



I will multiply
your descendants
like the

STARS
of
HEAVEN



First Baptist Church

columbia

Our Worship of God

September 4, 2016

11:15 am

(† Indicates those who are able, please stand)

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

Greeting

Carol McEntyre

Invitation to Worship

Carol McEntyre

Prelude

The Gift of Love
Colleen Ostercamp, Organist

arr. Hopson

Call to Worship (responsive)

Michael McEntyre

Now faith is
the assurance of things hoped for,

the conviction of things not seen.
We come convinced of many things
but trusting very few.

**Holy God of limitless surprises,
meet us here
in this place
as we touch that which we cannot see
that which we have not dared to hope.**

†**Processional Hymn**

The God of Abraham Praise

(Please turn to face the cross as it enters)



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!

†Passing the Peace of Christ

*As God has given us peace through Christ,
so let us pass the peace of Christ to each other.*

Scripture Reading

David Lang

Genesis 12:10-20

Abram in Egypt

Now there was a famine in the land, and Abram went down to Egypt to live there for a while because the famine was severe. As he was about to enter Egypt, he said to his wife Sarai, "I know what a beautiful woman

you are. When the Egyptians see you, they will say, ‘This is his wife.’ Then they will kill me but will let you live. Say you are my sister, so that I will be treated well for your sake and my life will be spared because of you.”

When Abram came to Egypt, the Egyptians saw that Sarai was a very beautiful woman. And when Pharaoh’s officials saw her, they praised her to Pharaoh, and she was taken into his palace. He treated Abram well for her sake, and Abram acquired sheep and cattle, male and female donkeys, male and female servants, and camels.

But the Lord inflicted serious diseases on Pharaoh and his household because of Abram’s wife Sarai. So Pharaoh summoned Abram. “What have you done to me?” he said. “Why didn’t you tell me she was your wife? Why did you say, ‘She is my sister,’ so that I took her to be my wife? Now then, here is your wife. Take her and go!” Then Pharaoh gave orders about Abram to his men, and they sent him on his way, with his wife and everything he had.

†Hymn

When We Are Tested (sung to SLANE)

*When we are tested and wrestle alone,
famished for bread when the world offers stone,
nourish us, God, by Your word and Your way,
food that sustains us by night and by day.*

*When in the desert we cry for relief,
pleading for paths marked by certain belief,
lift us to love You beyond sign and test,
trusting Your presence, our only true rest.*

*When we are tempted to barter our souls,
trading the truth for the power to control,
teach us to worship and praise only You,*

seeking Your will in the work that we do.

*When we have struggled and searched through the night,
sorting and sifting the wrong from the right,
Savior, surround us with circles of care,
Angels of healing, of hope, and of prayer.*

Scripture Reading

David Lang

Genesis 13 (selected verses)

Now Lot, who was moving about with Abram, also had flocks and herds and tents. But the land could not support them while they stayed together, for their possessions were so great that they were not able to stay together. And quarreling arose between Abram's herders and Lot's.

So Abram said to Lot, "Let's not have any quarreling between you and me, or between your herders and mine, for we are close relatives. Is not the whole land before you? Let's part company. If you go to the left, I'll go to the right; if you go to the right, I'll go to the left."

Lot looked around and saw that the whole plain of the Jordan toward Zoar was well watered, like the garden of the Lord, like the land of Egypt. So Lot chose for himself the whole plain of the Jordan and set out toward the east. The two men parted company:

The Lord said to Abram after Lot had parted from him, "Look around from where you are, to the north and south, to the east and west. All the land that you see I will give to you and your offspring forever. I will make your offspring like the dust of the earth, so that if anyone could count the dust, then your offspring could be counted. Go, walk through the length and breadth of the land, for I am giving it to you."

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Offertory Sentence

Offertory Anthem

Go Not Far from Me, O God

Zingarelli / ed. Curtright

Go not far from me, far from me, O God,
Cast me not away in the time of age.
Forsake me not, when my strength faileth me.
O let my mouth be filled with thy praise,
That I may sing thy glory all the day long.
O let my mouth be filled with thy praise,
That I may sing of thy glory all the day long.

Message

Best Husband Ever

Carol McEntyre

Preparation for Communion (responsive)

Every day we journey on this earth is a day in which we make choices:

Left or right, up or down, in or out, yes or no?

Some choices are simple, and some are very complex, but one choice informs all others:

Who will be our God?

Who will we trust to see us through this journey?

In the two scripture readings this morning, the stories tell of Abram's great faith and his great failures. In this moment of silence and song, you are invited to think about a time in your life when you experienced great faith and a time when failures seemed to dominate your life. What was your reaction to both of these? Are there times even now when failures and faith challenge you?

Stay with Us – Madeleine O’Meara and Ed Rollins

Who has been with us from before the beginning, bringing us into existence?

Who has loved us and blessed us even in our times of doubt?

Who has pointed us toward the path to help us find our way through pain and sorrow?

Who has been at our side when the road has been rough and at other times smooth?

Who has led us through turns in our life that have demanded courage and strength?

Who will celebrate with us when we complete our course and seek the comfort of eternity?

Only one. The One and Only.

Holy one. The One and Holy.

Will you choose this day to place your doubts and fears in the hands of the One who is faithful to us?

Lord, help us to faithfully follow you.

Will you choose this day to place your whole being in the One who is trustworthy?

Lord, help us to faithfully follow you.

Will you choose this day to release all the adversities of life to the One who walks with us and bears all things?

Lord, help us to faithfully follow you.

Will you choose this day to love the One who loved us first?

Lord, help us to faithfully follow you.

We devote ourselves to you by renewing the covenant – the promise you made to humanity so long ago. Because you are our God, we will be your people. Enlarge our faithfulness, our trust, our commitment and our love so that we may graciously uphold our promises. Help us always to recognize your

presence and your blessings throughout our journey. Keep us in your care. Amen.

Observance of Holy Communion

**Words of Invitation
Prayer of Thanksgiving
Words of Institution
The Bread Broken, the Cup Shared**

†Hymn #60

Great Is Thy Faithfulness

†Benediction

Postlude

Worship Notes

The cover text is from Roddy Hamilton, posted on Mucky Paws,
<http://www.nkchurch.org.uk/index.php/mucky-paws>

The visual interpretation of the “Abraham and Sarah” theme for worship is based on Genesis 22:17 when God promises Abraham that his descendants will outnumber the stars in the sky and the sand on the seashore.

David Lang is today’s scripture reader.

The Call to Worship is written by Katherine Hawker, posted on Liturgies Outside,
<http://liturgyoutside.net/>.

Week at a Glance

Sunday, September 4

9:15 am Awakening Worship

Fellowship Hall

10:15 am Small Groups

Various Classrooms

11:15 am Traditional Worship

Sanctuary

Monday, September 4

Office closed

Wednesday, September 7

5:30 pm Psalm Players Rehearsal

6:30 pm Chancel Bells Rehearsal

7:30 pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal

All rehearsals in Sanctuary

Thursday, September 8

6:30 pm Praise Band Rehearsal

Fellowship Hall

Sunday, September 11

9:15 am Awakening Worship

Fellowship Hall

10:15 am Small Groups

Various Classrooms

11:15 am Traditional Worship

Sanctuary

8 pm College/Young Adult Bible Study

Announcements

Fall Bible Study Opportunity: What does Scripture tell us about how God sees humanity and the relationship we share? Understanding our relationships with other people is difficult. How can we understand our relationship with God? Over 6-7 weeks, we will explore what selected Scriptures reveal about God's original intent for humanity, starting with creation narratives, going through the Law and the Prophets as well as what Jesus and Paul tell us. Classes will be on Mondays, starting September 19 at 2:00 in the parlor. David Gifford will be teaching.

Sign up today for the SAFE Seminar: Sexual Awareness and Family Empowerment takes place Friday and Saturday, Sept. 23-24. Full details are in the latest Spire and on the bulletin board in the elevator lobby.

Embracing the gift of intimacy and creating safe spaces for children: On Sunday September 25, Le Ann Gardner, who is a licensed clinical social

worker and an ordained minister, will be preaching in both worship services. She will be talking about the theology behind what she is teaching in SAFE; what it means to embrace God's gift of intimacy and sex; and how we can create safe spaces for all of God's children.

Eat Pray Sew meets Friday, Sept. 9th in the Conference Room from 10:30-noon.

Amazon Cello Choir Benefit Concert with the Boonslick Chordbusters: this event takes place in our sanctuary on Friday, Sept. 9th at 7 p.m. Admission is free.

Sanctuary Sound Improvements: For the next few weeks, please excuse any exposed speaker frames and holes you see in the sanctuary ceiling, and know that they are part of the promised improvements to our sound system.

Fellowship Adventures: Join us on September 18th to see the delightful Disney musical, The Little Mermaid. The show is at 2 p.m. at Columbia Entertainment Company, 1800 Nelwood, with dinner after. Tickets are \$10 per person. Make your reservation by contacting the church office at 443-149 or churchinfo@fbc-columbia.org.

Announcements

College and Young Adult Ministry: Join us for free appetizers at the Heidelberg as we celebrate a new semester. We'll meet on the roof of the Berg at 8:00pm in September 11th.

New day and time for The Calling, our weekly youth Bible Study, is Wednesday nights from 6:15-7:15 p.m., beginning Sept 14th. Come and learn about our new interactive experience for 6-12th graders, Studio 1B, which is designed to engage discipleship in a creative way.

The Odyssey Chamber Music Series and First Baptist Church present
Chanticleer in Concert!



With its seamless blend of twelve male voices, Chanticleer is world-renowned as “an orchestra of voices,” and for its original interpretations of music from Renaissance to jazz and from gospel to venturesome new music.

Plan now to attend!

Wednesday, October 5 at 7:30 p.m. in our sanctuary.

Tickets are \$35 and may be purchased in the office
or on line at www.odysseymissouri.org.



11:15 am Traditional Worship Service

For those who may prefer a more contemporary worship experience, First Baptist Church offers Awakening worship at 9:15 a.m. each Sunday morning in the Fellowship Hall.

The flowers are given by Randy and Sherry Wyatt in remembrance of Sterling.

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

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†Bethany James, Nursery Director †Glenn Owings, Custodian