

Stardust and Promise

(inspired by Genesis 15:1-18)

Once there was a traveler who had seen many things in his days for he was an old traveler and was settling down to retire. He had seen all he wanted to see but he was a disappointed man. Even though he had seen many lands, even though he had seen his wealth grow, he had no children and this disappointed him.

But just when he was about to slip into being a sad old man he was turned towards the night sky and God said,
'I dare you, if you can, count the stars.'

And Abraham went silent. "I am an old man. I can hardly see the stars to count them and I am old enough as it is! How old do you think I'd be by the time I counted even a small portion of the stars?"

And God said, "My childless friend, those stars have names, each a name of one of your children for you will have more children in generations to come than there are stars in the sky."

Abraham, who had been holding his breath, breathed again, a great sigh of faith. He realized he was not going to be settling down after all and from that day on, whenever night came, you could hear him counting quietly to himself.

And here we are, made of stardust and promise.
Abram's children and still counting.

Our Worship of God

August 28, 2016

9:15 am

Abraham and Sarah: Stories of Faith and Failure

“I will certainly bless you. I will multiply your descendants beyond number, like the stars in the sky and the sand on the seashore.”

Genesis 22:17

Opening Our Hearts through Song

Stars

Song of Declaration

The Lion and the Lamb

Invitation to Pass the Peace of Christ

Song of Devotion

First

Hearing God’s Word

Kaitlyn Agan

Genesis 11:29-12:30, selected verses

The Call of Abram

...the name of Abram’s wife was Sar'ai... Now Sar'ai was barren; she had no child...

Now the Lord said to Abram, “Go from your country and your kindred and your father’s house to the land that I will show you. I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you, and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and the one who curses you I will curse; and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.”

So Abram went, as the Lord had told him; and Lot went with him. Abram was seventy-five years old when he departed from Haran. Abram took his wife Sarai and his brother’s son Lot, and all the possessions that they had gathered, and the persons whom they had acquired in Haran; and they set forth to go to the land of Canaan. When they had come to the land of Canaan, Abram passed through the land to the place at Shechem, to the oak of Moreh. At that time the Canaanites were in the land.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Prayer (responsive):

Gracious God, you reached into Abraham and Sarah's lives and asked them to dream what seemed impossible – that you would transform what appears to have been a barren and lifeless situation into one overflowing with promise and hope – and, through faith in you, they believed your promises.

Forgive us, O God, if we never get beyond thinking of your call on our lives as an impossible dream or even as an unwelcome interruption.

Faithful God, the apostle Paul emphasizes Abraham's complete trust and faith in your promises and how he grew ever stronger in faith, fully convinced of your ability to fulfill what had been promised.

Forgive us, O God, when we find it hard even to hear your promises above commercial assurances of transformation – promises tempting us to trust the newest and trendiest product to realize our dreams.

Gracious and loving God, forgive our lack of trust in you; have mercy on us and forgive us. Help us when we hesitate, and strengthen us when we are weak.

Breathe your Spirit afresh into our hearts and minds – our lives – so that we have the courage to follow Jesus wherever he takes us.

Thank you that you meet our needs on the journey, providing what we need when we need it. Trusting you, we can share what we have with others, and we do this joyfully, together, today. We offer all we have, our time, talents and money for your kingdom. Bless these gifts for the work of your church. **Amen.**

Offertory

Who But You

Message

Blessed to Be a Blessing

Carol McEntyre

Song of Response

The Maker

Announcements – What's Going On in the Church?

Benediction

Carol McEntyre

God's promises endure from generation to generation.
May the God of Abraham and Sarah,
the God who sent Jesus to redeem us,
the God whose covenant is eternal,
bless you and make you fruitful.

Worship Notes

Opening Our Hearts through Song - Stars by Skillet (7060494)

Song of Declaration – The Lion and the Lamb by Big Daddy Weave (7038281)

Song of Devotion – First by Lauren Daigle (7039076)

Today's Scripture reader is Kaitlyn Agan

The responsive Prayer, written by Moira Laidlaw, is based on Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16; Mark 8:31-38; and Romans 4:13-25.

Offertory – Who But You (Abraham and Sarah) by Mark Hall and Megan Garrett of Casting Crowns (6120481)

Song of Response – The Maker by Christ August (7033731)

Fall Kickoff: Don't forget the Fall Kickoff at 12:15 TODAY on the front lawn of the church – food, fun, and fellowship for all!

Week at a Glance

Sunday, August 28

9:15 am Awakening Worship

Fellowship Hall

10:15 am Small Groups

Various Classrooms

11:15 am Traditional Worship

Sanctuary

12:15 am Fall Kick-off

Front Lawn

Wednesday, August 24

5:30 pm Psalm Players Rehearsal

6:30 pm Chancel Bells Rehearsal

7:30 pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal

All rehearsals in Sanctuary

Thursday, August 25

6:30 pm Praise Band Rehearsal

Fellowship Hall

Sunday, September 4

9:15 am Awakening Worship

Fellowship Hall

10:15 am Small Groups

Various Classrooms

11:15 am Traditional Worship

Sanctuary

Announcements

Knowing God: This fall, Pastor Carol McEntyre will be leading two Covenant Groups that will focus on creating the space in our lives to hear from Christ through the spiritual practices. One group meets the first Tuesday evening of every month beginning Sept. 6 at 6:00 p.m.; the other meets on Thursdays at 1:30 p.m. beginning Sept. 8. To sign up, or for more information, email Carol at mcentyre@fbc-columbia.org or call the church office at 442-1149.

S.A.F.E. Seminar: Sexual Awareness and Family Empowerment

Friday, September 23 and Saturday, September 24

S.A.F.E. teaches caregivers the tools to engage in conversations with their children about sexuality. Topics include sexual development; body safety; boundaries; common myths about safety; exploring intuition and how to teach and trust it; and mobilizing a trusted community of adults to help guide and protect children.

Full details are available in the latest Spire and on posters around the church.

Join our music ministry: Share your talents and energies with God, your church, and your friends by participating in a bell choir, vocal group, or band. Rehearsal schedules are in full swing – join us in the sanctuary any Wednesday at the following times:

- Psalm Players Band – 5:30-6:30 p.m.
- Chancel Bells – 6:30-7:30 p.m.
- Chancel Choir – 7:30-8:45 p.m.

Enter the sanctuary through the Waugh Street door closest to the parking lot.

The Calling: Our youth group will meet Sunday nights beginning Sept. 11 at 5-6 p.m., when we will officially open Studio 1B, a new interactive experience for 6-12th graders designed to engage the Scriptures in a new way. Come join us!

Ann Judson Circle: A Peek at the Past – September 1st, 1 p.m. in the parlor:

What did you do on your summer vacation? Ken Hammann spent his summer on the third floor of the church, organizing the archives. All persons – men and women – are invited to get a glimpse of the church's unofficial history, as Ken shares many interesting finds, including the founding document from November 22, 1823. Come and see how you might get involved in researching the church's history!



9:15 am Awakening Worship Service

For those who may prefer a more traditional worship experience, First Baptist Church offers worship at 11:15 a.m. each Sunday morning in the Sanctuary.

Nursery: (ages birth-three) located on the first floor outside the sanctuary and is available from 9:15-12:15 while parents are in worship or Sunday Morning Small Groups.

Extended Session: children ages 3- 5 including kindergarten may be dropped off during both worship services in the nursery for extended session, an extension of First Kids Sunday School.

10:15 Spiritual Formation Hour:

First Kids Sunday School (3 year olds through 5th grade) is on the third floor.

Youth Bible Study (grades 6-12) is on the third floor.

Adult Small Groups are combined for the summer, through August 7th, and meet in the parlor.

First Baptist Church partners in mission with the American Baptist Churches USA, Cooperative Baptist Fellowship, and Alliance of Baptists.

To view the live webcast of our 11:15 am Traditional worship service, go to www.ustream.tv.

Search for fbcwebcast (one word), and you should be able to worship from anywhere!

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Church Staff

Carol McEntyre, Senior Pastor † Ed Rollins, Associate Pastor

Michael McEntyre, Associate Pastor of Youth, College and young Adults, and Missions

Yvette Chambers, Director of Children's Ministry

Alex Bennett, Awakening Worship Coordinator † Colleen Ostercamp, Pianist and Organist

Janet Deneke, Admin. Assistant † Brenda Rice, Project Coordinator

†Bethany James, Nursery Director †Glenn Owings, Custodian