

# 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](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

3<sup>rd</sup> week after Pentecost

June 21<sup>st</sup>, 2020

## Gathered by God for Worship

Welcome

Call to Worship

1 John 3:1a

Song of Praise

*Let Us Love and Sing and Wonder*

Prayer of Adoration

## Renewed by God Through Grace

Confession of Sin

1 John 2:15-16

Declaration of Grace

1 John 3:1-3

Song of Renewal and Gratitude

*How Deep the Father's Love for Us*

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

Offering

Sermon

The Lord's Supper \*

## Sent by God to Serve Our World Together

Song of Response

*We Will Feast in the House of Zion*

Blessing

<b>General Offering: June 8 - June 14 .....</b>	<b>\$ 16,869</b>
Weekly Budget Need .....	\$ 31,600
Last Week's Deficit .....	(\$ 14,731)
Budget Deficit (YTD).....	(\$ 164,303)

This information can also be found at [valleysprings.org](http://valleysprings.org)

\* A gluten-free Communion option is available

# Readings

## Scripture

<sup>1</sup>And the Lord appeared to him by the oaks of Mamre, as he sat at the door of his tent in the heat of the day. <sup>2</sup>He lifted up his eyes and looked, and behold, three men were standing in front of him. When he saw them, he ran from the tent door to meet them and bowed himself to the earth <sup>3</sup>and said, "O Lord, if I have found favor in your sight, do not pass by your servant. <sup>4</sup>Let a little water be brought, and wash your feet, and rest yourselves under the tree, <sup>5</sup>while I bring a morsel of bread, that you may refresh yourselves, and after that you may pass on—since you have come to your servant." So they said, "Do as you have said." <sup>6</sup>And Abraham went quickly into the tent to Sarah and said, "Quick! Three seahs of fine flour! Knead it, and make cakes." <sup>7</sup>And Abraham ran to the herd and took a calf, tender and good, and gave it to a young man, who prepared it quickly. <sup>8</sup>Then he took curds and milk and the calf that he had prepared, and set it before them. And he stood by them under the tree while they ate.

<sup>9</sup>They said to him, "Where is Sarah your wife?" And he said, "She is in the tent." <sup>10</sup>The Lord said, "I will surely return to you about this time next year, and Sarah your wife shall have a son." And Sarah was listening at the tent door behind him. <sup>11</sup>Now Abraham and Sarah were old, advanced in years. The way of women had ceased to be with Sarah. <sup>12</sup>So Sarah laughed to herself, saying, "After I am worn out, and my lord is old, shall I have pleasure?" <sup>13</sup>The Lord said to Abraham, "Why did Sarah laugh and say, 'Shall I indeed bear a child, now that I am old?'" <sup>14</sup>Is anything too hard for the Lord? At the appointed time I will return to you, about this time next year, and Sarah shall have a son." <sup>15</sup>But Sarah denied it, saying, "I did not laugh," for she was afraid. He said, "No, but you did laugh."

- Genesis 18:1-15 (*English Standard Version*)

# Sermon Outline

**Prelude to a Rescue**  
Genesis 18:1-15

*The Life of Blessing*  
Stephen Baldwin

Our Heavenly Father prepares us for sobering gospel advances.

*How does He do so?*

## He prepares us for sobering gospel advances

...by the gift of his presence (Genesis 18:1-8)

- First, He comes to us.
  - Then He accepts our response.
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...by the gift of his promise (Genesis 18:9-15)

- He promises what only God can do.
  - He declares the power that only God has.
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## Reflection Questions

This section of the narrative of Genesis forms the prelude to God's gracious rescue of Lot, against the backdrop of the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah.

God prepared Abraham and Sarah for the advance of his plan of redemption, even when it was in such a sobering context.

- What does Abraham's reaction to the visitors show about his understanding of who stood before him?
- How many ways does the passage signal that the one who spoke with Abraham was a manifestation of God himself?
- What strikes you about the hospitality that Abraham extends to the three visitors?
- Consider the meal that Abraham and Sarah set before them. How would you describe a meal like this?
- Have you ever been shown such hospitality? Have you ever been in a place where love moved you to open your home and table with such generosity? What was the result?
- Do you think Abraham's hospitality pleased or displeased God?
- What do you see in the way God speaks to Abraham in the hearing of Sarah? Do you think God intended Sarah to overhear?
- Are there ways that God's reiteration of his promise of a son had special focus upon Sarah?