



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN  
CHURCH FORT SCOTT, KANSAS

8<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost  
July 26, 2020



SERVING THIS MORNING:  
Music Director: Dr. Greg Turner  
Worship Leader: Jackie Allison

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WIFI Network: FPC-WiFi Password: 620223380

## Prelude

### CALL TO WORSHIP:

O give thanks to the Lord, call on God's name,  
make known God's deeds among the peoples.

**Sing to God, sing praises to God;  
tell of all God's wonderful works.**

Glory in God's holy name;  
let the hearts of those who seek the Lord rejoice.

**Seek the Lord and God's strength;  
seek God's presence continually.**

Remember the wonderful works he has done,  
God's miracles, and the judgments he uttered,  
O offspring of God's servant Abraham,  
children of Jacob, God's chosen ones.

### PRAYER FOR THE DAY:

Holy God,  
we try to fix and fasten you,  
but you will not be stayed.  
You are love in motion:  
always breathing us into being, calling us to serve,  
sustaining us in the wilderness.  
Come to us as the morning breaks.  
Soften what has grown dry and brittle in our hearts  
until we worship with abandon,  
for we pray in the name of the Son you sent  
and through the Spirit that gives us life. **Amen.**

### FIRST READING: Genesis 29:15-28

<sup>15</sup> Laban said to Jacob, "Just because you are a relative of mine, should you work for me for nothing? Tell me what your wages should be." <sup>16</sup> Now Laban had two daughters; the name of the older was Leah, and the name of the younger was Rachel. <sup>17</sup> Leah had weak eyes, but Rachel had a lovely figure and was beautiful. <sup>18</sup> Jacob was in love with Rachel and said, "I'll work for you seven years in return for your younger daughter Rachel." <sup>19</sup> Laban said, "It's better that I give her to you than to some other man. Stay here with me." <sup>20</sup> So Jacob served seven years to get Rachel, but they seemed like only a few days to him because of his love for her. <sup>21</sup> Then Jacob said to Laban, "Give me my wife. My time is completed, and I want to make love to her." <sup>22</sup> So Laban brought together all the people of the place and gave a feast. <sup>23</sup> But when evening came, he took his daughter Leah and brought her to Jacob, and Jacob made love to her. <sup>24</sup> And Laban gave his servant Zilpah to his daughter as her attendant. <sup>25</sup> When morning came, there was Leah! So Jacob said to Laban, "What is this you have done to me? I served you for Rachel, didn't I? Why have you deceived me?" <sup>26</sup> Laban replied, "It is not our custom here to give the younger daughter in marriage before the older one. <sup>27</sup> Finish this daughter's bridal week; then we will give you the younger one also, in return for another seven years of work." <sup>28</sup> And Jacob did so. He finished the week with Leah, and then Laban gave him his daughter Rachel to be his wife.

### OPENING HYMN:

*"A Celtic Prayer"*

Performed by: Fifth Avenue Presbyterian Church Virtual Choir

## **CALL TO CONFESSION:**

Sisters and brothers,  
God never forgets God's promises;  
God's covenant endures in each new generation.  
We are free to speak the truth about our lives  
because God's faithfulness embraces us as we  
examine our hearts.

## **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:**

What then are we to say about these things?  
If God is for us, who is against us?  
Sisters and brothers, nothing we have done,  
nothing we will ever do,  
is enough to separate us from the love of God  
made known in Jesus Christ.  
“In Jesus Christ, we 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 do not know how to pray,  
but Jesus invites us into the life he shares with you,  
and so we keep coming—because we want to live.  
Receive us now in our frailty,  
our complacency, our desire.

We pray for your church all over the world,  
that we would be seed and yeast  
where life has grown barren and heavy.  
May the life we discover in you  
bind us to each other and to the world you love,  
for no need is beyond the strength of your call,  
and no child of yours is expendable.  
Merciful God, give us wisdom and courage beyond our imagining.

We pray for friends and strangers in the grip of addiction.  
Make us able companions for each other,  
and bless us with hope that bears fruit.  
We pray for unsettled economies  
and those whose needs are overlooked  
in the choices of the powerful.  
May we, who know so much privilege,  
bear our responsibilities with open hearts and open hands.

We pray for all who stand at the thresholds of life:  
for your children who are soon to be born  
and your children who are soon to go home.  
We pray especially for those we name now silently or aloud...

We give thanks for new faces to love, ideas to ponder, work to do—  
and we marvel at the sturdy friendships and persistent memories  
that sustain us when the way is hard.  
May each be a reminder of your love and your provision.  
We thank you for the gift of song—  
for notes that speak when words fail  
and choirs that practice at the end of long days.  
Give strength to leaders who call forth the best from us  
and invite us to breathe together.

Holy One, keep calling us into the world—your world—  
as seed and yeast and treasure.  
Equip each of us for the challenges we will face  
until we learn to worship in the most unlikely places,  
for you are the source of our song  
and the well from which we pray,  
wherever we are planted.  
By the power of your Spirit,  
we make our prayer with resurrection hope,  
in the name of Jesus. **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:

Spirit of life,  
we do not know how to pray as we ought.  
Meet us in words written, in words spoken;  
intercede for us with sighs too deep for words,  
until we shine with the hope that is hidden in our hearts,  
for we pray in the name of Jesus. **Amen.**

### SECOND READING: Romans 8:26-39

<sup>26</sup> In the same way, the Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us through wordless groans. <sup>27</sup> And he who searches our hearts knows the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for God's people in accordance with the will of God. <sup>28</sup> And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose. <sup>29</sup> For those God foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brothers and sisters. <sup>30</sup> And those he predestined, he also called; those he called, he also justified; those he justified, he also glorified. <sup>31</sup> What, then, shall we say in response to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? <sup>32</sup> He who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all—how will he not also, along with him, graciously give us all things? <sup>33</sup> Who will bring any charge against those whom God has chosen? It is God who justifies. <sup>34</sup> Who then is the one who condemns? No one. Christ Jesus who died—more than that, who was raised to life—is at the right hand of God and is also interceding for us. <sup>35</sup> Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword? <sup>36</sup> As it is written: "For your sake we face death all day long; we are considered as sheep to be slaughtered." <sup>37</sup> No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. <sup>38</sup> For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, <sup>39</sup> neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

**SERMON:**

*"The Uncomfortable Adventure of Trust"*

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**

Holy One,  
receive these offerings as you receive our lives.  
Gather our false starts and uncertain efforts,  
our generosity and our reluctance.  
Enliven us with your breath and make your purposes known,  
that our lives might show forth your glory,  
for we pray in the name of Jesus  
and by the power of your Spirit. **Amen.**

### **CLOSING HYMN:**

*"Trust In You"*  
Performed by: Lauren Daigle

### **\*BLESSING**

### **POSTLUDE**

## Household Prayers

### Morning

God of ferment, God of life,  
as I recall the night's unsettled dreams . . .  
as I foresee the day's demands . . .  
come to me  
in the desires of my heart,  
in the anger of the excluded,  
in all I might discount—  
until I find you everywhere,  
until your holy love leavens every impulse,  
for I pray in the name of Jesus, whose surprising call continues. Amen.

### Evening

Joy of my heart,  
thank you for this day's unexpected turns:  
for provision when I was stymied  
and laughter born of grace.  
As I rest in your mercy  
open my heart to your unruly love  
and the neighbors you have put in my path. Amen.