

Grace United Church of Christ

June 14, 2020
Online Worship

OFFERING

MORNING PRAYERS

Pastoral Prayer
Prayers of the People
The Lord's Prayer

SENDING HYMN Praise to the Living God

COMMISSIONING AND BENEDICTION

WORDS OF WELCOME

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Strangers visit Abraham and Sarah, and they welcome them with a feast.

People: How wonderful!

Leader: Strangers promise Sarah and Abraham a child in their old age!

People: Too wonderful?

Leader: Strangers leave Abraham and Sarah to wait and ponder.

People: "Is anything too wonderful for God?"

GATHERING HYMN We Would Be Building

INVOCATION

ANTHEM

FIRST LESSON Genesis 18:1-15, 21:1-7

A TIME FOR OUR CHILDREN

CENTERING SONG Draw the Circle Wide
**Draw the circle wide. Draw it wider still.
Let this be our song, No one stands alone,
Standing side by side. Draw the circle wide.**

SECOND LESSON Matthew 9:35-10:23

MESSAGE *Take no bag for your Journey*

SPECIAL MUSIC A Beautiful City
- played and sung by Jennifer Bertoni

Genesis 18:1-15

18 The LORD appeared to Abraham by the oaks of Mamre, as he sat at the entrance of his tent in the heat of the day. ²He looked up and saw three men standing near him. When he saw them, he ran from the tent entrance to meet them, and bowed down to the ground. ³He said, “My lord, if I find favor with you, do not pass by your servant. ⁴Let a little water be brought, and wash your feet, and rest yourselves under the tree. ⁵Let me bring a little bread, that you may refresh yourselves, and after that you may pass on—since you have come to your servant.” So they said, “Do as you have said.” ⁶And Abraham hastened into the tent to Sarah, and said, “Make ready quickly three measures of choice flour, knead it, and make cakes.” ⁷Abraham ran to the herd, and took a calf, tender and good, and gave it to the servant, who hastened to prepare it. ⁸Then he took curds and milk and the calf that he had prepared, and set it before them; and he stood by them under the tree while they ate.

⁹They said to him, “Where is your wife Sarah?” And he said, “There, in the tent.” ¹⁰Then one said, “I will surely return to you in due season, and your wife Sarah shall have a son.” And Sarah was listening at the tent entrance behind him. ¹¹Now Abraham and Sarah were old, advanced in age; it had ceased to be with Sarah after the manner of women. ¹²So Sarah laughed to herself, saying, “After I have grown old, and my husband is old, shall I have pleasure?” ¹³The LORD said to Abraham, “Why did Sarah laugh, and say, ‘Shall I indeed bear a child, now that I am old?’ ¹⁴Is anything too wonderful for the LORD? At the set time I will return to you, in due season, and Sarah shall have a son.” ¹⁵But Sarah denied, saying, “I did not laugh”; for she was afraid. He said, “Oh yes, you did laugh.”

21 The LORD dealt with Sarah as he had said, and the LORD did for Sarah as he had promised. ²Sarah conceived and bore Abraham a son in his old age, at the time of which God had spoken to him. ³Abraham gave the name Isaac to his son whom Sarah bore him. ⁴And Abraham circumcised his son Isaac when he was eight days old, as God had commanded him. ⁵Abraham was a hundred years old when his son Isaac was born to

him. ⁶Now Sarah said, “God has brought laughter for me; everyone who hears will laugh with me.” ⁷And she said, “Who would ever have said to Abraham that Sarah would nurse children? Yet I have borne him a son in his old age.”

Matthew 9:35-10:23

³⁵Then Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues, and proclaiming the good news of the kingdom, and curing every disease and every sickness. ³⁶When he saw the crowds, he had compassion for them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. ³⁷Then he said to his disciples, “The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; ³⁸therefore ask the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest.”

10 Then Jesus summoned his twelve disciples and gave them authority over unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to cure every disease and every sickness. ²These are the names of the twelve apostles: first, Simon, also known as Peter, and his brother Andrew; James son of Zebedee, and his brother John; ³Philip and Bartholomew; Thomas and Matthew the tax collector; James son of Alphaeus, and Thaddaeus; ⁴Simon the Cananaean, and Judas Iscariot, the one who betrayed him.

⁵These twelve Jesus sent out with the following instructions: “Go nowhere among the Gentiles, and enter no town of the Samaritans, ⁶but go rather to the lost sheep of the house of Israel. ⁷As you go, proclaim the good news, ‘The kingdom of heaven has come near.’ ⁸Cure the sick, raise the dead, cleanse the lepers, cast out demons. You received without payment; give without payment. ⁹Take no gold, or silver, or copper in your belts, ¹⁰no bag for your journey, or two tunics, or sandals, or a staff; for laborers deserve their food. ¹¹Whatever town or village you enter, find out who in it is worthy, and stay there until you leave. ¹²As you enter the house, greet it. ¹³If the house is worthy, let your peace come upon it; but if it is not worthy, let your peace return to you. ¹⁴If anyone will not welcome you or listen to your

words, shake off the dust from your feet as you leave that house or town. ¹⁵ Truly I tell you, it will be more tolerable for the land of Sodom and Gomorrah on the day of judgment than for that town.

¹⁶ “See, I am sending you out like sheep into the midst of wolves; so be wise as serpents and innocent as doves. ¹⁷ Beware of them, for they will hand you over to councils and flog you in their synagogues; ¹⁸ and you will be dragged before governors and kings because of me, as a testimony to them and the Gentiles. ¹⁹ When they hand you over, do not worry about how you are to speak or what you are to say; for what you are to say will be given to you at that time; ²⁰ for it is not you who speak, but the Spirit of your Father speaking through you. ²¹ Brother will betray brother to death, and a father his child, and children will rise against parents and have them put to death; ²² and you will be hated by all because of my name. But the one who endures to the end will be saved. ²³ When they persecute you in one town, flee to the next; for truly I tell you, you will not have gone through all the towns of Israel before the Son of Man comes.

We Would Be Building

We would be building; temples still undone
O'er crumbling walls their crosses scarcely lift,
Waiting til love can raise the broken stone,
And hearts creative bridge the human rift.
We would be building, Architect Divine,
Reveal the shape of life in your design.

O keep us building, Maker; may our hands
Ne'er falter when the dream is in our hearts,
When to our ears there come divine commands
And all the pride of sinful will departs.
We build with you; O grant enduring worth
Until your promised realm shall come on earth.

Praise to the Living God

Praise to the living God, the God of love and light,
Whose word brought forth the myriad suns
And set the worlds in flight;
Whose infinite design, which we but dimly see,
Pervades all nations, making all a cosmic unity.

Praise to the living God, from whom all things derive,
Whose Spirit formed upon this sphere
The first faint seeds of life.
Who caused them to evolve, unwitting, towards God's goal,
Till humankind stood on the earth, as living, thinking souls.

Praise to the living God, around, within, above,
Beyond the grasp of human mind,
But whom we know as love,
In these tumultuous days, so full of hope and strife,
May we bear witness to the Way, O Source and Goal of life.