

WHEN JACOB AWOKE FROM
HIS SLEEP, HE THOUGHT,

*“Surely the LORD
is in this place,
and I was not
aware of it.”*

GENESIS 28:16

EIGHTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

July 23, 2023

GATHERING

PRAYER FOR MEDITATION: *Eternal God, Author of our life and End of our pilgrimage: Guide us by your Word and Spirit amid all perils and temptations, that we may not wander from your way, nor stumble the darkness; but may finish our course in safety, and come to our eternal rest in you; through the grace of Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.*

RINGING OF THE CHIMES

OPENING SENTENCES (*Genesis 28:16-17*)

Rev. Courtney Bowen

One: Surely the Lord is in this place!

ALL: *This is the house of God!*

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rev. Courtney Bowen

PRELUDE

Pastorale on Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us

Wood

Dr. Terry McRoberts

CHORAL INTROIT

Sing a New Song to the Lord

Hopson

Chancel Choir

***CALL TO WORSHIP & OPENING PRAYER** (based on Psalm 8 & Genesis 28)

Courtney Hiscox

One: O Lord, our Sovereign, how majestic is your name in all the earth!

ALL: *You have set your glory above the heavens.*

One: When we look at your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars that you have established; what are human beings that you are mindful of them, mortals that you care for them?

ALL: *Yet you have made them a little lower than God and crowned them with glory and honor.*

One: Let us pray. Rock of Israel and cornerstone of our common life, you are not bound by our visions, our structures, our doctrine.

ALL: *We cannot predict your coming or going, yet you have given us your story, your family, your work to do.*

One: Meet us here.

ALL: *Shape us for service in your world, for we carry the name of Jesus and live by the power of your breath. Amen.*

***HYMN: 49** *The God of Abraham Praise*

LEONI

PRAISE GOD AND CONFESS OUR SINS

CALL TO CONFESSION

Rev. Courtney Bowen

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Rev. Courtney Bowen

Holy and merciful God, in your presence we confess our failure to be what you created us to be. You alone know how often we have sinned in wandering from your ways, in wasting your gifts, in forgetting your love. By your loving mercy, help us to live in your light and abide in your ways, for the sake of Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

SILENT PRAYERS OF CONFESSION AND REPENTANCE

*ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

Rev. Courtney Bowen

One: The mercy of the Lord is from everlasting to everlasting. Friends, hear the good news: in Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!

ALL: Thanks be to God. Amen.

*CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE: 447 *We Are Forgiven*

WE ARE FORGIVEN

We are forgiven. We are forgiven. Thanks be to God. Thanks be to God.

We are forgiven. We are forgiven. Thanks be to God. Thanks be to God.

*PASSING OF THE PEACE

Rev. Courtney Bowen

One: The peace of Jesus Christ be with you.

ALL: And, also, with you.

THE WORD

ANTHEM

Gonna Lay My Burden Down
Chancel Choir

arr. Rouse

TIME WITH THE CHILDREN

Libby Smith

NEW MEMBER RECEPTION *Julia Erickson* (Reaffirmation of Faith)
Blest be the Tie that Binds (Hymn 306)

Rev. Courtney Bowen

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

Rev. Courtney Bowen

*HYMN: 406 *We Are Standing on Holy Ground* (sing 2 times)

HOLY GROUND

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Courtney Hiscox

FIRST READING *Psalm 139:1-12, 23-24* (page 577-578)

Courtney Hiscox

One: This is the word of God for the people of God. *ALL: Thanks be to God.*

SECOND READING *Genesis 28:10-19a* (page 25)

Rev. Courtney Bowen

One: This is the word of God. The grass withers and the flower fades, but the word of the Lord endures forever.

ALL: *Thanks be to God.*

SERMON

Surely the Lord is in the Place

Rev. Courtney Bowen

RESPONSE

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH** *The Confession of 1967*

Courtney Hiscox

God has created the world of space and time to be the sphere of God's dealings with humankind. In its beauty and vastness, sublimity and awfulness, order and disorder, the world reflects to the eye of faith the majesty and mystery of its Creator. God has created human beings for a personal relation with himself that they may respond to the love of the Creator. God has created male and female and given them a life which proceeds from birth to death in a succession of generations and in a wide complex of social relations. God has endowed humans with capacities to make the world serve their needs and to enjoy its good things. Life is a gift to be received with gratitude and a task to be pursued with courage. People are free to seek life within the purpose of God: to develop and protect the resources of nature for the common welfare, to work for justice and peace in society, and in other ways to use their creative powers for the fulfillment of human life.

(At this time, please find the red friendship pad located toward the center isle on each pew, sign it, pass it down your row and back again, taking note of those who worship with you.)

OFFERING

Courtney Hiscox

OFFERTORY

Prelude on DENNIS

Wilfred

Dr. Terry McRoberts

*Doxology (Tune: 606)

OLD HUNDREDTH

*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. Amen.*

*Dedicatory Prayer

Courtney Hiscox

SENDING

***HYMN: 403** *Open Now Thy Gates of Beauty*

UNSER HERRSCHER

***CHARGE + BENEDECTION**

Rev. Courtney Bowen

CHORAL BENEDECTION

Amen

Rutter

Chancel Choir

POSTLUDE

Toccata Liturgique

Elliott

Dr. Terry McRoberts