

Worship on September 5, 2021

Order of worship

We Gather

- Welcome and Announcements
- Call to worship
- Praise song – On Eagle’s Wings
- Prayer for worship + Lord’s Prayer
- Words of Assurance

We Listen

- Prayer for illumination
- Scripture: Genesis 22:1-14
- Sermon: Jehovah Jireh
- The Lord’s Table

We Respond

- Offering – All in All

We Serve

- Benediction

Ponder Upon Questions

Announcements:

. Welcome! Grace and peace to you all who are worshipping God with us live right now. This is Sunday, September 5th, 2021. We have the Lord Table during our worship today, so please prepare your own elements. May God’s presence be among us as we worship and praise God today.

. There is Bible study after worship. Please stay for sharing lives, thoughts, and prayer for each other.

. Worship volunteers are always welcome.

. Thank you for your support with your gifts. God may use our gifts and us for this world and our community.

As we come into the presence of our God, let us calm down our hearts and minds, and focus on our Lord.

Responsive Call to Worship

One: Put your confidence in God.

All: Those who have God as their helper will rejoice.

One: God gives justice to the oppressed and food to the hungry.

All: God frees the prisoners and opens the eyes of the blind.

One: So, put your trust in God’s goodness.

All: Let God’s reign endure forever! Let us worship God.

Praise song – On Eagle’s Wings

Prayer For Adoration and Confession

Eternal God, first and last, our beginning and our end, beside you there is nothing or no one greater. You gave breath to all living things. By your Spirit, you are among us still, breathing new life, turning anger into reconciliation, division into unity, grief into consolation.

Through your grace, you open up new directions and new possibilities for the world you love. So, we offer you our lives and our labours in worship and in service, joining in creation's song of praise and adoration:

Holy, holy, holy are you, O God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, now and always. Amen.

God of mercy, we know you judge the world with an eye for the poor and outcast. We confess we fail to live with the same eye for those on the margins. We have been silent when we should have spoken up, and uncaring in the face of injustice. We have not shown the same generosity to others that you have shown us. Forgive us for putting ourselves first, and help us to serve you with the kindness we meet in Jesus Christ.

This time we come to you in prayer that you taught us how to pray: (The Lord's Prayer:)

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

Words of Assurance

Sisters and brothers in Christ at St. Andrew's, Hear the good news! Who is in a position to condemn us? Only Christ—and Christ died for us; Christ rose for us; Christ reigns in power for us; Christ prays for us. Believe the good news of the gospel. In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven and set free by God's generous grace.

Prayer for Illumination:

Gracious God, open our hearts and minds by the power of your Holy Spirit.

As the scriptures are read and interpreted, may we hear what you are saying to the church today, and find the courage to follow your will. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

Scripture: Genesis 22:1-14

1 After these things God tested Abraham. He said to him, "Abraham!" And he said, "Here I am."
2 He said, "Take your son, your only son Isaac, whom you love, and go to the land of Moriah, and offer him there as a burnt offering on one of the mountains that I shall show you." 3 So Abraham rose early in the morning, saddled his donkey, and took two of his young men with him, and his son Isaac; he cut the wood for the burnt offering, and set out and went to the place in the distance that God had shown him. 4 On the third day Abraham looked up and saw the place far away. 5 Then Abraham said to his young men, "Stay here with the donkey; the boy and I will go over there; we will worship, and then we will come back to you." 6 Abraham took the wood of the burnt offering and laid it on his son Isaac, and he himself carried the fire and the knife. So the two of them walked on together. 7 Isaac said to his father Abraham, "Father!" And he said, "Here I am, my son." He said, "The fire and the wood are here, but where is the lamb for a burnt offering?" 8 Abraham said, "God himself will provide the lamb for a burnt offering, my son." So the two of them walked on together.

9 When they came to the place that God had shown him, Abraham built an altar there and laid the wood in order. He bound his son Isaac, and laid him on the altar, on top of the wood. 10 Then Abraham reached out his hand and took the knife to kill his son. 11 But the angel of the Lord called to him from heaven, and said, "Abraham, Abraham!" And he said, "Here I am." 12 He said, "Do not lay your hand on the boy or do anything to him; for now I know that you fear God, since you have not withheld your son, your only son, from me." 13 And Abraham looked up and saw a ram, caught in a thicket by its horns. Abraham went and took the ram and offered it up as a burnt offering instead of his son. 14 So Abraham called that place "The Lord will provide"; as it is said to this day, "On the mount of the Lord it shall be provided." **"This is the word of the Lord / Thanks be to God."**

SERMON: Jehovah Jireh

Today's sermon title is "Jehovah Jireh."

Abraham was 100 years old when he had his son, Isaac. Isaac was the only child from Abraham's wife Sarah. Abraham and Sarah wanted their baby so much, but it took too long. In Genesis 12, God told Abraham to leave his own country and he promised to make of him a great nation. That is to give numerous descendants. And Abraham was 75 years old. He was not too young, but much younger than 100 years old. God took 25 years to give Abraham his son at his age of 100.

So, imagine how precious was Isaac to Abraham. Isaac was the most precious treasure to Abraham and Sarah. One day, God called Abraham.

V2, "Take your son, your only son Isaac, whom you love, and go to the land of Moriah, and offer him there as a burnt offering on one of the mountains that I shall show you."

What would Abraham think about this idea?

Offering him as a burnt offering means to kill his son and burn the body.

What if I was told the same thing from God? What would I do? Will I be able to obey God? What about you? If God told you to offer God your child, would you be able to keep your faith?

I don't know what Abraham thought. Next day, early in the morning, he got up. He saddled his donkey, and took two of his young men with him, and his son Isaac. Abraham cut the wood for the burnt offering, and set out and went to the place in the distance that God had shown him.

God is cruel. The land of Moriah was three days walk distance. For three days, Abraham, two servants, and Isaac walked, walked, and walked.

For three days, they walked and finally, they got to the place God told them to go.

Abraham told his two servants, **v5, "Stay here with the donkey; they boy and I will go over there; we will worship, and then we will come back to you."**

Yes, you heard me right. Abraham said, **"WE will come back."**

Abraham clearly had firm faith in God. God told Abraham that he would establish his covenant with Isaac, as an everlasting covenant for his offspring. **Genesis 17:19, "You shall name him Isaac. I will establish my covenant with him as an everlasting covenant for his offspring after him."** Abraham believed God's promise and he knew that *killing Isaac* and *Isaac continuing God's covenant by having many children* do not go together. He did not know how

God would carry on his promise, but Abraham trusted God who keeps his promise. Therefore, he had enough faith to obey God, without understanding God's intention, even though it's killing his own son.

Moreover, when Isaac asked him where the lamb for the burnt offering, he answered that God himself will provide.

So, they kept walking. They built the altar for sacrifice. V9 He laid the wood in order. He bound his son Isaac, and laid him on the altar, on the top of the wood. Now, everything was ready. Abraham lifted his knife. He was determined to lower down his knife upon his son Isaac.



At the moment, God stopped Abraham, **“Abraham, Abraham, Here I am. Do not lay your hand on the boy or do anything to him. For now I know that you fear God, since you have not withheld your son, your only son, from me.”**

Whew...

God's test is ended now. If I were Abraham, like this picture, I would look at the heaven waiting for him to stop me. In my heart, I would be never ready to proceed. But, God looks not the things we do, but God looks in our hearts. God looked Abraham's heart, his determination. That's why God stopped him.

V13, And Abraham looked up and saw a ram, caught in a thicket by its horns. Abraham went and took the ram and offered it up as a burnt offering instead of his son.



The Lord provided the sacrificial animal. That is Jehovah Jireh.

This is God sees. This means that, not only God sees us, he takes care of us.

I am not confident how many of us will pass God's test like Abraham.

But, I am hoping that I have the faith like Abraham. God is good and he keeps his promise. He does not make conflict within himself.

What do we fear the most?

For Abraham, it would be losing Isaac. God knows what we treasure.

What are the things that we put above God? Last week, we talked about the most precious thing in our lives and the attitude toward our most precious things.

How much do we truly rely upon God for all our needs? When we are feeling lonely, rejected, or discouraged, is our first response to read God's word and pour out our hearts to him? Instead of worrying about our situations and struggles, let us trust our faithful God, Jehovah Jireh. God will provide what we need.

This teaches us the most precious treasure in our life. It is God. Having God in our hearts is the greatest blessing we can ever have. It is beyond our family, financial security, health, and loving relationships with others. Have God in your hearts and put him above everything. God will provide what we need when we love him the most.

Let us pray.

Loving Father God, we come to you with our honest hearts. We looked at Abraham's test. He had great faith in you. We want to trust you with our whole hearts. This might mean that we have to give up the things we treasure. It is hard by just thinking of it. But, we know that you are the source of all the good things we have. We know that you are the most precious gift to us. You are the best blessing we can ever have. You gave yourself to us. You poured out your whole being to us. Heart breaking because of our sins. But, you did not spare your one and only son for us. Instead, you held our hands and you drew us close to you. Also, you prepare all the things we need before we even asked you. Thank you for your love and care for us. Let Abraham's faith and determination with faith stay in our hearts, so we remember how much price you had to pay for us. Help our weakness and give us power inside and outside. In Jesus' precious name, we pray. Amen.

The Lord's Supper – Communion

We do this and we remember that as we were welcomed at the table, we must make room for everyone.

We do this and we remember, that as we have been fed, we must ensure that others do not go hungry.

We do this and we remember that as we have been served, we are called to serve others.

We do this and we remember that as we have seen God's goodness, we are sent into the world to show it.

*(Great Prayer of Thanksgiving:) (Please say **BOLD print together**)*

L: The Lord be with you. **P: And also, with you.**

L: Lift up your hearts. **P: We lift them to the Lord.**

L: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **P: It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

L: Gracious and loving Father God, it is our greatest calling and our greatest joy to give you thanks and praise. For you are our Lord, our God, our Creator, and the Sustainer of heaven and earth. God, you spoke, and at your word, all things took shape and came into being. You breathed life into us and called us to love and serve you, and to live with you and one another in covenant and community. BUT, Lord, we turn away from you and we have tried to live apart from you and one another. YET, you never turn from us. Through the prophets, you call us back to you and to your ways. In the fullness of time, you sent your son, Jesus Christ, who was born of a mother's flesh to reveal the full extent of your grace and love. Again and again you welcome us and receive us with the open and welcoming arms of a loving father. Thank you. Therefore, we praise you, joining our voices with those from every time and place, to proclaim with them your glory. **We lift our hearts in joyful praise.**

(Sanctus) Holy, Holy, Holy Lord, God of power and might, Heaven and earth are full of Your glory, Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

L: Holy is your son Jesus. Walking on this earth, feeding the hungry, calling the lost, seeing the forgotten, touching those in need of healing, teaching those who sought out wisdom, and loving all, he showed your kingdom in your world. In breaking and sharing wine with your people here and in all places **we proclaim the mystery of faith:**

P: Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.

L: Pour out your Holy Spirit upon us and upon these offerings of bread and wine. Gather your Church together from the ends of the earth into your kingdom where peace and justice are realized, so that with all your people, we share the banquet you have promised and provided. And now through Christ, with Christ, in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, and with all who stand before you in earth and heaven, we worship and adore you, now and forever. Amen.

Breaking of the BREAD and Pouring the WINE

Take, eat, remember, and believe that the precious body of our Lord Jesus Christ was given for the complete forgiveness of all our sins. (BREAD)

“This is the body of Christ, broken for you.” (Let us take it)

Take, drink, remember, and believe that the precious blood of our Lord Jesus Christ was shed for the complete forgiveness of all our sins. (CUP)

“This is the blood of Christ, poured out for you.” (Let us drink it)

Prayer after Communion:

Christ does not invite us only to sit at table with him.

Christ does not invite us only to eat and drink with him.

Christ does not invite us only to come to him.

Rather, Christ invites us to go out into the world to act with grace, to work for justice, to speak good news, and to love out sisters and brothers.

Christ, you have nourished us in this meal and fed our bodies and souls.

We have heard your love, send us out to speak it.

We have seen your love, send us out to show it.

We have been fed by your love; send us out to share it.

And let all things be done for your glory.

Gracious and loving Father God, we need you. The world is aching so much. With this new corona virus all over the world, with natural climate crisis, and political emergency in few different countries, and disastrous hurricane in Louisiana.

These reflect our sinful nature. These shows our selfishness. We come to you with our knees, with our humble hearts, with our desperate hearts. We want to turn to you. We want to give you our whole hearts. We want to show your goodness and your love through our lives. BUT, we fall. We are weak. We make mistakes. Give us faith. You are a strong God. You are a big God. You are able. You have power. And you are with us. There is nothing can stop us. But, we stop ourselves. Help our unbelief! Help us overcome our weak faith.

Holy Spirit, pour out your presence into our life. Hold our hands and walk with us.

Christ does not invite us only to sit at table with him.
Christ does not invite us only to eat and drink with him.
Christ does not invite us only to come to him.
Rather, Christ invites us to go out into the world to act with grace, to work for justice, to speak good news, and to love out sisters and brothers.
Christ, you have nourished us in this meal and fed our bodies and souls.
We have heard your love, send us out to speak it.
We have seen your love, send us out to show it.
We have been fed by your love; send us out to share it.
And let all things be done for your glory.
In Jesus' precious and powerful name, we pray. Amen.

Invitation to the offering: This is the time for offering. The Book of Proverbs declares that those who are generous are blessed, for they share their bread with the poor. We do not bring bread today, but we offer a portion of God's gifts to us. May our gifts and our labours, whether paid or volunteered, meet the needs of those who often go without. Let us pray for the offering.

Offering prayer:

Generous God, you call us to reach out to those in need in kindness rather than judgment, and with generosity, not just good intentions. Bless our gifts and our actions for Christ's sake, that our faith in his love will show in our actions through the church that bears his name.

Praise song – All in All

Now, it is the time for us to be sent to the world. God did not spare his one and only Son Jesus Christ for us. Abraham did not spare his own son Isaac for God. What are we sparing from God? God gave us everything. Let us unfold our hands to God and let God use us and what we have.

Benediction

May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, And the Love of God, And the intimate fellowship of the Holy Spirit, Be with us all, now and always. Amen.

Ponder Upon Questions:

1. What would be the one thing that God might test me with, like Isaac to Abraham?
2. Think about my life's priority 1-5.
3. What did God prepare for me?