

WORSHIP WITH ZION

SUMMER 2023



Serve & Enrich
Zion United Church
of Christ

Vacation Bible School Song Sunday

Prelude

Children's Melody

Gathering—People of God, run to our welcoming God...People of God, proclaim our love for the God of Love...People of God, sing God's good news to the world.~ Let us worship our great God.

Opening Song

Rise and Shine

A Time of Prayer—Loving God, you remind us that the kingdom of heaven has come near. Open our eyes, our faith, and our hearts, that we may perceive and celebrate your presence. Give us eyes, as Abraham and Sarah before us, to see you on our doorsteps, as you promise us unimaginable joy... Give us hearts empowered by your Son, Jesus Christ, to show your compassion to the harassed and the helpless. We ask in the name of Jesus, who reconciles us to you and sends us forth to be your reconciliation in the world.~

The Lord's Prayer (unison)—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.

Song

The B-I-B-L-E

We Hear God's Word

Genesis 18:1-15, 21:1-7 (NRSV)

¹The LORD appeared to Abraham by the oaks of Mamre, as he sat at the entrance of his tent in the heat of the day. ²He looked up and saw three men standing near him. When he saw them, he ran from the tent entrance to meet them, and bowed down to the ground. ³He said, 'My lord, if I find favour with you, do not pass by your servant. ⁴Let a little water be brought, and wash your feet, and rest yourselves under the tree. ⁵Let me bring a little bread, that you may refresh yourselves, and after that you may pass on—since you have come to your servant.'

So they said, ‘Do as you have said.’ ⁶And Abraham hastened into the tent to Sarah, and said, ‘Make ready quickly three measures of choice flour, knead it, and make cakes.’ ⁷Abraham ran to the herd, and took a calf, tender and good, and gave it to the servant, who hastened to prepare it. ⁸Then he took curds and milk and the calf that he had prepared, and set it before them; and he stood by them under the tree while they ate.

⁹ They said to him, ‘Where is your wife Sarah?’ And he said, ‘There, in the tent.’ ¹⁰Then one said, ‘I will surely return to you in due season, and your wife Sarah shall have a son.’ And Sarah was listening at the tent entrance behind him. ¹¹Now Abraham and Sarah were old, advanced in age; it had ceased to be with Sarah after the manner of women. ¹²So Sarah laughed to herself, saying, ‘After I have grown old, and my husband is old, shall I have pleasure?’ ¹³The LORD said to Abraham, ‘Why did Sarah laugh, and say, “Shall I indeed bear a child, now that I am old?”’ ¹⁴Is anything too wonderful for the LORD? At the set time I will return to you, in due season, and Sarah shall have a son.’ ¹⁵But Sarah denied, saying, ‘I did not laugh’; for she was afraid. He said, ‘Oh yes, you did laugh.’

²¹The LORD dealt with Sarah as he had said, and the LORD did for Sarah as he had promised. ²Sarah conceived and bore Abraham a son in his old age, at the time of which God had spoken to him. ³Abraham gave the name Isaac to his son whom Sarah bore him. ⁴And Abraham circumcised his son Isaac when he was eight days old, as God had commanded him. ⁵Abraham was a hundred years old when his son Isaac was born to him. ⁶Now Sarah said, ‘God has brought laughter for me; everyone who hears will laugh with me.’ ⁷And she said, ‘Who would ever have said to Abraham that Sarah would nurse children? Yet I have borne him a son in his old age.’

Song

Father Abraham

Meditation

God has Brought Laughter for Me

Song

Deep and Wide

We Respond to God's Word with Our Giving

Invitation—You received from God without payment. Give generously out of God’s bounty, living as signs of the kingdom of heaven.~

June Benevolence—Emergency Assistance Fund

Special Offering—Strengthen the Church

Doxology

We Give Thanks—Loving God, what shall we return to you for your great bounty in our lives? Your generosity knows no limits. Your loving compassion pours into our hearts and our very beings. We thank you. We call upon you, trusting your love. We offer you all that we have and all that we are, hoping for your glory and desiring your kingdom. Amen.~

Hymn

Jesus Loves Me, 437

Hymn

He's Got the Whole World in His Hands, 80

Benediction—May the love of God, the grace of Christ, and the Spirit's peace be with you always. Amen.=

Postlude

Sunshine and Joy Medley