

Faith United Methodist Church

September 20, 2020



SIXTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Welcome & Opening Prayer

Hymn

Leaning on The Everlasting Arms

#133

*What a fellowship, what a joy divine,
leaning on the everlasting arms;
What a blessedness,
what a peace is mine,
leaning on the everlasting arms.*

*Refrain: x2
Leaning, leaning,
safe and secure from all alarms;
Leaning, leaning,
leaning on the everlasting arms.*

Scripture Reading

Genesis 30:25-43

²⁵⁻²⁶ After Rachel had had Joseph, Jacob spoke to Laban, “Let me go back home. Give me my wives and children for whom I’ve served you. You know how hard I’ve worked for you.”

²⁷⁻²⁸ Laban said, “If you please, I have learned through divine inquiry that God has blessed me because of you.” He went on, “So name your wages. I’ll pay you.”

²⁹⁻³⁰ Jacob replied, “You know well what my work has meant to you and how your livestock has flourished under my care. The little you had when I arrived has increased greatly; everything I did resulted in blessings for you. Isn’t it about time that I do something for my own family?”

³¹⁻³³ “So, what should I pay you?”

Jacob said, “You don’t have to pay me a thing. But how about this? I will go back to pasture and care for your flocks. Go through your entire flock today and take out every speckled or spotted sheep, every dark-colored lamb, every spotted or speckled goat. They will be my wages. That way you can check on my honesty when you assess my wages. If you find any goat that’s not speckled or spotted or a sheep that’s not black, you

will know that I stole it.”

³⁴ “Fair enough,” said Laban. “It’s a deal.”

³⁵⁻³⁶ But that very day Laban removed all the mottled and spotted billy goats and all the speckled and spotted nanny goats, every animal that had even a touch of white on it plus all the black sheep and placed them under the care of his sons. Then he put a three-day journey between himself and Jacob. Meanwhile Jacob went on tending what was left of Laban’s flock.

³⁷⁻⁴² But Jacob got fresh branches from poplar, almond, and plane trees and peeled the bark, leaving white stripes on them. He stuck the peeled branches in front of the watering troughs where the flocks came to drink. When the flocks were in heat, they came to drink and mated in front of the streaked branches. Then they gave birth to young that were streaked or spotted or speckled. Jacob placed the ewes before the dark-colored animals of Laban. That way he got distinctive flocks for himself which he didn’t mix with Laban’s flocks. And when the sturdier animals were mating, Jacob placed branches at the troughs in view of the animals so that they mated in front of the branches. But he wouldn’t set up the branches before the feebler animals. That way the feeble animals went to Laban and the sturdy ones to Jacob.

⁴³ The man got richer and richer, acquiring huge flocks, lots and lots of servants, not to mention camels and donkeys.

Hymn

Something Beautiful
Something beautiful, something good;
all my confusion he understood;
all I had to offer him
was brokenness and strife,
but he made something beautiful of my life. x2

#394

All I had to offer him
was brokenness and strife,
but he made something beautiful of my life.
He made something beautiful of my life.

Scripture Reading

Genesis 31:1-9, 43-55

¹⁻² Jacob learned that Laban’s sons were talking behind his back: “Jacob has used our father’s wealth to make himself rich at our father’s expense.” At the same time, Jacob noticed that Laban had changed toward him. He wasn’t treating him the same.

3 That's when God said to Jacob, "Go back home where you were born. I'll go with you."

4-9 So Jacob sent word for Rachel and Leah to meet him out in the field where his flocks were. He said, "I notice that your father has changed toward me; he doesn't treat me the same as before. But the God of my father hasn't changed; he's still with me. You know how hard I've worked for your father. Still, your father has cheated me over and over, changing my wages time and again. But God never let him really hurt me. If he said, 'Your wages will consist of speckled animals' the whole flock would start having speckled lambs and kids. And if he said, 'From now on your wages will be streaked animals' the whole flock would have streaked ones. Over and over God used your father's livestock to reward me.

43-44 Laban defended himself: "The daughters are my daughters, the children are my children, the flock is my flock—everything you see is mine. But what can I do about my daughters or for the children they've had? So let's settle things between us, make a covenant—God will be the witness between us."

45 Jacob took a stone and set it upright as a pillar.

46-47 Jacob called his family around, "Get stones!" They gathered stones and heaped them up and then ate there beside the pile of stones. Laban named it in Aramaic, Yegar-sahadutha (Witness Monument); Jacob echoed the naming in Hebrew, Galeed (Witness Monument).

48-50 Laban said, "This monument of stones will be a witness, beginning now, between you and me." (That's why it is called Galeed—Witness Monument.) It is also called Mizpah (Watchtower) because Laban said, "God keep watch between you and me when we are out of each other's sight. If you mistreat my daughters or take other wives when there's no one around to see you, God will see you and stand witness between us."

51-53 Laban continued to Jacob, "This monument of stones and this stone pillar that I have set up is a witness, a witness that I won't cross this line to hurt you and you won't cross this line to hurt me. The God of Abraham and the God of Nahor (the God of their ancestor) will keep things straight between us."

53-55 Jacob promised, swearing by the Fear, the God of his father Isaac. Then Jacob offered a sacrifice on the mountain and worshiped, calling in all his family members to the meal. They ate and slept that night on the mountain. Laban got up early the next morning, kissed his grandchildren and his daughters, blessed them, and then set off for home.

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

Response: Thanks Be to God. Amen.

Children's Time

Special Music

Witness

Prosperity

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

Freely

#334

*There's a sweet, sweet Spirit in this place,
and I know that it's the spirit of the Lord;
there are sweet expressions on each face,
and I know they feel the presence of the Lord.*

Refrain:

*Sweet Holy Spirit, sweet heavenly Dove,
stay right here with us, filling us with your love;
and for these blessings we lift our hearts in praise;
without a doubt, we'll know that we have been revived
when we shall leave this place.*

Benediction

Our Administrative Board has been at work to begin resuming in-person worship. We will continue to worship as we have been with our YouTube playlist each Sunday as well as printed material available for pick up or download from the website. Our first service will be Sunday, September 27, 2020 at 9:00 am for an Outdoor Communion Service. This service will be about 30 minutes and will include a scripture reading, brief homily, prayers for our community & Holy Communion. We will gather under the tree outside the front of our church and ask each family group to please bring a lawn chair and mask as we will be practicing physical distancing between each family group. As you walk up to our worship space, there will be a table with bags of packaged communion elements and a basket to collect our tithes & offerings. More information will be posted on our website, FB group and on the doors of our church.

Louisiana Neighbors Recovering from Hurricane Laura

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
 Beulah Cathey
 Tana Champeau
 Rebecca Chance
 Billie Cherry
 Kim Wilber Conn
 Derick Cooper
 Kyle & Beth Craigen
 Dakota Crutchfield
 Jimmy & Emily Davis

Paula Davis
 Bobbye Dean
 Mary Delafosse
 JoAnn Docken
 Tammy Dufour
 Julie Duplichan
 Joe Floyd
 Lorene Green
 Rachel Grimmitt
 Kathy Guidry
 Connie Hebert
 MaryJo Hebert
 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
Family of Betty Romero
 Ezekiel Romero
 Misti Sanchez
 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
 JR Wise, Jr.
 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

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