

Faith United Methodist Church

July 12, 2020



SEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Welcome & Opening Prayer

Hymn

How Firm a Foundation

#529

*How firm a foundation, ye saints of the Lord,
is laid for your faith in his excellent word!
What more can he say than to you he hath said,
to you who for refuge to Jesus have fled?*

Scripture Reading

Genesis 15

After all these things, this word of God came to Abram in a vision: "Don't be afraid, Abram. I'm your shield. Your reward will be grand!"

²⁻³ Abram said, "God, Master, what use are your gifts as long as I'm childless and Eliezer of Damascus is going to inherit everything?" Abram continued, "See, you've given me no children, and now a mere house servant is going to get it all."

⁴ Then God's Message came: "Don't worry, he won't be your heir; a son from your body will be your heir."

⁵ Then he took him outside and said, "Look at the sky. Count the stars. Can you do it? Count your descendants! You're going to have a big family, Abram!"

⁶ And he believed! Believed God! God declared him "Set-Right-with-God."

⁷ God continued, "I'm the same God who brought you from Ur of the Chaldees and gave you this land to own."

⁸ Abram said, "Master God, how am I to know this, that it will all be mine?"

⁹ God said, "Bring me a heifer, a goat, and a ram, each three years old, and a dove and a young pigeon."

¹⁰⁻¹² He brought all these animals to him, split them down the middle, and laid the halves opposite each other. But he didn't split the birds. Vultures swooped down on the carcasses, but Abram scared them off. As the sun went down a deep sleep overcame Abram and then a sense of dread, dark and heavy.

¹³⁻¹⁶ God said to Abram, "Know this: your descendants will live as outsiders in a land not theirs; they'll be enslaved and beaten down for 400 years. Then I'll punish their slave masters; your offspring will march out of there loaded with plunder. But not you; you'll have a long and full life and die a good and peaceful death. Not until the fourth generation will your descendants return here; sin is still a thriving business among the Amorites."

¹⁷⁻²¹ When the sun was down and it was dark, a smoking firepot and a flaming torch moved between the split carcasses. That's when God made a covenant with Abram: "I'm giving this land to your children, from the Nile River in Egypt to the River Euphrates in Assyria—the country of the Kenites, Kenizzites, Kadmonites, Hittites, Perizzites, Rephaim, Amorites, Canaanites, Girgashites, and Jebusites."

Hymn

Be Thou My Vision

#451

*Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart;
Naught be all else to me, save that thou art;
Thou my best thought, by day or by night,
Waking or sleeping, thy presence my light.
Thou my best thought, by day or by night,
Waking or sleeping, thy presence my light.*

Scripture Reading

Genesis 17

¹⁻² When Abram was ninety-nine years old, God showed up and said to him, "I am The Strong God, live entirely before me, live to the hilt! I'll make a covenant between us and I'll give you a huge family."

³⁻⁸ Overwhelmed, Abram fell flat on his face.

Then God said to him, "This is my covenant with you: You'll be the father of many nations. Your name will no longer be Abram, but Abraham, meaning that 'I'm making you the father of many nations.' I'll make you a father of fathers—I'll make nations from you, kings will issue from you. I'm establishing my covenant between me and you, a covenant that includes your descendants, a covenant that goes on and on and on, a covenant that commits me to be your God and the God of your descendants. And I'm

giving you and your descendants this land where you're now just camping, this whole country of Canaan, to own forever. And I'll be their God."

⁹⁻¹⁴ God continued to Abraham, "And you: You will honor my covenant, you and your descendants, generation after generation. This is the covenant that you are to honor, the covenant that pulls in all your descendants: Circumcise every male. Circumcise by cutting off the foreskin of the penis; it will be the sign of the covenant between us. Every male baby will be circumcised when he is eight days old, generation after generation—this includes house-born slaves and slaves bought from outsiders who are not blood kin. Make sure you circumcise both your own children and anyone brought in from the outside. That way my covenant will be cut into your body, a permanent mark of my permanent covenant. An uncircumcised male, one who has not had the foreskin of his penis cut off, will be cut off from his people—he has broken my covenant."

¹⁵⁻¹⁶ God continued speaking to Abraham, "And Sarai your wife: Don't call her Sarai any longer; call her Sarah. I'll bless her—yes! I'll give you a son by her! Oh, how I'll bless her! Nations will come from her; kings of nations will come from her."

¹⁷ Abraham fell flat on his face. And then he laughed, thinking, "Can a hundred-year-old man father a son? And can Sarah, at ninety years, have a baby?"

¹⁸ Recovering, Abraham said to God, "Oh, keep Ishmael alive and well before you!"

¹⁹ But God said, "That's not what I mean. Your wife, Sarah, will have a baby, a son. Name him Isaac (Laughter). I'll establish my covenant with him and his descendants, a covenant that lasts forever.

²⁰⁻²¹ "And Ishmael? Yes, I heard your prayer for him. I'll also bless him; I'll make sure he has plenty of children—a huge family. He'll father twelve princes; I'll make him a great nation. But I'll establish my covenant with Isaac whom Sarah will give you about this time next year."

²² God finished speaking with Abraham and left.

²³ Then Abraham took his son Ishmael and all his servants, whether houseborn or purchased—every male in his household—and circumcised them, cutting off their foreskins that very day, just as God had told him.

²⁴⁻²⁷ Abraham was ninety-nine years old when he was circumcised. His son Ishmael was thirteen years old when he was circumcised. Abraham and Ishmael were circumcised the same day together with all the servants of his

household, those born there and those purchased from outsiders—all were circumcised with him.

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

Response: Thanks Be to God. Amen.

Children's Time

Special Music

Abide With Me

Witness

Tell Me the Stories: Covenant

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

*Turn Your Eyes upon Jesus
Turn your eyes upon Jesus,
look full in his wonderful face,
and the things of earth will grow strangely dim
in the light of his glory and grace.
in the light of his glory and grace.*

#349

Benediction

Prayer List

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

Bobbie Dean
Mary Delafosse
Tammy Dufour
Lane Duhe
Julie Duplichan
Joe Floyd
Family of Vance Gerald
Lorene Green
Rachel Grimmett
MaryJo Hebert
Christie Hale
Edna & Raymond Jones
Alice Kethley
Shirley Kethley
Kristie Key
Clyde Landry
Family of Rose Latta
Gail Lauve
Christi 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
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
Loretta Thibodeaux
The Family of Ryder Thompson
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: "How Firm a Foundation" words "K" in Rippon *Selection of Hymns*, 1787, music by Early USA Melody, harm. From Tabor, 1866 in public domain. *Be Thou My Vision* words: Ancient Irish; translation by Mary E. Byrne, 1905, versed by Eleanor H. Hull, 1912 & music by Traditional Irish melody; harmony by Carlton R. Young, 1961 © 1989 The United Methodist Publishing House & © 1964 Abington Press. "Have Thine Own Way, Lord" words by Adelaide A. Pollard, 1902 music by: George C. Stebbins, 1907 in public domain. "Turn Your Eyes upon Jesus" words & music by Helen H. Lemmel, 1922 in public domain. "Abide with me" words by Henry F. Lyte 1847 & music by W. H. Monk, 1861 in public domain. 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.