

# Faith United Methodist Church

August 16, 2020



TWELFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Welcome & Opening Prayer

Hymn

*I Am Thine, O Lord*

#419

*I am thine, O Lord, I have heard thy voice,  
and it told thy love to me;  
but I long to rise in the arms of faith  
and be closer drawn to thee.*

*Refrain: Draw me nearer, nearer, blessed Lord,  
to the cross where thou hast died.  
Draw me nearer, nearer, blessed Lord,  
to thy precious, bleeding side.*

Scripture Reading

Genesis 24:1-33

24 <sup>1</sup>Abraham was now an old man. God had blessed Abraham in every way.

<sup>2-4</sup> Abraham spoke to the senior servant in his household, the one in charge of everything he had, “Put your hand under my thigh and swear by God—God of Heaven, God of Earth—that you will not get a wife for my son from among the young women of the Canaanites here, but will go to the land of my birth and get a wife for my son Isaac.”

<sup>5</sup> The servant answered, “But what if the woman refuses to leave home and come with me? Do I then take your son back to your home country?”

<sup>6-8</sup> Abraham said, “Oh no. Never. By no means are you to take my son back there. God, the God of Heaven, took me from the home of my father and from the country of my birth and spoke to me in solemn promise, ‘I’m giving this land to your descendants.’ This God will send his angel ahead of you to get a wife for my son. And if the woman won’t come, you are free from this oath you’ve sworn to me. But under no circumstances

are you to take my son back there.”

<sup>9</sup> So the servant put his hand under the thigh of his master Abraham and gave his solemn oath.

<sup>10-14</sup> The servant took ten of his master’s camels and, loaded with gifts from his master, traveled to Aram Naharaim and the city of Nahor. Outside the city, he made the camels kneel at a well. It was evening, the time when the women came to draw water. He prayed, “O God, God of my master Abraham, make things go smoothly this day; treat my master Abraham well! As I stand here by the spring while the young women of the town come out to get water, let the girl to whom I say, ‘Lower your jug and give me a drink,’ and who answers, ‘Drink, and let me also water your camels’—let her be the woman you have picked out for your servant Isaac. Then I’ll know that you’re working graciously behind the scenes for my master.”

<sup>15-17</sup> It so happened that the words were barely out of his mouth when Rebekah, the daughter of Bethuel whose mother was Milcah the wife of Nahor, Abraham’s brother, came out with a water jug on her shoulder. The girl was stunningly beautiful, a pure virgin. She went down to the spring, filled her jug, and came back up. The servant ran to meet her and said, “Please, can I have a sip of water from your jug?”

<sup>18-21</sup> She said, “Certainly, drink!” And she held the jug so that he could drink. When he had satisfied his thirst she said, “I’ll get water for your camels, too, until they’ve drunk their fill.” She promptly emptied her jug into the trough and ran back to the well to fill it, and she kept at it until she had watered all the camels.

The man watched, silent. Was this God’s answer? Had God made his trip a success or not?

<sup>22-23</sup> When the camels had finished drinking, the man brought out gifts, a gold nose ring weighing a little over a quarter of an ounce and two arm bracelets weighing about four ounces, and gave them to her. He asked her, “Tell me about your family? Whose daughter are you? Is there room in your father’s house for us to stay the night?”

<sup>24-25</sup> She said, “I’m the daughter of Bethuel the son of Milcah and Nahor. And there’s plenty of room in our house for you to stay—and lots of straw and feed besides.”

<sup>26-27</sup> At this the man bowed in worship before God and prayed,  
“Blessed be God, God of my master Abraham: How generous and true  
you’ve been to my master; you’ve held nothing back. You led me right  
to the door of my master’s brother!”

<sup>28</sup> And the girl was off and running, telling everyone in her mother’s  
house what had happened.

<sup>29-31</sup> Rebekah had a brother named Laban. Laban ran outside to the  
man at the spring. He had seen the nose ring and the bracelets on his  
sister and had heard her say, “The man said this and this and this to  
me.” So he went to the man and there he was, still standing with his  
camels at the spring. Laban welcomed him: “Come on in, blessed of  
God! Why are you standing out here? I’ve got the house ready for you;  
and there’s also a place for your camels.”

<sup>32-33</sup> So the man went into the house. The camels were unloaded and  
given straw and feed. Water was brought to bathe the feet of the man  
and the men with him. Then Laban brought out food. But the man  
said, “I won’t eat until I tell my story.”

Laban said, “Go ahead; tell us.”

Hymn

*Breathe on Me, Breath of God  
Breathe on me, Breath of God,  
fill me with life anew,  
that I may love what thou dost love,  
and do what thou wouldst do.*

#420

*Breathe on me, Breath of God,  
will I am wholly thine,  
till all this earthly part of me  
glows with thy fire divine.*

Scripture Reading

Genesis 24:34-67

<sup>34-41</sup> The servant said, “I’m the servant of Abraham. God has blessed  
my master—he’s a great man; God has given him sheep and cattle,  
silver and gold, servants and maidservants, camels and donkeys. And  
then to top it off, Sarah, my master’s wife, gave him a son in her old age  
and he has passed everything on to his son. My master made me  
promise, ‘Don’t get a wife for my son from the daughters of the  
Canaanites in whose land I live. No, go to my father’s home, back to my  
family, and get a wife for my son there.’ I said to my master, ‘But what  
if the woman won’t come with me?’ He said, ‘God before whom I’ve

walked faithfully will send his angel with you and he'll make things work out so that you'll bring back a wife for my son from my family, from the house of my father. Then you'll be free from the oath. If you go to my family and they won't give her to you, you will also be free from the oath.'

42-44 "Well, when I came this very day to the spring, I prayed, 'God, God of my master Abraham, make things turn out well in this task I've been given. I'm standing at this well. When a young woman comes here to draw water and I say to her, Please, give me a sip of water from your jug, and she says, Not only will I give you a drink, I'll also water your camels—let that woman be the wife God has picked out for my master's son.'

45-48 "I had barely finished offering this prayer, when Rebekah arrived, her jug on her shoulder. She went to the spring and drew water and I said, 'Please, can I have a drink?' She didn't hesitate. She held out her jug and said, 'Drink; and when you're finished I'll also water your camels.' I drank, and she watered the camels. I asked her, 'Whose daughter are you?' She said, 'The daughter of Bethuel whose parents were Nahor and Milcah.' I gave her a ring for her nose, bracelets for her arms, and bowed in worship to God. I praised God, the God of my master Abraham who had led me straight to the door of my master's family to get a wife for his son.

49 "Now, tell me what you are going to do. If you plan to respond with a generous yes, tell me. But if not, tell me plainly so I can figure out what to do next."

50-51 Laban and Bethuel answered, "This is totally from God. We have no say in the matter, either yes or no. Rebekah is yours: Take her and go; let her be the wife of your master's son, as God has made plain."

52-54 When Abraham's servant heard their decision, he bowed in worship before God. Then he brought out gifts of silver and gold and clothing and gave them to Rebekah. He also gave expensive gifts to her brother and mother. He and his men had supper and spent the night. But first thing in the morning they were up. He said, "Send me back to my master."

55 Her brother and mother said, "Let the girl stay a while, say another ten days, and then go."

56 He said, "Oh, don't make me wait! God has worked everything out so well—send me off to my master."

57 They said, “We’ll call the girl; we’ll ask her.”

They called Rebekah and asked her, “Do you want to go with this man?”

58 She said, “I’m ready to go.”

59-60 So they sent them off, their sister Rebekah with her nurse, and Abraham’s servant with his men. And they blessed Rebekah saying,

You’re our sister—live bountifully!  
And your children, triumphantly!

61 Rebekah and her young maids mounted the camels and followed the man. The servant took Rebekah and set off for home.

62-65 Isaac was living in the Negev. He had just come back from a visit to Beer Lahai Roi. In the evening he went out into the field; while meditating he looked up and saw camels coming. When Rebekah looked up and saw Isaac, she got down from her camel and asked the servant, “Who is that man out in the field coming toward us?”

“That is my master.”

She took her veil and covered herself.

66-67 After the servant told Isaac the whole story of the trip, Isaac took Rebekah into the tent of his mother Sarah. He married Rebekah and she became his wife and he loved her. So Isaac found comfort after his mother’s death.

Leader: The Word of God, for the People of God

**Response: Thanks Be to God. Amen.**

Children’s Time

Special Music

*This Is the Day*

Witness

*Isaac & Rebekah*

Response to the Word –

Once we were no people, but now we are your people, declaring your wonderful deeds in Christ, who called us out of darkness into his marvelous light to be the body of Christ in the World.

**Now with the Holy Spirit may we live our faith as we tell our story.**

Prayers for the World & the Gifts of the Community

Hymn

*God Will Take Care of You*  
*Be not dismayed whate'er betide,*  
*God will take care of you;*  
*beneath his wings of love abide,*  
*God will take care of you.*

#130

*Refrain: God will take care of you,*  
*through every day, o'er all the way;*  
*He will take care of you,*  
*God will take care of you.*

Benediction

Margaret Arceneaux  
 Paul Arceneaux, Jr.  
 Sidney Arceneaux  
 Kim Craigen Ard  
 Lucian Adams  
 Dolores Anderson  
 Natalie Avery  
 Johnny & Ovelia Battaglio  
 Linda Bergen  
 Lloyd Betar  
 Mary Bevil  
 Bonnie Blankenship  
 Henry Blevins  
 Donna Suppa Bolton  
 Jo Bordeaux  
 Pat Borel  
 Glenda Brooks  
 Jean Brooks  
 Ann Campbell  
 Norma Campbell  
 Robert & Roxie Castilaw  
 Jared Castolenia  
 Tana Champeau  
 Rebecca Chance  
 Billie Cherry  
 Kim Wilber Conn  
 Derick Cooper  
 Kyle & Beth Craigen  
 Dakota Crutchfield  
 Jimmy & Emily Davis

**Prayer List**  
 Paula Davis  
 Bobbye Dean  
 Mary Delafosse  
 Tammy Dufour  
 Julie Duplichan  
 Joe Floyd  
 Lorene Green  
 Rachel Grimmett  
 Kathy Guidry  
 Connie Hebert  
 MaryJo Hebert  
 Christie Hale  
 Edna & Raymond Jones  
 Alice Kethley  
 Kristie Key  
 Clyde Landry  
 Gail Lauve  
 Christi Leblanc  
*Family of Jim Leblanc*  
 Fred Ledesma  
 Alice & Louis Loftin  
 Orianna Marchand  
 Matt Markos  
 Barbara Martin  
 Lloyd Martin  
 Linda Meyers  
 Maribeth Moore  
 Jimmy Mott  
 Ron & Michelle Mueller  
 Joyce Murphy

Arnold Northcut  
 Kelly Simmons Owens  
 Jim Padgett  
 John & Candance Perkins  
 Melva Phillips  
 Harlan Phipps  
 Alfred Pierson  
 Mercedes Pierson  
 Justin Plake  
 John Pool  
 Kenny Puckett  
 Buddy Renkema  
 Nikki Castilaw Rice  
 Edward Rivet  
 Randy & Darlene Rivett  
 Betty Romero  
 Ezekiel Romero  
 Joann Savelle  
 Jim & Loretta Shearer  
 Brooke Simon  
 Harriet Simpson  
 James Sowell  
 Kim Streed  
 Bob Taylor  
*Family of June Waits*  
 Sadina Hammock Ward  
 Mary Alice Weitzel  
 Mary Rose Williams  
 Gail Wright  
 Greta Zerasky



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We are called to be:

**Transformed** by God's love, Christ's sacrifice and the Spirit's work in our lives.

**Engaged** with all of God's children from the small to the tall, the near and the far.

**Celebrate**, worship & praise God as we care for each other.

**Share** the Good News of God's love in our thoughts, words and deeds.

#### Attributes

**Hymns:** "I Am Thine, O Lord" words by Fanny Crosby, 1875, music by William H. Doane, 1875, in public domain. "Breathe on Me, Breath of God" words: Edwin Hatch, 1878, music: Robert Jackson, 1888, in public domain. "God Will Take Care of You" words: Civilla D. Martin, music: W. Stillman Martin, 1905 in public domain. Special Music: "This is the Day" words & music by Les Garrett, 1967, 1990 © Scripture in Song " " words & music by , 1972, © 1972 Communique Music, Inc.. Scripture are from "Scripture taken from The Message. Copyright © 1993, 1994, 1995, 1996, 2000, 2001, 2002. Used by permission of NavPress Publishing Group." *Response to the Word*, The United Methodist Book of Worship ©1992, United Methodist Publishing House, used with permission, CCLI License #3821436 One License A-733754 used by permission.