



**Online Worship Resource** (Sunday, August 23, 2020)

**BOLD TYPE IS SPOKEN BY THE CONGREGATION**

Prelude: *The Gift of Love*  
Jane Kerr, Organist

*Though I may speak with bravest fire, and have the gift to all inspire,  
and have not love, my words are vain, as sounding brass and hopeless gain.*

*Though I may give all I possess, and striving so my love profess,  
but not be given by love within, the profit soon turns strangely thin.*

*Come, Spirit, come, our hearts control, our spirits long to be made whole.*

*Let inward love guide every deed; by this we worship, and are freed.*

Welcome & Announcements

**Call to Worship**

Angela Yeboah, Liturgist

When Jacob heard the voice of God, he cried,

**“Surely the LORD is in this place. How awesome is this place!**

**This is none other than the house of God, and the gate of heaven.”**

Friends, we, too, are standing on holy ground, awed by the presence of God.

**Let us turn our hearts to God in worship and praise.**

**Opening Hymn:** “Come Sing, O Church, In Joy!”

Come sing, O church in joy! Come join, O church in song! For Christ the Lord  
has led us through the ages long!

Refrain: In bold accord, come celebrate the journey now and praise the Lord!

Long years have come and gone, and still God reigns supreme, empowering  
us to catch the vision, dream the dream! (Refrain)

## Call to Confession

Trusting in God's mercy, let us acknowledge those ways we fall short from what God intends for us, all of which God already knows. Please join me in our responsive prayer of confession....

### **Prayer of Confession**

*Psalm 99:1-4*

*The Lord reigns!*

**Majestic God, do we tremble in awe before you?**

*The Lord reigns!*

**Worthy God, have we raised your name in praise?**

*The Lord reigns!*

**Sovereign God, have we executed justice?**

*The Lord reigns!*

**We bow before you, holy God.**

**Forgive us. Cleanse us. Free us.**

**In the name of Christ, we pray.**

## Silent Confession

### **Assurance of Pardon**

Let the heavens be glad and the earth rejoice! Let the sea roar with laughter and the fields shout in celebration, for God's mercy is greater than our sin!

**In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven! Alleluia! 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:

**Rock of Israel, you are not bound by our visions, our structures, our doctrine. We cannot predict your coming or going, yet you have given us your story, your family, your work to do. Meet us here, we pray. Through the hearing of your word, shape us for service in your world, for we carry the name of Jesus and live by your power. Amen.**

Scripture Reading: Genesis 28:10-19a

<sup>10</sup> Jacob left Beer-sheba and went toward Haran. <sup>11</sup> He came to a certain place and stayed there for the night, because the sun had set. Taking one of the stones of the place, he put it under his head and lay down in that place. <sup>12</sup> And he dreamed that there was a ladder set up on the earth, the top of it reaching to heaven; and the angels of God were ascending and descending on it. <sup>13</sup> And the LORD stood beside him and said, "I am the LORD, the God of Abraham your father and the God of Isaac; the land on which you lie I will give to you and to your offspring; <sup>14</sup> and your offspring shall be like the dust of the earth, and you shall spread abroad to the west and to the east and to the north and to the south; and all the families of the earth shall be blessed in you and in your offspring. <sup>15</sup> Know that I am with you and will keep you wherever you go, and will bring you back to this land; for I will not leave you until I have done what I have promised you." <sup>16</sup> Then Jacob woke from his sleep and said, "Surely the LORD is in this place—and I did not know it!" <sup>17</sup> And he was afraid, and said, "How awesome is this place! This is none other than the house of God, and this is the gate of heaven."  
<sup>18</sup> So Jacob rose early in the morning, and he took the stone that he had put under his head and set it up for a pillar and poured oil on the top of it. <sup>19</sup> He called that place Bethel.

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

Sermon

Jacob's Travel Challenge

Rev. Michelle Fincher

**Hymn after Sermon:** "Be Thou My Vision"

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.

Be thou my wisdom and thou my true Word;  
I ever with thee and thou with me,  
Lord;

Thou my soul's shelter, and thou my high tower;  
Raise thou me heavenward, O Power of my power.

High King of Heaven, my victory won,  
May I reach heaven's joys, O bright heaven's Sun!

Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,  
Still be my vision, O Ruler of all.

## Prayer of Dedication

Please join me as we pray together:

**You have loved us into life, O God. When we have faltered, you have helped us start anew. When we have been without hope, you have sent us people to love. When we have been ill, you have given us people who have showed us the way to health. Wherever we are, you are there also. In gratitude for your presence in our lives, we offer our gifts to you, O God, that others might know of your love and grace through Christ our Lord. 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: *Spirit*

*Spirit, spirit of gentleness, blow through the wilderness, calling and free.  
Spirit, spirit of restlessness, stir me from placid-ness, wind, wind on the sea.  
(Refrain)*

*You moved on the waters; you called to the deep;  
then you coaxed up the mountains from the valleys of sleep;  
And over the eons you called to each thing,  
"Awake from your slumbers and rise on your wings." (Refrain)  
You call from tomorrow; you break ancient schemes;  
from the bondage of sorrow the captives dream dreams.  
Our women see visions; our men clear their eyes.  
With bold new decisions your people arise. (Refrain)*

Today's Worship Participants:

Rev. Michelle Fincher, Jane Kerr, organist,

David Maley, piano, Angela Yeboah, liturgist, and

Gene Kendall, technology team