

TWELFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
August 7, 2016

PRE-SERVICE MUSIC

AS WE GATHER.....Life brings many things to worry about: money, health issues, relationships, choices, and so much more. Today we see the worry of Abram and Sarai: would God's promise to them actually come true, since they had no son yet? "O Lord God, what will You give me, for I continue childless," lamented Abram. Amid their worry, Abraham "went out not knowing where he was going.....By faith he went." Jesus teaches us, "Do not be anxious about your life." Like Abraham and Sarah, we live by faith in the midst of all there is to worry about in the world. Worry freezes us. Worry turns us in on ourselves. The alternative to worry is to venture out toward the people in need around us, believing, by faith, that God will use us to bless the world as He blessed the world through Abraham and Sarah and their ultimate descendant, our Lord Jesus.

RINGING OF THE BELL

(After the ringing of the bell, we take a few moments in silence to prepare our hearts and minds for worship)

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

OPENING BLESSING

P: In the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

OPENING SENTENCES

P: Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.

C: By faith, we understand that God created the universe by His Word.

P: By faith, Abel obeyed God and received eternal life.

C: By faith, Enoch pleased God.

P: By faith, Noah built the ark and became an heir of God's righteousness.

C: By faith, Abraham obeyed God and ventured to a land he did not know.

P: By faith, Sarah welcomed the promise of God in a son.

C: By faith, we look to God—Father, Son and Holy Spirit—to overcome our worries, to guide our lives, and to open our eyes to our neighbor's needs.

OPENING UP TO GOD

P: Worry reveals that we are sinful to the core by nature and that we cannot free ourselves from it. By things done and left undone, we have not loved You with our whole heart. We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.

C: We confess our sins to You, Lord. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that by faith we join Abel, Enoch, Noah, Abraham, and Sarah in blessing the world with Your mercy.

P: Fear not, little flock, for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

I come to the garden alone
While the dew is still on the roses;
And the voice I hear falling on my ear
The Son of God discloses
And He walks with me,
And He talks with me,
And He tells me I am His won,
And the joy we share as we tarry there,
None other has ever known.

He speaks, and the sound of His voice
Is so sweet the birds hush their singing;
And the melody that He gave to me
Within my heart is ringing.
And He walks with me,
And He talks with me,
And He tells me I am His won,
And the joy we share as we tarry there,
None other has ever known.

I'd stay in the garden with Him
Though the night around me be falling;
But He bids me go thru the voice of woe,
His voice to me is calling.
And He walks with me,
And He talks with me,
And He tells me I am His won,
And the joy we share as we tarry there,
None other has ever known.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Let us Pray..... Lord God, You are eternal and You love the human beings You have created with a strong and unfading love. Help us, when faced with the challenges, disappointments, and heartaches that sometimes come our way, not to become so self-absorbed by worry that we forget Your goodness. Replace our worries with confident faith that no matter what the circumstances of our lives, Your love for us endures; through Jesus, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen

SCRIPTURE LESSONS

Old Testament: Genesis 15:1-6

God reiterates His promise to Abram.

After these things the word of the Lord came to Abram in a vision: "Fear not, 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, "Behold, you have given me no offspring, and a member of my household will be my heir." And behold, the word of the Lord came to him: "This man shall not be your heir; your very own son shall be your heir." And he brought him outside and said, "Look toward heaven, and number the stars, if you are able to number them." Then he said to him, "So shall your offspring be." And he believed the Lord, and he counted it to him as righteousness.

Epistle: Hebrews 11:1-16

By faith

Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. For by it the people of old received their commendation. By faith we understand that the universe was created by the word, so that what is seen was not made out of things that are visible.

By Faith Abel offered to God a more acceptable sacrifice than Cain, through which he was commended as righteous, God commending him by accepting his gifts. And through his faith, though he died, he still speaks. By faith Enoch was taken up so that he should not see death, and he was not found, because God had taken him. Now before he was taken he was commended as having pleased God. And without faith it is impossible to please him, for whoever would draw near to God must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who seek him. By faith Noah, being warned by God concerning events as yet unseen, in reverent fear constructed an ark for the saving of his household. By this he commended the world and became an heir of the righteousness that comes by faith.

By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to go out to a place that he was to receive as an inheritance. And he went out, not knowing where he was going. By faith he went to live in the land of promise, as in a foreign land, living in tents with Isaac and Jacob, heirs with him of the same promise. For he was looking forward to the city that has foundations, whose designer and builder is God. By faith Sarah herself received power to conceive, even when she was past the age, since she considered him faithful who had promised. Therefore from one man, and him as good as dead, were born descendants as many as the stars of heaven and as many as the innumerable grains of sand by the seashore.

These all died in faith, not having received the things promised, but having seen them and greeted them from afar, and having acknowledged that they were strangers and exiles on the earth. For people who speak thus make it clear that they are seeking a homeland. If they had been thinking of that land from which they had gone out, they would have had opportunity to return. But as it is, they desire a better country, that is, a heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God, for he has prepared for them a city.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Gospel: Luke 12:22-34

Fear not, little flock

[Jesus] said to his disciples, "Therefore I tell you, do not be anxious about your life, what you will eat, nor about your body, what you will put on. For his life is more than food, and the body more than clothing. Consider the ravens: they neither sow nor reap, they have neither storehouse nor barn, and yet God feeds them. Of how much more value are you than the birds! And which of you by being anxious can add a single hour to his span of life? If then you are not able to do as small a thing as that, why are you anxious about the rest? Consider the lilies, how they grow: they neither toil nor spin, yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these. But if God so clothes the grass, which is alive in the field today, and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, how much more will he clothe you, O you of little faith! And do not seek what you are to eat and what you are to drink, nor be worried. For all the nations of the world seek after these things, and your Father knows that you need them. Instead, seek his kingdom and these things will be added to you.

Fear not, little flock, for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom. Sell your possessions, and give to the needy. Provide yourselves with moneybags that do not grow old, with a treasure in the heavens that does not fail, where no thief approaches and no moth destroys. For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also."

SERMON HYMN

On Eagles' Wings

**You who dwell in the shelter of the Lord,
Who abide in His shadow for life,
Say to the Lord: "My refuge, My rock in whom I trust!"
And He will raise you up on eagles' wings,
Bear you on the breath of dawn, Make you to shine like the sun,
And hold you in the palm of His hand.**

**The snare of the fowler will never capture you,
And famine will bring you no fear;
Under His wings your refuge,
His faithfulness your shield.
And He will raise you up on eagles' wings,
Bear you on the breath of dawn, Make you to shine like the sun,
And hold you in the palm of His hand.**

**You need not fear the terror of the night,
Nor the arrow that flies by day;
Though thousands fall about you.....Near you it shall not come.
And He will raise you up on eagles' wings,
Bear you on the breath of dawn, Make you to shine like the sun,
And hold you in the palm of His hand.**

**For to His angels He's given a command
To guard you in all of your way;
Up on their hands they will bear you up.....Lest you dash your foot against a stone.
And He will raise you up on eagles' wings,
Bear you on the breath of dawn, Make you to shine like the sun,
And hold you in the palm of His hand.**

SERMON

“Promises that Deliver”

[Part 1](#)

[Part 2](#)

WE SHARE OUR FAITH (An Explanation of how God cares and provides)

P: I believe that God has made me and all creatures;

C: that He has given me my body and soul, eyes, ears, and all my members,

P: my reason and all my senses, and still takes care of them.

C: He also gives me clothing and shoes, food and drink, house and home, wife and children, land, animals, and all I have.

P: He richly and daily provides me with all that I need to support this body and life.

C: He defends me against all danger

P: and guards and protects me from all evil.

C: All this He does out of fatherly, divine goodness and mercy, without any merit or worthiness in me.

ALL: For all this it is my duty to thank and praise, serve and obey Him. This is most certainly true.

OFFERING

(We offer our thanksgiving for what God has first given us—our selves, our time, our possessions)

OFFERTORY

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

After each portion of the prayers, these words are spoken:

P: Lord, in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer

GREAT THANKSGIVING

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Lift up your hearts.

C: We lift them to the Lord.

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

LORD’S PRAYER

DISTRIBUTION

DISTRIBUTION HYMNS

“Red Book” 119 Just As I Am

Just as I am, without one plea,
But that thy blood was shed for me,
And that thou bidd’st me come to thee,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

Just as I am, and waiting not
To rid my soul of one dark blot,

To thee, whose blood can cleanse each spot,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

Just as I am, though tossed about
With many a conflict, many a doubt,
Fightings and fears within, without,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

Just as I am, poor, wretched, blind;
Sight, riches, healing of the mind,
Yea, all I need, in thee to find,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

Just as I am, thou wilt receive,
Wilt welcome, pardon, cleanse, relieve;
Because thy promise I believe,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

“Red Book” 14 Bind us Together
Bind us together Lord, Bind us together with cords that cannot be broken,
Bind us together Lord, Bind us together
Bind us together with love.
There is only one God.
There is only one King.
There is only one body.
That is why I sing.
Bind us together Lord, Bind us together with cords that cannot be broken,
Bind us together Lord, Bind us together
Bind us together with love.

BENEDICTION

P: The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look upon you with favor and.....+ give you peace.

C: Amen.

CLOSING HYMN Precious Lord Take My Hand

Precious Lord, take my hand.....Lead me on, let me stand;
I am tired, I am weak, I am worn.
Through the storms, through the night.....Lead me on to the light.
Take my hand, precious Lord; lead me home

When my way grows drear.....Precious Lord, linger near,
When my life is almost gone,
Hear my cry, hear my call.....Hold my hand lest I fall.
Take my hand, precious Lord; lead me home.

When the darkness appears.....And the night draws near
And the day is almost gone,

At the river I stand; Guide my feet, hold my hand,
Take my hand, precious Lord; lead me home.

DISMISSAL

P: Go in Peace. Serve the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.