



Worship Resources (Sunday, July 19, 2020)

BOLD TYPE IS SPOKEN BY THE CONGREGATION

Prelude: **My Shepherd Will Supply My Need** (Walker's Southern Harmony)

My shepherd will supply my need, Jehovah is his name.

In pastures fresh he makes me feed, beside the living stream.

He brings my wondering spirit back, when I forsake his ways,

and leads me, for his mercy's sake, in paths of truth and grace.

Jane Kerr, Organist

Welcome & Announcements

Call to Worship

Please join me in the Call to Worship:

Worship the Lord with gladness!

We come into God's presence with singing.

For the Lord our God is good.

God's steadfast love endures forever.

Let us worship!

Opening Hymn: **"The God of Abraham Praise"**

The God of Abraham praise, who reigns enthroned above,

The Ancient of Eternal days, the God of love!

The Lord, the Great I Am, by earth and heaven confessed,

We bow before your holy name, forever blest.

You have eternal life implanted in the soul;

Your love shall be our strength and stay, while ages roll.

We praise you, living God! We praise your holy name--

The first, the last, beyond all thought, and still the same!

Call to Confession

The mystery of God brings the promise of life, but we doubt the Spirit's power to overcome death. The resurrection of Jesus Christ reveals that nothing is Impossible with God. Let us confess our sin and receive new life, praying together:

Prayer of Confession

Holy God, we confess that we do not know how to look for you. We do not sense your nearness, and if there are angels among us, we are unaware. We do not show the hospitality to strangers that Abraham showed to you. We do not trust that our difficulties can be transformed by your Spirit. O Covenant-Keeper, forgive us. Let us laugh with joy because your grace has made peace among us. Send us out with this good news so that others will also receive your blessing; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, we pray.

Assurance of Pardon

The God of Abraham and Sarah, of the prophets, of the disciples and Paul and the Church, gives life and hope and makes new what is old. Because nothing is too hard for God, I declare to you in the name of Jesus Christ: your sins are forgiven.

Trusting in God's promise of mercy, we will walk in the way of faith, which leads to joy and abundance. Thanks be to God! Amen.

Passing the Peace

May the peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you.

Children's Time

Prayer for Illumination

Let us prepare our hearts to hear God's Word by praying together the Prayer for Illumination:

God of redemption, summon us to Sarah's joy, Abraham's wonder, and the apostles' hope, through Jesus Christ our Lord, in whose name we pray. Amen.

Scripture Reading: Genesis 18: 1-15

¹ The LORD appeared to Abraham by the oaks of Mamre, as he sat at the entrance of his tent in the heat of the day. ² He looked up and saw three men standing near him. When he saw them, he ran from the tent entrance to meet them, and bowed down to the ground. ³ He said, "My lord, if I find favor with you, do not pass by your servant. ⁴ Let a little water be brought, and

wash your feet, and rest yourselves under the tree. ⁵ Let me bring a little bread, that you may refresh yourselves, and after that you may pass on—since you have come to your servant.” So they said, “Do as you have said.” ⁶ And Abraham hastened into the tent to Sarah, and said, “Make ready quickly three measures of choice flour, knead it, and make cakes.” ⁷ Abraham ran to the herd, and took a calf, tender and good, and gave it to the servant, who hastened to prepare it. ⁸ Then he took curds and milk and the calf that he had prepared, and set it before them; and he stood by them under the tree while they ate.

⁹ They said to him, “Where is your wife Sarah?” And he said, “There, in the tent.” ¹⁰ Then one said, “I will surely return to you in due season, and your wife Sarah shall have a son.” And Sarah was listening at the tent entrance behind him. ¹¹ Now Abraham and Sarah were old, advanced in age; it had ceased to be with Sarah after the manner of women. ¹² So Sarah laughed to herself, saying, “After I have grown old, and my husband is old, shall I have pleasure?” ¹³ The LORD said to Abraham, “Why did Sarah laugh, and say, ‘Shall I indeed bear a child, now that I am old?’ ¹⁴ Is anything too wonderful for the LORD? At the set time I will return to you, in due season, and Sarah shall have a son.” ¹⁵ But Sarah denied, saying, “I did not laugh”; for she was afraid. He said, “Oh yes, you did laugh.”

This is the Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Sermon Laughter Really Is the Best Medicine

Rev. Michelle Fincher

Hymn After Sermon: **“Is There Anything Too Hard for God”**

It's out of your hands, you've done all you can do, You've given God the problem, it's no longer up to you.

You've prayed the prayer of faith, You're standing on God's truth, While you're waiting on the answer, He has a question for you:

**REFRAIN: Is anything too hard for God? Who's got a problem beyond his power to solve?
Are there situations He's not the master of? Is anything too hard for God?**

Only believe, trust His Word, you'll see, His plans are now unfolding, performing perfectly. It's clear how much he loves you, Look at all He's done; For all your questions, there's really only one. (REFRAIN)

Prayer of Dedication:

Please join me as we pray together:

Blessed Trinity, thank you for being God with us. Thank you for keeping your promises to our ancestors in the faith and to us. Thank you for coming near to us in your Son, Jesus Christ. Thank you for the new life you give through the inpouring of your Holy Spirit. Thank you for the love you hold up before the world on the cross of Christ, our Savior. Thank you that nothing is too hard for you and that therein, lies our hope for the world. Amen.

Pastoral Prayer and the Lord's Prayer

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.

Benediction

Postlude: **Psalm 23 hymn-tune Resignation**

*When I walk through the shades of death your presence is my stay;
One word of your supporting breath drives all my fears away.
Your hand in sight of all my foes, does still my table spread;
my cup with blessings overflows; your oil anoints my head.*

*The sure provisions of my God attend me all my days;
O may your house be my abode, and all my work be praise.
There would I find a settled rest, while others go and come;
no more a stranger, or a guest, but like a child at home.*

Today's Worship Participants:

Rev. Michelle Fincher, Jane Kerr, organist, Judy Viccellio, guitar,
David Maley, piano, Kwabena Sintim-Aboagye, liturgist,
Whitney Roberts and Jon Jelsma, technology team