

PARK CENTRAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
SUNDAY, JULY 19

CHIMING OF THE HOUR

WELCOME

- *As you settle in for a time of reflection and prayer, close your eyes for a moment. Imagine yourself sitting in the sanctuary at Park Central as worship begins on a Sunday morning.*
- *Take two or three deep breaths and feel the warmth of the sun streaming through the stained-glass windows. Listen for the sounds of the organ and the rustling of the dear people sitting around you.*
- *Know that God is present among us even when we are not worshipping together in our sanctuary.*
- *Let us still our hearts, quiet our minds, and come to worship God.*

PRELUDE

OPENING PRAYER

Rock of Israel,
we cannot predict your coming or going,
yet you have given us your story, your family,
your work to do.
Meet us as we come into your presence for worship.
Shape us for service in your world,
for we carry the name of Jesus
and live by the power of your breath. Amen.

CALL TO WORSHIP

People of God, let us
worship and praise God's name.
I give thanks to you, O God,
with my whole heart.
I will glorify your name forever!
For great is your steadfast love for me.
You have delivered my soul from the depths.
God says, "Know that I am with you and
will keep you wherever you go."

HYMN

I Sing the Mighty Power of God



CALL TO CONFESSION

Trusting in God's mercy,
let us acknowledge to ourselves and each other
those ways we fall short from what God
intends for us,
all of which God already knows.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Merciful God,
we are so likely to turn to our own ways
even when we intend to follow the way of Jesus.
We are quick to excuse ourselves from responsibility:
we are young; we are old; we are tired; we are busy.
It is hard to imagine that we might make a difference.
Life-giving God,
wash us clean.
Restore our imaginations and our hearts.
Let your courage and compassion flow through our veins
until we love with abandon
and our hands reach out in blessing
as we follow the way of abundance and everlasting life. Amen.

Pause and continue your prayers for a time in silence.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Hear the good news!
In the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus,
God says unequivocally, irrevocably:
you are my own;
you are forgiven;
and I need you to be about my business in the world.

GLORIA

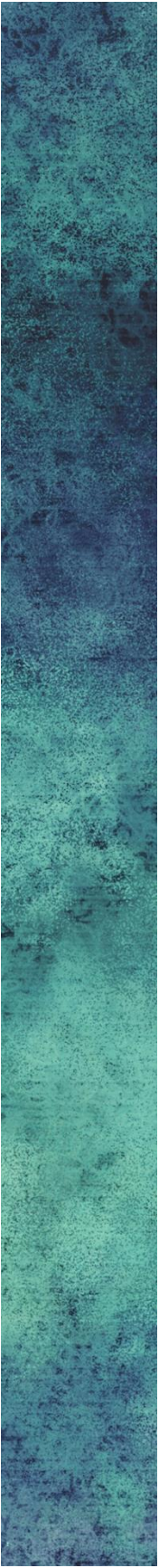
SCRIPTURE AND HOMILY

First Lesson – Psalm 86:11-17

[read by Kent Bradshaw](#)

Second Lesson – Genesis 25:19-34, 28:10-19a

These are the descendants of Isaac, Abraham's son: Abraham was the father of Isaac, and Isaac was forty years old when he married Rebekah, daughter of Bethuel the Aramean of Paddan-aram, sister of Laban the Aramean. Isaac prayed to God for his wife, because she was barren; and God granted his prayer, and his wife Rebekah conceived. The children struggled together within her; and she said,



“If it is to be this way, why do I live?” So she went to inquire of God. And God said to her,

“Two nations are in your womb,
and two peoples born of you shall be divided;
the one shall be stronger than the other,
the elder shall serve the younger.”

When her time to give birth was at hand, there were twins in her womb. The first came out red, all his body like a hairy mantle; so they named him Esau. Afterward his brother came out, with his hand gripping Esau’s heel; so he was named Jacob. Isaac was sixty years old when she bore them.

When the boys grew up, Esau was a skillful hunter, a man of the field, while Jacob was a quiet man, living in tents. Isaac loved Esau, because he was fond of game; but Rebekah loved Jacob.

Once when Jacob was cooking a stew, Esau came in from the field, and he was famished. Esau said to Jacob, “Let me eat some of that red stuff, for I am famished!” (Therefore he was called Edom.) Jacob said, “First sell me your birthright.” Esau said, “I am about to die; of what use is a birthright to me?” Jacob said, “Swear to me first.” So he swore to him, and sold his birthright to Jacob. Then Jacob gave Esau bread and lentil stew, and he ate and drank, and rose and went his way. Thus Esau despised his birthright.

Jacob left Beer-sheba and went toward Haran. He came to a certain place and stayed there for the night, because the sun had set. Taking one of the stones of the place, he put it under his head and lay down in that place. And he dreamed that there was a ladder set up on the earth, the top of it reaching to heaven; and the angels of God were ascending and descending on it. And God stood beside him and said, “I am the God of Abraham your father and the God of Isaac; the land on which you lie I will give to you and to your offspring; and your offspring shall be like the dust of the earth, and you shall spread abroad to the west and to the east and to the north and to the south; and all the families of the earth shall be blessed in you and in your offspring. Know that I am with you and will keep you wherever you go, and will bring you back to this land; for I will not leave you until I have done what I have promised you.” Then Jacob woke from his sleep and said, “Surely God is in this place — and I did not know it!” And he was afraid, and said, “How awesome is this place! This is none other than the house of God, and this is the gate of heaven.”

So Jacob rose early in the morning, and he took the stone that he had put under his head and set it up for a pillar and poured oil on the top of it. He called that place Bethel.

[Homily](#)



PRAYERS


Gracious Creator,
you know the complicated histories
that have carried us to this moment.
You know the names of all our generations,
for you are there in each story of falling away
and turning home,
in our long years of wandering,
and in the shining moments
when we recognize your presence
and find the grace to worship you.
You are no stranger to the striving
or the listlessness of humanity.

We dare to ask that you would come to us
again as we are on this day.
In the midst of our boredom, our self-congratulation,
our limited vision,
in the midst of our fear, our suffering, our despair,
surprise us with the breath of new life
that will not be restrained.
Strengthen in us the fruits of your Spirit,
and teach us to pray for others and for ourselves.

We pray for all who flee from pasts
by which they are haunted.
We lift up all who feel abandoned by a future
for which they had hoped.
We plead for all who do not know that they are loved and chosen.
We intercede for our own divided souls.

Help us to trust that you are at work in every mingled heart,
every conflicted community.
Nourish the life you plant within us,
that we might keep seeding the world
with your truth and your grace;
in the name of Jesus, who gave his life
out of love for the world.

Fill us again with your Spirit,
as we pray now for your kingdom,
using the words Jesus taught us:
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.

HYMN

[Lord of All Good](#)

OFFERING

Consider what you have to give this week. What do you carry in your heart and what do you carry in your pockets that you can share?

The “Give Now” button on the church website has been temporarily disabled due to some technical problems. Until the button is working again, please send your donations by check to the church: 504 East Fayette Street, Syracuse, 13202. Your gifts will make an impact as we continue to reach out and meet needs during this challenging time.

MUSICAL MEDITATION

[O How Amiable](#)

BENEDICTION

Pieces of today’s liturgy were adapted from *Feasting on the Word Worship Companion*.