

Announcements

Shelter: Our Shelter service continues each week at noon, both in-person and 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.

Gospel of Mark: The Gospel of Mark class continues Sundays at 11am, via livestream-only.

Learning to Love - Race, Reconciliation, Forgiveness, and Discipleship: A mix of music, stories, testimonies, teaching, repentance, and forgiveness. Co-hosted by Grace Sacramento and Soaring Oaks, two of our sister churches in the PCA. Every Thursday in July, 7pm-8:30pm, in the Worship Room. No RSVP needed. Livestream will be available for those who cannot attend in person.

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 or contact Danya Schulte: 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

4th week after Pentecost

June 28th, 2020

Gathered by God for Worship

Welcome

Call to Worship
Psalm 100:5

Songs of Praise
I Could Sing of Your Love Forever
Revelation Song

Prayer of Adoration

Renewed by God Through Grace

Confession of Sin
Psalm 101:7

Declaration of Grace
1 Peter 2:22-25

Song of Renewal and Gratitude
Rock of Ages

Set Apart by God for Service in Every Area of Life

Offering

Sermon

Sent by God to Serve Our World Together

Song of Response
Great Is Thy Faithfulness

Blessing

General Offering: June 15 - June 21	\$ 17,113
Weekly Budget Need	\$ 31,600
Last Week's Deficit	(\$ 14,487)
Budget Deficit (YTD).....	(\$ 178,791)

This information can also be found at valleysprings.org

Readings

Scripture

²³ The sun had risen on the earth when Lot came to Zoar. ²⁴ Then the Lord rained on Sodom and Gomorrah sulfur and fire from the Lord out of heaven. ²⁵ And he overthrew those cities, and all the valley, and all the inhabitants of the cities, and what grew on the ground.

²⁶ But Lot's wife, behind him, looked back, and she became a pillar of salt.

²⁷ And Abraham went early in the morning to the place where he had stood before the Lord. ²⁸ And he looked down toward Sodom and Gomorrah and toward all the land of the valley, and he looked and, behold, the smoke of the land went up like the smoke of a furnace.

²⁹ So it was that, when God destroyed the cities of the valley, God remembered Abraham and sent Lot out of the midst of the overthrow when he overthrew the cities in which Lot had lived.

- Genesis 19:23-29 (*English Standard Version*)

Reflection

¹⁴ The Lord said to Abram, after Lot had separated from him, "Lift up your eyes and look from the place where you are, northward and southward and eastward and westward, ¹⁵ for all the land that you see I will give to you and to your offspring forever. ¹⁶ I will make your offspring as the dust of the earth, so that if one can count the dust of the earth, your offspring also can be counted. ¹⁷ Arise, walk through the length and the breadth of the land, for I will give it to you."

- Genesis 13:14-17 (*English Standard Version*)

¹ After these things the word of the Lord came to Abram in a vision: "Fear not, Abram, I am your shield; your reward shall be very great." ² But Abram said, "O Lord God, what will you give me, for I continue childless, and the heir of my house is Eliezer of Damascus?" ³ And Abram said, "Behold, you have given me no offspring, and a member of my household will be my heir." ⁴ And behold, the word of the Lord came to him: "This man shall not be your heir; your very own son shall be your heir." ⁵ And he brought him outside and said, "Look toward heaven, and number the stars, if you are able to number them." Then he said to him, "So shall your offspring be." ⁶ And he believed the Lord, and he counted it to him as righteousness.

- Genesis 15:1-6 (*English Standard Version*)

¹ When Abram was ninety-nine years old the Lord appeared to Abram and said to him, "I am God Almighty; walk before me, and be blameless, ² that I may make my covenant between me and you, and may multiply you greatly." ³ Then Abram fell on his face. And God said to him, ⁴ "Behold, my covenant is with you, and you shall be the father of a multitude of nations. ⁵ No longer shall your name be called Abram, but your name shall be Abraham, for I have made you the father of a multitude of nations. ⁶ I will make you exceedingly fruitful, and I will make you into nations, and kings shall come from you. ⁷ And I will establish my covenant between me and you and your offspring after you throughout their generations for an everlasting covenant, to be God to you and to your offspring after you. ⁸ And I will give to you and to your offspring after you the land of your sojournings, all the land of Canaan, for an everlasting possession, and I will be their God."

- Genesis 17:1-8 (*English Standard Version*)

Sermon Outline

I Have Been Here Before

Genesis 19:23-29

The Life of Blessing

Brad Anderson

A memory often reminds us to revisit. (Genesis 19:27)

What was memory accomplishing in Abraham?

Revisiting a place... (Genesis 13:14-17)

Revisiting a promise... (Genesis 15:1-6, Genesis 17:1-8)

Revisiting a prayer... (Genesis 18:20-33)

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

- God's judgment is sure against Sodom and Gomorrah (Genesis 18:20). But Abraham seeks to bring blessing to these nations by interceding for them (Genesis 18:22-33), a back and forth conversation between the LORD and Abraham. We clearly see Abraham's persistence here, asking six times for God to lower the threshold for his judgment. Abraham's relationship with God allows him to ask questions of God and shows a remarkable persistence. What lessons can we learn about the nature of prayer from this? Why is it important to have an "Abraham" type figure to intercede in the face of God's judgment?
- Read the description of the remarkable sinfulness of Sodom and Gomorrah in Genesis 19:1-11. In light of this, Lot leaves Sodom with his immediate family in 19:12-29, though his sons-in-law do not believe in the impending destruction. They flee to the city of Zoar, and the Lord rains down sulfur and fire from heaven to destroy the cities and the valley they have left behind. Lot's wife turns back during this time of destruction and is turned into a pillar of salt. Read this section carefully. Why do you think this story is included in the overall story of Abraham? How does this help us understand the promise, "In you all the families of the earth shall be blessed"?
- What bothers you most about the story of Lot and his daughters: The drinking? The deception? The incest? Why?
- Children of alcoholics suffer from the sin and sickness of others. Lot's family may have. Where among your friends or family have you seen this to be the case?
- Why is this story in the book of Genesis? If omitted, what picture of Lot would be missing?
- What about Lot's story, or your own, moves you to pray? Who do you find it hard to pray for?