



INDEPENDENT
Presbyterian Church

A NEW PEOPLE. A NEW MEMPHIS.

THE FIRST WORD ON WORSHIP

It is interesting to see how other preachers have dealt with Genesis 24: so many of them use this text to talk about finding a godly wife! Suffice it to say, that is not why God the Holy Spirit put this scene here in the middle of Genesis, the longest chapter in the entire book. Rather, this story shows how God works to ensure that his promises come to pass. He had promised that Abraham would be a great nation, occupying a beautiful land and bringing blessing to all the families of the earth. How was that going to happen? By bringing Isaac a bride — that was how the covenant promises would go from one generation to the next.

But this scene points us to a greater Gospel narrative: that God himself is seeking a bride, a bride for his Son, Jesus Christ. To what lengths will God go to gain a people for himself! He will go from heaven to earth, take upon himself the form of a servant, become obedient to death — all to secure a bride! From heav'n he came and sought her to be his holy bride — that is the ultimate message of Genesis 24.

And it is a message to encourage our hearts today. As we will hear in the call to worship, the assurance of pardon, in the hymns — our God delights to pursue us in Jesus Christ and to enter into communion with us. He came to seek and save us — but also to delight in us! Let us worship this faithful God and Savior today!

THE LORD'S DAY WORSHIP

THE TENTH DAY OF JANUARY, TWO THOUSAND AND TWENTY-ONE

Ten O'clock in the Morning

THE WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE MEDITATION

"Andante Tranquillo" from *Sonata III*
Jennifer Velázquez, Organist

Mendelssohn

THE CALL TO WORSHIP

Psalm 45

The Minister: My heart overflows with a pleasing theme; I address my verses to the king. You are the most handsome of the sons of men; grace is poured upon your lips; therefore, God has blessed you forever.

The Congregation: Gird your sword on your thigh, O Mighty One, in your splendor and majesty!

The Minister: Your throne, O God, is forever and ever. The scepter of your kingdom is a scepter of uprightness.

The Congregation: Therefore God, your God, has anointed you with the oil of gladness beyond your companions.

The Minister: Hear, O daughter and consider, and incline your ear: forget your people and your father's house, and the king will desire your beauty.

All: We will cause your name, O King, to be remembered in all generations; therefore, nations will praise you forever and ever! Amen! Let us worship God!

The Reverend J. Edward Norton, Associate Pastor

THE HYMN OF PRAISE

“My Heart Is Greatly Stirred”

Psalm 45

Diademata

1. My heart is great-ly stirred, a no-ble theme I sing;
2. Your throne, O God, will last for - ev - er, ev - er - more.
3. O daugh-ter, lend your ear and lis - ten to my call:
4. Then in your fa - thers' place your chil-dren all will stand,

my tongue's the skill - ful writ-er's pen to mag - ni - fy the king.
The scep - ter of your king - dom is a scep - ter just and pure.
put out of mind your fa - ther's house, for - get your peo - ple all.
and you will make them prin - ces then to rule thro' - out the land.

Most beau - ti - ful of men, your lips with grace o'er - flow,
For righ - teous - ness you love and wick - ed - ness you scorn;
Your beau - ty then the king with great de - light will see;
I'll cause in ev - 'ry age your name to be re - nowned,

so God for - ev - er fa - vors you, his bless - ing he be - stowed.
so God, your God, a - bove your peers poured o'er you oil of joy.
be - cause he is your Lord, bow down be - fore him rev - erent - ly.
and there - fore peo - ples ev - er - more your prais - es will re - sound.

THE PRAYER OF ADORATION

THE ASCRIPTION OF PRAISE

Münster Gesangbuch, 1677

Crusader's Hymn

1. Fair - est Lord Je - sus, Rul - er of all na - ture,
2. Beau - ti - ful Sav - ior! Lord of the na - tions!

Son of God and Son of Man! Thee will I cher - ish,
Son of God and Son of Man! Glo - ry and hon - or,

thee will I hon - or, thou, my soul's glo - ry, joy, and crown.
praise, ad - o - ra - tion, now and for - ev - er - more be thine.

The musical score is written in 4/4 time with a key signature of two flats (B-flat and E-flat). It consists of three systems of music, each with a vocal line (treble clef) and a bass line (bass clef). The lyrics are printed below the vocal line. The first system contains two verses of the hymn. The second system continues the lyrics. The third system concludes the hymn with a double bar line and a repeat sign.

THE CORPORATE CONFESSION OF SIN

O Lord God, eternal and almighty Father, we confess and acknowledge unfeignedly before your holy majesty that we are poor sinners, conceived and born in iniquity and corruption, prone to do evil, incapable of any good, and that in our depravity we transgress your holy commandments without end or ceasing. We are grieved that we have offended you; and we condemn ourselves and our sins with true repentance, beseeching your grace to relieve our distress. O God and Father, most gracious and full of compassion, have mercy upon us in the name of your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we pray, *Amen.* — *Communion Liturgy of John Calvin*

THE ASSURANCE OF PARDON

“You shall no more be termed Forsaken, and your land shall no more be termed Desolate, but you shall be called My Delight Is In Her, and your land Married; for the Lord delights in you, and your land shall be married. For as a young man marries a young woman, so shall your sons marry you, and as the bridegroom rejoices over the bride, so shall your God rejoice over you.” — *Isaiah 62:4-5*

THE HYMN OF ASSURANCE

“Thou Lovely Source of True Delight”

Andrew Ginn and Drew Lucas, Guitars Tim Keith, Bass

Words: Anne Steele

Music: Kevin Twit



1. Thou love - ly source of true de - light whom
2. Thy glo - ry o'er cre - a - tion shines but
3. 'Tis here, when - e'er my com - forts droop and
4. But ah! Too soon the pleas - ing scene is



I un - seen a - dore un - veil thy beau - ties to
in thy sa - cred Word I read in fair - er, bright -
sin and sor - row rise thy love with cheer - ing beams
cloud - ed o'er with pain. My gloom - y fears rise dark



my sight that I might love thee more,
- er lines my bleed - ing, dy - ing Lord,
of hope my faint - ing heart sup - plies,
be - tween and I a - gain com - plain,



oh, that I might love thee more.
see my bleed - ing, dy - ing Lord.
oh, my faint - ing heart sup - plied.
oh, and I a - gain com - plain.

5. Jesus, my Lord, my life, my light
Oh come with blissful ray
Break radiant through the shades of night
And chase my fears away,
Won't You chase my fears away?

6. Then shall my soul with rapture trace
The wonders of Thy love
But the full glories of Thy face
Are only known above,
They are only known above.

THE STATEMENT OF FAITH

The Apostles' Creed

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, and born of the virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended into hell. The third day he rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From there 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.*

THE PRAYER OF INTERCESSION AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come. Your 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 yours is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. *Amen.*

THE ANTHEM

"How Can I Keep from Singing?"

arr. Ellingboe

Emily Edwards, Flute

James A. Brown, Jr., Director

My life flows on in endless song above earth's lamentation.

I hear the real, though far-off hymn that hails a new creation.

*No storm can shake my inmost calm while to that rock I'm clinging.
Since Love is Lord of heaven and earth, how can I keep from singing?*

Through all the tumult and the strife, I hear the music ringing.

It sounds and echoes in my soul. How can I keep from singing?

What though the tempest 'round me roar. I hear the truth. It liveth.

What though the darkness 'round me close, songs in the night it giveth.

THE SCRIPTURE READING

Genesis 24:1-67

The Minister: This is the Word of the Lord.

The Congregation: Thanks be to God!

THE SERMON

“From Heav’n He Came and Sought Her”

Dr. Sean Michael Lucas

Senior Pastor

SERMON NOTES

1. A bride for Isaac

A. What's at stake?

B. What's required?

C. Who's in charge?

2. A bride for Christ

A. What he did

B. Who it is

THE HYMN OF RESPONSE

“The Church’s One Foundation”

No. 347

Samuel J. Stone, 1866

Aurelia

1. The church - 's one foun - da - tion is Je - sus Christ her Lord;
2. E - lect from ev - 'ry na - tion, yet one o'er all the earth;
3. Though with a scorn - ful won - der men see her sore op - pressed,
4. The church shall nev - er per - ish! Her dear Lord to de - fend,

she is his new cre - a - tion by wa - ter and the Word;
her char - ter of sal - va - tion, one Lord, one faith, one birth;
by schis - ms rent a - sun - der, by her - e - sies dis - tressed,
to guide, sus - tain, and cher - ish, is with her to the end;

from heav'n he came and sought her to be his ho - ly bride;
one ho - ly Name she bless - es, par - takes one ho - ly food,
yet saints their watch are keep - ing; their cry goes up, "How long?"
though there be those that hate her, and false sons in her pale,

with his own blood he bought her, and for her life he died.
and to one hope she press - es, with ev - 'ry grace en - dued.
And soon the night of weep - ing shall be the morn of song.
a - gainst or foe or trai - tor she ev - er shall pre - vail.

5. 'Mid toil and tribulation,
and tumult of her war,
she waits the consummation
of peace forevermore;
till with the vision glorious
her longing eyes are blest,
and the great church victorious
shall be the church at rest.

THE BENEDICTION

THE CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE

Aurelia

Yet she on earth hath union with God the Three in One,
and mystic sweet communion with those whose rest is won:
O happy ones and holy! Lord, give us grace that we,
like them, the meek and lowly, on high may dwell with thee.

THE POSTLUDE

“Antiphon V: How Fair and How Pleasant Art Thou”

Dupré



IN THE SANCTUARY TODAY

The arrangement in the Sanctuary is presented to the glory of God.

DEATHS

We extend our sympathy to

Kim Larroux and Jean Larroux IV on the death of her father and his grandfather,
Arthur Dennis Fulford, on January 1.

We extend our sympathy to

Anne and Johnny Chambers on the death of his mother,
Carolyn Chambers, on January 5.

DATES TO REMEMBER

January 17	10:00 Worship Service <i>Livestream Only</i>
February 2	Women's <i>Simply Tuesday</i> Bible Study Resumes
February 4	Men's <i>In The Word</i> Bible Study Resumes
February 2021	Sunday Evening Praise Resumes <i>Jesus Is Our Joy: Studies in Philippians</i>

The February Missions Conference is postponed until 2022.



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