

The Call of Abram

Trinity United Church of Christ

Deerfield, Illinois

2nd Sunday after Pentecost

June 7, 2026

A wholeheartedly inclusive Christian community
called by a challenging and progressive faith
to live lives of love and justice

Virtual Worship

To Dial In by Phone Only 1 (312) 626-6799 - MTG ID 874 9506 6741

Zoom Link

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87495066741?pwd=NjdvYnNycy80SWpldVJQZmQ4UDd0QT09>

Participant ID (Not required. None provided) **“Otherwise just press #”**

Meeting Password: **760760**

PREPARING FOR WORSHIP SUMMER WORSHIP SERIES

GOSPEL TAPAS

With Music

When Morning Gilds the Skies

By Joseph Barnby, 1868

Arr Lloyd Larson and John Carter

With Meditation

*“Who told you it was too late?
And more importantly,
why did you choose to believe them?”*

— *Richelle E. Goodrich*

*Please stand in body or spirit

INVOKING THE SPIRIT

CALL TO WORSHIP

Rev. Dale Susan Edmonds

OPENING PRAYER

God of Abram and Sarai, you called a wanderer at seventy-five to leave the only home he knew and walk toward a land he could not yet see—

and so we learn it is never too late to set out in a new direction.

God of Matthew at the tax booth, you spoke two words—*Follow me*— and a man rose from a life he thought was settled and became something new—

and so we learn it is never too late to answer a different calling.

God who reached for a woman worn down by twelve long years,
God who took a still and silent child by the hand and called her back to morning—

we come to you this day carrying our own long seasons, our own settled lives, our own places where hope has gone quiet.

Meet us here. Remind us that the future is not yet written, that the self we are becoming is still held in your hands, and that with you, it is never, ever, too late to begin again.

In the name of the One who calls us forward, we pray. **Amen.**

*HYMN

Journey On

(see insert)

*SHARING GOD’S PEACE

The Peace of the Lord be with you.

And also with you.

WELCOME, ANNOUNCEMENTS & PRAYER REQUESTS

We share “happenings” in the community, and lift up concerns for prayer.

CHILDREN’S MOMENT

PROCLAIMING THE WORD FOR OUR LIVES

Reading from the Hebrew Scripture

Genesis 12:1-9

Reading from the Gospel

Matthew 9:9-13, 18-26

Sermon

Never Too Late

Rev. Edmonds

CALL TO COMMUNION

For the Faithful Who Have Answered #384

(see insert)

INVITATION

(adapted) Steven Garnaas-Holmes

The voice of freedom or justice,
the song of beauty or healing,
the call of the Beloved, is not a shout.
It’s merely the hum of life
that begs your harmony.

**You’re going about your life, plain as always,
when something ineffable, moving
in a different direction, tugs at you,
like the aroma of bread baking:
an urge, a subtle leaning, an invitation.**

Your presence is requested.
Learn to stop and attend.

You are not especially wise or gifted;
your faith is no stronger than anyone else's.

**Don't question why you are chosen;
the only way to know is to follow.
It may be a life-changing endeavor,
or a moment's simple act of love.
Follow.**

CONSECRATION

MUSICAL REFLECTION AS WE PARTAKE

(an offering plate is available by the door in the Narthex or you may mail your gift)

Come as You Are

By D. Crowder, M. Maher and B. Glover
Arr Larry Shackley

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND LORD'S PRAYER

Lord's Prayer (using "debts" and "debtors")

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.

*HYMN

I Have Decided to Follow Jesus

(see insert)

*BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

I Have Decided

Arr Christi Stills

WELCOME...

We're glad you've chosen to worship with Trinity today! If you're new, please introduce yourself, we'd love to get acquainted. If you have any questions, don't hesitate to ask Pastor Dale!

TODAY'S WORSHIP LEADERS

Pastor

Rev. Dale Susan Edmonds, M.Div.

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PastorDale@trinitydeerfield.org

Minister of Music

Rev. Dr. Pamela J. Keckler

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Vice President

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Church Office Hours

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Steve Jahraus

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847-945-5050

Tue.–Wed. 9-12

trinitydeerfield.org

Prayer Concerns

Long-time Deerfield resident Barry Clark

Andrew Hargitt as he recovers from surgery

The Kerschkes as they settle into their new community

Gene Chrisien, friend of Jean Harris

Walter Eduardo Jimenez and all those now living in fear...

Joyce Black, friend of Marge Magnani

Sarah Hughes as she recovers

Levi Chisholm, continuing slow & steady recovery from drowning accident

Don Inman

Mary Ferrante

Nancy Rose, Barbara Struthers' sister

Irene Santos and Family on the sudden passing of her brother

Carmen Ruiz & Fernando Rodriguez, Barbara Struthers' daughter-in-law's parents
in Puerto Rico

The People of Ukraine and Leaders of all nations

For youth who feel alienated or without hope

For all whose lives are torn by disasters of human making

For those suffering devastation in the Middle East

***Please let Heather know when there should be changes to the prayer list. We don't want to remove anyone prematurely or omit anyone that should be held in all of our hearts.**

June 7, 2026

Genesis 12:1-9

The Call of Abram

Corrie Ten Boom once said, “Never be afraid to trust an unknown future to a known God.” It was that belief in God’s protection that gave her the courage to hide Jewish families during the World War II German occupation.

It’s amazing what we can do when we trust our next steps to God. Sadly, many of us never get the chance to be awed by this great God because we prefer the safety of what we are familiar with rather than risk any new beginning.

Yet throughout the generations the stories overflow of those who dared to say “yes” to God’s invitation to step off the beaten path. Abram is one of those who can tell such a tale. Although Abram was beyond the dreaming big stage, as we often believe we enter as we age, God told him to leave kindred behind. It was time to go to a land where God would make Abram’s name great. It would be a place Abram’s offspring would inhabit and keep multiplying in.

Abram couldn’t pass up this offer. It was too enticing, especially since he and his wife, Sarai, were childless. Could there still be a chance to leave a legacy?

They packed their belongings and set forth. And God did not disappoint. Abram, whose name was changed to Abraham, signifying the new thing God was doing in his life, had descendants as numerous as the stars in heaven. Sarai’s name was also changed to Sarah.

I’ve always been enamored by Abram’s call story, as it has bolstered my fainting heart when daring to step into an unknown future. But before you applaud my faith, let me point out that my Abram moments happened when I was filled with youthful ignorance.

Now that I’m older, I find myself hesitant to go in any direction without first asking God, “Does the journey come with a pension and health care?” I had always hoped my faith, not my fear, would grow stronger as I aged.

It’s one thing to heed God’s call in our youth, but who among the AARP card carriers would be excited for such a journey? Our golden years should be ones of rest and comfort, not unknown adventures. Yet God doesn’t worry about the fire hazard those numerous candles on our birthday cakes have turned into. God still wants to blaze a glorious future for us.

Who will dare to have the faith of old Abram? I pray I will. I pray you will. For we all have a call story still waiting to be told.

God of amazing adventures and divine protection, may this day we tell our fears to be gone. May faith overflow in our hearts, helping us to trust our unknown futures to a God who we do know: the God of love who never lets us down. In Jesus’ name, we pray. Amen.

(Rev. Donna Frischknecht Jackson is a communications specialist for the United Church of Christ and author of today’s Sunday Bulletin.)



UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST

Journey On

Dale Susan Edmonds (2026)

Chorus (*repeat 3x*)

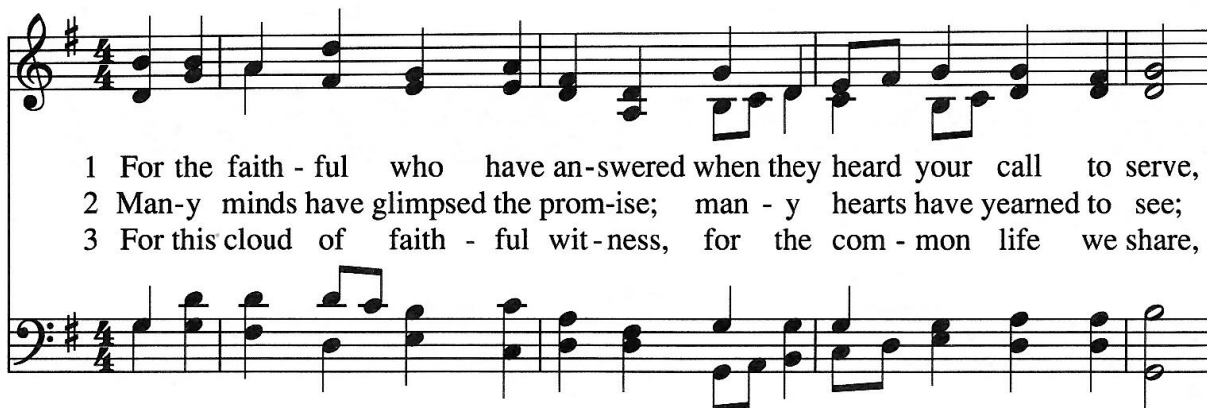
**Journey on,
when you don't know where you're going**

**Journey on,
when you don't know where you're going**

**Journey on,
when you don't know where you're going**

Journey on in faith...

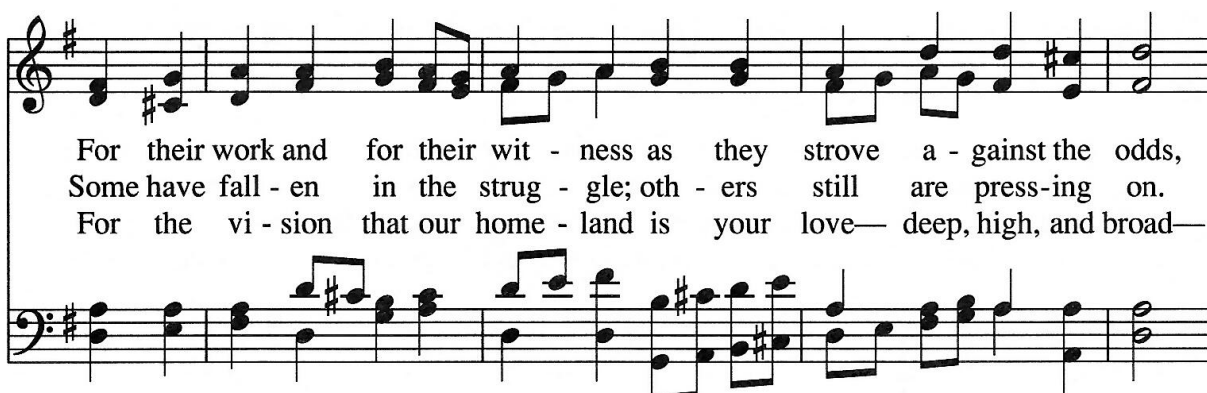
For the Faithful Who Have Answered

*Heb. 11:4-12:2**Sylvia G. Dunstan, 1986; alt.*


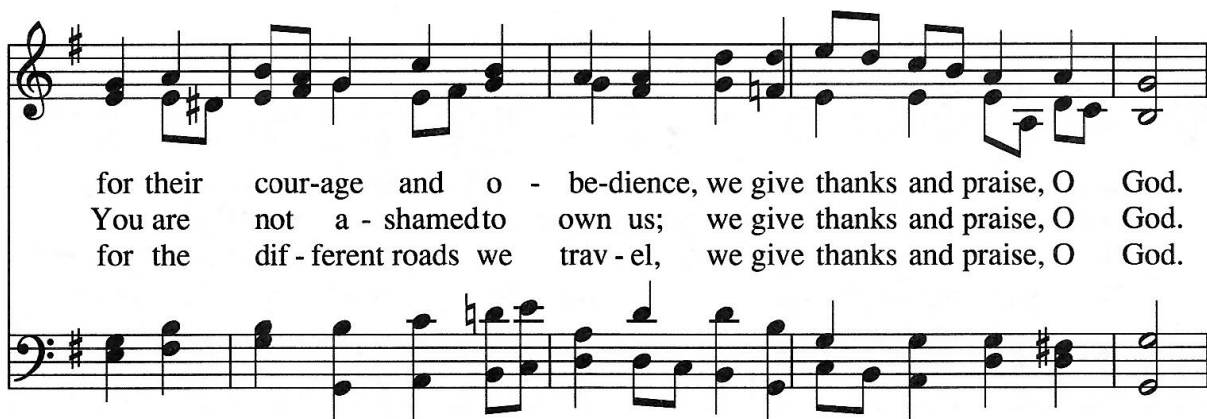
1 For the faith - ful who have an - swered when they heard your call to serve,
 2 Man - y minds have glimpsed the prom - ise; man - y hearts have yearned to see;
 3 For this cloud of faith - ful wit - ness, for the com - mon life we share,



for the man - y ways you led them, test - ing will and stretch - ing nerve,
 man - y souls have heard you call - ing us to great - er lib - er - ty.
 for the work of peace and jus - tice, for the gos - pel that we bear,



For their work and for their wit - ness as they strove a - gainst the odds,
 Some have fall - en in the strug - gle; oth - ers still are press - ing on.
 For the vi - sion that our home - land is your love— deep, high, and broad—



for their cour - age and o - be - dience, we give thanks and praise, O God.
 You are not a - shamed to own us; we give thanks and praise, O God.
 for the dif - ferent roads we trav - el, we give thanks and praise, O God.

In commissioning a hymn for the fiftieth anniversary of women's ordination in 1986, the United Church of Canada specified that it should concentrate on all people's faithful response to God's call. Sylvia Dunstan selected Hebrews 11 and 12 as her primary reference.

Tune: OMNI DIE 8.7.8.7.D.
 German melody, 1625
 Trier Gesangbuch, 1695

I Have Decided to Follow Jesus

Anonymous

Indian folk tune

Arranged by Whitney V. Myers

The musical score is written for voice and guitar. It features a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a common time signature (C). The score is divided into four systems, each with a treble and bass staff. Chord symbols are placed above the treble staff. The lyrics are written below the treble staff, with some lines aligned with the bass staff for specific parts. The score includes four verses of lyrics. The first system covers measures 1-5, the second system measures 6-9, the third system measures 10-13, and the fourth system measures 14-17. The score ends with a double bar line.

1. I have de - cid - ed to fol - low Je - sus, I have de -
2. The world be - hind me, the cross be - fore me; The world be -
3. Tho' none go with me, still I will fol - low, Tho' none go -
4. Will you de - cide now to fol - low Je - sus? Will you de -

cid - ed to fol - low Je - sus, I have de -
hind me, the cross be - fore me; The world be -
with me, still I will fol - low, Tho' none go -
cide now to fol - low Je - sus? Will you de -

(guitar: tacet)
no turn - ing
(sop. only)

back, no turn - ing back. no turn - ing back, no - turn - ing back.
(alto, ten., bass)

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