



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH FORT SCOTT, KANSAS

7th Sunday after Pentecost
July 19, 2020



SERVING THIS MORNING:
Music Director: Dr. Greg Turner
Worship Leader: Andrew Lyon

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Prelude

CALL TO WORSHIP:

O Lord, our Sovereign, how majestic is
your name in all the earth!
You have set your glory above the heavens.
When I look at your heavens, the work of your fingers,
the moon and the stars that you have established;
what are human beings that you are mindful of them,
mortals that you care for them?
Yet you have made them a little lower than God
and crowned them with glory and honor.

PRAYER FOR THE DAY:

Rock of Israel and cornerstone of our common life,
you are not bound by our visions, our structures, our doctrine.
We cannot predict your coming or going, yet you have given us your story,
your family, your work to do. Meet us here.
Shape us for service in your world,
for we carry the name of Jesus
and live by the power of your breath. Amen.

FIRST READING: Genesis 28:10-19a

¹⁰ Jacob left Beersheba and set out for Harran. ¹¹ When he reached a certain place, he stopped for the night because the sun had set. Taking one of the stones there, he put it under his head and lay down to sleep. ¹² He had a dream in which he saw a stairway resting on the earth, with its top reaching to heaven, and the angels of God were ascending and descending on it. ¹³ There above it stood the LORD, and he said: "I am the LORD, the God of your father Abraham and the God of Isaac. I will give you and your descendants the land on which you are lying. ¹⁴ Your descendants will be like the dust of the earth, and you will spread out to the west and to the east, to the north and to the south. All peoples on earth will be blessed through you and your offspring. ¹⁵ I am with you and will watch over you wherever you go, and I will bring you back to this land. I will not leave you until I have done what I have promised you." ¹⁶ When Jacob awoke from his sleep, he thought, "Surely the LORD is in this place, and I was not aware of it." ¹⁷ He was afraid and said, "How awesome is this place! This is none other than the house of God; this is the gate of heaven." ¹⁸ Early the next morning Jacob took the stone he had placed under his head and set it up as a pillar and poured oil on top of it. ¹⁹ He called that place Bethel, though the city used to be called Luz.

OPENING HYMN:

"We Are Climbing Jacob's Ladder"
Performed by: The Angelic Choir
First Baptist Church, Nutley, New Jersey

CALL TO CONFESSION:

Sisters and brothers,
all who are led by the Spirit of God
are children of God.
We did not receive a spirit of slavery
to fall back into fear,
but we have received a spirit of adoption.
Let us then confess our sin
with the freedom of children who know
how deeply they are loved.

UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION:

**Merciful God,
your creatures cry—creation groans—but we turn away;
we surround ourselves with noise.
We are quick to excuse ourselves from responsibility:
we are young; we are old; we are tired; we are busy.
It is hard to imagine that we might make a difference.
Life-giving God, wash us clean.
Restore our imaginations and our hearts.
Let your courage and compassion flow through our veins
until we love with abandon
and our hands reach out in blessing,
for the creation waits with eager longing
for the revealing of the children of God. Amen**

DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS:

Sisters and brothers, hear the word of the Lord.
In the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus,
God says clearly:
you are my own; you are forgiven;
and I need you to be about my business in the world.

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:

Gracious Creator, Sower of life,
you know the complicated histories
that have carried us to this moment.
You know the names of all our generations,
for you are there in each story of falling away
and turning home, in our long years of wandering,
and in the shining moments
when we recognize your presence
and find the grace to worship you.
You are no stranger to the striving
or the listlessness of humanity.

Incarnate One, all of creation is groaning,
and so we dare to ask that you would come to us;
be born again in this place.
In the midst of our boredom, our self-congratulation,
our closeted vision,
startle us with the tearing, the cry, the first breath of life
that will not be restrained.
Strengthen in us the fruits of your Spirit, and teach us to pray:

We pray for all who flee from pasts by which
they are haunted.
We lift up all who feel abandoned by a future for which
they had hoped.
We plead for all who do not know that they are loved and chosen.
We intercede for our own divided souls.
We pray especially for those we name now silently or aloud...

Help us to trust that you are at work in every mingled heart,
every conflicted community.
Nourish the life you plant within us,
that we might keep seeding the world with your
truth and your grace;
in the name of Jesus, who gave his life
out of love for the world. **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:

Holy One,
you love with a father's tenderness, a mother's zeal.
Move now in our hearts.
Breathe through
the words we hear, the songs we share,
the burdens we carry,
until we discover our purpose in
your liberating love,
for we long to join creation's praise
and to shine with the mercy of the Christ,
in whose name we pray. Amen.

SECOND READING: Romans 8:12-25

¹² Therefore, brothers and sisters, we have an obligation—but it is not to the sinful nature, to live according to it. ¹³ For if you live according to the sinful nature, you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the misdeeds of the body, you will live. ¹⁴ For those who are led by the Spirit of God are the children of God. ¹⁵ The Spirit you received does not make you slaves, so that you live in fear again; rather, the Spirit you received brought about your adoption to sonship. And by him we cry, “Abba, Father.” ¹⁶ The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God's children. ¹⁷ Now if we are children, then we are heirs—heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ, if indeed we share in his sufferings in order that we may also share in his glory. ¹⁸ I consider that our present sufferings are not worth comparing with the glory that will be revealed in us. ¹⁹ For the creation waits in eager expectation for the children of God to be revealed. ²⁰ For the creation was subjected to frustration, not by its own choice, but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope ²¹ that the creation itself will be liberated from its bondage to decay and brought into the freedom and glory of the children of God. ²² We know that the whole creation has been groaning as in the pains of childbirth right up to the present time. ²³ Not only so, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for our adoption, the redemption of our bodies. ²⁴ For in this hope we were saved. But hope that is seen is no hope at all. Who hopes for what they already have? ²⁵ But if we hope for what we do not yet have, we wait for it patiently.

SERMON:

“What If Dreaming Is A Way of Praying?”

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

God of mystery and grace,
you have met us and blessed us with such abundant promise.
In gratitude we offer what we carry in our hearts and our pockets.
As we bring these worn and freighted offerings,
we pray that you would use us,
for we come in the name of Jesus
and by the movement of your Spirit in this place. **Amen.**

CLOSING HYMN:

"10,000 Reasons"
Performed by: Celtic Worship

***BLESSING**

POSTLUDE

Household Prayers

Morning

In whatever shelter I wake this morning
I know this place is holy because you meet me here.
As I wash my body and prepare for the day,
I remember baptismal waters and the claim upon my life.
Wherever darkness looms, Sovereign God,
traffic in mercy this day.
Traffic in mercy this day. Amen.

Evening

As darkness spreads over the land,
I trust that you move in it.
As I yield the night to sleep and dreams,
I pray you would remake me
into a servant bold,
for the sake of Jesus. Amen.