

## ***Fifth Sunday after Pentecost***

July 2, 2023

Welcome and Announcements

Prelude Christopher A. McCroskey  
*(As the Prelude begins, prayerfully prepare your hearts and minds for worship.)*

Call to Worship "Blessed Assurance" Choir  
Greeting

\*Hymn "Here I Am, Lord" 593  
Opening Prayer

*(Please register your attendance on the pew pads provided.)*

Prayer for Illumination

Epistle Reading Romans 6:12-23 Page 148 (N.T.)

Psalter Psalm 13 746

\*Hymn "Faith of Our Fathers" 710

Gospel Reading Matthew 10:40-42 Page 16 (N.T.)

Old Testament Reading Genesis 22:1-14 Pages 17-18 (O.T.)

Sermon "Satisfying God" Rev. John D. Jordan

\*Response to the Word "The Apostles' Creed" 881

\*Gloria Patri "Glory Be to the Father" 70

Pastoral Prayer

Invitation

Confession and Pardon

Passing of the Peace

Presentation of Tithes & Offerings

Offertory "They'll Know We Are Christians by Our Love" Choir

\*Doxology "Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow" 95

The Great Thanksgiving

The Lord's Prayer

Breaking the Bread

Prayer

\*Hymn "Rock of Ages, Cleft for Me" 361

\*Dismissal With Benediction

\*Benediction Response "May the Lord, Mighty God, Bless and Keep You" Choir

May the Lord, Mighty God bless and keep you forever,  
Grant you peace, perfect peace, courage in every endeavor.  
Lift up your eyes and see God's face and God's grace forever,  
May the Lord, Mighty God, bless and keep you forever.

\*Postlude Christopher A. McCroskey

\*The Congregation May Stand

## ***Leading in Worship Today***

Pastor: John D. Jordan

Time Together: Jack Stevens, Pam Turner

Choir Director: Christopher A. McCroskey

AV Director: Marie Stiles

Church Musician

AV Assistant: Chris Derrick

**VISITORS ARE WELCOME** in the service of worship! Please make use of the visitor's tags (located in the pew backs) to help us better welcome you as a visitor to Trinity this morning. We ask that you also please fill in the pew pad as it passes to register your attendance with us. **Large print hymnals** are available from the ushers.

You may join as a member into the life and work of this congregation by Confession of Faith or by Transfer of Membership from another church. If you would be interested in becoming a member, please speak to the pastor.

**A GIFT TO TRINITY** is given to the **Glory of God** and in honor and celebration of **Brandon Jones** on his 30<sup>th</sup> birthday on July 1<sup>st</sup>, with love by "E".

**“AS MEMBERS OF THIS CONGREGATION, WE WILL FAITHFULLY PARTICIPATE IN ITS MINISTRIES BY OUR PRAYERS ...**

Patsy Zeigler    Becky Derrick    Carlis Edwards    Dale Wells    Patsy Shuler    Christopher McCroskey  
Jimmy Grahl    Latson Lewis    Kaye Floyd    John Ballentine    Dan Greshel    Jack Stevens

**Shut-Ins:** Shirley Butler; Esther Carter; Gillett Hipp; Linda Maloch; Jean Raynor; Claudia Sineath; George Taylor

**Family and Friends:** **Louis Jordan** (brother of John Jordan); **Judy Spence** (former member); **Anne Piercy** (former member of Trinity); **Paul Lagatore** (friend of Laurie Knapp); **Missy Abrams** (stepdaughter of Lissa Abrams); **Mary Davis** (daughter of Bob & Libby Strickland); **Kathleen Braun** (sister of Mark Lewis); **Lauren & Leah Grace Edwards** (granddaughter & great-granddaughter of Hilda Edwards); **Gloria Erd** (friend of Lynn Martin); **Pearl Geddens** (mother of Tom Geddens); **Beverly Lipscomb** (sister-in-law of John Jordan); **Ross Deal** (grandson of Mary Kamoroff); **Nancy Wilson** (friends of Jeanette Hornsby); **David Turner** (brother of Pam Turner); **Chip Mixon** (friend of Tommy Gleaton); **Ron Walker** (friend of Tommy & Chris Gleaton); **Merit Takach** (friend of Joyce and Brent Robinson); **James Boggs** (father of Claire Boggs); **Stacy Coggins** (daughter of Steve Aiello); **Dan & Leslie White** (brother & sister-in-law of Steve White); **Mary Ann Rentz** (stepmother of Marty Johnson); **Alva Humphries** (friend of Marty Johnson); **Bill Areheart** (friend of Bonnie Ramsey); **Hayley Beaudoin** (niece of Edwa Meek); **Addie Kinard** (cousin of coworker of Edwa Meek); **Robert Bradley** (Business Associate of Simon Ross); **Gary Becton** (friend of Mark Branham); **Florence Lee Carter, Monnie Tiller** (friends of Chris Derrick); **Adrin & Linda Hargett** (stepfather and stepmom of Christopher McCroskey); **Alexa Lookingbill, Teddy Derrick** (uncle of Arvan Derrick); **Haidee Baehr** (friends of Ruth Frady); **Denise Paul, Scott & Karen Nelson** (cousins of Gale Frady); **Dan Conner, Max Johnson** (friends of Gale Frady); **Walt & Janet Beck** (friends of Jo Ann Heiting); **Adam Lavender** (son of Phil Lavender)

If you have a friend or family member on the Prayer List, we ask you to please keep us updated. If no word is received, we will trust that our prayers have been answered and remove the name. To update us, please call the office or e-mail us at [trinityumcwc@sc.rr.com](mailto:trinityumcwc@sc.rr.com).

**OUR PRESENCE ...**

Attendance 06/25 SS: 13      Worship: 25

**OUR GIFTS ...**

General Fund 06/25 \$ 1,901.10

**OUR SERVICE...**

**OUR WITNESS.”**

**Church Calendar**

**07/03** Exercise Class, 10:30 a.m.  
**07/04** Holiday  
Office Closed  
**07/05** T.a.G., 7 p.m.  
**07/06** Exercise Class, 10:30 a.m.  
**07/07** Office Closed

**Readings for July 9**

Genesis 24:34-38, 42-49, 58-67  
Psalm 72  
Romans 7:15-25a  
Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30



Ministers  
Pastor  
Resident Bishop  
District Superintendent

The Congregation  
John D. Jordan  
Jonathan Holston  
Rev. Fran M. Elrod

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***Our mission is to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.***

***Our vision is to Connect, Nurture, Inspire and Transform***



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Genesis 22:1-14

Let us just go ahead and put it out there. Most of us would place this story in the top three most disturbing stories in the Bible. It may be at the top of many of our lists. This story is confusing and elicits many questions. Why would God ask Abraham to sacrifice Isaac through whom the promise would be kept? How could Abraham go along with this command? How could Isaac be so passive? This story does not fit with what we think about God. It blows our minds!

We must put aside our propensity to psychoanalyze the characters in this story to understand it. We must put aside our modern sensibilities and view this story through the lens of ancient Israel. We must put it in its context to understand this story.

Genesis is a compilation of stories from different Hebrew traditions. Some are variations of the same story, while others stand alone. Scholars believe some were compiled during the Monarchial period and others in the post-exilic period. This particular story comes from the Monarchial period, so its purpose is to give the theological origins of the nation of Israel, a nation based on the promise of God. So, let's place ourselves in Israel around 800 BCE.

The central focus of worship was a sacrifice, not just in Israel but throughout the ancient world. The worshipper would offer a sacrifice, usually an animal, to the gods. The sacrifice was to satisfy the gods' needs and gain favor with the gods. A sacrifice would be made to Asherah, the Canaanite fertility god, for rain or successful breeding of the herds. A Greco-Roman general would make a sacrifice to Ares or Mars for success in battle. The sacrifice could be accepted or rejected by the god.

The Israelites had many prescribed sacrifices to Yahweh. These sacrifices were given at the temple. Before building the temple, one would build an altar to make the sacrifice. An underlying principle was the sacrifice had value to the person making the sacrifice. The sacrifice was to satisfy Yahweh.

With these in mind, let's turn back to the story.

The word translated as "test" in the most modern translations means to tempt or prove. Instead of saying, "I am going to see if Abraham is worthy." God is saying, "I am going to prove that Abraham is worthy." The compiler is saying to the audience, "This story is proof that Israel is the nation promised by God." I have more to say about this later.

God tells Abraham to take Isaac and offer him as a burnt offering. Notice that God does not tell Abraham to sacrifice Isaac, but to offer him as a burnt offering. The burnt offering is one where the offering is consumed completely by the fire. It is given completely to God. God tells Abraham to offer Isaac completely to God.

Abraham does as God asks. He takes Isaac to the mountain which God shows him. He builds the altar and places the wood. Then he does what seems unthinkable; he binds Isaac and places him on the altar. He offers Isaac as a burnt offering.

God rejects Isaac as an offering. God tells Abraham to stop. What God wanted was not Isaac as a sacrifice but to know that Abraham feared God. What satisfied God was Abraham's fear of God.

Abraham's fear of God was not that he was afraid of God and would therefore do whatever God asked, but that he stood in awe and reverence. Abraham recognized the power and position of God and offered proper respect. Abraham submitted to a proper relationship with God. This is what satisfied God. Abraham's relationship with God was such that he would go to the furthest extreme for God.

Our fear, awe, and reverence are what satisfy God. God does not want our church attendance. God is not impressed by the number of perfect attendance bars we have. God does not care how well we tithe. It is not how long we pray and read the Bible that satisfies God. What satisfies God is that we recognize God's power and offer God proper respect. We submit ourselves to a proper relationship with God, a relationship where we will go to the furthest extremes for God.

God may call us to the furthest extremes. Paul wanted to be a Jewish scholar but God called him to be the apostle to the Gentiles. Henry Martyn was perfectly fitted to the scholarly life but was called to be a missionary. Martin Luther King went to Birmingham to pastor a church but was called to lead the Civil Rights Movement. God may not call us to such extremes, but only our submission can satisfy God.

The test, the proving, in this story is not one way. When we examine this story closely, we see that the testing is two-way. God is testing Abraham to prove Abraham's faithfulness. Abraham is testing God to prove God's faithfulness. When Isaac asks, "Where is the lamb for the sacrifice?", Abraham replies, "God will provide." Abraham is testing God. Abraham is saying, "God you said your promise will be fulfilled through this son of mine. Let's see if you really want me to sacrifice him." Abraham proved faithful by offering Isaac as a burnt offering. God proved faithful by stopping Abraham from sacrificing Isaac and providing an alternative sacrifice.

To the Israelites hearing this story in 750 BCE, they would be reminded that they were the fulfillment of the promise. They would be reminded that by them all nations would gain blessings because Abraham obeyed the voice of God, and so should they.

This story tells us two things about God. God is satisfied only with our proper respect and submission to a proper relationship with God. God does not want our sacrifice but our submission to the divine will. Secondly, God will remain faithful to us and keep the divine promises.

God may call us to extremes. There may be times when we may ask, "Is this what you want me to do God?" God will provide. God will keep the promises. But for the promise to be fulfilled, we must satisfy God by submitting completely, offering ourselves as a sacrifice to God. God did not hold back the Son for us. We cannot hold back ourselves from God.