

Sunday, October 6, 2024
Gathering of Worship



**God's Covenants: Abraham & Sarah,
Hagar, Us**

God Gathers

WELCOME

Wherever we are on our journey of faith,
when we come together, God meets us.

CALL TO WORSHIP *(words of the people in bold)*

We gather in the name of the God who creates life,
the Savior who shares our life,
and the Spirit who is the fire of life.

**We come to see the big picture,
to praise God, and remember whose we are.**

**We come to share the truth,
as children of God, to recognize who we are.**

(whose and who candles are lit)

*OPENING HYMN: *Abraham and Sarah*

TEXT & MUSIC: John Hermanson

*Abraham and Sarah had a baby boy x3
and they laughed out loud with joy*

*Angels came to Abraham, yes they did x3
Said, "Abe, you're gonna have a kid."*

* Please stand as you are able

*Abe told Sarah, "We're gonna have a baby." x3
And she laughed out loud with glee*

Ha ha ha ha ha ha ha ha...

*"Abe, don't you know that I'm 90 years" x3
and she laughed herself to tears*

ha ha ha ha ha ha ha ha...

*Abraham and Sarah had a baby boy x3
And they laughed out loud with joy*

Ha ha ha ha ha ha ha ha...

*"God gave us a little family
Abraham and Sarah and Isaac makes three
God brought laughter to you and me"
and they laughed out loud with glee*

Ha ha ha ha ha ha ha ha...

SHARING OF GOD'S COMMUNITY

ANNOUNCEMENTS

MILESTONES

Milestones are shared stories of joy and grief from our lives. We face the congregation, speak to each other, and drop a stone into the jar, marking the event together and acknowledging God's presence in all things.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Sin is the fundamental lie that we do not belong to God and others. We participate in sin when we dehumanize others and ourselves, violate God's creation, and undermine God's loving connection to us all. Jesus took all alienation from God and each other into himself on the cross, and by his resurrection we are all drawn into Christ's own belonging in God that cannot be broken. (Romans 6:8-11) So, with honesty and trust, we confess sin and welcome God's grace and forgiveness, that we might live with freedom into our belonging to God and each other.

Every day we forget our belonging to you and each other.

We choose the illusion of safety over true security.

We choose self-protection over vulnerability and connection.

**We prefer distraction and admiration,
to the gut-wrenching transformation of deep love.**

Lord, have mercy!

Christ have mercy

Lord have mercy.

ASSURANCE OF GRACE

Hear the good news of the gospel:

No death, no matter how big or small, gets to define who we are and where all this is going. Jesus Christ came into this world to share our life, die our death, and bring wholeness, healing and joy in, through, and to us all.

Hallelujah! Thanks be to God.

*SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

As people belonging to God and one another let us share God's peace. The Peace of the Risen Christ, God with us, be with you.

And also with you. (*greeting each other with peace*)

God Speaks

BIBLE STORY #1 "Abram and Sarai" Genesis 12:1-9

One of Noah's descendants was named Abram. Abram, his wife Sarai, and his nephew Lot lived in Haran. It was a beautiful place, with a flowing river and good land for growing crops.

God spoke to Abram and said, "leave your home, your country, and your people. Go to the land I will show you. I will make you a great nation. I will bless you, and you will bless others."

Abram, Sarai, and Lot packed everything they owned—their tents, blankets, food, and clothing. They rounded up their sheep, goats, donkeys, and cattle. Then they set out, leaving behind the life they knew.

For many weeks, Abra, Sarai, and Lot traveled. They walked and rode, talked and were silent. They got tired and rested. They

cooked and ate together, remembering all they had seen each day.

Their journey took them past the Great Sea and the Jordan River. They went through the hill country into the land of Canaan, as far as the great tree of Moreh at Shechem. God appeared to Abram there, saying, "I will give this land to your children and grandchildren." How could this be? There were already many people living there, and Abram and Sarai had no children. Abram built an altar there to God.

Then Abram, Sarai, and Lot traveled toward the hills east of Bethel. They put up their tents and built another altar, calling on the name of God.

BIBLE STORY #2

"Lot's Choice"

Genesis 13

Abram and Sarai became very rich. They had lots of silver and gold and many herds of animals. Their nephew Lot also had many flocks, herds, and tents.

They traveled together back to the land of Bethel, but there was not enough food and water for all their animals. Abram and Sarai's herders began to fight with Lot's herders. Both groups needed the grazing land and water, or their animals would die.

So Abram said, "Lot, we are family. Let there be peace between us and peace between our herders. Look at this land, to the left and right. Choose one area for your family and herds. After you choose, I will take the other land for my family."

Lot looked around. He saw the plain of the Jordan to the east. It was well-watered, like the garden of God and the land of Egypt. He chose that land and moved his family and herds there.

Abram and Sarai set up their tents in the land of Canaan. God said, "Look north, south, east, and west. I will give all the land you see to your children and grandchildren. Your descendants will be like the dust of the earth—too many to be counted. Travel the length and breadth of this land that I will give you."

So Abram and Sarai set out again. They went to Hebron and settled by the oaks of Mamre, building an altar to God.

TANGIBLE TEACHING

BIBLE STORY #3

"Hagar"

Genesis 16, 21

Hagar was born in Egypt and was enslaved by Abram and his wife Sarai. Hagar had to do anything Sarai told her to do.

In her old age, Sarai didn't have the one thing she wanted most: a child. God has promised to give her a son, but it still hadn't happened. So Sarai said to Abram, "Take Hagar as another wife so that she can have a son for us." Abram agreed. Hagar had no choice.

After Hagar became pregnant, Sarai treated her so badly that Hagar ran away into the Wilderness of Shur. An angel came to her and asked, "Where have you come from and where are you going?" Hagar told the angel what Sarai had done. "Go

back to Sarai and Abram," the angel told Hagar. "You will have a son named Ishmael. Your descendants will be too many to count." Hagar gave God a new name: *El Roi*, which means "God who sees." Then she returned home and gave birth to her son, Ishmael.

Years later, Sarai finally gave birth to her own son, just as God had promised. She named him Isaac. One day Hagar's teenage son Ishmael was playing with Isaac, who was just a young boy. Sarai's anger at Hagar burned stronger than ever. She said to Abram, "Send Hagar and Ishmael into the wilderness." Abram was distressed; he loved Ishmael. But he did what Sarai said and sent them into the wilderness.

Soon Hagar and Ishmael's water ran out. What could they do? Ishmael was dying from thirst.

Hagar laid him under a bush for shade. Then she went a short distance away and cried out to God. An angel said to her, "Don't be afraid. God has heard your cries and the voice of your son." God showed her and Ishmael a well of water and promised to always take care of Ishmael and Hagar.

SONG *Don't Be Afraid*

TEXT & MUSIC: John L. Bell

© 1995 The Iona Community, GIA Publications, Inc.

Don't be afraid

my love is stronger

My love is stronger than your fear

*Don't be afraid
My love is stronger
And I have promised,
Promised to be always near*

BIBLE STORY #4 "A Promised Child" Genesis 17, 18, 21

When Abram was 99 years old, God appeared to him again. God made a covenant with Abram—a holy promise. God said, "Obey me and be trustworthy. Then I will make you a great nation and give you the land of Canaan. Your name will now be Abraham. Sarai's name will now be Sarah. I will bless Sarah and give her a son. Name him Isaac."

Abraham bowed down to the ground and laughed. How could he and Sarah have a baby when he was 99 years old and she was 90?

One hot summer afternoon, Abraham saw three visitors standing near his tent. He brought water so they could wash their feet. He and Sarah quickly prepared a meal of fresh bread, meat, yogurt, and milk for them.

As the visitors ate, Sarah listened at the tent flap. She overheard one of them say, "Your wife Sarah will have a son." It was the Lord speaking.

Sarah laughed. She was old. How could she have a baby? The Lord said, "Why did Sarah laugh? Nothing is too hard for God."

It happened as God said. Sarah gave birth to a son. Abraham named him Isaac, which means "laughter." Sarah said, "God has brought laughter for me! Whoever hears of Isaac's birth will laugh with me. For I have given birth to a son in my old age."

SONG *He's Always Been Faithful*

TEXT & MUSIC: William M. Runyan, Sara Groves, Thomas O Chisholm; 2001

Great Is Thy Faithfulness

TEXT: Thomas O. Chisholm, 1923

MUSIC: William Marion Runyan, 1923

*Morning by morning I wake up to find
the power and comfort of his hand in mine
Season by season I watch him, amazed
in awe of the mystery of his perfect ways
All I have need of, his hand will provide
He's always been faithful to me*

*I can't remember a trial or a pain
He did not recycle to bring me gain
I can't remember one single regret
In serving God only, and trusting his hand
All I have need of, his hand will provide
He's always been faithful to me*

*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 wilt be.
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!*

*This is my anthem, this is my song
The theme of the stories I've heard for so long
God has been faithful, he will be again
his loving compassion, it knows no end
All I'm in need of, his hand will provide
he's always been faithful, he's always been faithful,
He's always been faithful to me*

SERMON

Pastor Kara

We Respond

SONG

The Steadfast Love of the Lord

#59

PRAYERS

Sung response: God, in your loving mercy, hear our prayer

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 sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil, For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever, Amen.

BAPTISM OF IMOGEN WEBB

PRESENTATION

PROFESSION OF FAITH

Renouncing evil, embracing love: We do.

Accepting salvation, trusting Christ: We do.

Being disciples, obeying word, Jesus' life in and through us: We will, with God's help.

THANKSGIVING OVER THE WATER

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

We give you thanks...

...from this day forward.

Amen.

BAPTISM

ANOINTING

WELCOME

COMMUNION

We come to the table of Christ's death and resurrection to receive forgiveness and freedom. The Holy Spirit—the essence of our belonging to God and all others—meets us here in the sharing of this meal. All who long to live in trust, freedom, and hope are welcome at the table.

SONG *What We Need is Here*

TEXT: "The Wild Geese" in *Selected Poems of Wendell Berry* © 1998 Wendell Berry

MUSIC: Amy McCreath © 2017 Augsburg Fortress

What we need is here.

What we need is here.

INVITATION

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

BREAD & CUP ARE SHARED

We use grape juice & gluten-free bread. Individual packs (not GF) are available.

BLESSING

OFFERING

Giving money is one way we participate in the God's ministry love and care, tangibly lived between, among and through us. We give from joy, gratitude, and trust, not from obligation, burden, or guilt. Our combined gifts sustain our shared life of continual worship, wide-open hospitality, mutual learning, trust-filled rest, and authentic accompaniment. Reflective giving helps us remember and practice our own place and part in God's unceasing love and belonging for all.

DOXOLOGY

Praise God from whom all blessings flow!

Praise God all creatures here below!

Praise God above the heavenly host!

Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.

Scan here for online giving



God Sends

*SONG

Gather Us In

#401

BENEDICTION



**Lake
Nokomis**
PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH

Abraham, Sarah & Hagar

M X H M G G G O Y F T N C N P M S O B V K H J I E
F I J I X G K K F Q H D I O X U P T S A Y M L R C
F L F D P M I U T P I K V N M O K T R M B G U H K
I S A A C K O S E B R D I H E P N L B R S Y Z E A
W V Z K T D L I H I S R E V C T A F M K W M Q J X
T F S O N U D A S M T C H S S M Y S A O J F T B P
T G K C K Q S B K Q A Z H Y C V C S S M T I I N B
C R I X C N M U D F O E A I L E J I V I I H V E Y
M N P G E C Y Q R K D T L K L J N P A C O L E X V
Y E O A N G E L X P A Q B Q G D H D E V I N Y R R
X G H T L J B D N U R W H Y M H R Y A W R M L S C
T Y S S L U A P B S B I O A Y H B E R N S P I U T
R F R T B L U P Q M I K S W S A L S N C T J F Y R
Z T D S Z A Y Y B J F O O E T G F D F O P S V N I
L B L Y H K D B K O I S W U E A A J Q V Y P C R A
A M J L Q L W A T E R O A V R R I F F E J T Z X L
U P G Q M W B V Y L H G J R Y F T W V N I S P Q B
G J E Q F X M A P O E L W S A R H K Z A G Y R Y M
H G Y F R A S P B R X V J T O H F X T N P V A V G
T V X R A C T K L R O Y B A L E U P U T N Q Y D Y
E J P I B J B H C F A M M R D K L A L Z K N U A W
R P U W G Y I V E U P H I S I W N T E G Z H Q Y O
C P S L Z D F U S R L W A S T B E J M M R F W P C
R D B G R Y U O A F Q X R M E N S L N E A S P E K
S A A Z F S Z R Q K J F Q A M Q S P A Y E T O I V

faithfulness

descendants

compassion

pray

children

laughter

surprise

trial

covenant

promise

Abraham

stars

mystery

Ishmael

family

old

father

ninety

mother

thirst

Sarah

water

angel

Hagar

Isaac

baby



TAKE NOTE



**WORSHIP NEXT
WEEKEND**

SATURDAY, 10/12, 5PM



CONNECTIONS

SATURDAY 10/12

10AM

FIREROAST CAFE



CHURCH CHAT

WEDNESDAY 10/16

7PM



FALL RETREAT

NOVEMBER 8-10

**REGISTER ON OUR
WEBSITE**



BUILDING CARE

TUESDAYS, 10-1

JOIN US!