

Worship for 02 August 2020
Gregory Memorial Presbyterian Church

One: God calls to us, inviting us, encouraging us...

ALL: From where we have been to where we are, from where we are to where we are called.

One: God joins us in this journey, walking beside us along the path.

ALL: Sharing the path with us, supporting us, laughing with us, and strengthening us.

One: There is nothing we can face that is not already known to our Lord.

ALL: Jesus has passed this way before; he guides us and protects us, he points out pitfalls and teaches us to guide others in turn.

Hymn of Invitation – “Crown Him with Many Crowns”

Crown him with many crowns, the lamb upon the throne; hark! How the heavenly anthem drowns all music but its own! Awake, my soul, and sing of him who died for thee, and hail him as thy matchless King through all eternity.

Crown him the Lord of Heaven: one with the Father known. One with the Spirit through him given from yonder glorious throne. To thee be endless praise, for thou has died for me; be thou, O Lord, through endless days adored and magnified.

Prayer of Confession

Gracious God, our sins are too heavy to carry, too real to hide, and too deep to undo. Forgive what our lips tremble to name, what our hearts can no longer bear, and what has become for us a consuming fire of judgment. Set us free from a past that we cannot change; open to us a future in which we can be changed; and grant us grace to grow more and more in your likeness and image, through Jesus Christ, the light of the world. Amen.

Scripture – Genesis 12:1-9; Luke 10:1-12 (see reverse)

Reflection – “*On the Road Again: Sent Out*”

Prayers of the People & Lord’s Prayer

Hymn of Thanksgiving – “Sent Forth By God’s Blessing”

Sent forth by God’s blessing, our true faith confessing, the people of God from his dwelling take leave. The supper is ended. O now be extended the fruits of his service in all who believe. The seed of his teaching, receptive souls reaching, shall blossom in action for God and for all. His grace did invite us, his love shall unite us. To work for God’s Kingdom and answer his call!

Announcements

Blessing

Genesis 12:1-9

Now the Lord said to Abram, "Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you. I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you, and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and the one who curses you I will curse; and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed."

So Abram went, as the Lord had told him; and Lot went with him. Abram was seventy-five years old when he departed from Haran. Abram took his wife Sarai and his brother's son Lot, and all the possessions that they had gathered, and the persons whom they had acquired in Haran; and they set forth to go to the land of Canaan. When they had come to the land of Canaan, Abram passed through the land to the place at Shechem, to the oak of Moreh. At that time the Canaanites were in the land. Then the Lord appeared to Abram, and said, "To you offspring I will give this land." So he built there an altar to the Lord, who had appeared to him. From there he moved on to the hill country on the east of Bethel, and pitched his tent, with Bethel on the west and Ai on the east; and there he built an altar to the Lord and invoked the name of the Lord. And Abram journeyed on by stages toward the Negeb.

Luke 10:1-12

After this the Lord appointed seventy others and sent them on ahead of him in pairs to every town and place where he himself intended to go. He said to them, "The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; therefore ask the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest. Go on your way. See, I am sending you out like lambs into the midst of wolves. Carry no purse, no bag, no sandals; and greet no one on the road. Whatever house you enter, first say, 'Peace to this house!' And if anyone is there who shares in peace, your peace will rest on that person; but if not, it will return to you. Remain in the same house, eating and drinking whatever they provide, for the laborer deserves to be paid. Do not move about from house to house. Whenever you enter a town and its people welcome you, eat what is set before you; cure the sick who are there, and say to them, 'The kingdom of God has come near to you.'

But whenever you enter a town and they do not welcome you, go out into its streets and say, 'Even the dust of your town that clings to our feet, we wipe off in protest against you. Yet know this; the kingdom of God has come near.' I tell you, on that day it will be more tolerable for Sodom than for that town."

What does it mean to you to go forth in the peace of God? What does it mean to you carry peace, and to send it forward before you? What would that look like, if you lived into such peace more fully?