

SEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

JULY 19, 2020 10:00 AM

PRELUDE

Miniature Suite

John Ireland

I. Intrada

II. Villanella

Bryan Lohr, Organ


WELCOME AND OPENING PRAYER

HYMN

God of Abraham and Sarah

"Constantine"

(*Please refrain from singing the hymns, but rather hum along.)



1 God of A - bra - ham and Sar - ah, God of Mo - ses, Mir - iam's Guide;
2 God who danc - es in cre - a - tion, spin - ning stars a - bove our heads;
3 God who loves the poor in spir - it, God who com - forts those who mourn;
4 In our lives from birth to dy - ing, depth of sor - row, height of joy;

God of Da - vid and the proph - ets, God in Je - sus glo - ri - fied:
God whose face is scribed in mu - sic, by whose hand the earth is fed:
Balm for wounds, the friend of sin - ners, tak - ing the side of earth's for - lorn:
Prais - ing God in ev - ery sea - son, let ev - ery key our hearts em - ploy.

Up from the dust you raise a peo - ple, breathe in the breath of life, of soul;
Up from the ground you raise the moun - tains, raise our spir - its, lift our eyes;
Up from the depths you raise your peo - ple, giv - ing them cour - age for the day;
Praise is the heal - ing, praise, the glo - ry, praise is the fin - al mys - ter - y;

Down through the years the peo - ple praise you till al - le - lu - ias make them whole!
Down through the years your peo - ple praise you till al - le - lu - ias flood the skies!
Down through the years the peo - ple praise you till al - le - lu - ias light their way!
Down through the years let peo - ple praise you till al - le - lu - ias set them free!

CONFESSION OF SIN

Merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart and mind and strength. We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.

In your mercy forgive what we have been, help us amend what we are, and direct what we shall be, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name.

(silent prayer)

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Brothers and sisters, hear these words from the scriptures: "Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting the message of reconciliation to us. (II Corinthians 5:19)

In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven! Thanks be to God!

Glory to God, whose goodness shines on me, and to the Son, whose grace has pardoned me, and to the Spirit, whose love has set me free! As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be. Amen.

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON

Genesis 15:1-21

God's Covenant with Abram

15 After these things the word of the LORD came to Abram in a vision, "Do not be afraid, Abram, I am your shield; your reward shall be very great." ²But Abram said, "O Lord GOD, what will you give me, for I continue childless, and the heir of my house is Eliezer of Damascus?"^[a] ³And Abram said, "You have given me no offspring, and so a slave born in my house is to be my heir." ⁴But the word of the LORD came to him, "This man shall not be your heir; no one but your very own issue shall be your heir." ⁵He brought him outside and said, "Look toward heaven and count the stars, if you are able to count them." Then he said to him, "So shall your descendants be." ⁶And he believed the LORD; and the LORD^[b] reckoned it to him as righteousness.

⁷Then he said to him, "I am the LORD who brought you from Ur of the Chaldeans, to give you this land to possess." ⁸But he said, "O Lord GOD, how am I to know that I shall possess it?" ⁹He said to him, "Bring me a heifer three years old, a female goat three years old, a ram three years old, a turtledove, and a young pigeon." ¹⁰He brought him all these and cut them in two, laying each half over against the other; but he did not cut the birds in two. ¹¹And when birds of prey came down on the carcasses, Abram drove them away.

¹²As the sun was going down, a deep sleep fell upon Abram, and a deep and terrifying darkness descended upon him. ¹³Then the LORD^[c] said to Abram, "Know this for certain, that your offspring shall be aliens in a land that is not theirs, and shall be slaves there, and they shall be oppressed for four hundred years; ¹⁴but I will bring judgment on the nation that they serve, and afterward they shall come out with great possessions. ¹⁵As for yourself, you shall go to your ancestors in peace; you shall be buried in a good old age. ¹⁶And they shall come back here in the fourth generation; for the iniquity of the Amorites is not yet complete."

¹⁷When the sun had gone down and it was dark, a smoking fire pot and a flaming torch passed between these pieces. ¹⁸On that day the LORD made a covenant with Abram, saying, "To your descendants I give this land, from the river of Egypt to the great river, the river Euphrates, ¹⁹the land of the Kenites, the Kenizzites, the Kadmonites, ²⁰the Hittites, the Perizzites, the Rephaim, ²¹the Amorites, the Canaanites, the Girgashites, and the Jebusites."

ANTHEM

Onward Christian Soldiers

arr. Ted Smith and Don Hustad

Nancy Hodges, Piano and Bryan Lohr, Organ

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON

Romans 4:1-8

4 What then are we to say was gained by^[a] Abraham, our ancestor according to the flesh? ²For if Abraham was justified by works, he has something to boast about, but not before God. ³For what does the scripture say? "Abraham believed God, and it was reckoned to him as righteousness." ⁴Now to one who works, wages are not reckoned as a gift but as something due. ⁵But to one who without works trusts him who justifies the ungodly, such faith is reckoned as righteousness. ⁶So also David speaks of the blessedness of those to whom God reckons righteousness apart from works:

⁷"Blessed are those whose iniquities are forgiven,
and whose sins are covered; ⁸blessed is the one against whom the Lord will not reckon sin."

SERMON

"Abraham: God's Covenant with Abraham"



1 My shep-herd will sup-ply my need; Je - ho - vah is his name.
 2 When I walk through the shades of death your pres-ence is my stay;
 3 The sure pro - vi - sions of my God at - tend me all my days;



In pas - tures fresh he makes me feed, be - side the liv - ing stream.
 one word of your sup - port - ing breath drives all my fears a - way.
 O may your house be my a - bode, and all my work be praise.



He brings my wan - dering spir - it back when I for - sake his ways,
 Your hand, in sight of all my foes, does still my ta - ble spread;
 There would I find a set - tled rest, while oth - ers go and come;



and leads me, for his mer - cy's sake, in paths of truth and grace.
 my cup with bless - ings o - ver - flows; your oil a - noints my head.
 no more a strang - er, or a guest, but like a child at home.

ORDINATION AND INSTALLATION OF NEW OFFICERS

PRAYERS FOR ONE ANOTHER, OUR COMMUNITY, OUR NATION, ENDING WITH THE LORD'S PRAYER



1 *Great is thy faith - ful - ness, O God my Fa - ther;
 2 Sum - mer and win - ter, and spring - time and har - vest,
 3 Par - don for sin and a peace that en - dur - eth,



there is no shad - ow of turn - ing with thee.
 sun, moon, and stars in their cours - es a - bove
 thine own dear pres - ence to cheer and to guide,



Thou chang - est not; thy com - pas - sions they fail not.
 join with all na - ture in man - i - fold wit - ness
 strength for to - day and bright hope for to - mor - row:



As thou hast been thou for - ev - er wilt be.
 to thy great faith - ful - ness, mer - cy, and love.
 bless - ings all mine, with ten thou - sand be - side!

Refrain

Great is thy faith-ful-ness! Great is thy faith-ful-ness!
 Morn - ing by morn - ing, new mer - cies I see.
 All I have need - ed thy hand hath pro - vid - ed.
 Great is thy faith - ful - ness, Lord un - to me!

THE BENEDICTION

RESPONSE #306

Blest Be the Tie That Binds
(Please do not hold hands.)

“Dennis”

**Blest be the tie that binds our hearts in Christian love.
The fellowship of kindred minds is like to that above.**

POSTLUDE

Miniature Suite
III. Menuetto
Bryan Lohr, Organ

John Ireland

This Morning's Worship Leaders

Preacher..... Rev. Dr. James R.M. Young
 Liturgist.....Josh Gilhart
 Director of Music Ministries.....Bryan Lohr
 Audio/Video Technicians.....Joe Aurigemma and Eric Ringler
 Ushers.....Charlene Lelinski and David Stickler

SANCTUARY FLOWERS: Please contact Michael Levitas or the church office if you would like to sponsor flowers for a special occasion like a birthday or anniversary or in memory or honor of someone. You may specify live or silk flowers. Silk flower money will be directed to the Special Ministries Fund. We currently have openings for flower sponsorship on July 26th and August 2nd.

Music Notes

John Ireland (1879-1962) was an English composer and pedagogue whose works were mostly small-scale pieces for keyboard or voice, along with several notable choral anthems and hymn tunes. Ireland worked for most of his life as a church organist and choirmaster and his *Miniature Suite* was written to be played as service music at St. Luke's Church, Chelsea, where he served for many years. The three movements are light and populist in character, making the suite perfect music for summer.

The tune of *Onward Christian Soldiers* was written in 1871 by Sir Arthur Sullivan (of the famous *Gilbert and Sullivan* operatic collaborations.) The text, written by Sabine Baring-Gould, an Anglican priest, utilizes powerful and aggressive imagery of war and warriors to depict the work of Christian discipleship. As you listen to the rousing tune this morning, we offer these alternate words, penned in 2016 by theologian and author Brian McLaren:

*Onward, all disciples, in the path of peace,
Just as Jesus taught us, love your enemies
Walk on in the Spirit, seek God's kingdom first,
Let God's peace and justice be your hunger and your thirst!
Onward, all disciples, in humility
Walk with God, do justice, love wholeheartedly.*

CARE & OUTREACH
RULING ELDERS: LAURA FISCUS & JOSH GILHART

PLEASE REMEMBER IN PRAYER:

- † Polly Eyer (Recovering at Mountain City Center: Nursing and Rehab in Frostburg from a fractured vertebra)
- † Betty Richtmeyer (Recovering from abdominal surgery)