



ST. CHARLES AVENUE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

DIGITAL WORSHIP | SUNDAY, JUNE 21, 2020

VOLUNTARY

"Outer Hebrides"
Steven Blackmon, organ

Halley

OPENING

Good morning and welcome to worship at
St. Charles Avenue Presbyterian Church on this Third Sunday after Pentecost.
"This is the day the Lord has made. Let us rejoice and be glad in it."

CALL TO WORSHIP

(responsive, from Psalm 69:30-34)

Wendi Adams

I will praise the name of God with a song; I will magnify him with thanksgiving.
Let the oppressed see it and be glad; you who seek God, let your hearts revive.
For the Lord hears the needy, and does not despise his own that are in bonds.
Let heaven and earth praise him, the seas and everything that moves in them.

OPENING PRAYER

Teach us, good Lord, to serve you as you deserve; to give and not count the cost;
to fight and not to heed the wounds; to toil and not to seek for rest;
to labor and not to ask for any reward, save that of knowing that we do your will;
through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and forever. Amen.

HYMN: "THE GOD OF ABRAHAM PRAISE"

LEONI

The God of Abraham praise, who reigns enthroned above,
The Ancient of Eternal Days, the God of love!
The Lord, the great I am, by earth and heaven confessed,
We bow before your holy name, forever blest.

Your spirit still flows free, high surging where it will.
In prophet's word you spoke of old and you speak still.
Established is your law, and changeless shall it stand,
deep writ upon the human heart by your strong hand.

Your goodly land we seek, with peace and plenty blest,
A land of sacred liberty and Sabbath rest.
There milk and honey flow, and oil and wine abound,
The trees of life forever grow with mercy crowned.

You have eternal life implanted in the soul;
 Your love shall be our strength and stay, while ages roll.
 We praise you, living God! We praise your holy name:
 The first, the last, beyond all thought, and still the same!

CALL TO CONFESSION

Michael Jenkins

Sin destroys our lives. Sin destroys our relationships. Sin destroys our hope.
 But through faith in the saving death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, our lives, our relationships,
 and our future are no longer enslaved to sin. Let us trust the love of God
 and confess our sin, that we might receive grace and find true freedom.

CONFESSION OF SIN

(unison)

**God of Abraham, Sarah, and Isaac, God of Hagar and Ishmael, who gave us your Son,
 Jesus Christ the crucified, send your Holy Spirit to help us confess and truly repent of our sins.**

We turn against one another; we faith to care for the weak and poor among us.

We pay no heed to the cries of the powerless; we seek our own advantage.

Your Son emptied himself upon a Roman Cross and revealed your eternal, self-giving love.

**Forgive us, merciful God. Wipe sin from our lives and let us find ourselves wholly in Jesus Christ,
 our Savior. It is in his name that we pray. Amen.**

(Silent confession)

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

God, who loves us does not abandon or forsake us. Our Savior hears and answers
 when we cry out from the wastelands of sin. Death cannot bind us, for the risen Christ sets us free.
 Hear the good news: In Jesus Christ you are forgiven.

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

O God, you have the power to make a desert the place of renewal
 and a cross a sign of redemption. Send your Holy Spirit so that we can hear you
 and entrust ourselves completely to you, for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen.

THE OLD TESTAMENT LESSON

Genesis 21:8-21

The child grew, and was weaned; and Abraham made a great feast on the day that Isaac was weaned. But Sarah saw the son of Hagar the Egyptian, whom she had borne to Abraham, playing with her son Isaac. So she said to Abraham, "Cast out this slave woman with her son; for the son of this slave woman shall not inherit along with my son Isaac." The matter was very distressing to Abraham on account of his son. But God said to Abraham, "Do not be distressed because of the boy and because of your slave woman; whatever Sarah says to you, do as she tells you, for it is through Isaac that offspring shall be named for you. As for the son of the slave woman, I will make a nation of him also, because he is your offspring." So Abraham rose early in the morning, and took bread and a skin of water, and gave it to Hagar, putting it on her shoulder, along with the child, and sent her away. And she departed, and wandered about in the wilderness of Beer-sheba.

When the water in the skin was gone, she cast the child under one of the bushes. Then she went and sat down opposite him a good way off, about the distance of a bowshot; for she said, "Do not let me look on the death of the child." And as she sat opposite him, she lifted up her voice and wept. And God heard the voice of the boy; and the angel of God called to Hagar from heaven, and said to her, "What troubles you, Hagar? Do not be afraid; for God has heard the voice of the boy where he is. Come, lift up the boy and hold him fast with your hand, for I will make a great nation of him." Then God opened her eyes and she saw a well of water. She went, and filled the skin with water, and gave the boy a drink.

God was with the boy, and he grew up; he lived in the wilderness, and became an expert with the bow. He lived in the wilderness of Paran; and his mother got a wife for him from the land of Egypt.

MESSAGE FOR THE CHILDREN

Gillian Egan

THE NEW TESTAMENT LESSON

Matthew 10:26-33; 40-42

"So have no fear of them; for nothing is covered up that will not be uncovered, and nothing secret that will not become known. What I say to you in the dark, tell in the light; and what you hear whispered, proclaim from the housetops. Do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul; rather fear him who can destroy both soul and body in hell. Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? Yet not one of them will fall to the ground apart from your Father. And even the hairs of your head are all counted. So do not be afraid; you are of more value than many sparrows.

"Everyone therefore who acknowledges me before others, I also will acknowledge before my Father in heaven; but whoever denies me before others, I also will deny before my Father in heaven."

SERMON

Sarah Chancellor-Watson

"God Hears"

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

(unison, Confession of Belhar)

We believe that God has revealed God's self as the one who wishes to bring about justice and true peace among people; We believe that God, in a world full of injustice and enmity, is in a special way the God of the destitute, the poor and the wronged We believe that God calls the church to follow God in this; for God brings justice to the oppressed and gives bread to the hungry; We believe that God frees the prisoner and restores sight to the blind; We believe that God supports the downtrodden, protects the stranger, helps orphans and widows and blocks the path of the ungodly; We believe that for God pure and undefiled religion is to visit the orphans and the widows in their suffering; We believe that God wishes to teach the church to do what is good and to seek the right; We believe that the church must therefore stand by people in any form of suffering and need, which implies, among other things, that the church must witness against and strive against any form of injustice, so that justice may roll down like waters, and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream; We believe that the church as the possession of God must stand where the Lord stands, namely against injustice and with the wronged; We believe that in following Christ the church must witness against all the powerful and privileged who selfishly seek their own interests and thus control and harm others.

Therefore, we reject any ideology which would legitimate forms of injustice and any doctrine which is unwilling to resist such an ideology in the name of the gospel.

We believe that, in obedience to Jesus Christ, its only head, the church is called to confess and to do all these things, even though the authorities and human laws might forbid them and punishment and suffering be the consequence. Jesus is Lord. To the one and only God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, be the honor and the glory for ever and ever.

GLORIA PATRI

(unison)

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost.

As it was in the beginning, it is now and ever shall be. World without end! Amen.

ANTHEM

"The Lord Is My Shepherd" from *Requiem*
Taylor Miller, baritone

Wilberg

DOXOLOGY

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow. Praise him all creatures here below.
Praise him above ye heavenly host. Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost.**

INVITATION TO DISCIPLESHIP

(in bulletin only, not included in video)

If you do not yet have a church home, we hope you will consider becoming a member of St. Charles Avenue Presbyterian Church where the life of faith is lived each day in the midst of a loving community, whether together in the flesh or virtually.

We hope that you will continue to support (in prayer, virtual presence and financially) our church's many ministries which continue during this time of pandemic. Perhaps more than ever, your support is needed.

[PRAYER REQUESTS: CLICK HERE](#)

or go to www.scapc.org/prayer

[OFFERING PAYMENTS: CLICK HERE](#)

or go to www.scapc.org/donation

PASTORAL PRAYER 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 it is 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, forever. Amen.**

HYMN: "MAY THE GOD OF HOPE GO WITH US"

ARGENTINA

May the God of hope go with us every day, filling all our lives with love and joy and peace.
May the God of justice speed us on our way, bringing light and hope to every land and race.
Praying, let us work for peace; singing, share our joy with all;
working for a world that's new, faithful when we hear Christ's call.

CHARGE AND BLESSING

*Videography and photos by Steven B. Blackmon