



The Sacrifice of Isaac, Marc Chagall (1966)



Abraham and the Sacrifice of Isaac, Caravaggio (1598–1603)

OUR SERVICE OF WORSHIP, JUNE 19, 2022
TWELFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

FATHERS' DAY

WESTWOOD FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, CINCINNATI, OH



GATHERING AROUND GOD'S WORD

Welcome/Announcements

Moment for Mission—Wendy Beckman

Prelude: “*This Is My Father’s World*”—arr. Jason D. Payne

[Please take a moment to silence all mobile devices and prepare for worship.]

Ringling of the Tower Bell

[Where indicated (*), those who are able are invited to stand.]*

*** Call to Worship** (*Responsive*)

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

And also with you.

What does the Lord require of you?

To do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with our God.

What does God command of us?

To love God with all our heart, and all our soul, and all our mind, and all our strength, and to love our neighbor as ourselves.

God does not call us to ease or to comfort.

But to presence, and abundance, and grace in our struggle.

Let us worship the God who believes in us, and trusts in us, and abides with us.

Let us worship the God who will ask much of us, but will be beside us every step of the way.

Opening Prayer

* **Hymn No. 488:** “*The God of Abraham Praise*”

The God of Abraham praise, who reigns enthroned above;
The ancient of eternal days, the God of love!
The Lord, the great I Am, by earth and heaven confessed,
We bow before Your holy name, forever blest.

Your spirit still flows free, high surging where it will;
In prophet's word You spoke of old and You speak still.
Established is Your law, and changeless it shall stand,
Deep writ upon the human heart, on sea, or land.

You have eternal life implanted in the soul;
Your love shall be our strength and stay, while ages roll.
We praise You, living God! We praise Your holy name;
The first, the last, beyond all thought, and still the same!

Invitation/Prayer of Confession (*Unison*)

Holy One, forgive our pride and our sins—those we remember, and those we have forgotten. Forgive our failure in the face of temptation, and our stubbornness in the face of correction. Forgive the harsh judgments we have made of others, the lies we have told, and the truths we have avoided. Forgive us the pain we have caused others and the indulgence we have shown ourselves. Have mercy on us and make us whole. In Christ we pray. Amen.

A Moment for Silent, Personal Confession

[Please take a moment for silent reflection]

Assurance of Forgiveness (*Based on 1 John 1:4-7—Responsive*)

“If we say that we have fellowship with [God] and yet walk in the darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth; but if we walk in the light as He Himself is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus His Son cleanses us from all sin.” Brothers and sisters, this is the Good News of the Gospel!

We are forgiven, and our joy has been made complete—thanks be to God.

May Christ's peace be with you now and always.

And also with you.

* **Response: Gloria Patri** (*Unison*)

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost.

As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be.

World without end, amen, amen.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND PRAYER REQUESTS

✚ June WestFed Food Pantry needs: Toilet paper, macaroni and cheese, canned fruit

✚ Flowers are given this week by:

- ♥ John and Jeri Rathkamp in memory of their fathers, Oscar Rathkamp and Carl Hall and in honor of their sons, Mike and Jeff, fathers of their grandchildren.
- ♥ The Holtman, Patty and Wanek families in honor, and in memory of all fathers and male mentors on Father's Day and in loving memory of Amanda Lynch.

✚ Prayers are requested for:

- ♥ Fathers, and father figures.
- ♥ The family of Jim Phillips, in the wake of his death last week.
- ♥ Connie Hedrick and family, after the death of her brother, Ron Eckenroth.
- ♥ Luke, the seven month old nephew of Mike and Amy Babicke, who is undergoing treatment for Kawasaki disease.
- ♥ Janet Ziegler, recently diagnosed with leukemia.
- ♥ Joe Dearwester, recovering from knee replacement surgery.
- ♥ Cathie DeFazio, who is dealing with a rare melanoma behind her right eye, and Larry DeFazio, who is healing from a torn right rotator cuff.
- ♥ Susie, a friend of the Kochheisers, undergoing chemotherapy.
- ♥ Linda Kugele who continues to deal with breathing issues.
- ♥ Our homebound members and friends.
- ♥ The boys, girls, young men and women of our Scouting units, their families and leaders.
- ♥ The members of our Session, our committees, and the discernment team.
- ♥ Our partnerships with City Gosel Mission and the Little Princesses Ballet.



MOMENT FOR MEDITATION: FATHERS DAY

Father's Day is a day set apart to celebrate fatherhood, recognize the influence of fathers in our homes and society, and foster paternal bonds. While it is celebrated in the U.S. on the third Sunday of June, in many other countries the officially recognized date of Father's Day varies. It is believed that Father's Day was first observed on June 19, 1910, in Spokane, Washington, through the efforts of Sonora Smart Dodd, a Christian woman and the daughter of American Civil War veteran William Jackson Smart. Sonora's mother died when she was age 16, and she wanted a day that would commemorate and honor fathers like her own, who had raised her and five other children.

Once she began soliciting the idea of an official Father's Day, she met some opposition and even derision, but she persevered. A bill was introduced in Congress in 1913, and in 1916, President Woodrow Wilson spoke at a Father's Day celebration in Spokane, Washington, wanting to make it an official holiday, but Congress still resisted. In 1924, Calvin Coolidge became involved, and in 1930 a national committee was formed by various trade groups in an effort to legitimize the holiday. The battle continued, and in 1966 President Lyndon Johnson made a proclamation for the third Sunday of June to be Father's Day. Finally, it was made an official national holiday when President Nixon signed a proclamation in 1972.

While God's Word is silent about any day being set aside specifically to honor fathers, the Bible does recognize a special place of honor for men who were leaders or examples of excellence in certain skills, such as Jabal, who was "the father of those who live in tents and raise livestock" and his brother Jubal, who was "the father of all who play the harp and flute." Also, when Abram's name was changed to Abraham, God told him, "I have made you a father of many nations," clearly indicating fatherhood as a place of honor in His eyes. Thus, even though the Bible does not mention a Father's Day, we can clearly see that God does recognize the importance of fathers and even gave them special honor throughout history.

Furthermore, we can follow this theme of fatherhood in the very person of God Himself through countless scriptures. There are many instances that speak of Jesus Christ, the Son, honoring His Father and honoring the will of His Father. The apostle Paul taught that to honor one's earthly father is not only a commandment but the first commandment that, when obeyed, has a promise of things going well and living long on the earth. "Honor your father and mother—which is the first commandment with a promise—that it may go well with you and that you may enjoy long life on the earth." In light of these verses, and many others, it would seem to be perfectly God-honoring to celebrate a day in which fathers, the God-given spiritual head of the family, could and should be honored.

PROCLAIMING GOD'S WORD

Prayer for Illumination

First Reading: Genesis 22:1-19—The Binding of Isaac

¹ After these things God tested Abraham. He said to him, "Abraham!" And he said, "Here I am." ² He said, "Take your son, your only son Isaac, whom you love, and go to the land of Moriah and offer him there as a burnt offering on one of the mountains that I shall show you." ³ So Abraham rose early in the morning, saddled his donkey, and took two of his young men with him and his son Isaac; he cut the wood for the burnt offering and set out and went to the place in the distance that God had shown him.

⁴ On the third day Abraham looked up and saw the place far away. ⁵ Then Abraham said to his young men, "Stay here with the donkey; the boy and I will go over there; we will worship, and then we will come back to you." ⁶ Abraham took the wood of the burnt offering and laid it on his son Isaac, and he himself carried the fire and the knife. And the



two of them walked on together. ⁷ Isaac said to his father Abraham, "Father!" And he said, "Here I am, my son." He said, "The fire and the wood are here, but where is the lamb for a burnt offering?" ⁸ Abraham said, "God himself will provide the lamb for a burnt offering, my son." And the two of them walked on together.

⁹ When they came to the place that God had shown him, Abraham built an altar there and laid the wood in order. He bound his son Isaac and laid him on the altar on top of the wood. ¹⁰ Then Abraham reached out his hand and took the knife to kill his son. ¹¹ But the angel of the Lord called to him from heaven and said, "Abraham, Abraham!" And he said, "Here I am."

¹² He said, "Do not lay your hand on the boy or do anything to him, for now I know that you fear God, since you have not withheld your son, your only son, from me." ¹³ And Abraham looked up and saw a ram, caught in a thicket by its horns. Abraham went and took the ram and offered it up as a burnt offering instead of his son. ¹⁴ So Abraham called that place "The Lord will provide," as it is said to this day, "On the mount of the Lord it shall be provided."

¹⁵ The angel of the Lord called to Abraham a second time from heaven ¹⁶ and said, “By myself I have sworn, says the Lord: Because you have done this, and have not withheld your son, your only son, ¹⁷ I will indeed bless you, and I will make your offspring as numerous as the stars of heaven and as the sand that is on the seashore.

And your offspring shall possess the gate of their enemies, ¹⁸ and by your offspring shall all the nations of the earth gain blessing for themselves, because you have obeyed my voice.” ¹⁹ So Abraham returned to his young men, and they arose and went together to Beer-Sheba, and Abraham lived at Beer-Sheba.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Sermon: “*Akedah (The Binding of Isaac)*”

RESPONDING TO GOD’S WORD

Invitation to Offering

[No offering will be collected. Please place your offerings in the baskets located at the entrances to the sanctuary. Thank you for your generosity—now and always!]

Offertory Prayer (Unison)

Heavenly Father, you have given us riches beyond measure. We can only return a fraction of what we owe you; but we ask, Lord, that you will bless our offerings and help us to use them wisely in your service in our church’s mission and ministry, and for your glory. In Jesus’ name we pray. Amen.

Offertory Solo: “*If With All Your Hearts*” (from “*Elijah*”)—Mendelssohn
Travis Pearce, tenor

Pastoral Prayer

[During the prayer, there will be an opportunity to offer a joy or concern aloud. During the pause, feel free to call out the name of someone for whom prayer is requested, or briefly, a joy or concern on your heart. The prayer concludes with the Lord’s Prayer.]

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.

BEARING GOD’S WORD INTO THE WORLD

* **Hymn:** “*Faith of Our Fathers*”

Faith of our fathers, living still in spite of dungeon, fire and sword,
O how our hearts beat high with joy whene’er we hear that glorious word!
Faith of our fathers! holy faith! We will be true to thee till death!

Faith of our fathers, God’s great power shall win all nations unto thee;
And through the truth that comes from God mankind shall then indeed be free.
Faith of our fathers! holy faith! We will be true to thee till death!

Faith of our fathers, we will love both friend and foe in all our strife,
And preach thee, too, as love knows how by kindly words and virtuous life.
Faith of our fathers! holy faith! We will be true to thee till death!

Charge and Benediction

Postlude: “Praise to the Lord, the Almighty”—arr. David Lowe



LEADING WORSHIP THIS MORNING:

Rev. Dr. Jeff Colarossi, *Pastor*
Heather MacPhail, *Organist/Director of Music Ministries*
Jason Dennison, *Videographer/Director of Technology*
Ann Regan, *Lay Worship Leader*

Happy
Father’s
Day