



# Johnsville United Methodist Church

Union Bridge, MD

Our mission is to nurture the members of the congregation in developing a personal relationship with God and to share His word and His love with the larger community.

PRAISE, WORSHIP AND CELEBRATION  
July 5, 2020 – Fifth Sunday of Pentecost

## WELCOME

## PRELUDE

“Trust and Obey”

## \* OPENING HYMN

“To God Be the Glory”

UMH 98

1. To God be the glory,  
great things he hath done!  
So loved he the world  
that he gave us his Son,  
who yielded his life  
an atonement for sin,  
and opened the lifegate  
that all may go in.

*Refrain*  
Praise the Lord, praise the Lord,  
let the earth hear his voice!  
Praise the Lord, praise the Lord,  
let the people rejoice!  
O come to the Father through Jesus the Son,  
and give him the glory,  
great things he hath done!

2. O perfect redemption,  
the purchase of blood,  
to every believer  
the promise of God;  
the vilest offender  
who truly believes,  
that moment from Jesus  
a pardon receives.

*Refrain*

3. Great things he hath taught us,  
great things he hath done  
and great our rejoicing  
thru Jesus the Son;  
but purer and higher,  
and greater will be  
our wonder, our transport,  
When Jesus we see.

*Refrain*

Call to Worship (Matt 11)

One: Come to Christ, all who are weary and carry heavy burdens.

**Many: In Christ, we find rest. Bear Christ's yoke and learn from him.**

One: In Christ, we find peace. For Christ is gentle and humble in heart.

**Many: In Christ, we find safety.**

One: Christ's yoke is easy, and his burden light. In Christ, we find strength.

**Many: Come to Christ this day. Wisdom is vindicated by her deeds.**

Opening Prayer (Matt 11)

**Welcomer of weary travelers, we have carried our burdens long and yearn to lay them down. Give us your rest and your peace, even as we take your yoke upon us, for your yoke is easy, and your burden is light. Amen.**

Special Music

"Hallelujah"

MacKenzie Trout, vocal, Wayne Trout, guitar

PRAYER OF INTERCESSION

Prophetic One, you call us to new places and new ways. You challenge us to dance new steps and to sing new songs. We yearn to follow you with confidence and joy, but our resistance is often stronger than our willingness. At times, our steps falter. At moments we can't even hear your voice, let alone recognize your voice in our hearts. Strengthen us with your mercy. Renew us with your grace. Sing to us with your compassion. Connect us with your yoke of unconditional love, that we may follow you joyously, dance confidently, and sing praise and love with every act and with our very lives. Heal us and heal those needing your healing touch that we may be one in your and your son Jesus who taught us to pray using these words...

THE LORD'S PRAYER

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 trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass 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.

\* HYMN

"You Are Mine"

TFWS 2218

1. I will come to you in the silence,  
I will lift you from all your fear.  
You will hear my voice,  
I claim you as my choice,  
be still and know I am here.

2. I am hope for all who are hopeless,  
I am eyes for all who long to see.  
In the shadows of the night,  
I will be your light,  
Come and rest in me.

*Refrain*

3. I am strength for all the despairing,

Do not be afraid, I am with you.  
I have called you each by name.  
Come and follow me,  
I will bring you home;  
I love you and you are mine.

Healing for the ones who dwell in shame.  
All the blind will see,  
the lame will all run free,  
and all will know my name.  
*Refrain*

4. I am the Word that leads all to freedom,  
I am the peace the world cannot give.  
I will call your name,  
embracing all your pain,  
stand up, now walk, and live!  
*Refrain*

Hebrew Scripture Lessons: Genesis 24:34-38, 42-49, 58-67

**Abraham's servant is retelling the story of God keeping God's promise to Abraham for the trust that Abraham demonstrated to God.**

God gave to Abraham in abundance.

This servant was sent to bring back a wife for Isaac.

In this percope he is trying to convince the family of the soon to be wife that this is God's will to marry Isaac.

34 So he said, 'I am Abraham's servant. <sup>35</sup>The Lord has greatly blessed my master, and he has become wealthy; he has given him flocks and herds, silver and gold, male and female slaves, camels and donkeys.

<sup>36</sup>And Sarah my master's wife bore a son to my master when she was old; and he has given him all that he has.

<sup>37</sup>My master made me swear, saying, "You shall not take a wife for my son from the daughters of the Canaanites, in whose land I live;

<sup>38</sup>but you shall go to my father's house, to my kindred, and get a wife for my son."

42 'I came today to the spring, and said, "O Lord, the God of my master Abraham, if now you will only make successful the way I am going!

<sup>43</sup>I am standing here by the spring of water; let the young woman who comes out to draw, to whom I shall say, 'Please give me a little water from your jar to drink,'

<sup>44</sup>and who will say to me, 'Drink, and I will draw for your camels also'—let her be the woman whom the Lord has appointed for my master's son."

45 'Before I had finished speaking in my heart, there was Rebekah coming out with her water-jar on her shoulder; and she went down to the spring, and drew. I said to her, "Please let me drink."

<sup>46</sup>She quickly let down her jar from her shoulder, and said, “Drink, and I will also water your camels.” So I drank, and she also watered the camels.

<sup>47</sup>Then I asked her, “Whose daughter are you?” She said, “The daughter of Bethuel, Nahor’s son, whom Milcah bore to him.”

So I put the ring on her nose, and the bracelets on her arms.

<sup>48</sup>Then I bowed my head and worshipped the Lord, and blessed the Lord, the God of my master Abraham, who had led me by the right way to obtain the daughter of my master’s kinsman for his son.

<sup>49</sup>Now then, if you will deal loyally and truly with my master, tell me; and if not, tell me, so that I may turn either to the right hand or to the left.’

<sup>58</sup>And they called Rebekah, and said to her, ‘Will you go with this man?’ She said, ‘I will.’

<sup>59</sup>So they sent away their sister Rebekah and her nurse along with Abraham’s servant and his men.

<sup>60</sup>And they blessed Rebekah and said to her,  
‘May you, our sister, become thousands of myriads;  
may your offspring gain possession  
of the gates of their foes.’

<sup>61</sup>Then Rebekah and her maids rose up, mounted the camels, and followed the man; thus the servant took Rebekah, and went his way.

<sup>62</sup> Now Isaac had come from<sup>\*</sup> Beer-lahai-roi,

(Bee’ uhr-luh-hi’ roi) and was settled in the Neg’eb. <sup>63</sup>Isaac went out in the evening to walk<sup>\*</sup> in the field; and looking up, he saw camels coming.

<sup>64</sup>And Rebekah looked up, and when she saw Isaac, she slipped quickly from the camel,

<sup>65</sup>and said to the servant, ‘Who is the man over there, walking in the field to meet us?’

The servant said, ‘It is my master.’ So she took her veil and covered herself.

<sup>66</sup>And the servant told Isaac all the things that he had done.

<sup>67</sup>Then Isaac brought her into his mother Sarah’s tent.

He took Rebekah, and she became his wife; and he loved her.

So Isaac was comforted after his mother’s death.

Sermon: “Training the Heart to Trust God”

Pastor Shari McCourt

This week we have fast forwarded in the story of Abraham and Sarah to the point of the need for a wife for Isaac. Their only son has come of age to marry. Abraham sent his servant to the land that he was from to find a wife for Isaac and bring her back for him.

Abraham had prayed about all of this and sent his servant out to do the will of the Lord. In Genesis 24:7, Abraham claimed that an angel of the Lord would go before the servant to prepare the way. Abraham made the servant promise to carry out God's plan.

The servant prayed for help from God. He wanted a sign, <sup>12</sup>“And he said, ‘O Lord, God of my master Abraham, please grant me success today and show steadfast love to my master Abraham. <sup>13</sup>I am standing here by the spring of water, and the daughters of the townspeople are coming out to draw water. <sup>14</sup>Let the girl to whom I shall say, “Please offer your jar that I may drink”, and who shall say, “Drink, and I will water your camels”—let her be the one whom you have appointed for your servant Isaac. By this I shall know that you have shown steadfast love to my master.” At the spring of water before the servant finished his prayer, Rebekah appeared.

It is amazing to me, how many signs the servant needed to trust God that, this is the one. She was beautiful. She came from the desired lineage and was a virgin. Picking up at verse 16, said, “She went down to the spring, filled her jar, and came up. <sup>17</sup>Then the servant ran to meet her and said, ‘Please let me sip a little water from your jar.’ <sup>18</sup>‘Drink, my lord,’ she said, and quickly lowered her jar upon her hand and gave him a drink. <sup>19</sup>When she had finished giving him a drink, she said, ‘I will draw for your camels also, until they have finished drinking.’ <sup>20</sup>So she quickly emptied her jar into the trough and ran again to the well to draw, and she drew for all his camels.” We might wonder if the servant was thinking to himself, “Whoa! I think we hit pay dirt!” “The Lord has indeed provided!” When you think of his promise to Abraham, traveling with the entourage, and actually finding the girl, it is miraculous!

The servant had to convince Rebekah's family that it was God's will that, he take their daughter to marry Isaac. This could not just be some sales pitch this had to be a real calling from God in order to gain trust from this family to send Rebekah on with the servant. The family requested ten days to pray about it, but the servant explained that IT WAS GOD'S WILL.

The mother and the brother called for Rebekah and asked her if she would go with the servant. Rebekah's faith and trust in God was very strong. She answered, “YES!” to leaving her family, giving up her friends, and home, to go where she believe that God called her to go. And, do what she believed that God wanted of her. Her family gave a blessing over her calling. Rebekah rose the next day with her maids and followed the servant.

This story reminds us of blind trust and faith that we need to follow God at different times of our lives. When we look at this story, it is amazing how many people had to say, “Yes!” to God's calling of them, and to be willing to live out their faith. The future generations through Abraham were dependent on people having a heart for trusting God. This is a good example of how God works with us and uses us in God's plan for the good of all people.

Recently, I saw the movie, “Harriet”, produced by Universal Pictures, that I had been interested in seeing. As a child, I loved the stories we read in school about Harriet Tubman, and I read all that I could find about her. Harriet Tubman was born a slave in Dorchester County, Maryland. She sustained a head injury when she was a child that caused her to have visions, and dreams.

As she grew in her faith in the Methodist tradition, Harriet came to understand these visions as a gift from God. It was her gift of faith, and vision through the Holy Spirit that inspired her to lead hundreds of slaves to freedom through the Underground Railroad. Through the guidance of the Holy Spirit, she led people on foot ninety miles, which took between five days to three weeks. Those who traveled with her became to believe that with strong faith in God, all things were possible, even freedom.

Harriet had to depend on her faith in God, and the faith that others had in God, to bring so many to freedom. Harriet and those who worked with the Underground Railroad were ordinary people. What grew to be extraordinary was their faith in God.

The characters from our Hebrew lesson today, practiced, much prayer, and communication with God. Praying before setting off on the journey and praising God for answered prayer are the practices of the heart of trusting God.

Divine presence in any situation does not mean that the future is predetermined in any way. The human “free will” is ever present and at work. That is the very reason that we should look seriously at the faithful practice of talking to God, and asking for guidance from the Holy Spirit.

The servant was seeking, and looking for the signs of God’s will in the situation. Rebekah’s wooing is a result of Divine intervention, but not of large miraculous means, but instead through the hearts, and obedience of ordinary people. The openness that the characters in the story, had a human heart of trust in the Lord, which made it happen according to God’s will.

When we individually and corporately place our will, with our trusting hearts, in God’s hands, blessings flow in abundance. Abraham’s wealth came from a promise made to him from his trust in God. His wealth was more than he could have ever imagined.

Rebekah also had an open heart to love Isaac as the one that God had chosen for her. And, Isaac was open to loving Rebekah as the one God had chosen for him. He was indeed comforted by his wife Rebekah, when his mother passed. God continued to be present in their relationship, because they remained open to God’s presence with them.

This Hebrew scripture lesson challenges us to be intentionally inviting God into our lives and seeking God’s will for all that we think, do, and say. This lesson teaches us how to train our hearts to trust in God. We are also to look for signs of the Living God in our midst and be thankful! Let us be open to and praying for a trusting heart. A heart, that trusts in the Lord no matter what happens. Amen.

OFFERING OF OUR GIFTS TO GOD

**Many thanks for your faithfulness in supporting the ministries of the church.**

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**As an act of worship, please consider keeping current in your tithes and offerings. Even though the church building is closed, we still have financial obligations we need to meet. The mailbox will be checked daily. The address is: Johnsville United Methodist Church, 11106 Green Valley Road, Union Bridge, MD 21791**

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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.

Offering Prayer (Matthew 11)

Receive these gifts we now bring, God of gifts, and bless them to be gifts for your world. Through our giving, renew others, that they too may know the comfort and rest of living in the arms of your compassion and your love. Amen.

\*Closing Hymn

“I Will Trust in the Lord”

UMH 464

1. I will trust in the Lord,  
I will trust in the Lord,  
I will trust in the Lord, till I die;  
I will trust in the Lord,  
I will trust in the Lord,  
I will trust in the Lord, till I die.

2. Sister, will you trust,  
sister, will you trust,  
sister will you trust, till you die;  
sister, will you trust,  
sister, will you trust,  
Sister, will your trust, till you die.

3. Brother, will you trust,  
brother, will you trust,  
brother, will you trust, till you die;  
brother, will you trust,  
brother, will you trust,  
brother, will you trust, till you die.

4. Preacher, will you trust,  
preacher, will you trust,  
preacher, will you trust, till you die.  
preacher, will you trust,  
preacher, will you trust,  
Preacher, will you trust, till you die.

\* BENEDICTION

Go forth, as people renewed by the love of God.

Go forth to renew others with this very love!

POSTLUDE

“Tis So Sweet to Trust in Jesus”