

Bedford Presbyterian Church

105 West Main Street, Bedford, Virginia

From 1844 to 2020 (176 Years)



Week of June 14TH

We will continue sending out this combination of the newsletter and bulletin to keep you up to date on announcements, prayers, needs and scheduled activities for those that are uncomfortable to attend service yet.

Included will be the usual newsletter information along with prayers, scripture and a sermon.

We hope that you can utilize this format to keep up to date while being away from actual services, meetings, activities and watching the online sermon.

Please be in prayer for the end of the coronavirus and healing for those affected by it.



Bedford Presbyterian Church
serving Christ since 1844

A Biblically Guided Christian Community,

Loving God, Loving Others,

Serving the World & Growing Disciples

**If you are watching the online service this Sunday morning,
please have this bulletin ready to follow the service.**

The Approach to God

Prelude

Bill Rutledge

One: The peace of Christ be with you

All: And Also with you

Welcome and Announcements

- We welcome everyone back, so good to see you!
- Worship service will be different for a while. Please adhere to the re-gathering notes during service to keep yourself and everyone else safe.
- We ask you to stand when directed and to please sing quietly to yourself.
- Please let the ushers dismiss you at the end of service.
- Any other announcements are printed at the back of this bulletin.

Call to Worship:

One: Praise the Lord! Praise Him from the heavens. Praise Him from the heights. Praise Him, all His angels, sun, moon and shining stars, stormy wind fulfilling His command!

All: Praise the Lord! Praise Him from the earth, mountains and hills, fruit trees and cedars! Wild animals and cattle, creeping things and flying birds! Kings of the earth and all peoples, men and women alike, old and young together!

One: Let every living thing praise the Lord,

All: Praise the Lord!

Introit

"Praise Him"

Praise Team

Prayer of Confession:

This is the day that You have made, Lord. Help us to rejoice in it and be glad! Remind us of the privileges we enjoy as Your people: to come to You in these moments, to confess our sins, to receive forgiveness and give it. To pray and sing and listen, to renew our fainting spirits, to rest in all Your promises. Open our eyes to see You, Lord. Open our ears to hear Your Word. Visit us through Your Holy Spirit, and help us to celebrate our faith. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon:

Who shall ascend the hill of the Lord? And who shall stand in his holy place? Those who have clean hands and pure hearts, who do not lift up their souls to what is false, and do not swear deceitfully. They will receive blessing from the Lord, and vindication from the God of their salvation. Such is the company of those who seek him, who seek the face of the God of Jacob.

Leader: Friends, believe the good news of the gospel.

People: In Jesus Christ we are forgiven! Through Jesus Christ we are richly blessed.

Gloria

"Glory Be to the Father"

Proclaiming the Word of God

Ordination of Scarlett Stevens

Scripture: Genesis 24

Sermon: The Marriage of Isaac and Rebecca- a love story

With today's story of Isaac and Rebekah, we have come to the end of Abraham's Adventures in the Promised Land. Realize that with the exception of Jesus Christ, Abraham was the most written about and referred to person in our entire Bible. He is also considered the founding father of the world's three greatest religions: Judaism, Christianity and Islam. But now we must move on to the stories of his immediate heirs -- Isaac, Jacob, Joseph and his brothers -- to watch the further unfolding of God's covenant promises with these next individuals who would eventually grow into the nation of Israel.

With the opening of this tale, Isaac is now forty years old, unmarried, and still grieving his mother Sarah's death three years past. Though quite old, Abraham will live another thirty-five years and get to witness the birth of his twin grandsons Esau and Jacob.

But, before leaving Abraham completely behind we should note two more events in his life. Sometime after the birth of Isaac, Abraham again took on a second wife (and possibly a concubine) who bore him five more sons. But when each of these boys came of age, he gave them a gift and sent them away as he had earlier done Ishmael so as not to jeopardize Isaac's claim to full inheritance of his estate.

And to bring a somewhat more joyful end to the sad tale of Hagar and Ishmael, when Abraham did die at the ripe old age of 175, both brothers Isaac and Ishmael once again were standing together at their father's burial beside his beloved Sarah in the cave of Machpelah. (25:8-9).



So we move on to just two stories about Isaac. For whatever reason, his was a quiet and blessed life. He lived for 180 years and got to see all his grandchildren by Esau and Jacob. The only incidences in his life worth a Biblical note are his storybook marriage to Rebekah, which we will attend to today. His copycat lie to Abimelech – the same person his father lied to – which got him invited to pasture his sheep elsewhere (we covered this previously), and the family breakup when younger son Jacob stole his elder twin's birthright and then fled, fearing for his life into a fourteen year exile (which we will cover next week).

So this week for the marriage of Isaac and Rebekah, I am going to do something completely different.... which is to simply read this beautiful tale of how good life can be when you trust everything to God.

You have heard cautionary tales of catalog brides and perhaps have seen the show Married at First Sight, so you know that arranged marriages do not always succeed. Today let's hear the very first story ever recorded of an arranged marriage involving faith, prayers and camels that did end happily ever after.

Now Abraham was old, well advanced in years; and the Lord had blessed Abraham in all things.

Abraham said to his servant, the oldest of his house, who had charge of all that he had, 'Put your hand under my thigh and I will make you swear by the Lord, the God of heaven and earth, that you will not get a wife for my son from the daughters of the Canaanites, among whom I live, but will go to my country and to my kindred and get a wife for my son Isaac.'

The servant said to him, 'Perhaps the woman may not be willing to follow me to this land; must I then take your son back to the land from which you came?' Abraham said to him, 'See to it that you do not take my son back there. The Lord, the God of heaven, who took me from my father's house and from the land of my birth, and who spoke to me and swore to me, "To your offspring I will give this land", he will send his angel before you; you shall take a wife for my son from there. But if the woman is not willing to follow you, then you will be free from this oath of mine; only you must not take my son back there.' So the servant put his hand under the thigh of Abraham his master and swore to him concerning this matter.

Then the servant took ten of his master's camels and departed, taking all kinds of choice gifts from his master; and he set out and went to Aram-naharaim, to the city of Nahor. He made the camels kneel down outside the city by the well of water; it was towards evening, the time when women go out to draw water. And he said, 'O Lord, God of my master Abraham, please grant me success today and show steadfast love to my master Abraham. I am standing here by the spring of water, and the daughters of the townspeople are coming out to draw water. Let the girl to whom I shall say, "Please offer your jar that I may drink", and who shall say, "Drink, and I will water your camels"—let her be the one whom you have appointed for your servant Isaac. By this I shall know that you have shown steadfast love to my master.'



Before he had finished speaking, there was Rebekah, who was born to Bethuel son of Milcah, the wife of Nahor, Abraham's brother, coming out with her water-jar on her shoulder. The girl was very fair to look upon, a virgin whom no man had known. She went down to the spring, filled her jar, and came up.

The servant ran to meet her and said, 'Please let me sip a little water from your jar.' 'Drink, my lord,' she said, and quickly lowered her jar upon her hand and gave him a drink. When she had finished giving him a drink, she said, 'I will draw for your camels also, until they have finished drinking.' So she quickly emptied her jar into the trough and ran again to the well to draw, and she drew for all his camels. The man gazed at her in silence to learn whether or not the Lord had made his journey successful.

When the camels had finished drinking, the man took a gold nose-ring weighing a half-shekel, and two bracelets for her arms weighing ten gold shekels, and said, 'Tell me whose daughter you are. Is there room in your father's house for us to spend the night?' She said to him, 'I am the daughter of Bethuel son of Milcah, whom she bore to Nahor.'

She added, 'We have plenty of straw and fodder and a place to spend the night.' The man bowed his head and worshipped the Lord and said, 'Blessed be the Lord, the God of my master Abraham, who has not forsaken his steadfast love and his faithfulness towards my master. As for me, the Lord has led me on the way to the house of my master's kin.'

Then the girl ran and told her mother's household about these things. Rebekah had a brother whose name was Laban; and Laban ran out to the man, to the spring.

As soon as he had seen the nose-ring, and the bracelets on his sister's arms, and when he heard the words of his sister Rebekah, 'Thus the man spoke to me', he went to the man; and there he was, standing by the camels at the spring. He said, 'Come in, O blessed of the Lord. Why do you stand outside when I have prepared the house and a place for the camels?' So the man came into the house; and Laban unloaded the camels, and gave him straw and fodder for the camels, and water to wash his feet and the feet of the men who were with him. Then food was set before him to eat; but he said, 'I will not eat until I have told my errand.' Laban said, 'Speak on.'

So he said, 'I am Abraham's servant. The Lord has greatly blessed my master, and he has become wealthy; he has given him flocks and herds, silver and gold, male and female slaves, camels and donkeys. And Sarah my master's wife bore a son to my master when she was old; and he has given him all that he has. My master made me swear, saying, "You shall not take a wife for my son from the daughters of the Canaanites, in whose land I live; but you shall go to my father's house, to my kindred, and get a wife for my son." I said to my master, "Perhaps the woman will not follow me." But he said to me, "The Lord, before whom I walk, will send his angel with you and make your way successful. You shall get a wife for my son from my kindred, from my father's house. Then you will be free from my oath, when you come to my kindred; even if they will not give her to you, you will be free from my oath."

'I came today to the spring, and said, "O Lord, the God of my master Abraham, if now you will only make successful the way I am going! I am standing here by the spring of water; let the young woman who comes out to draw, to whom I shall say, **'Please give me a little water from your jar to drink,'** and who will say to me, **'Drink, and I will draw for your camels also'**—let her be the woman whom the Lord has appointed for my master's son."

'Before I had finished speaking in my heart, there was Rebekah coming out with her water-jar on her shoulder; and she went down to the spring, and drew. I said to her, **"Please let me drink."** She quickly let down her jar from her shoulder, and said, **"Drink, and I will also water your camels."** So I drank, and she also watered the camels.

Then I asked her, “Whose daughter are you?” She said, “The daughter of Bethuel, Nahor’s son, whom Milcah bore to him.” So I put the ring on her nose, and the bracelets on her arms. Then I bowed my head and worshipped the Lord, and blessed the Lord, the God of my master Abraham, who had led me by the right way to obtain the daughter of my master’s kinsman for his son. Now then, if you will deal loyally and truly with my master, tell me; and if not, tell me, so that I may turn either to the right hand or to the left.’

Then Laban and Bethuel answered, ‘The thing comes from the Lord; we cannot speak to you anything bad or good. Look, Rebekah is before you; take her and go, and let her be the wife of your master’s son, as the Lord has spoken.’

When Abraham’s servant heard their words, he bowed himself to the ground before the Lord. And the servant brought out jewelry of silver and of gold, and garments, and gave them to Rebekah; he also gave to her brother and to her mother costly ornaments. Then he and the men who were with him ate and drank, and they spent the night there.

When they rose in the morning, he said, ‘Send me back to my master.’ Her brother and her mother said, ‘Let the girl remain with us a while, at least ten days; after that she may go.’

But he said to them, ‘Do not delay me, since the Lord has made my journey successful; let me go, that I may go to my master.’ They said, ‘We will call the girl, and ask her.’ And they called Rebekah, and said to her, ‘**Will you go with this man?**’ She said, ‘**I will.**’ So they sent away their sister Rebekah and her nurse along with Abraham’s servant and his men. And they blessed Rebekah and said to her,

‘May you, our sister, become thousands of myriads; may your offspring gain possession of the gates of their foes.’

Then Rebekah and her maids rose up, mounted the camels, and followed the man; thus the servant took Rebekah, and went his way.

Now Isaac had come from Beer-lahai-roi, and was settled in the Negeb. Isaac went out in the evening to walk in the field; and looking up, he saw camels coming. And Rebekah looked up, and when she saw Isaac, she slipped quickly from the camel, and said to the servant, ‘Who is the man over there, walking in the field to meet us?’ Eiliezer said, ‘It is my master.’ So she took her veil and covered herself. And the servant told Isaac all the things that he had done.

Then Isaac brought her into his mother Sarah’s tent. He took Rebekah, and she became his wife; **and he loved her**. So Isaac was comforted after his mother’s death.

Hymn

“He Leadeth Me, Oh Blessed Thought”

Response to the Word of God

Affirmation of Faith

Apostles' Creed

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth; and in Jesus Christ His only Son our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead and buried. On the third day He rose from the dead; He ascended into heaven, and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body and the life everlasting. Amen.

****Doxology***

Traditional

Sharing of Joys and Concerns

Pastoral Prayer & 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

The Sending Forth

Charge and Benediction:

May God's opinion matter far more to you than man's opinion. May His dreams for you speak louder than your fears. May you refuse to read into situations that make you anxious. May Jesus' promise to protect and provide be enough for you. May His forgiveness wash over every sin from your past, and may you rise up in the knowledge that He's made you brand new, through and through. No spot or stain on you!

Postlude

"How Firm a Foundation"

Concerns- June 14th

Barnes: Troy- (friend) stage 4 lung cancer

Benton: Linda Crawford- (friend)

Blair: James Thorne- (scout) rare skin infection, doing better

Katy Neel- (LHS student) scleroderma

Glen Murgacz- (friend) biopsy for bladder cancer

Boone: Jim Hedrick - (friend) recovering from partial lung removal

Michael -(son) out of work during pandemic

Ray Graeber- (Sammy's cousin) ICU- recovering from colon surgery

Nancy Boone- (Sammy's cousin's wife) cancer

Chryssikos: Linda Arendt- (neighbor) disabled

Clarke: Ben Daniels - (Pat's grandson) deployed to Syria late summer

Cram: Winslow's-(friends of Sally) family & medical problems

Janice Campbell-(friend) under hospice care

Military away from home

Diddams: Lois- problems with medications

Paul (brother)- loss of wife, not doing well

Dills: Katy Neel- lymphoma

Dwyer: Karen Huddle- (friend) health problems

Fleming: family dealing with addiction and self- esteem

Steve Trombecky- (friend) home recovering

Foster: Thomasine Davis- (aunt) hospice care

Joyce Abbott- (former member) cancer

Andre Nemenek- (Shepherds table cook) prostate cancer

Ellen- upcoming medical procedure

Brother-in-law has Covid-19, sister in self- quarantine

Glass: Ken (Steve Glass' father) fell, broke hip and shoulder

Goodman: Barry Owen-(friend) cancer

Randall Sales-(SRHS coach) cancer

Katherine Saunders- (Hugh's daughter) hospice

Gould: Jay- waiting for heart bypass surgery

Harris: Judy- recovering from throat procedure

Heinrich: Steven - (grandson) autoimmune disorder

Barbara Lore- (Helen's sister) heart problems

Koch: Doris- fell, broken hip, at home

Kuhn- Kibbey: Nancy Milton- (friend) cancer, Alzheimer's

Rachel Rutledge-(granddaughter) experimental treatment

Dot- health issues, macular degeneration

Grandson- alcoholism

Eric Bryant- diagnosed with MS

Ledden: John- heart problems

Mauser: Joyce Reese- (friend) health problems

Steven-(son's boss) going blind

Tom & Betty Clark- downsizing, and Betty has new pacemaker

Norma Jean- (Gayle's sister) broken collar bone

Pat- (Al's sister) diabetes, tested positive for Covid-19

Morris: all law enforcement, firefighters and all other first responders

Forensic scientists who deal with crime

Rev. Pam Ledbetter-(friend) autoimmune disease

Doris Jean Coble- (cousin) in nursing home

Salley: David Etheridge- (fellow pastor) terminal cancer

Emily Salley- (sister-in-law) invasive breast cancer

Saunders: (Ronnie) Colin Bridges- (grandson)

Scott- (son-in-law) chemo and radiation

Scheurer: Jim Hedrick-(friend) cancer, partial lung removed

Bob Lindell-(friend) prostate cancer

Stetson: James & family-(son) in Colorado

Smith: Diane Perry- (John's cousin) diagnosed with Bells Palsy

Stevens: Jackie Landis- heart problems

Toney: Judy- undergoing radiation

Karen Hyde-(friend) bladder cancer

Mike Gillespie- (friend) hospice care

Cal Rice- (former pastor) bone cancer, refused treatment

Van Dyke: Thomas Blythe- (friend) home recovering

Weeks: Mary Lohmeyer- (friend) doing well

Wilkerson: Ricky Wilkerson-(Dan's cousin) cancer

Prayers for those dealing with loneliness

Prayers that anti-Semitism be erased

Prayers for healing the divisive spirit among our leaders/nation

Prayers for an end of the coronavirus and healing for those infected

The Church Regathers !!

Dear Church Members and friends, what a joyous time it will be after 11 weeks apart, to regather in worship. But do not fool yourselves, we are still in the middle of the Covid19 pandemic. So for the foreseeable future, worship services will be designed to limit the spread of this virus. Please note the following guidelines as you prepare to come to worship . Thank you, John.

1. If you have a pre-existing medical condition, if you feel sick, or if you believe you may have been exposed to the virus, **PLEASE STAY HOME** for at least 2 weeks while continuing to worship with us through the video broadcast.
2. Unless you need the elevator, **please enter the church through the front door**.
3. **Wear a face mask** while entering and leaving the church. Courtesy face masks – disposable and permanent for you to take home – are available at each entrance.
4. **Upon entering**, place your offering (regular & 5¢ a meal) in the plates or baskets at each entrance. If you want a **Daily Bread** booklet or if **communion** is to be served, pick these up as you go to your seat.
5. Let the ushers guide you to socially distanced seating, where bulletins are placed. **Take seats closer to the front** and let latecomers sit further back.
6. Go directly to your seats to quietly enjoy the prelude music. Save your greetings and conversations with fellow members for **AFTER THE SERVICE** when you can safely do so **OUTSIDE**.
7. **During the service**, please just listen to the music or sing quietly to yourself.
8. Children will stay with their family, there will be no nursery, no gathering for children's sermon, and no children's church.
9. If you must use the restroom, wash your hands thoroughly.
10. After the service, please **let Ushers dismiss you from your seats** (moving from back to front)
11. After the service, **please linger on the lawn**, while wearing your face mask, where you can greet and visit with fellow worshippers.
12. Use a non-touch way of greeting fellow worshippers before and after the service.

Welcome Back!



ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Thank you for continuing to send in your contributions and pledges.
You can mail your pledge or contribution or you can drop by the office,
Mon-Thurs between 8 am -12 pm.**

Even though we aren't meeting as normal, **5 ¢ a meal offerings and Heifer** are still welcomed and encouraged. Just mail them in as you do your pledges and contributions, with a note in the memo line.

Do you enjoy yardwork? If you do, we are looking for volunteers to work in the church yard mowing grass, weed eating and doing general yard work. If you are interested, please let the office know.

Happy Anniversary!!
Al & Judy Toney- 16th

