hearts with your living Word
until we who are broken become fertile with your love,
for we long to bear fruit in a world that is wasting.
We pray in the name of Jesus, whose charge we bear. Amen.

SECOND READING: Romans 8:1-11

¹ Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus, ² because through Christ Jesus the law of the Spirit who gives life has set you free from the law of sin and death. ³ For what the law was powerless to do because it was weakened by the flesh, God did by sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh to be a sin offering. And so he condemned sin in the flesh, ⁴ in order that the righteous requirement of the law might be fully met in us, who do not live according to the flesh but according to the Spirit. ⁵ Those who live according to the flesh have their minds set on what the flesh desires; but those who live in accordance with the Spirit have their minds set on what the Spirit desires. ⁶ The mind governed by the flesh is death, but the mind governed by the Spirit is life and peace. ⁷ The mind governed by the flesh is hostile to God; it does not submit to God's law, nor can it do so. ⁸ Those who are in the realm of the flesh cannot please God. ⁹ You, however, are not in the realm of the flesh but are in the realm of the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God lives in you. And if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, they do not belong to Christ. ¹⁰ But if Christ is in you, then even though your body is subject to death because of sin, the Spirit gives life because of righteousness. ¹¹ And if the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies because of his Spirit who lives in you.

SERMON:

"Learning To Tell New Stories"

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:

"Jesus Paid It All"
Performed by: Celtic Worship

***BLESSING**

POSTLUDE

Household Prayers

Morning

Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.

Living Word, shine on this day.

Quicken my steps and open my ears
that I might approach each neighbor
with an expectant heart. Amen.

Evening

Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.

Beacon of truth,

I entrust to you now the day that has been:
the tasks accomplished and tasks overlooked;
the friends acknowledged and the friends ignored;
the silence kept and the silence squandered.

In your mercy, mend these tattered offerings.

Grant me the gift of rest this night
and good companions on the morrow,
as you speak me further down the path toward home. Amen.