

# Faith United Methodist Church

September 13, 2020



FIFTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Welcome & Opening Prayer

Hymn

*Rock of Ages, Cleft for Me*

#361

*Rock of Ages, cleft for me,  
let me hide myself in thee;*

*Let the water and the blood,  
from thy wounded side which flowed,*

*Be of sin the double cure;  
save from wrath and make me pure.*

*While I draw this fleeting breath,  
when mine eyes shall close in death,*

*When I soar to worlds unknown,  
see thee on thy judgment throne,*

*Rock of Ages, cleft for me,  
let me hide myself in thee.*

Scripture Reading

Genesis 27:1-29

When Isaac had become an old man and was nearly blind, he called his eldest son, Esau, and said, "My son."

"Yes, Father?"

<sup>2-4</sup> "I'm an old man," he said; "I might die any day now. Do me a favor: Get your quiver of arrows and your bow and go out in the country and hunt me some game. Then fix me a hearty meal, the kind that you know I like, and bring it to me to eat so that I can give you my personal blessing before I die."

<sup>5-7</sup> Rebekah was eavesdropping as Isaac spoke to his son Esau. As soon as Esau had gone off to the country to hunt game for his father, Rebekah spoke to her son Jacob. "I just overheard

your father talking with your brother, Esau. He said, ‘Bring me some game and fix me a hearty meal so that I can eat and bless you with God’s blessing before I die.’

<sup>8-10</sup> “Now, my son, listen to me. Do what I tell you. Go to the flock and get me two young goats. Pick the best; I’ll prepare them into a hearty meal, the kind that your father loves. Then you’ll take it to your father, he’ll eat and bless you before he dies.”

<sup>11-12</sup> “But Mother,” Jacob said, “my brother Esau is a hairy man and I have smooth skin. What happens if my father touches me? He’ll think I’m playing games with him. I’ll bring down a curse on myself instead of a blessing.”

<sup>13</sup> “If it comes to that,” said his mother, “I’ll take the curse on myself. Now, just do what I say. Go and get the goats.”

<sup>14</sup> So he went and got them and brought them to his mother and she cooked a hearty meal, the kind his father loved so much.

<sup>15-17</sup> Rebekah took the dress-up clothes of her older son Esau and put them on her younger son Jacob. She took the goatskins and covered his hands and the smooth nape of his neck. Then she placed the hearty meal she had fixed and fresh bread she’d baked into the hands of her son Jacob.

<sup>18</sup> He went to his father and said, “My father!”

“Yes?” he said. “Which son are you?”

<sup>19</sup> Jacob answered his father, “I’m your firstborn son Esau. I did what you told me. Come now; sit up and eat of my game so you can give me your personal blessing.”

<sup>20</sup> Isaac said, “So soon? How did you get it so quickly?”

“Because your God cleared the way for me.”

<sup>21</sup> Isaac said, “Come close, son; let me touch you—are you really my son Esau?”

<sup>22-23</sup> So Jacob moved close to his father Isaac. Isaac felt him and said, “The voice is Jacob’s voice but the hands are the hands of Esau.” He didn’t recognize him because his hands were hairy, like his brother Esau’s.

<sup>23-24</sup> But as he was about to bless him he pressed him, “You’re sure? *You* are my son Esau?”

“Yes. I am.”

<sup>25</sup> Isaac said, “Bring the food so I can eat of my son’s game and give you my personal blessing.” Jacob brought it to him and he ate. He also brought him wine and he drank.

<sup>26</sup> Then Isaac said, “Come close, son, and kiss me.”

<sup>27-29</sup> He came close and kissed him and Isaac smelled the smell of his clothes. Finally, he blessed him,

Ahhh. The smell of my son  
is like the smell of the open country  
blessed by God.

May God give you  
of Heaven's dew  
and Earth's bounty of grain and wine.  
May peoples serve you  
and nations honor you.  
You will master your brothers,  
and your mother's sons will honor you.  
Those who curse you will be cursed,  
those who bless you will be blessed.

Hymn

*Softly and Tenderly*  
*Softly and tenderly Jesus is calling,*  
*calling for you and for me;*  
*see, on the portals he's writing and watching,*  
*watching for you and for me.*

#348

*Refrain: x2*  
*Come home, come home*  
*you who are weary, come home;*  
*Earnestly, tenderly, Jesus is calling*  
*calling O sinner, come home!*

Scripture Reading

Genesis 29:15-35

<sup>14-15</sup> Laban said, "You're family! My flesh and blood!"  
When Jacob had been with him for a month, Laban said, "Just because you're my nephew, you shouldn't work for me for nothing. Tell me what you want to be paid. What's a fair wage?"  
<sup>16-18</sup> Now Laban had two daughters; Leah was the older and Rachel the younger. Leah had nice eyes, but Rachel was stunningly beautiful. And it was Rachel that Jacob loved.  
So Jacob answered, "I will work for you seven years for your younger daughter Rachel."  
<sup>19</sup> "It is far better," said Laban, "that I give her to you than marry her to some outsider. Yes. Stay here with me."  
<sup>20</sup> So Jacob worked seven years for Rachel. But it only seemed like a few days, he loved her so much.  
<sup>21-24</sup> Then Jacob said to Laban, "Give me my wife; I've completed what we agreed I'd do. I'm ready to consummate my marriage." Laban invited everyone around and threw a big feast. At evening, though, he got his daughter Leah and brought her to the marriage bed, and Jacob slept with her. (Laban gave his maid Zilpah to his daughter Leah as her maid.)  
<sup>25</sup> Morning came: There was Leah in the marriage bed!

Jacob confronted Laban, “What have you done to me? Didn’t I work all this time for the hand of Rachel? Why did you cheat me?”

**26-27** “We don’t do it that way in our country,” said Laban. “We don’t marry off the younger daughter before the older. Enjoy your week of honeymoon, and then we’ll give you the other one also. But it will cost you another seven years of work.”

**28-30** Jacob agreed. When he’d completed the honeymoon week, Laban gave him his daughter Rachel to be his wife. (Laban gave his maid Bilhah to his daughter Rachel as her maid.) Jacob then slept with her. And he loved Rachel more than Leah. He worked for Laban another seven years.

**31-32** When God realized that Leah was unloved, he opened her womb. But Rachel was barren. Leah became pregnant and had a son. She named him Reuben (Look-It’s-a-Boy!). “This is a sign,” she said, “that God has seen my misery; and a sign that now my husband will love me.”

**33-35** She became pregnant again and had another son. “God heard,” she said, “that I was unloved and so he gave me this son also.” She named this one Simeon (God-Heard). She became pregnant yet again—another son. She said, “Now maybe my husband will connect with me—I’ve given him three sons!” That’s why she named him Levi (Connect). She became pregnant a final time and had a fourth son. She said, “This time I’ll praise God.” So she named him Judah (Praise-God). Then she stopped having children.

Leader: The Word of God, for the People of God

**Response: Thanks Be to God. Amen.**

Children’s Time

Special Music

*Let Us Break Bread Together*

Witness

*Jacob*

Response to the Word –

Once we were no people, but now we are your people, declaring your wonderful deeds in Christ, who called us out of darkness into his marvelous light to be the body of Christ in the World.

**Now with the Holy Spirit may we live our faith as we tell our story.**

Prayers for the World & the Gifts of the Community

Hymn

*One Bread, One Body*  
*One Bread, one body, one Lord of all*  
*one cup of blessing which we bless.*  
*And we, though many throughout the earth,*  
*we are one body in this one Lord.*

#620

*Many the gifts,  
many the works,  
one in the Lord of all.*

*One Bread, one body, one Lord of all  
one cup of blessing which we bless.  
And we, though many throughout the earth,  
we are one body in this one Lord.*

Benediction

**Prayer List**  
**Louisiana Neighbors Recovering from Hurricane Laura**

Margaret Arceneaux	Paula Davis	Kelly Simmons Owens
Paul Arceneaux, Jr.	Bobbye Dean	Jim Padgett
Sidney Arceneaux	Mary Delafosse	John & Candance Perkins
Kim Craigen Ard	JoAnn Docken	Melva Phillips
Lucian Adams	Tammy Dufour	Harlan Phipps
Dolores Anderson	Julie Duplichan	Alfred Pierson
Natalie Avery	Joe Floyd	Mercedes Pierson
Johnny & Ovelia Battaglio	Lorene Green	Justin Plake
Linda Bergen	Rachel Grimmett	John Pool
Lloyd Betar	Kathy Guidry	Kenny Puckett
Mary Bevil	Connie Hebert	Buddy Renkema
Bonnie Blankenship	MaryJo Hebert	Nikki Castilaw Rice
Henry Blevins	Edna & Raymond Jones	Edward Rivet
Donna Suppa Bolton	Alice Kethley	Randy & Darlene Rivett
Jo Bordeaux	Kristie Key	<i>Family of Betty Romero</i>
Pat Borel	Clyde Landry	Ezekiel Romero
Glenda Brooks	Gail Lauve	Joann Savelle
Jean Brooks	Christi Leblanc	Jim & Loretta Shearer
Ann Campbell	<i>Family of Jim Leblanc</i>	Brooke Simon
Norma Campbell	Fred Ledesma	Harriet Simpson
Robert & Roxie Castilaw	Alice & Louis Loftin	James Sowell
Jared Castolenia	Orianna Marchand	Kim Streed
Beulah Cathey	Matt Markos	Bob Taylor
Tana Champeau	Barbara Martin	<i>Family of June Waits</i>
Rebecca Chance	Lloyd Martin	Sadina Hammock Ward
Billie Cherry	Linda Meyers	Mary Alice Weitzel
Kim Wilber Conn	Maribeth Moore	Mary Rose Williams
Derick Cooper	Jimmy Mott	JR Wise, Jr.
Kyle & Beth Craigen	Ron & Michelle Mueller	Gail Wright
Dakota Crutchfield	Joyce Murphy	Greta Zeralsky
Jimmy & Emily Davis	Arnold Northcut	



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We are called to be:

- Transformed** by God's love, Christ's sacrifice and the Spirit's work in our lives.
- Engaged** with all of God's children from the small to the tall, the near and the far.
- Celebrate**, worship & praise God as we care for each other.
- Share** the Good News of God's love in our thoughts, words and deeds.

Attributes

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