



**Worship Resources** (Sunday, July 12, 2020)

**BOLD TYPE IS SPOKEN BY THE CONGREGATION**

Prelude:                      GOD'S TIME IS BEST                      J.S. Bach  
Jane Kerr, Organist

Welcome & Announcements

**Call to Worship**    Chuck Hasbrouck, Liturgist

Please join me in the Call to Worship:

Blessed be the Lord whose word gives hope and shapes our dreams,  
**whose promises are sure and whose love is steadfast.**

Blessed be the Lord who orders our way and guides our steps,  
**who makes a way even when there seems to be no way.**

**Let us worship!**

Opening Hymn:              **"Our God, Our Help in Ages Past"**

**Our God, our help in ages past, our hope for years to come,**

**Be thou our guard while life shall last, and our eternal home.**

**Beneath the shadow of thy throne, thy saints have dwelt secure;**

**Sufficient is thine arm alone, and our defense is sure.**

**Before the hills in order stood, or earth received her frame,**

**From everlasting thou art God, to endless years the same.**

Call to Confession

Sisters and brothers, God never forgets God's promises; God's covenant endures in each new generation. We are free to speak the truth about our lives because God's faithfulness embraces us as we examine our hearts. Therefore, let us pray together, confessing our sin.

## Prayer of Confession

**God of mystery, God of life, we imagine that we are capable judges of power and wisdom and goodness. We trust our own standards; we separate and categorize; we mark the performance of others. We fail to trust your power, hidden in all things. We fail to watch for you, working out your purposes, bringing your promises to fruition. Gracious God, hidden and manifest, transform our withered imaginations until we yield the judgments we trust to a love we cannot control.**

## Assurance of Pardon

Brothers and sisters, our promise-keeping God, *El Shaddai*, is faithful to forgive those who repent in humble contrition.

**In Jesus Christ we are forgiven. Hallelujah! 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:

**Merciful God, in this moment of stillness, wash us clean of our presumptions. Receive us as your children and by the power of your Spirit, bless us with a Word that revives. For the sake of Christ, we pray. Amen.**

### Scripture Reading: **Genesis 17:1-8, 15-22**

<sup>1</sup>When Abram was ninety-nine years old, the LORD appeared to Abram, and said to him, "I am God Almighty; walk before me, and be blameless. <sup>2</sup>And I will make my covenant between me and you, and will make you exceedingly numerous." <sup>3</sup>Then Abram fell on his face; and God said to him, <sup>4</sup>"As for me, this is my covenant with you: You shall be the ancestor of a multitude of nations. <sup>5</sup>No longer shall your name be Abram, but your name shall be Abraham; for I have made you the ancestor of a multitude of nations. <sup>6</sup>I will make you exceedingly fruitful; and I will make nations of you, and kings shall come from you. <sup>7</sup>I will establish my covenant between me and you, and your offspring after you throughout their generations, for an everlasting covenant, to be God to you and to your offspring after you. <sup>8</sup>And I will give to you, and to your offspring after you, the land where you are now an alien, all the land of Canaan, for a perpetual holding; and I will be their God."

<sup>15</sup> God said to Abraham, "As for Sarai your wife, you shall not call her Sarai, but Sarah shall be her name. <sup>16</sup> I will bless her, and moreover I will give you a son by her. I will bless her, and she shall give rise to nations; kings of peoples shall come from her."

<sup>17</sup> Then Abraham fell on his face and laughed, and said to himself, "Can a child be born to a man who is a hundred years old? Can Sarah, who is ninety years old, bear a child?" <sup>18</sup> And Abraham said to God, "O that Ishmael might live in your sight!" <sup>19</sup> God said, "No, but your wife Sarah shall bear you a son, and you shall name him Isaac. I will establish my covenant with him as an everlasting covenant for his offspring after him. <sup>20</sup> As for Ishmael, I have heard you; I will bless him and make him fruitful and exceedingly numerous; he shall be the father of twelve princes, and I will make him a great nation. <sup>21</sup> But my covenant I will establish with Isaac, whom Sarah shall bear to you at this season next year." <sup>22</sup> And when he had finished talking with him, God went up from Abraham.

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

Sermon: Promises to Keep

Rev. Michelle Fincher

Hymn After Sermon: **"Great is Thy Faithfulness"**

**Great is thy faithfulness, O God my Father, There is no shadow of turning with thee.  
Thou changest not; thy compassions they fail not, As thou hast been thou  
forever will be.**

**REFRAIN: Great is thy faithfulness, Great is thy faithfulness, Morning by morning new mercies  
I see.**

**All I have needed thy hand hath provided. Great is thy faithfulness, Lord unto me!**

**Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth, Thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide,  
Strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow: Blessings all mine with ten thousand beside!  
(REFRAIN)**

### **Prayer of Dedication**

Please join me as we pray together:

**Gracious Creator, you have laced our lives with blessing. Receive our offerings, we pray,  
and make us bold and faithful people, living into your promises, that we might be a comfort  
and a help in this world. In Jesus' name. 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:        *BE STILL, MY SOUL*

*Be still, my soul; the Lord is on thy side.*

*Bear patiently the cross of grief and pain.*

*Leave to thy God to order and provide,  
who through all changes faithful will remain.*

*Be still my soul; thy best, thy heavenly Friend*

*Through thorny ways leads to a joyful end.*

*Today's Worship Participants:*

*Rev. Michelle Fincher, Jane Kerr, organist,*

*Judy Viccellio, guitar, David Maley, piano,*

*Chuck Hasbrouck, liturgist, Gene Kendall and Whitney Roberts, technology  
team*