



## June 21, 2020 Online Worship Resource

### Call to Worship

*Based on Psalm 27*

The psalmist sings, one thing I asked of the Lord, that I will seek after:

**to live in the house of the Lord all the days of my life,**  
to behold the beauty of the Lord, and to inquire in God's temple.  
**God is good, and in love and mercy greets us this day.**  
**Let us worship!**

### Hymn: "Faith Begins by Letting Go"

Faith begins by letting go, giving up what had seemed sure,  
Taking risks and pressing on, though the way feels less secure:  
Pilgrimage both right and odd, trusting all our life to God.

Faith endures by holding on, Keeping memory's roots alive  
So that hope may bear its fruit; Promise-fed our souls will thrive;  
Not through merit we possess, but by God's great faithfulness.

Faith matures by reaching out, Stretching minds, enlarging hearts,  
Sharing struggles, living prayer, Binding up the broken parts;  
Til we find the commonplace ripe with witness to God's grace.

### Call to Confession

Even when we are unfaithful, God loves us still and waits in mercy to forgive. Trusting in the covenant God has made with us, let us confess our sin praying.....

### Confession

**Holy God, your covenant with us ensures your eternal love and commitment to us. Yet instead of receiving the life of blessing you long to give us, we struggle to trust you. We strive to earn what we can only receive as free gift, and we fail to freely share the gifts of love, peace, joy and hope you give us that we may bless others. Forgive us, Lord. Renew us by your Spirit, that we might walk in faith with you. For the sake of Christ, we pray.**

## **Time for Silent Confession**

### **Assurance of Pardon**

Our covenant-making, covenant-keeping God does not forsake us or leave us in our sin.

**In Jesus Christ we are forgiven and offered the gift of healing repentance. Alleluia! Amen.**

### **Passing the Peace**

May the peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

**And also with you.**

## **Children's Time**

### **Prayer for Illumination**

**Lord, open your Word by the power of your Holy Spirit, so that we, like Abram, may believe your promises to us. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.**

### **Scripture: Genesis 15**

*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." 2 But 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] 3 And Abram said, "You have given me no offspring, and so a slave born in my house is to be my heir." 4 But 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." 5 He 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." 6 And he believed the Lord; and the Lord[b] reckoned it to him as righteousness.*

*7 Then he said to him, "I am the Lord who brought you from Ur of the Chaldeans, to give you this land to possess." 8 But he said, "O Lord God, how am I to know that I shall possess it?" 9 He 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." 10 He 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. 11 And when birds of prey came down on the carcasses, Abram drove them away.*

*12 As the sun was going down, a deep sleep fell upon Abram, and a deep and terrifying darkness descended upon him. 13 Then 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; 14 but I will bring judgment on the nation that they serve, and afterward they shall come out with great possessions. 15 As for yourself, you shall go to your ancestors in peace; you shall be buried in a good old age. 16 And they shall come back here in the fourth generation; for the iniquity of the Amorites is not yet complete."*

*17 When the sun had gone down and it was dark, a smoking fire pot and a flaming torch passed between these pieces. 18 On 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, 19 the land of the Kenites, the Kenizzites, the Kadmonites, 20 the Hittites, the Perizzites, the Rephaim, 21 the Amorites, the Canaanites, the Girgashites, and the Jebusites."*

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

### **Sermon: Contract or Covenant?**

#### **Hymn: "To Abraham and Sarah"**

To Abraham and Sarah the call of God was clear;  
"Go forth and I will show you a country rich and fair.  
You need not fear the journey, for I have pledged my word  
That you shall be my people and I will be your God."

From Abraham and Sarah arose a pilgrim race,  
Dependent for their journey on God's abundant grace;  
And in their heart was written by God this saving word,  
"That you shall be my people and I will be your God."

We of this generation on whom God's hand is laid  
Can journey to the future secure and unafraid.  
Rejoicing in God's goodness and trusting in this word,  
"That you shall be my people and I will be your God."

#### **Prayer of Dedication**

**O God, every day we are blessed by your covenantal love and faithfulness. Accept our offerings, we pray, as a sign of our joyful gratitude for your goodness and mercy poured out to us and use them—and us—to bless others for your sake. Amen.**

#### **Prayers of the People 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**