

Sunday Morning Worship

July 9, 2023

9:00 a.m.

Welcome friends in Christ! We are glad you have come to worship today and to celebrate the love of God in Jesus Christ. If you are visiting with us, please introduce yourself to the pastor following the service.

The Words of Welcome and Announcements

Our Approach to God

Prelude

Prelude on "Evan"

Young

The Call to Worship

Let all who would seek to walk by faith, gather for worship.

God knows our every need and hears every whisper from our hearts.

The Lord calls us to walk by faith even when surrounded by a doubting world.

God is with us and God is faithful. His mercy and love are everlasting.

Let us lift our voices together in praise!

Blessed be the name of the Lord!

*The Hymn of Praise

Great is Thy Faithfulness

276

*The Call to Confession

God is light. In him, there is no darkness at all. If we claim to have fellowship with him and yet walk in the darkness, we lie and do not live out the truth. But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, purifies us from all sin. With this assurance, let us confess our sin before God.

*The Prayer of Confession

Merciful God, too often in today's world of meetings, family matters and community demands, we have failed to take the time to seek your leadership for our lives. We go our own way and take the credit for your blessings. Forgive us, Lord, and help us to slow down long enough to seek your guidance. Open our eyes to see you at work. [Silent Confession.] Lord, give us courage to faithfully follow you. In Christ's name we pray, Amen.

*The Assurance of Pardon

Hear this good news! The Lord is merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love. There is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. Our sins are forgiven. **Thanks be to God!**

*The Gloria Patri

Glory Be to the Father

579

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost; As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen. Amen

The Special Music

Celtic Alleluia

Deanna Patton & the Congregation

The Word of God

The Old Testament Reading

Genesis 24:34-67

page 25 OT

The Time with the Children

The Sermon

Rev. Ruth Estell

Our Response to Serve

*The Affirmation of Faith The Heidelberg Catechism, Q & A 27-28

Q: 27. What do you understand by the providence of God?

The almighty and ever-present power of God whereby he still upholds, as it were by his own hand, heaven and earth together with all creatures, and rules in such a way that leaves and grass, rain and drought, fruitful and unfruitful years, food and drink, health and sickness, riches and poverty, and everything else come to us not by chance but by his fatherly hand.

Q: 28. What advantage comes from acknowledging God's creation and providence?

We learn that we are to be patient in adversity, grateful in the midst of blessing, and to trust our faithful God and Father for the future, assured that no creature shall separate us from his love, since all creatures are so completely in his hand that without his will they cannot even move.

*The Hymn God of Our Life 275

The Morning Prayers and the Lord's Prayer (using sins)

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.

The Offering of our Tithes and Gifts

The Offertory Fairest Lord Jesus Bish

*The Doxology Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow 592

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise Him, all creatures here below; Praise Him above ye heavenly host; Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

*The Prayer of Dedication

*The Hymn God, You Spin the Whirling Planets 285

*The Musical Benediction Benedictus Jenkins

Deanna Patton

Benedictus qui venit in nomine Domini

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

*The Charge and Benediction

Postlude Toccata in E, BWV 566 (abr.) by J.S. Bach

(We invite you to remain seated and enjoy the postlude.)

* Congregation Standing - for those who are able.

Liturgist: Linda Poplewski

Greeter: Karen Kalina

Ushers: Beverly Briggs

Fellowship Hour: JoAnn Hunt

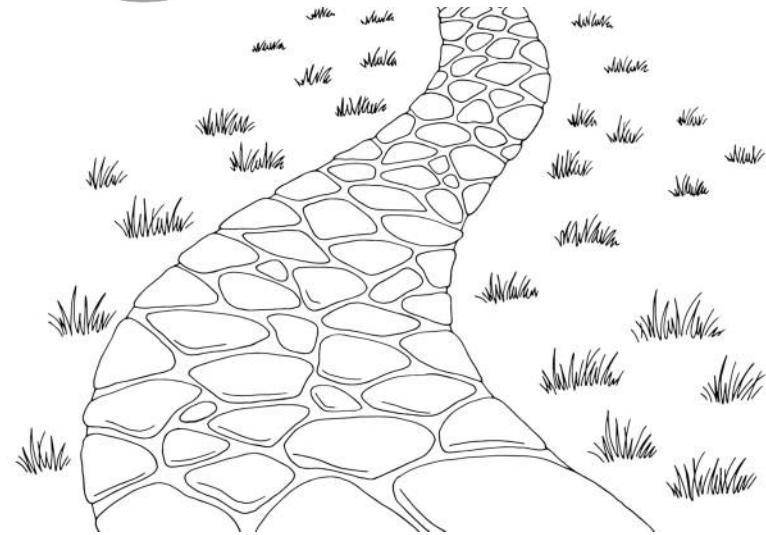
Second Presbyterian Church

2665 Midland Rd., Saginaw, MI 48603

Phone: (989) 792-1023

July 9, 2023

JOURNEY OF *Faith*



Seeking and Serving Christ, We are a Place for Growing Christians.

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A huge Thank you to Laurel Taipale for filling in for Collin this week. We are blessed to have you as part of our congregation!

Music Director Search Committee

The formation of a committee to search for a Music Director will take place within the next couple of weeks. If you are interested in serving on the committee, please list your name, phone number and email address on the sign-up sheet in the gathering area. However, signing up does not guarantee you a position on the committee as spaces are limited.



Attention: If you are not interested in having a paper newsletter mailed to your home, please cross your name off the list that is on the sign-up table in the gathering area or call the office @ 989-792-1023. Thank You.

The church office hours are Monday through Thursday 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. As unforeseen circumstances may occur, please call 989-792-1023 to be sure that someone is in the office before you drive to the church.

- Sonia is on vacation July 7 through July 12.

Summer Signup Sheets

Sign up in the gathering area to be a summer liturgist, greeter, usher, or coffee hour host. Please see where you can help on Sunday mornings during the summer.

Maintenance Custodian

This is a second custodial position that will help with a variety of regular maintenance tasks outside of the current custodian's job description and be a backup for when the current custodian is on vacation or sick. It requires a person who is flexible and on call. This task is broken down into several duties performed throughout the church interior and exterior, throughout the day or at other regular intervals. A complete list of requirements is in a folder on the stand outside the church office.



June and July Mission Project

Watch for back-to-school specials! For the months of June and July, the mission committee will be collecting school supplies for Brethren and Arthur Eddy Academy elementary school children. Any donations of backpacks, pencils, crayons, or other needed items may be placed on the table in the mission corner to be delivered before the start of school.



The Ecumenical Food Pantry at First Presbyterian Church

The Food Pantry is running low on personal care items that they give out once a month. **Trial or Travel size of any of the following products:** Toothpaste, Toothbrushes, Deodorant, Shampoo, Bar Soap, Hand Soap, Hand Sanitizer, Body Lotion, Hand Cream

There is a box on the table in the Mission Corner to place these items in. If you would like to send a check in support, please make checks out to *First Presbyterian Church* and indicate it is for the Food Pantry.

Prayer of Illumination

Lord, you promised your Holy Spirit to teach us all things. As your word is read and proclaimed, allow it to touch our hearts and change our lives to your glory and praise. In Christ's name we pray, Amen.

Genesis 24

24 Abraham was now very old, and the LORD had blessed him in everything he did. ² He said to his oldest servant, who was in charge of all that he had, "Place your hand between my thighs[Ⓜ] and make a vow. ³ I want you to make a vow in the name of the LORD, the God of heaven and earth, that you will not choose a wife for my son from the people here in Canaan. ⁴ You must go back to the country where I was born and get a wife for my son Isaac from among my relatives."

⁵ But the servant asked, "What if the young woman will not leave home to come with me to this land? Shall I send your son back to the land you came from?"

⁶ Abraham answered, "Make sure that you don't send my son back there! ⁷ The LORD, the God of heaven, brought me from the home of my father and from the land of my relatives, and he solemnly promised me that he would give this land to my descendants. He will send his angel before you, so that you can get a wife there for my son. ⁸ If the young woman is not willing to come with you, you will be free from this promise. But you must not under any circumstances take my son back there." ⁹ So the servant put his hand between the thighs of Abraham, his master, and made a vow to do what Abraham had asked.

¹⁰ The servant, who was in charge of Abraham's property, took ten of his master's camels and went to the city where Nahor had lived in northern Mesopotamia. ¹¹ When he arrived, he made the camels kneel down at the well outside the city. It was late afternoon, the time when women came out to get water. ¹² He prayed, "LORD, God of my master Abraham, give me success today and keep your promise to my master. ¹³ Here I am at the well where the young women of the city will be coming to get water. ¹⁴ I will say to one of them, 'Please, lower your jar and let me have a drink.' If she says, 'Drink, and I will also bring

water for your camels,' may she be the one that you have chosen for your servant Isaac. If this happens, I will know that you have kept your promise to my master."

¹⁵ Before he had finished praying, Rebecca arrived with a water jar on her shoulder. She was the daughter of Bethuel, who was the son of Abraham's brother Nahor and his wife Milcah. ¹⁶ She was a very beautiful young woman and still a virgin. She went down to the well, filled her jar, and came back. ¹⁷ The servant ran to meet her and said, "Please give me a drink of water from your jar."

¹⁸ She said, "Drink, sir," and quickly lowered her jar from her shoulder and held it while he drank. ¹⁹ When he had finished, she said, "I will also bring water for your camels and let them have all they want." ²⁰ She quickly emptied her jar into the animals' drinking trough and ran to the well to get more water, until she had watered all his camels. ²¹ The man kept watching her in silence, to see if the LORD had given him success.

²² When she had finished, the man took an expensive gold ring and put it in her nose and put two large gold bracelets on her arms. ²³ He said, "Please tell me who your father is. Is there room in his house for my men and me to spend the night?"

²⁴ "My father is Bethuel son of Nahor and Milcah," she answered. ²⁵ "There is plenty of straw and fodder at our house, and there is a place for you to stay."

²⁶ Then the man knelt down and worshiped the LORD. ²⁷ He said, "Praise the LORD, the God of my master Abraham, who has faithfully kept his promise to my master. The LORD has led me straight to my master's relatives."

²⁸ The young woman ran to her mother's house and told the whole story. ²⁹ Now Rebecca had a brother named Laban, and he ran outside to go to the well where Abraham's servant was. ³⁰ Laban had seen the nose ring and the bracelets on his sister's arms and had heard her say what the man had told her. He went to Abraham's servant, who was standing by his camels at the well, ³¹ and said, "Come home with me. You are a man whom the LORD has blessed. Why are you standing out here? I have a room ready for you in my house, and there is a place for your camels."

³² So the man went into the house, and Laban unloaded the camels and gave them straw and fodder. Then he brought water for Abraham's servant and his men to wash their feet. ³³ When food was brought, the man said, "I will not eat until I have said what I have to say."

Laban said, "Go on and speak."

³⁴ "I am the servant of Abraham," he began. ³⁵ "The LORD has greatly blessed my master and made him a rich man. He has given him flocks of sheep and goats, cattle, silver, gold, male and female slaves, camels, and donkeys. ³⁶ Sarah, my master's wife, bore him a son when she was old, and my master has given everything he owns to him. ³⁷ My master made me promise with a vow to obey his command. He said, 'Do not choose a wife for my son from the young women in the land of Canaan. ³⁸ Instead, go to my father's people, to my relatives, and choose a wife for him.' ³⁹ And I asked my master, 'What if she will not come with me?' ⁴⁰ He answered, 'The LORD, whom I have always obeyed, will send his angel with you and give you success. You will get for my son a wife from my own people, from my father's family. ⁴¹ There is only one way for you to be free from your vow: if you go to my relatives and they refuse you, then you will be free.' ⁴² "When I came to the well today, I prayed, 'LORD, God of my master Abraham, please give me success in what I am doing. ⁴³ Here I am at the well. When a young woman comes out to get water, I will ask her to give me a drink of water from her jar. ⁴⁴ If she agrees and also offers to bring water for my camels, may she be the one that you have chosen as the wife for my master's son.' ⁴⁵ Before I had finished my silent prayer, Rebecca came with a water jar on her shoulder and went down to the well to get water. I said to her, 'Please give me a drink.' ⁴⁶ She quickly lowered her jar from her shoulder and said, 'Drink, and I will also water your camels.' So I drank, and she watered the camels. ⁴⁷ I asked her, 'Who is your father?' And she answered, 'My father is Bethuel son of Nahor and Milcah.' Then I put the ring in her nose and the bracelets on her arms. ⁴⁸ I knelt down and worshiped the LORD. I praised the LORD, the God of my master Abraham, who had led me straight to my master's relative, where I found his daughter for my master's son. ⁴⁹ Now, if you intend to fulfill your responsibility toward my master and treat him fairly, please tell me; if not, say so, and I will decide what to do."

⁵⁰ Laban and Bethuel answered, "Since this matter comes from the LORD, it is not for us to make a decision. ⁵¹ Here is Rebecca; take her and go. Let her become the wife of your master's son, as the LORD himself has said." ⁵² When the servant of Abraham heard this, he bowed down and worshiped the LORD. ⁵³ Then he brought out clothing and silver and gold jewelry, and gave them to Rebecca. He also gave expensive gifts to her brother and to her mother.

⁵⁴ Then Abraham's servant and the men with him ate and drank, and spent the night there. When they got up in the morning, he said, "Let me go back to my master."

⁵⁵ But Rebecca's brother and her mother said, "Let her stay with us a week or ten days, and then she may go."

⁵⁶ But he said, "Don't make us stay. The LORD has made my journey a success; let me go back to my master."

⁵⁷ They answered, "Let's call her and find out what she has to say." ⁵⁸ So they called Rebecca and asked, "Do you want to go with this man?" "Yes," she answered.

⁵⁹ So they let Rebecca and her old family servant go with Abraham's servant and his men. ⁶⁰ And they gave Rebecca their blessing in these words:

"May you, sister, become the mother of millions!

May your descendants conquer the cities of their enemies!"

⁶¹ Then Rebecca and her young women got ready and mounted the camels to go with Abraham's servant, and they all started out.

⁶² Isaac had come into the wilderness of ⁶³ "The Well of the Living One Who Sees Me" and was staying in the southern part of Canaan. ⁶³ He went out in the early evening to take a walk in the fields and saw camels coming. ⁶⁴ When Rebecca saw Isaac, she got down from her camel ⁶⁵ and asked Abraham's servant, "Who is that man walking toward us in the field?"

"He is my master," the servant answered. So she took her scarf and covered her face.

⁶⁶ The servant told Isaac everything he had done. ⁶⁷ Then Isaac brought Rebecca into the tent that his mother Sarah had lived in, and she became his wife. Isaac loved Rebecca, and so he was comforted for the loss of his mother.