



Service of Worship July 13, 2025 9:30am  
Fifth Sunday After Pentecost

### Gathering

*The prelude, the first act of worship, sets the tone for what is to follow.  
So, we invite you as worshipers to gather, to transition from your busy lives  
into a sacred place of communion with God and with each other. – Dr. Kimo Smith, adapted*

PRELUDE

“Amazing Grace”  
Linda Dover, organist

arr. Karen Keene

*In worship following reflective music, we are requesting a response of quiet or a  
contemplative “amen.” Any music that elicits a response of applause is to the glory of God.*

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rev. Karen Wright

\*CALL TO WORSHIP

Emily Nelson Dixon

ONE: God made a promise long ago — to bless and not forsake, to lead and not abandon.

**ALL: God’s covenant is sure, and God’s word stands through all generations.**

ONE: As we come up to bat this day, we remember God’s faithfulness.

**ALL: We worship the God who keeps God’s promises and invites us into the divine game plan.**

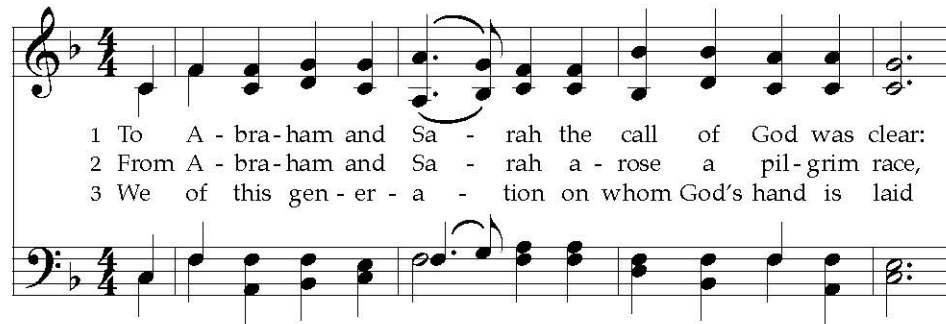
\*HYMN 51

“To Abraham and Sarah”

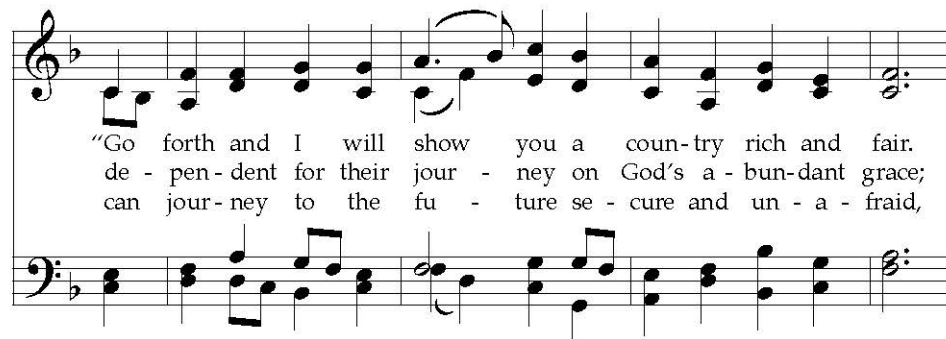
LLANFYLLIN

# 51 To Abraham and Sarah

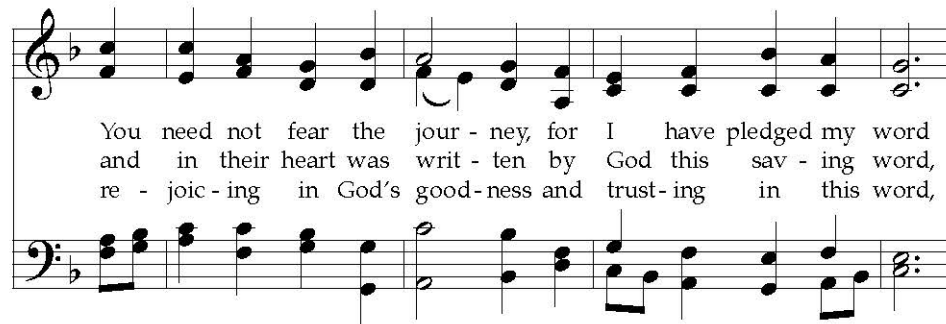
## I Will Be Your God



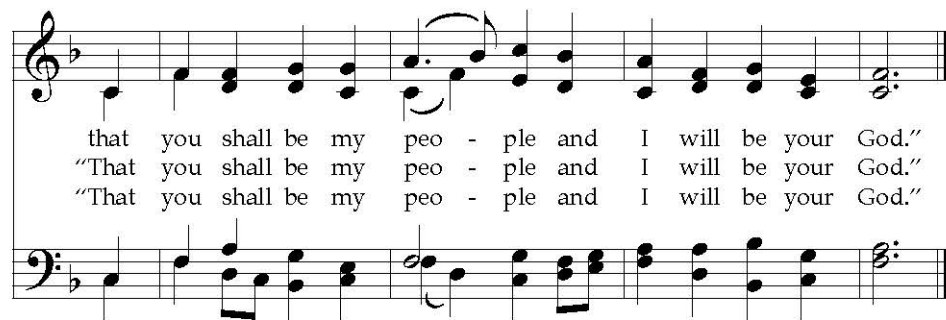
1 To A - bra - ham and Sa - rah the call of God was clear:  
 2 From A - bra - ham and Sa - rah a - rose a pil - grim race,  
 3 We of this gen - er - a - tion on whom God's hand is laid



"Go forth and I will show you a coun - try rich and fair.  
 de - pen - dent for their jour - ney on God's a - bun - dant grace;  
 can jour - ney to the fu - ture se - cure and un - a - fraid,



You need not fear the jour - ney, for I have pledged my word  
 and in their heart was writ - ten by God this sav - ing word,  
 re - joic - ing in God's good - ness and trust - ing in this word,



that you shall be my peo - ple and I will be your God."  
 "That you shall be my peo - ple and I will be your God."  
 "That you shall be my peo - ple and I will be your God."

This hymn condenses the narrative of Genesis 17:1-22 and grounds it in the recurring statement of the covenant relationship between God and the people God has chosen. This Welsh tune also occurs in a minor version called LLANGLOFFAN, used elsewhere in this hymnal (see no. 362).

## A TIME WITH THE CHILDREN

*(Awakening to Worship, our child-friendly worship time, is on summer hiatus. Our Nursery welcomes young children, and our ushers can assist families to the nursery located in the children's wing. Worship bags are available for children who stay in worship.)*

## CALL TO CONFESSION

Rev. Karen Wright

God calls us into covenant — into relationship, responsibility, and trust. Yet we know how easy it is to stray, to seek our own way instead of God's. So let us come, honestly and humbly, to the One who is always faithful, even when we falter. Let us confess our sin together.

## PRAYER OF CONFESSION *(Together)*

**Faithful God, You make promises and keep them, but we confess that we do not always do the same. We chase after our own game, try to change the rules, or run from the call to follow You. We forget that we are part of something bigger — a team bound by Your covenant love. Forgive our wandering hearts. Bring us back to Your purpose, rooted in grace and trust. Amen.**

## ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

Friends, hear this good news: Even when we break the promise, God keeps it. Even when we walk away, God runs to meet us. Even when we fumble the call, God still trusts us with grace. In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven — restored, renewed, and sent out again.

**Thanks be to God! Amen.**

## SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

**ONE:** May the peace of Christ be with you.

**ALL:** **And also with you and all others!**

\*HYMN 399

"God Welcome's All"

THEMBA AMEN

# God Welcomes All

399

The musical score is written for two staves, treble and bass clef, in 4/4 time with a key signature of one sharp (F#). The melody is simple and hymn-like, using mostly whole and half notes. The lyrics are printed below the notes.

God wel - comes all, strang - ers and friends;  
God's love is strong and it nev - er ends.

This "short song," as the Iona Community calls it, can be especially effective as a means of setting a welcoming tone for a service (especially an ecumenical one). Like most such songs, it needs to be sung several times, adding and improvising harmony with each repetition.

TEXT: John L. Bell, 2008

MUSIC: South African song; transcr. John L. Bell, 2008

Text and Music Transcr. © 2008 WGRG, Iona Community (admin. GIA Publications, Inc.)

THEMBA AMEN

4.4.9

## Equipping

### SCRIPTURE LESSON

Psalm 105:1–11 (NRSVue)

Chris Krug

O give thanks to the Lord; call on his name;  
make known his deeds among the peoples.  
Sing to him, sing praises to him;  
tell of all his wonderful works.  
Glory in his holy name;  
let the hearts of those who seek the Lord rejoice.  
Seek the Lord and his strength;  
seek his presence continually.  
Remember the wonderful works he has done,  
his miracles and the judgments he has uttered,  
O offspring of his servant Abraham,  
children of Jacob, his chosen ones.  
He is the Lord our God;  
his judgments are in all the earth.  
He is mindful of his covenant forever,

of the word that he commanded for a thousand generations,  
the covenant that he made with Abraham,  
his sworn promise to Isaac,  
which he confirmed to Jacob as a statute,  
to Israel as an everlasting covenant,  
saying, "To you I will give the land of Canaan  
as your portion for an inheritance."

ANTHEM

"River in Judea"  
EncoreKC! SSA Chorus

arr. John Leavitt

*Often times I dream of music, of the river that freely flows.  
And it sings a song sweeter than honey, one everybody knows.  
Late at night I hear it singing then again when I wake at dawn.  
And it fills me up with hope and good will, the will to go on, go on.*

*There is a river in Judea, that I heard of long ago.  
And it's a singing, ringing river that my soul cries out, my soul cries out to know.*

*I believe it keeps on travelin' but it rests on the Sabbath day.  
And the time when it pauses in stillness, I almost hear it pray.  
When I'm weary and downhearted, how I long for the song it sings,  
For the calm within its gentle blue, the peace that it brings, it brings.*

*May the time not be too distant when we meet by the river, meet by the shore.  
'Til then dream of that wonderful day as we sing once more, once more.*

## SCRIPTURE LESSON

Genesis 12:1–9 (NRSVue)

Now the Lord said to Abram, "Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you. I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and the one who curses you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed."

So Abram went, as the Lord had told him, and Lot went with him. Abram was seventy-five years old when he departed from Haran. Abram took his wife Sarai and his brother's son Lot and all the possessions that they had gathered and the persons whom they had acquired in Haran, and they set forth to go to the land of Canaan. When they had come to the land of Canaan, Abram passed through the land to the place at Shechem, to the oak of Moreh. At that time the Canaanites were in the land. Then the Lord appeared to Abram and said, "To your offspring I will give this land." So he built there an altar to the Lord, who had appeared to him. From there he moved on to the hill country on the east of Bethel and pitched his tent, with Bethel on the west and Ai on the east, and there he built an altar to the Lord and invoked the name of the Lord. And Abram journeyed on by stages toward the Negeb.

Holy Wisdom, Holy Words  
**Thanks be to God!**

SERMON

“Covenant on Deck”

Rev. Karen Wright

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE 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.**

A CALL TO STEWARDSHIP

OFFERING OF GIFTS AND MUSIC

arr. Sheldon Curry

“Down to the River to Pray”

EncoreKC! SSA Chorus

*As I went down to the river to pray, studying about that good ol' way  
And who shall wear the robe and crown? Good Lord, show me the way.*

*Oh, sisters, let's go down, let's go down, come on down.  
Come on, sisters, let's go down, down to the river to pray.*

*Brothers ...*

*Fathers ...*

*Mothers ...*

*Sinners ...*

**Sending**

\*HYMN 39

“Great Is Thy Faithfulness”

FAITHFULNESS

# 39 Great Is Thy Faithfulness

1 \*Great is thy faith - ful - ness, O God my Fa - ther;  
 2 Sum - mer and win - ter, and spring - time and har - vest,  
 3 Par - don for sin and a peace that en - dur - eth,

there is no shad - ow of turn - ing with thee.  
 sun, moon, and stars in their cours - es a - bove  
 thine own dear pres - ence to cheer and to guide,

Thou chang - est not; thy com - pas - sions they fail not.  
 join with all na - ture in man - i - fold wit - ness  
 strength for to - day and bright hope for to - mor - row:

As thou hast been thou for - ev - er wilt be.  
 to thy great faith - ful - ness, mer - cy, and love.  
 bless - ings all mine, with ten thou - sand be - side!

\*Or "Great is thy faithfulness, O God, Creator."

Written as a meditation on Lamentations 3:22-23, this text is one of the few hymns among the 1200 poems by this Methodist writer and pastor that has gained much currency. The tune that appears here was composed especially for these words, and the pairing has proved enduring.

TEXT: Thomas O. Chisholm, 1923  
 MUSIC: William Marion Runyan, 1923  
 Text and Music © 1923, ren. 1951 Hope Publishing Company

FAITHFULNESS  
 11.10.11.10 with refrain

CREATION AND PROVIDENCE

Refrain

Great is thy faith - ful - ness! Great is thy faith - ful - ness!  
오 신 실 하 신 주 오 신 실 하 신 주

Morn - ing by morn - ing, new mer - cies I see.  
날 마 다 자 비 를 베푸 시 며

All I have need - ed thy hand hath pro - vid - ed.  
일 용 할 모 든 것 내 려 주 시 니

Great is thy faith - ful - ness, Lord un - to me!  
오 신 실 하 신 주 나 의 구 주

CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

Rev. Karen Wright

POSTLUDE

"Keep Your Lamps"

arr. Victor C. Johnson

EncoreKC! SSA Chorus

*Keep your lamps trimmed and burning,  
The time is drawing nigh.*



*Children, don't get weary 'til your work is done.*

*Soon this journey will be over,  
The time is drawing nigh.*

*\*Stand in body or spirit*

GOD'S PEACE TO YOU

### **EncoreKC! SSA Chorus**

Barbara Douglas, director  
Leayn Losh, accompanist

**Soprano I:**  
Kelly Cady  
Henryette Ogburn

Mary Viveros  
Shirley Weglarz

**Soprano II:**  
Anne Hirner  
Elaine Johnson  
Patsy Poe  
Marsha Thompson

**Alto:**  
Mary Bertoldie  
Karen Garrett  
Deborah Hall  
Nancy Langhofer-Gloerke  
Linda Odell

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