



*God said,  
“Look toward heaven and count the stars,  
if you are able to count them.”  
Then he said to Abram,  
“So shall your descendants be.”  
And he believed the Lord;*

*and the Lord reckoned it to him as righteousness.*



## *Our Worship of God*

*September 18, 2016*

*11:15 am*

*(† Indicates those who are able, please stand)*

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### **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 #527**

Trust In the Lord

**Prelude**

American Hymn-Tune Trilogy

arr. Ford

Psalm Players

(Amazing Grace; Precious Lord, Take My Hand;  
There Will Be Peace in the Valley for Me)

**Affirmation of Faith (unison)**

**We confess that Jesus is the Christ,  
the Son of the living God,  
and proclaim him Lord and Savior of the world.**

**In Christ’s name and by his grace  
we accept our mission of witness**

and service to all people.  
We rejoice in God,  
maker of heaven and earth,  
and in the covenant of love  
which binds us to God and one another.  
Through baptism into Christ  
we enter into newness of life  
and are made one with the whole people of God.  
In the communion of the Holy Spirit,  
we are joined together in discipleship  
and in obedience to Christ.  
At the table of the Lord  
we celebrate with thanksgiving  
the saving acts and presence of Christ.  
Within the universal church,  
we receive the gift of ministry  
and the light of scripture.  
In the bonds of Christian faith  
we yield ourselves to God  
that we may serve the One  
whose kingdom has no end.  
Blessing, glory, and honor  
be to God forever. Amen.

†**Processional Hymn #612**

How Firm a Foundation

*(Please turn to face the cross as it enters)*

†**Prayer of Commitment (responsive)**

You have called us into a whole-hearted relationship with You. You've asked us to leave behind all we possess and live out our faith with passion and integrity.

**We thank You for the deep love You have shown toward us.  
Forgive us when we take our relationship with You for**

**granted, when we let the fire of our commitment cool, and allow other things to take priority in our lives.**

Give us strength to hold on to You no matter what comes our way.

**Give us courage to wrestle honestly with the things we don't understand; to continually work out our salvation with fear and trembling, to grapple daily with what it means to faithfully follow You.**

We are Your people, chosen and named by You.

**Grant us Your continued blessing and mark us with Your love, as we seek to live as Your disciples in the world.**

In the name of Jesus Christ,

**Amen.**

### **†Passing the Peace of Christ**

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

### **Old Testament Reading**

Sherry Wyatt

Genesis 15:1-17

God's Covenant with Abram

*After these things the word of the Lord came to Abram in a vision, "Do not be afraid, Abram, I am your shield; your reward shall be very great." But Abram said, "O Lord God, what will you give me, for I continue childless, and the heir of my house is Eliezer of Damascus?" And Abram said, "You have given me no offspring, and so a slave born in my house is to be my heir." But the word of the Lord came to him, "This man shall not be your heir; no one but your very own issue shall be your heir." He brought him outside and said, "Look toward heaven and count the stars, if you are able to count them." Then he said to him, "So shall your descendants be." And he believed the Lord; and the Lord reckoned it to him as righteousness.*

*Then he said to him, “I am the Lord who brought you from Ur of the Chaldeans, to give you this land to possess.” But he said, “O Lord God, how am I to know that I shall possess it?” He said to him, “Bring me a heifer three years old, a female goat three years old, a ram three years old, a turtledove, and a young pigeon.” He brought him all these and cut them in two, laying each half over against the other; but he did not cut the birds in two. And when birds of prey came down on the carcasses, Abram drove them away.*

*As the sun was going down, a deep sleep fell upon Abram, and a deep and terrifying darkness descended upon him. Then the Lord said to Abram, “Know this for certain, that your offspring shall be aliens in a land that is not theirs, and shall be slaves there, and they shall be oppressed for four hundred years; but I will bring judgment on the nation that they serve, and afterward they shall come out with great possessions. As for yourself, you shall go to your ancestors in peace; you shall be buried in a good old age. And they shall come back here in the fourth generation; for the iniquity of the Amorites is not yet complete.”*

*When the sun had gone down and it was dark, a smoking fire pot and a flaming torch passed between these pieces. On that day the Lord made a covenant with Abram, saying, “To your descendants I give this land...”*

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

### **Prayers of the People and the Lord’s Prayer**

*Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed by 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 for ever. Amen.*

**Anthem**

If You but Trust in God to Guide You

arr. Cherwien

Madeline O’Meara, soloist

Ryan Koesterer, flute

If you but trust in God to guide you,  
With hopeful heart through all your ways,  
You will find strength, with God beside you,  
To bear the worst of evil days;  
For those who trust God's changeless love  
Build on the rock that will not move.  
What gain is there in futile weeping,  
In helpless anger and distress?  
If you are in God's care and keeping,  
In sorrow will God love you less?  
For Christ who took for you a cross  
Will bring you safe through ev'ry loss.  
Be still, be still, and wait God's pleasure  
In cheerful hope, with heart content,  
Trusting that grace which knows no measure  
Will by unbounded Love be sent;  
Nor doubt our inmost wants are clear  
To One who holds us always near.  
Sing, pray, and keep God's ways unswerving;  
Offer your service faithfully,  
And trust God's word, though undeserving  
There find the truth to set you free;  
God will not fail to guide and bless  
Those who embrace God's faithfulness.

## **New Testament Reading**

Sherry Wyatt

Romans 4:13-25

God's Promise Realized through Faith

*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. If it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. For the law brings wrath; but where there is no law, neither is there violation.*

*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, 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. 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.” 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. No distrust made him waver concerning the promise of God, but he grew strong in his faith as he gave glory to God, being fully convinced that God was able to do what he had promised. Therefore his faith “was reckoned to him as righteousness.” Now the words, “it was reckoned to him,” were written not for his sake alone, but for ours also. It will be reckoned to us who believe in him who raised Jesus our Lord from the dead, who was handed over to death for our trespasses and was raised for our justification.*

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**†Hymn #21**

How Great Thou Art

**Message**

Covenant

Carol McEntyre

**†Hymn of Commitment #523**

Trust and Obey

**†Offertory Sentence**

**Offertory**

Invention No. 6

Bach

**†Benediction**



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.

## **Postlude**

# Worship Notes

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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.

Sherry Wyatt is today's scripture reader.

The Prayer for Commitment is based on Genesis 32:22-31

# Week at a Glance

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## Sunday, September 18

**9:15 am Awakening Worship**

*Fellowship Hall*

**10:15 am Small Groups**

*Various Classrooms*

**11:15 am Traditional Worship**

*Sanctuary*

**6-8 pm College/Young Adult Bonfire**

*The McEntyres' House*

## Wednesday, September 21

**5:30 pm Psalm Players Rehearsal**

**6:30 pm Chancel Bells Rehearsal**

**7:30 pm Chancel Choir Rehearsal**

*All Rehearsals in Sanctuary*

## Thursday, September 22

**6:30 pm Praise Band Rehearsal**

*Fellowship Hall*

## Friday, September 23

**5:00 pm SAFE dinner**

*Fellowship Hall*

**6-8 pm SAFE Seminar**

*Fellowship Hall*

**5-7 pm UMC Choral Concert**

*Sanctuary*

## Saturday, September 24

**10 am – 12:30 pm SAFE Seminar**

*Fellowship Hall*

## Sunday, September 25

**9:15 am Awakening Worship**

*Fellowship Hall*

**10:15 am Small Groups**

*Various Classrooms*

**11:15 am Traditional Worship**

*Sanctuary*

# Announcements

**It's a Celebration!** To honor Colleen's 25 years as our organist, please plan to attend the recital on Saturday, October 8<sup>th</sup> at 1 p.m. followed by a tea; and the catered lunch following Traditional Worship on Sunday Oct. 9<sup>th</sup>. Full details are in the latest Spire and on posters around the church.

**The Serving Team** meets this Tuesday, September 20, from 5:30-7:30 in the conference room.

**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 tomorrow 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.

**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.

**College and Young Adult Ministry:** Join us tonight at from 6-8 p.m. for a bonfire at the McEntyre's house.





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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](http://www.odysseymissouri.org).

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## 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 Jim and Verna Rhodes.***

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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.

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:

Discussion Class in the Parlor on the second floor.

Faith Forum in the second floor classroom, next to the elevator.

Community Small Group in the conference on the second floor.

Young Adult Small Group in the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor library.

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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](http://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