

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16 (NRSV)

This is the Word of the Lord.

OT pg. 13

Thanks be to God.

SERMON

God's Covenant with Abraham

Rev. Mark Hults

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

RESPONDING

* **AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; on the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

* **PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING**

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

* **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.

SENDING

* **HYMN 839**

Blessed Assurance, Jesus Is Mine!

Assurance

* **BENEDICTION**

* **POSTLUDE**

Fugue

C. Franck

TODAY IN WORSHIP

WORSHIP LEADERS: Rev. Mark Hults, Fred Lundy, Scott Stuart, Vicki Sumner

DIRECTOR OF MUSIC AND ORGANIST: Dr. Mark Coffey

VIDEO: Kaylee Bleeker, Troy Bleeker, John Rayl

SOUND: Bruce Brashear

QUINTET: Lindsey Neumann, Alexis Vellis, soprano; Danielle Alexander, alto; Daemyung Hyun, tenor; Andrew Netardus, baritone

49 The God of Abraham Praise



1 The God of A-braham praise, who reigns en-throned a - bove,
 2 Your spir - it still flows free, high surg - ing where it will.
 3 Your good - ly land we seek, with peace and plen - ty blest,
 4 You have e - ter - nal life im - plant - ed in the soul;



the An - cient of E - ter - nal Days, the God of love!
 In proph-et's word you spoke of old and you speak still.
 a land of sa - cred lib - er - ty and Sab - bath rest.
 your love shall be our strength and stay, while a - ges roll.



The Lord, the great I AM, by earth and heaven con-fessed,
 Es - tab-lished is your law, and change-less it shall stand,
 There milk and hon - ey flow, and oil and wine a - bound,
 We praise you, liv - ing God! We praise your ho - ly name:



we bow be - fore your ho - ly name, for - ev - er blest.
 deep writ up - on the hu - man heart by your strong hand.
 and trees of life for - ev - er grow with mer - cy crowned.
 the first, the last, be - yond all thought, and still the same!



Shaped by its traditional Jewish tune, this selection of English stanzas conveys the essence of the *Yigdal*, a canticle based on a medieval Hebrew statement of faith about the nature of God and often used in synagogue worship, alternately chanted by cantor and congregation.

TEXT: Moses Maimonides, 12th cent.; vers. Daniel ben Judah Dayan, 1404; stanzas 1, 3, trans. Thomas Olivers, c.1770, alt.; LEONI stanzas 2, 4, trans. Max Landsberg, Newton M. Mann, and William C. Gannett, 1884, 1910, alt. 6.6.8.4.D
 MUSIC: Jewish melody, 17th cent.; adapt. Meyer Lyon and Thomas Olivers, 1770

¹³ For the promise that he would inherit the world did not come to Abraham or to his descendants through the law but through the righteousness of faith. ¹⁴ If it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. ¹⁵ For the law brings wrath; but where there is no law, neither is there violation. ¹⁶ For this reason it depends on faith, in order that the promise may rest on grace and be guaranteed to all his descendants, not only to the adherents of the law but also to those who share the faith of Abraham (for he is the father of all of us, ¹⁷ as it is written, "I have made you the father of many nations") – in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist. ¹⁸ Hoping against hope, he believed that he would become "the father of many nations," according to what was said, "So numerous shall your descendants be." ¹⁹ He did not weaken in faith when he considered his own body, which was already as good as dead (for he was about a hundred years old), or when he considered the barrenness of Sarah's womb. ²⁰ No distrust made him waver concerning the promise of God, but he grew strong in his faith as he gave glory to God, ²¹ being fully convinced that God was able to do what he had promised. ²² Therefore his faith "was reckoned to him as righteousness." ²³ Now the words, "it was reckoned to him," were written not for his sake alone, ²⁴ but for ours also. It will be reckoned to us who believe in him who raised Jesus our Lord from the dead, ²⁵ who was handed over to death for our trespasses and was raised for our justification.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Take Up Your Cross, the Savior Said 718

1 Take up your cross, the Sav - ior said, if
 2 Take up your cross; let not its weight fill
 3 Take up your cross; heed not the shame, and
 4 Take up your cross, then, in Christ's strength, and

you would my dis - ci - ple be; take up your cross with
 your weak spir - it with a - larm; Christ's strength shall bear your
 let your fool - ish pride be still; the Lord for you ac -
 calm - ly ev - ery dan - ger brave: it guides you to a -

will - ing heart, and hum - bly fol - low af - ter me.
 spir - it up and brace your heart and nerve your arm.
 cept - ed death up - on a cross, on Cal - vary's hill.
 bun - dant life and leads to vic - tory o'er the grave.

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16 (NRSV)

¹ 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. ² And I will make my covenant between me and you, and will make you exceedingly numerous." ³ Then Abram fell on his face; and God said to him, ⁴ "As for me, this is my covenant with you: You shall be the ancestor of a multitude of nations. ⁵ 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. ⁶ I will make you exceedingly fruitful; and I will make nations of you, and kings shall come from you. ⁷ 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.

¹⁵ God said to Abraham, "As for Sarai your wife, you shall not call her Sarai, but Sarah shall be her name. ¹⁶ 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."

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

839 Blessed Assurance, Jesus Is Mine!

1 Bless - ed as - sur - ance, Je - sus is mine! O what a
 2 Per - fect sub - mis - sion, per - fect de - light, vi - sions of
 3 Per - fect sub - mis - sion, all is at rest; I in my

fore - taste of glo - ry di - vine! Heir of sal - va - tion,
 rap - ture now burst on my sight; an - gels de - scend - ing,
 Sav - ior am hap - py and blest, watch - ing and wait - ing,

pur - chase of God, born of his Spir - it, washed in his blood.
 bring from a - bove ech - oes of mer - cy, whis - pers of love.
 look - ing a - bove, filled with his good - ness, lost in his love.

Refrain

This is my sto - ry; this is my song, prais - ing my Sav - ior

all the day long; this is my sto - ry; this is my

song, prais - ing my Sav - ior all the day long.

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FPC Weekly Figures

Weekly Budget Requirement	\$34,418
Received Week of 2/21/2021	\$67,094
Weekly Offering	\$14,781
Designated Offerings	\$1,250
Other Revenue	\$41,064
Preschool	\$9,999
YTD Budget Requirements	\$1,170,212
YTD Received	\$854,908
YTD Expenses	\$936,351

We have changed the weekly figures printed in the worship guide in an effort to present a more accurate picture of our finances to the congregation.

The top portion of the chart deals with income. Our budget (which runs from July through June) requires \$34,418 of income a week. The second figure shows the total received for the week with a breakdown of where that money come from.

The bottom portion of the chart deals with the year-to-date budget, receipts, and expenses.

Spending is limited to necessities at this time.

When our expenses are greater than our income (as they are this week), we must draw funds from our investment account.

Tune in to Cox Channel 11 **now from 9-10 a.m.**
for our televised broadcast 
or MyTV 28.2 for the
over the air broadcast.



Current Worship video and audio
as well as archives at 1stpc.org



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Is there something you would like to announce in the
Bugle or Bulletin? Contact communications@1stpc.org

GLORIFY GOD

Today is the last day for the Love Offering: The Reverend Dr. Eriberto Soto was a Parish Associate here at First Presbyterian Church in 2013-2014. Eddie played a key role in forming the partnership which facilitated the opening of the seminary in Estelí. Following his passing with COVID, we are collecting a love offering for his wife, Marcia. If you would like to contribute, during February place donations in the offering plate, mail checks to the church (Attn: Trudy Bonerba) and note "Soto Love Offering" in the memo, or give online with [Pushpay](#) at the church website. Any questions should be directed to the church office.

The First Presbyterian Sweetie Pie tradition continues even during the pandemic. Carol Israel, Eunice Knowlton, and Larissa Israel Eskin rolled, fluted, sliced apples, and filled 60 cutie pies for homebound members of First Presbyterian Church. Appreciation is expressed as well to the elders, deacons, members of the Congregational Care Committee and members of First Presbyterian Church who delivered the cutie pies.

MAKE DISCIPLES OF JESUS CHRIST

Children's Worship Guides: Print and Digital versions of our children's worship guides are available for your use as you participate in worship. Links to the digital version can be found in the Weekly Invite emails from the church. We encourage your family to discuss worship together - even if you don't use the guide.

Weekly Dose of Digital Discipleship: Stay informed and connected to the ministries of our church through this Sunday morning email which provides weekly devotionals, reflective readings, mission opportunities, and other helpful information for ways to stay connected during this time of social distancing as an act of loving our neighbors. Want to join the email list? Please contact Vicki Sumner at children@1stpc.org.

Connections: During this Lenten season we invite our children and youth to walk through Holy Week with us on our journey to Easter. This week we will learn about Maundy Thursday and the Seder Passover Meal. *Connections* will be led by Ms. Vicki, Mr. Scott, Dr. Coffey, Mr. Mitch. Join us to see what it's all about!

College Trajectory Bible Study is meeting on Zoom. For more information, please email Scott Stuart at college@1stpc.org.

Young Adult Ministry: We are meeting regularly via Zoom - currently on Tuesday nights from 8:30-9:30 p.m. For more information on Young Adult Ministry or specifically on these meetings, please email Fred Lundy at youngadult@1stpc.org.

The Gordon Hoover Class is Zooming on Sundays at a new time of 9:00 a.m. Connect by phone or computer. Everyone is welcome! This Sunday is Luke 9. If you are interested in joining, please contact Perry Foote at palbertfoote@gmail.com.

MEET HUMAN NEEDS

Let Us Remember in Prayer and Correspondence: Marilyn Ast, Melda Bassett, Jayne Fox, Emily Hoyer, Elizabeth Miller, and Theral Moore. Our men and women in the services: Ashley Dace, Trinity Gilkey, Brian Hill, Matt Roland, and Dan Williams; and first responders: Nick Gonzalez, Joe Mueller, and Paul Samala. Essential worker: Bill Clark.

Support our Mission and Ministries: Every gift makes a difference and directly funds our mission. Online contributions can be made through your computer or smart phone. Go to 1stpc.org and click the red Pushpay icon. Give to the General Budget or specify the designated ministry in the memo section. Text contributions, bill pay through your bank, and electronic funds transfers are also options. Contact Trudy Bonerba at business@1stpc.org if you have any questions. Thank you for your continued generosity to our church, especially during the pandemic.

40 Days of Food: Local Missions is just checking to see if you have started saving nonperishable food items for Gainesville Community Ministry (GCM) during the Lenten period. Collection Day is Palm Sunday. We are suggesting two easy ways. 1) Every time you go to the store, buy extra non-perishable food and leave it in your trunk for collection day OR 2) give online to our Virtual Food Drive at yougivegoods.com/40daysoffood2021 and the food goes directly to GCM. We will have slogans during Lent to help you remember: *Living and giving go together*.

Family Promise: If you recently donated a money order to Family Promise, please contact the church office. They are in need of additional information to be able to cash the money orders. Thank you.