

AUGUST 30, 2020  
THIRTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

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PRELUDE — *Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee* - text by Henry Van Dyke

ODE TO JOY

**CALL to WORSHIP**

One: Let us worship God, our light and our salvation.

**All: The Lord is the stronghold of our lives.**

One: We desire to live in God's house and seek God in his holy temple.

**All: We have come with shouts of joy, to sing and to make music to the Lord.**

One: Let us worship God in spirit and in truth.

**All: Let us worship God together.**

**PRAYER of CONFESSION**

Merciful God, you pardon all who truly repent and turn to you. We humbly confess our sins and ask your mercy. We have not loved you with our whole heart, nor have we loved our neighbor as ourselves. We have not done justice, loved kindness, or walked humbly with you, our God. Have mercy on us, O God, in your loving-kindness. In your great compassion, cleanse us from our sin. Create in us a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within us. Do not cast us from your presence, or take your Holy Spirit from us. Restore us the joy of your salvation and sustain us with your bountiful Spirit through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

*(Time for silent prayer and confession.)*

**PROMISE of FORGIVENESS**

One: Friends, while it is true that we have sinned, it is a greater truth that we are forgiven through God's love in Jesus Christ. To all who humbly seek the mercy of God I say, in Jesus Christ your sin is forgiven.

**All: In Jesus Christ we are forgiven! Thanks be to God! Alleluia! Amen!**

**SCRIPTURE READING — Genesis 18:1-2, 10-15 & 21:1-7**

The Lord appeared to Abraham by the oaks of Mamre, as he sat at the entrance of his tent in the heat of the day. He looked up and saw three men standing near him.

Then one said, "I will surely return to you in due season, and your wife Sarah shall have a son." And Sarah was listening at the tent entrance behind him. Now Abraham and Sarah were old, advanced in age; it had ceased to be with Sarah after the manner of women. So Sarah laughed to herself, saying, "After I have grown old, and my husband is old, shall I have pleasure?" The Lord said to Abraham, "Why did Sarah laugh, and say, 'Shall I indeed bear a child, now that I am old?' Is anything too wonderful for the Lord? At the set time I will return to you, in due season, and Sarah shall have a son." But Sarah denied, saying, "I did not laugh"; for she was afraid. He said, "Oh yes, you did laugh."

The Lord dealt with Sarah as he had said, and the Lord did for Sarah as he had promised. Sarah conceived and bore Abraham a son in his old age, at the time of which God had spoken to him. Abraham gave the name Isaac to his son whom Sarah bore him. And Abraham circumcised his son Isaac when he was eight days old, as God had commanded him. Abraham was a hundred years old when his son Isaac was born to him. Now Sarah said, “God has brought laughter for me; everyone who hears will laugh with me.” And she said, “Who would ever have said to Abraham that Sarah would nurse children? Yet I have borne him a son in his old age.”

One: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

#### **AFFIRMATION of FAITH - from *A Brief Statement of Faith***

**We trust in God, whom Jesus called Abba, Father. In sovereign love God created the world good and makes everyone equally in God’s image, of every race and people, to live as one community. But we rebel against God; we hide from our Creator. Yet God acts with justice and mercy to redeem creation. In everlasting love, the God of Abraham and Sarah chose a covenant people to bless all families of the earth. Hearing their cry, God delivered the children of Israel from the house of bondage. Like a mother who will not forsake her nursing child, like a father who runs to welcome the prodigal home, God is faithful still. In gratitude to God, empowered by the Spirit, we strive to serve Christ in our daily tasks and to live holy and joyful lives, even as we watch for God’s new heaven and new earth, praying, “Come, Lord Jesus!”**

#### **PAUSE for PRAYER**

*At this time, we invite you to take out a piece of paper and a pen, or talk with the people you are worshipping with today, and answer at least one of the following questions as we prepare to turn to God in prayer.*

- 1) Where have you seen joy this week?
- 2) What was a disappointment for you this week?
- 3) How might you be a source of joy for someone else this week?

#### **POSTLUDE — *To Abraham and Sarah* – text by Judith A. Fetter**

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#### **PARTICIPATING IN TODAY'S SERVICE**

Rev. Alex Lester-Abdalla – Associate Pastor

Tim Carpenter – Director of Music

Elizabeth Dugan & Karl Helland – Liturgists

Prelude – Organ: Jason Vodicka

Postlude – Sopranos: Fran Akelewicz, Sara Carpenter, Betsy Jurey, Kathryn Thomas;

Altos: Carol Carpenter, Sara Carpenter, Betsy Jurey, Cynthia Lang, Nancy Powers;

Tenors: Karl Helland, Nancy Powers; Basses: Drew Hunger, Seth McHenry; Piano: Mark Shockey

Damon Miller – Communications Coordinator

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