

# Announcements

**Shelter:** Our Shelter service continues each week at noon via livestream. This brief midweek service runs about 40 minutes, and reflections are taken from our Shelter daily devotional email. Join us, in-person or via livestream, any week.

**Valley Springs Christian Preschool:** Our weekday preschool program for 3's, 4's, and 5-year-olds. Registration for the 2020-21 school year is now open. See [www.valleyspringschristianpreschool.org](http://www.valleyspringschristianpreschool.org) or contact Danya Schulte: [danya@valleysprings.org](mailto:danya@valleysprings.org) / (916) 786-7940 x106.

**Text-to-Give:** A new option to make giving easier. Simply text "give" to (669) 333-5880. You'll be asked to fill out a quick form to get set up for the first time. After that, giving is as easy as sending a text. Try it today!

# Order of Service

8<sup>th</sup> week after Pentecost

July 26<sup>th</sup>, 2020

## Gathered by God for Worship

Welcome

Call to Worship  
Psalm 136:1-3

Song of Praise  
*God Is for Us*

Prayer of Adoration

## Renewed by God Through Grace

Confession of Sin  
Hosea 6:6

Declaration of Grace  
Exodus 34:6-7

Song of Renewal and Gratitude  
*His Mercy Is More*

## Set Apart by God for Service in Every Area of Life

Children's Message

Offering

Sermon

## Sent by God to Serve Our World Together

Song of Response  
*Yet Not I But Through Christ in Me*

Blessing

# Readings

## Scripture

<sup>1</sup>After these things God tested Abraham and said to him, "Abraham!" And he said, "Here I am." <sup>2</sup>He said, "Take your son, your only son Isaac, whom you love, and go to the land of Moriah, and offer him there as a burnt offering on one of the mountains of which I shall tell you." <sup>3</sup>So Abraham rose early in the morning, saddled his donkey, and took two of his young men with him, and his son Isaac. And he cut the wood for the burnt offering and arose and went to the place of which God had told him. <sup>4</sup>On the third day Abraham lifted up his eyes and saw the place from afar. <sup>5</sup>Then Abraham said to his young men, "Stay here with the donkey; I and the boy will go over there and worship and come again to you." <sup>6</sup>And Abraham took the wood of the burnt offering and laid it on Isaac his son. And he took in his hand the fire and the knife. So they went both of them together. <sup>7</sup>And Isaac said to his father Abraham, "My father!" And he said, "Here I am, my son." He said, "Behold, the fire and the wood, but where is the lamb for a burnt offering?" <sup>8</sup>Abraham said, "God will provide for himself the lamb for a burnt offering, my son." So they went both of them together.

<sup>9</sup>When they came to the place of which God had told him, Abraham built the altar there and laid the wood in order and bound Isaac his son and laid him on the altar, on top of the wood. <sup>10</sup>Then Abraham reached out his hand and took the knife to slaughter his son. <sup>11</sup>But the angel of the Lord called to him from heaven and said, "Abraham, Abraham!" And he said, "Here I am." <sup>12</sup>He said, "Do not lay your hand on the boy or do anything to him, for now I know that you fear God, seeing you have not withheld your son, your only son, from me." <sup>13</sup>And Abraham lifted up his eyes and looked, and behold, behind him was a ram, caught in a thicket by his horns. And Abraham went and took the ram and offered it up as a burnt offering instead of his son. <sup>14</sup>So Abraham called the name of that place, "The Lord will provide"; as it is said to this day, "On the mount of the Lord it shall be provided."

<sup>15</sup>And the angel of the Lord called to Abraham a second time from heaven <sup>16</sup>and said, "By myself I have sworn, declares the Lord, because you have done this and have not withheld your son, your only son, <sup>17</sup>I will surely bless you, and I will surely multiply your offspring as the stars of heaven and as the sand that is on the seashore. And your offspring shall possess the gate of his enemies, <sup>18</sup>and in your offspring shall all the nations of the earth be blessed, because you have obeyed my voice." <sup>19</sup>So Abraham returned to his young men, and they arose and went together to Beersheba. And Abraham lived at Beersheba.

<sup>20</sup>Now after these things it was told to Abraham, "Behold, Milcah also has borne children to your brother Nahor: <sup>21</sup>Uz his firstborn, Buz his brother, Kemuel the father of Aram, <sup>22</sup>Chesed, Hazo, Pildash, Jidlaph, and Bethuel." <sup>23</sup>(Bethuel fathered Rebekah.) These eight Milcah bore to Nahor, Abraham's brother. <sup>24</sup>Moreover, his concubine, whose name was Reumah, bore Tebah, Gaham, Tahash, and Maacah.

- Genesis 22 (English Standard Version)

# Sermon Outline

**God Will Provide**  
Genesis 22

*The Life of Blessing*  
Brad Anderson

*God reveals that the life of blessing is the path of faithful discipleship.* (Genesis 22:1-4)

## What will faith look like for all those learning to love?

**Such a faith is confessed...** (Genesis 15:1-6)

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**Such a faith is demonstrated...** (Genesis 22:1-4, 9-10; Mark 8:34-35)

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**Such a faith will one day be exchanged...** (Genesis 22:15-19; 2 Corinthians 5:7)

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## Reflection Questions

(taken in part from the Serendipity Study Bible for Groups)

- What is your favorite Father/Son or Father/Daughter story? What stands out to you in that story? What are the key themes?
- What can you observe about the path of discipleship with Abraham? Is the path narrow or wide?
- Abraham's life would seem to reveal that the greatest crises of faith are near the end of the race, that the race itself has gotten more difficult with its length. What do you think of this statement?
- A final step of painful obedience is seen in Genesis 22:1-24. "God tested Abraham" (Genesis 22:1). This sets the tone for the entire chapter, as God calls him to "Take your son, your only son Isaac, whom you love, and go to the land of Moriah, and offer him there as a burnt offering on one of the mountains of which I shall tell you" (Genesis 22:2). This test is painful, but Abraham obeys immediately. Read through Genesis 22:1-8. How do you see Abraham taking deliberate steps of trusting obedience here? Note the way the covenant promises to Abraham are reiterated in Genesis 22:15-18.
- How has your life demonstrated your confession of faith?
- How have the promises of God kept Abraham in the journey of faith?