

God provides a blessing

Genesis 27:1-4, 15-23;
28:10-17



Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost

September 26, 2021, 11am

Park Hill Presbyterian Church (PCUSA)

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Visit our website at parkhillpres.org

liturgy inspired by Rev. Teri Peterson and written for BibleWorm

PRELUDE, WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP

1: Surely the Lord is in this place — whether we know it or not, God is present here.

2: God's promise is true, and God's blessing is for the whole earth.

1: Sleeping and waking, at home and abroad,

2: at work and at school and at play, together and alone,

All: God is with us.

*HYMN OF PRAISE "10,000 Reasons ("Bless The Lord)

Bless the Lord, O my soul; and all that is within me, bless God's holy name!

Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all God's benefits.

CALL TO CONFESSION and CONFESSON

Will you pray with me before the confession?

Gracious God, Your blessing is different than we imagined—more inclusive, in places and people we didn't expect. Open our eyes to recognize you this day, and open our hearts and minds to be fully present to you, trusting your promise to forgive our sins and show us a better way. Amen. Let us confess together, saying, "The Lord is in this place" **Hear us, O God.**

Gracious God, you refuse to be confined by the rules we build for ourselves. We thank you for continually working outside the bounds of our systems, even as we confess, we want others to submit to *our* plans. The Lord is in this place. **Hear us, O God.**

We confess, that we participate in holding back those who undermine broken human systems in response to your blessing; and too often we do not seek to overturn injustice. The Lord is in this place. **Hear us, O God.**

We confess, that we have been known to complain about people using the "wrong" methods, the "wrong" words, moving "too fast." We confess we are afraid of change that challenges us. The Lord is in this place. **Hear us, O God.**

We confess, that though you call us to follow you, we insist that others follow us, and so we ensure our own comfort at the expense of others. Meanwhile you appear in the wilderness, in surprising ways, promising more than we can imagine. Forgive us, Lord, and call us with your blessing once again. Hear the confessions of our hearts.

HYMN OF FORGIVENESS

"Desert Song"

(vs. 1 & chorus)

This is my prayer in the desert. When all that's within me feels dry.

This is my prayer in my hunger and need. My God is the God who provides.

I will bring praise, I will bring praise. No weapon formed against me shall remain.

I will rejoice, I will declare. God is my victory and He is here

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

The mercy of the Lord is from everlasting to everlasting. May the God of mercy, who forgives us all your sins, strengthen us in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep us in eternal life. Friends, believe the Good News, in Jesus Christ we are forgiven—**Thanks be to God! Amen!**

TIME WITH YOUNG DISCIPLES

READING

Genesis 27:1-4, 15-23; 28:10-17

27 Now it came about, when Isaac was old and his eyes were too dim to see, that he called his older son Esau and said to him, "My son." And he said to him, "Here I am."² Then Isaac said, "Behold now, I am old *and* I do not know the day of my death.³ Now then, please take your gear, your quiver and your bow, and go out to the field and hunt game for me;⁴ and prepare a delicious meal for me such as I love, and bring it to me that I may eat, so that my soul may bless you before I die."

⁵ Now Rebekah was listening while Isaac spoke to his son Esau. So when Esau went to the field to hunt for game to bring *home*, ⁶ Rebekah said to her son Jacob, “Behold, I heard your father speak to your brother Esau, saying, ⁷ ‘Bring me *some* game and prepare a delicious meal for me, so that I may eat, and bless you in the presence of the LORD before my death.’ ⁸ So now, my son, listen to ^bme ^cas I command you.

¹⁵ Then Rebekah took the best garments of her elder son Esau, which were with her in the house, and put them on her younger son Jacob. ¹⁶ And she put the skins of the young goats on his hands and on the smooth part of his neck. ¹⁷ She also gave the delicious meal and the bread which she had made to her son Jacob.

¹⁸ Then he came to his father and said, "My father." And he said, "Here I am. Who are you, my son?" ¹⁹ Jacob said to his father, "I am Esau your firstborn; I have done as you told me. Come now, sit and eat of my game, so that you may bless me." ²⁰ Isaac said to his son, "How is it that you have *it* so quickly, my son?" And he said, "Because the LORD your God made *it* come to me." ²¹ Then Isaac said to Jacob, "Please come close, so that I may feel you, my son, whether you are really my son Esau or not." ²² So Jacob came close to his father Isaac, and he touched him and said, "The voice is the voice of Jacob, but the hands are the hands of Esau." ²³ And he did not recognize him, because his hands were hairy like his brother Esau's hands; so he blessed him.

²⁸ Now may God give you of the dew of heaven,
And of the fatness of the earth,
And an abundance of grain and new wine;
²⁹ May peoples serve you,
And nations bow down to you;
Be master of your brothers,
And may your mother's sons bow down to you.
Cursed be those who curse you,
And blessed be those who bless you.”

⁴¹ So Esau held a grudge against Jacob because of the blessing with which his father had blessed him; and Esau said ^wto himself, “The days of mourning for my father are near; then I will kill my brother Jacob.” ⁴² Now when the words of her elder son Esau were reported to Rebekah, she sent *word* and called her younger son Jacob, and said to him, “Behold your brother Esau is consoling himself concerning you *by planning* to kill you. ⁴³ Now then, my son, obey my voice, and arise, ^wflee to Haran, to my brother Laban! ⁴⁴ Stay with him a few days, until your brother’s fury ^xsubsides, ⁴⁵ until your brother’s anger ^wagainst you subsides and he forgets what you did to him. Then I will send *word* and get you from there. Why should I lose you both in one day?”

¹⁰ Then Jacob departed from Beersheba and went toward Haran. ¹¹ And he happened upon a particular place and spent the night there, because the sun had set; and he took one of the stones of the place and made it a support for his head, and lay down in that place. ¹² And he had a dream, and behold, a ladder was set up on the earth with its top reaching to heaven; and behold, the angels of God were ascending and descending on it.

¹³ Then behold, the LORD was standing ^[c] above it and said, "I am the LORD, the God of your father Abraham and the God of Isaac; the land on which you lie I will give to you and to your descendants. ¹⁴ Your ^[c] descendants will also be like the dust of the earth, and you will spread out to the west and to the east, and to the north and to the south; and in you and in your descendants shall all the families of the earth be blessed. ¹⁵ Behold, 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." ¹⁶ Then Jacob awoke from his sleep and said, "The LORD is certainly in this place, and I did not know it!" ¹⁷ 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!"

¹⁸ So Jacob got up early in the morning, and took the stone that he had placed as a support for his head, and set it up as a memorial stone, and poured oil on its top. ¹⁹ Then he named that place ^[in]Bethel;

SERMON

Rev. Marie Mainard-O'Connell

*CREED

The Law of God: Exodus 20:1-17 hymnal pg 36

As our creed for the next several weeks, we will use the Law of God, as it was passed down to Moses on Mt. Sinai by the Lord, and is shared on page 36 of our hymnal. Let us responsively remind ourselves of the law of God. The congregation will say every other command, beginning with the first.

God spoke all these word, saying, I am the Lord your God.
You shall have no other gods before me.

For those places and people who live each day in fear,
under threat of violence from their own family or neighbors or government,
whose only option is to leave their home in search of safety,
we ask your blessing of peace and courage and hospitality.
Be with us now, good Lord, **help us to dream of you**

For those places and people overwhelmed with illness or treatments,
suffering in the wilderness of loneliness or grief,
we ask your blessing of compassion and healing and wonder.
Be with us now, good Lord, **help us to dream of you.**

For those places and people confined and constrained,
oppressed by an inability to imagine a new way,
continuing unjust patterns simply because it's the way things are,
we ask your blessing of disruption and holy troublemaking.
Be with us now, good Lord, **help us to dream of you**

Make this a thin place today, God, and let your kingdom shine through,
even here, even now, even in us. We ask in the name of Jesus the Christ, who lived your
life among us, breaking down barriers of earth and heaven that all might see your grace.
Be with us now, good Lord, **help us to dream of you.**

Help us to pray as Jesus taught us, saying...
Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.
Thy kingdom come, they 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.

MOMENT FOR MISSION

GIVING OF OUR OFFERINGS AND TITHES

All that we have is a gift from God, whose promise is fulfilled every day. As a sign of
our faith, God asks us to give of ourselves not only what is easy, but also what is mean-
ingful and valuable. We return our gifts for the work of God's kingdom to be made
known in this place, revealing God's goodness to all who will see. We offer

Family Promise Dinners in October

ourselves and our gifts to God, in gratitude for God's faithfulness to us. May our of-
ferings be a reminder of God's amazing generosity, and may they be for others a bless-
ing that opens the way of abundant life. You may give by leaving an offering in the
plate as you exit the sanctuary, or by giving online through our webpage.

We also want to acknowledge that some gifts are meant for those who worship here,
and so if you find yourself in need—physical, mental, or spiritual—that you would
share your need with our elder for Congregational Care, Mary Henry, or with our
Pastor, as we are called to help one another in our need as well.

*Doxology "Praise God, From Whom All Blessings Flow" Video
Praise God, from whom all blessings flow. Praise God, all creatures here below.
Praise God above ye heavenly host,
Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.

*PRAYER

*HYMN OF SENDING "Standing On The Promises," vs. 1, 2, 4
Standing on the promises of Christ my king, through eternal ages let his praises ring;
Glory in the highest, I will shout and sing, standing on the promises of God. Standing,
standing, standing on the promises of God my Savior; standing, standing,
I'm standing on the promises of God.

Standing on the promises that cannot fail, when the howling storms of doubt and fear
assail, By the living Word of God I shall prevail, standing on the promises of God.
Standing, standing, standing on the promises of God my Savior; standing, standing,
I'm standing on the promises of God.

Standing on the promises I cannot fall, listening every moment to the Spirit's call,
Resting in my Savior as my all in all, standing on the promises of God.
Standing, standing, standing on the promises of God my Savior;
standing, standing, I'm standing on the promises of God.

* PASSING THE PEACE, CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

"The LORD bless you and keep you; The LORD's face shine upon you, and be
gracious to you; The LORD lift up his countenance upon you, and give you peace."

*POSTLUDE