

## **Sunday Worship - September 18, 2022**



<https://www.preceptaustin.org/genesis-12-commentary>

**Narrative Lectionary Year 1 Week 2**  
**God's Promises Bring Hope - God Calls Abram**

**First Presbyterian Church of Mount Vernon, Iowa**

*“Striving to live as Jesus lived –  
confronting injustice with love, compassion, service.”*

## Welcome to Worship

PRELUDE

RINGING OF THE HOUR

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

L: The Lord be with you.

**P: And also with you.**

INTROIT

**\*CALL TO WORSHIP**

L: In faith, Abraham and Sarah set out for a new land.

**P: In faith, we seek to follow God in our lives.**

L: In faith, the church continually seeks to understand what God is calling us to be and do in this present moment.

**P: In faith, we gather now to worship, in the presence of the one who calls us forth, and our companions on the journey.**

**\*HYMN** #49 The God of Abraham Praise

*1: The God of Abraham praise,  
who reigns enthroned above;  
The Ancient of Eternal Days,  
the God of Love;  
The Lord, great I AM!  
by earth and heaven confessed;  
We bow before your holy name  
forever blest.*

*2: Your spirit still flows free,  
high surging where it will.  
In prophet's word you spoke of old  
and you speak still.  
Established is your law,  
and changeless it shall stand,  
Deep writ upon the human heart  
by your strong hand.*

*3: The goodly land we seek,  
with peace and plenty blest;  
a land of sacred liberty,  
and Sabbath rest.  
There milk and honey flow,  
and oil and wine abound,  
and trees of life forever grow  
with mercy crowned.*

*4: You have eternal life  
implanted in the soul,  
Your love shall be our strength and stay,  
while ages roll.  
We praise you, living God!  
We praise your holy name  
the first, the last, beyond all thought,  
and still the same.*

**\*CALL TO CONFESSION & PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

L: The path of faithfulness is the path of humility. Let us bow before the God who created us and confess that which betrays us and our faith.

**All: God of all nations and kingdoms,**

**God of all cultures and races,**

**we praise you for your involvement with all of creation:**

**with the high and the lowly;**

**with the rich and the poor;**

**with the powerful and the oppressed;**

**none is beyond your reach**

**and none are without your compassionate embrace.**

**So forgive our trial and judgment of others,**

**the harshness with which we condemn,**

**our lack of tolerance and patience,**

**our failure to understand.**

**You, who blesses all nations and people without discrimination,  
whose will for all people is good.**

**May we be content to walk the paths in which you lead us,  
to follow your way in faith,**

**and, by your Spirit, to bring blessing wherever we go.**

**God of yesterday, today and tomorrow,**

**blessed be your name in all the earth.**

*Time of silent prayer*

**\*WORDS OF ASSURANCE**

L: God is gracious, and so God keeps guiding us along the path of life: offering correction where we wander, giving praise where we get it right, and supporting us when the way is difficult.

Friends, believe this good news!

**P: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. Thanks be to God! Amen.**

**\*RESPONSE** #750 Goodness Is Stronger than Evil

*Goodness is stronger than evil;*

*love is stronger than hate;*

*light is stronger than darkness;*

*life is stronger than death.*

*Victory is ours; victory is ours*

*through God who loves us. (repeat)*

**\*PASSING OF THE PEACE**

L: May mercy, peace, and love be yours in abundance.

The peace of Christ be with you.

**P: And also with you.**

## DISCOVERY TIME - Noisy Offering for Southeast Linn Community Center

### Magic Penny by Malvina Reynolds

*Love is something if you give it away,  
Give it away, give it away.  
Love is something if you give it away,  
You end up having more.  
It's just like a magic penny,  
Hold it tight and you won't have any.  
Lend it, spend it, and you'll have so many  
They'll roll all over the floor.  
For love is something if you give it away,  
Give it away, give it away.  
Love is something if you give it away,  
You end up having more.*

### SCRIPTURE READING

L: In the beginning was the Word.

**P: And the Word was with God, and the Word was God.**

L: And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us.

Genesis 12:1-9 (NRSV) - The Call of Abram

*Reader 1:* The Lord said to Abram,

***The Lord (Congregation):* “Leave your land, your family, and your father’s household for the land that I will show you. I will make of you a great nation and will bless you. I will make your name respected, and you will be a blessing.**

**I will bless those who bless you,  
those who curse you I will curse;  
all the families of the earth  
will be blessed because of you.”**

*Reader 1:* Abram left just as the Lord told him, and Lot went with him. Now Abram was 75 years old when he left Haran. Abram took his wife Sarai, his nephew Lot, all of their possessions, and those who became members of their household in Haran; and they set out for the land of Canaan.

*Reader 2:* When they arrived in Canaan, Abram traveled through the land as far as the sacred place at Shechem, at the oak of Moreh. The Canaanites lived in the land at that time. The Lord appeared to Abram and said,

***The Lord (Congregation):* “I give this land to your descendants,”**

*Reader 2:* so Abram built an altar there to the Lord who appeared to him. From there he traveled toward the mountains east of Bethel, and pitched his tent with Bethel on the west and Ai on the east. There he built an altar to the Lord and worshipped in the Lord’s name. Then Abram set out toward the arid southern plain, making and breaking camp as he went.

L: For the Word of God in scripture, for the Word of God among us, for the Word of God within us,

**P: Thanks be to God.**

## REFLECTION

Rev. Lori Wunder

### HYMN #51 To Abraham and Sarah

*1. To Abraham and Sarah  
the call of God was clear:  
'Go forth and I will show you  
a country rich and fair.  
You need not fear the journey  
for I have pledged my word:  
that you shall be my people  
and I will be your God.'*

*2. From Abraham and Sarah  
arose a pilgrim race,  
dependent for their journey  
on God's abundant grace.*

*and in their heart was written  
by God this saving word:  
'That you shall be my people  
and I will be your God.'*

*3. We of this generation  
on whom God's hand is laid,  
can journey to the future  
secure and unafraid!  
rejoicing in God's goodness  
and trusting in this word:  
'That you shall be my people  
and I will be your God.'*

### SHARING OF JOYS & CONCERNS AND 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 debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.**

### CALL FOR THE OFFERING

L: We belong to God. Everything we have, even life itself, is a gift from God. In gratitude to God, let us return a portion of these gifts as our tithe and offering.

### GATHERING OF THE GIFTS

#### OFFERTORY

\*HYMN OF THANKSGIVING #70 What Does the Lord Require

#### \*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

**Giver of every good gift, your generosity to us is without limit. We thank you that you have blessed us, and we acknowledge that you intend for us to share our blessings with others and with our world. Take what we offer this day, make more of it, do more with it, than we can ask or imagine. In Christ's name we ask it. Amen.**

\*HYMN #747 The Lord Now Sends Us Forth

*The Lord now sends us forth  
with hands to serve and give,  
to make of all the earth  
a better place to live. (Repeat)*

*The angels are not sent  
into our world of pain  
to do what we were meant  
to do in Jesus' name;  
that falls to you and me  
and all who are made free.  
Help us, O Lord, we pray,  
to do your will today. (Repeat)*

\*BENEDICTION

\*POSTLUDE

## Welcome to the Narrative Lectionary!

*The Narrative Lectionary is a four-year cycle of readings. On the Sundays from September through May (Pentecost Sunday) the texts follow the sweep of the biblical story, from Creation through the early Christian church. The texts show the breadth and variety of voices within Scripture, from Abraham and Sarah, Moses and the prophets, to Jesus and Paul, listening to the many different voices within scripture can enrich the life of faith.*

*Additionally, our children's curriculum will follow these same stories!*

### **Narrative Lectionary Year 1 - Guided by God's Promises**

God makes promises to God's people and to all creation and is faithful in keeping those promises. In the first story in this year's lectionary, God promises not to destroy the earth by flood ever again. Continuing with the covenant with the Israelites, the promise of Jesus, and Paul's words that nothing can separate us from God, the narrative of scripture follows God's promises and God's faithfulness to them. God keeps promises, even though we often struggle to respond faithfully. It is these promises that should guide our own lives and decisions as we trust fully in God. Faith in the promises of God gives us the courage to work and speak for justice, to live in hope no matter the circumstances, and to share the good news of Jesus with all people.

First Series, September 11 through October 9, 2022

#### ***God's Promises Bring Hope***

9/11/22	Genesis 6:5-22; 8:6012; 9:8-17	Noah and the Ark
9/18/22	Genesis 12:1-9	God Calls Abraham
9/25/22	Genesis 39:1-23	Joseph's Hope
10/2/22	Exodus 14:5-7, 10-14, 21-29	Parting of the Red Sea
10/9/22	Exodus 19:3-7; 20:1-17	The Ten Commandments

*God's promises being hope for the future. After the flood, God promises God's loving relationship with all people. God promises Abram a future of descendants through which all the world will be blessed. God's presence brings Joseph hope even as he faces trials. Rescuing the Israelites, God promises to be their God, a Central theme in the Hebrew Scriptures. The gift of this covenant and the Ten Commandments provides the Israelites with guidelines on how to love God and love others in ways that bring life and hope to all.*