

WORSHIP SERVICE

Northampton Presbyterian Church

*“Simple Gifts Worship”
Sixth Sunday After Pentecost*

*July 9, 2023
10:00 AM*

PRELUDE

Lord, Hear Us Pray

Steven Scott

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Worship Committee, Tuesday (7/11) at 7 PM.
- Men's Breakfast, Wednesday (7/12) at 8:30 AM at Robin Hood.

RESPONSIVE CALL TO WORSHIP

(Inspired by Matthew 11:29 & Revelation 21:5)

ONE: Come all who are weary

MANY: Of wealth, of poverty, of power, of struggle, of division.

ONE: Come all who are heavy-laden

MANY: With too much, with too little, with anxiety, with fear, with anger.

ONE: Come all who have hope

MANY: For liberation, for peace, for freedom, for the kingdom.

ONE: Hear these words

MANY: "See, I am making all things new."

HYMN

Jesus, We Are Here

JESUS, TAWA PANO

Jesus, we are here;

Jesus, we are here;

Jesus, we are here;

We are here for you.

Savior, we are here;

Savior, we are here;

Savior, we are here;

We are here for you.

**Teacher, we are here;
Teacher, we are here;
Teacher, we are here;
We are here for you.**

**Spirit, we are here;
Spirit, we are here;
Spirit, we are here;
We are here for you.**

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

READER'S THEATER

Genesis 24:34-67

NARRATOR Abraham sent his servant to find a wife for Isaac, his son, from among their kinfolk in the old country, Aram. After making the long journey, the servant found himself in the house of Bethuel, Abraham's nephew. He told the family gathered there what had happened.

SERVANT “I am Abraham’s servant. 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. 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. My master made me swear, saying,

ABRAHAM ‘You shall not take a wife for my son from the daughters of the Canaanites, in whose land I live; but you shall go to my father’s house, to my kindred, and get a wife for my son.’

SERVANT ‘Perhaps the woman will not follow me.’

ABRAHAM ‘The Lord, before whom I walk, will send his angel with you and make your way successful. You shall get a wife for my son from my kindred, from my father’s house. Then you will be free from my oath, when you come to my kindred; even if they will not give her to you, you will be free from my oath.’

SERVANT “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! 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,” and who will say to me,

REBEKAH “Drink, and I will draw for your camels also”

SERVANT —let her be the woman whom the Lord has appointed for my master's son.' "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.' She quickly let down her jar from her shoulder, and said,

REBEKAH 'Drink, and I will also water your camels.'

SERVANT So I drank, and she also watered the camels. Then I asked her, 'Whose daughter are you?' She said,

REBEKAH 'The daughter of Bethuel, Nahor's son, whom Milcah bore to him.'

SERVANT So I put the ring on her nose, and the bracelets on her arms. Then I bowed my head and worshiped 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. 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."

NARRATOR Then Laban and Bethuel answered,

LABAN/BETHUEL **"The thing comes from the Lord; we cannot speak to you anything bad or good. Look, Rebekah is before you, take her and go, and let her be the wife of your master's son, as the Lord has spoken."**

NARRATOR When Abraham's servant heard their words, he bowed himself to the ground before the Lord. And the servant brought out jewelry of silver and of gold, and garments, and gave them to Rebekah; he also gave to her brother and to her mother costly ornaments. Then he and the men who were with him ate and drank, and they spent the night there. When they rose in the morning, he said,

SERVANT "Send me back to my master."

NARRATOR Her brother and her mother said,

LABAN/MILCAH **"Let the girl remain with us a while, at least ten days; after that she may go."**

SERVANT “Do not delay me, since the Lord has made my journey successful; let me go that I may go to my master.”

LABAN/MILCAH **“We will call the girl, and ask her.”**

NARRATOR And they called Rebekah, and said to her,

LABAN/MILCAH **“Will you go with this man?”**

REBEKAH “I will.”

NARRATOR So they sent away their sister Rebekah and her nurse along with Abraham’s servant and his men. And they blessed Rebekah and said to her,

LABAN/MILCAH

/BETHUEL

“May you, our sister, become thousands of myriads; may your offspring gain possession of the gates of their foes.”

NARRATOR

Then Rebekah and her maids rose up, mounted the camels, and followed the man; thus the servant took Rebekah, and went his way. Now Isaac had come from Beer-lahai-roi, and was settled in the Negeb. Isaac went out in the evening to walk in the field; and looking up, he saw camels coming. And Rebekah looked up, and when she saw Isaac, she slipped quickly from the camel, and said to the servant,

REBEKAH

“Who is the man over there, walking in the field to meet us?”

SERVANT

“It is my master.”

NARRATOR So she took her veil and covered herself. And the servant told Isaac all the things that he had done. 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.

NEW TESTAMENT READING

Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30

SERMON

Rest for Your Souls

Rev. Judith A. Dwyer

HYMN

Shall We Gather at the River

HANSON PLACE

**Shall we gather at the river,
Where bright angel feet have trod,
With its crystal tide forever
Flowing by the throne of God?**

**Yes, we'll gather at the river,
The beautiful, the beautiful river;
Gather with the saints at the river
That flows by the throne of God.**

**On the margin of the river,
Washing up its silver spray,
We will walk and worship ever,
All the happy golden day.**

**Yes, we'll gather at the river,
The beautiful, the beautiful river;
Gather with the saints at the river
That flows by the throne of God.**

**Ere we reach the shining river,
Lay we every burden down;
Grace our spirits will deliver,
And provide a robe and crown.**

**Yes, we'll gather at the river,
The beautiful, the beautiful river;
Gather with the saints at the river
That flows by the throne of God.**

**Soon we'll reach the shining river,
Soon our pilgrimage will cease;
Soon our happy hearts will quiver
With the melody of peace.**

**Yes, we'll gather at the river,
The beautiful, the beautiful river;
Gather with the saints at the river
That flows by the throne of God.**

THE OFFERING

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MUSICAL MEDITATION *(Pam Kemper & Steve Cocchia)*

We Are One in the Spirit (They'll Know We Are Christians)

DOXOLOGY AND PRAYER OF DEDICATION

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Him, all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heav'nly host;
Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost.**

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE 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 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, for ever and ever. Amen.

HYMN

I've Got Peace Like a River

PEACE LIKE A RIVER

**I've got peace like a river;
I've got peace like a river;
I've got peace like a river, in my soul.
I've got peace like a river;
I've got peace like a river;
I've got peace like a river, in my soul.**

**I've got joy like a fountain;
I've got joy like a fountain;
I've got joy like a fountain, in my soul.
I've got joy like a fountain;
I've got joy like a fountain;
I've got joy like a fountain, in my soul.**

**I've got love like an ocean;
I've got love like an ocean;
I've got love like an ocean, in my soul.
I've got love like an ocean;
I've got love like an ocean;
I've got love like an ocean, in my soul.**

BLESSING

POSTLUDE

Lo, He Comes, with Clouds Descending

by Ritter

WORSHIP NOTES:

The **Call to Worship** is from *I Am Making All Things New*, written by Rosie Venner. Posted on the WSCF Europe website. <http://wscf-europe.org/mozaik-issues/mozaik-25-the-powers-that-be/worship-i-am-making-all-things-new>.

The **Reader's Theater** edition of the Genesis text is arranged for Readers' Theatre by David A. Douthett for More Than Hearing podcast, morethanhearing.org, 2017. (Scripture text is from the New Revised Standard Version Bible, copyright © 1989 the Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America.)

The **Prayers of the People** are written by William Loader, and posted on <https://billloader.com>.

The **Prayer for Illumination** and the **Blessing** are written by Steve Garnaas-Holmes and posted on his website, www.unfoldinglight.net.

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