

Announcements and Upcoming Events

May 17, 6:30 p.m. Joint meeting of Session and Deacons.

May 21, 1 to 4 p.m., Free CPR training at Union Fire Company & Rescue Squad. For more information contact Annmarie Soganic, Deputy Chief of EMS/ Station 53/153 at 609.571.5860

June 26 through June 28, 9 am to Noon. VBS.

July 17 to July 21, 9 am to Noon. Summer Art Camp.

Gloria patri

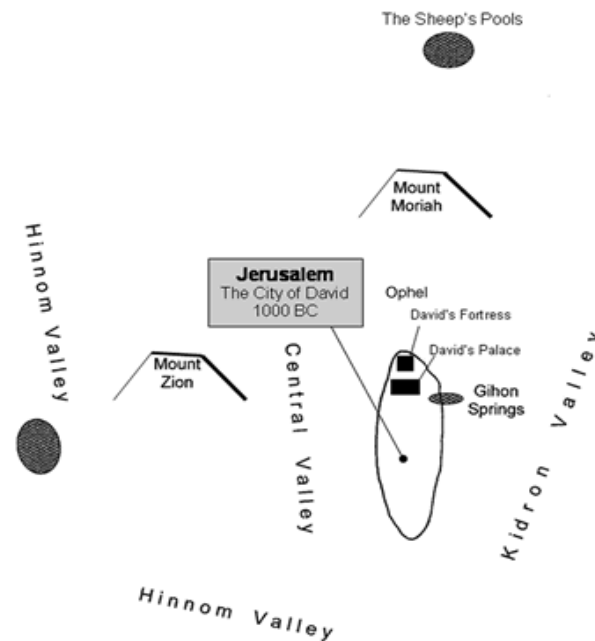
Glory be to the Father, and to the Son,
and to the Holy Ghost.
As it was in the beginning, is now,
and ever shall be
— world without end.
Amen, amen.

Apostles Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth and in Jesus Christ, his only son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried. He descended into hell. On 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 thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen

Doxology

Praise God, from Whom all blessings flow;
Praise Him, all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host;
Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost! Amen!



Taken from <http://www.generationword.com/jerusalem101/1-biblical-jerusalem.html> To give you another biblical reference point, The Mount of Olives would be to the east of the Kidron Valley. All of the descriptions on this map are part of the present geography of the City of Jerusalem.

Session:

Class of 2017
Barbara Matlack
Randy Niederer

Class of 2018
Patti Manz
Tim Shaub

Class of 2019
Mark Niederer
Kristine Schmidt, Clerk

Ministers: All members of Titusville Church

Pastor: Rev. Kenneth Good

Worship Assistant: Randy Niederer

Music Directors: Jon and Helen Eastburn

The Rev. Dr. R. William Shaub, *Pastor Emeritus*
Barbara Matlack, *Office Administrator*

Deacons:

Class of 2017
Judy Niederer, Secretary

Class of 2018
Gail Butterfoss
Lettie Ritner, Vice-Moderator

Class of 2019
Chris Manz, Moderator

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May 14, 2017



Let us worship God!
Christ is risen! **He has risen indeed!** Today is the 5th Sunday of the Easter Season. We continue the joy and wonder which the empty tomb caused the disciples long ago. We encounter an amazing story today, challenging because Abraham was asked to give his son back to God. Isaac had been promised to him the previous quarter of a

century. In being willing to do so, he comes to understand the Living God, who ultimately did for us what he asked Abraham to do. Jesus Christ is the Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world (John 1:29). Let us behold Jesus Christ today, and see that God has provided.



Call to Worship

Christ is risen!
He is risen indeed!
Easter has a very this-worldly, present-age meaning:
Jesus is raised, so he is the Messiah, and therefore he is the world's true Lord
Jesus is raised, so God's new creation has begun—and we, his followers have a job to do!
Jesus is raised, so we must act as his heralds, announcing his lordship to the entire world, making his kingdom come on earth as in heaven!

N.T. Wright, *Surprised By Hope*

Prayer of Confession

For mercies, countless as the sands,
Which daily I receive
From Jesus, my Redeemer's hands,
My soul what canst thou give?

Alas! from such a heart as mine,
What can I bring him forth?
My best is stained and dyed with sin,
My all is nothing worth.

Yet this acknowledgment I'll make
For all he has bestowed;
Salvation's sacred cup I'll take
And call upon my God.

Let us pause for a silent time of personal confession...

from What Shall I Render? By John Newton
taken from <https://www.poemhunter.com/poem/what-shall-i-render/>



Order of Liturgy

Prelude
*Call to Worship (below)
*Opening Hymns (below)/ Prayer
Confession (below)

—call, prayer, assurance

*Gloria patri (back page)

Scripture (below)

Message

*Hymn of Response (below)

*Apostles Creed (back page)

*New City Catechism (inside, bottom left-hand)

Announcements

Prayers of the People

Offering

Offertory: "In Silence My Soul Thirsts"

*Doxology (back page)

*Sending Hymn (below)

Benediction

Choral Benediction

*Please stand if able

Scripture

Psalms 127 (page 441)
Genesis 22 (page 14)
Acts 4 (page 772)

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Songs for Today

Opening Hymn
#526 "My Hope is Built on Nothing Less"
Hymn of Response
#342 "Rock of Ages"
Sending Hymn
#139 "Great is Thy Faithfulness"

Notes on Morning Scripture

Genesis

22:1 *Testing* in other verses of Scripture: Deuteronomy 4:34 and 13:3, Luke 8:13, Hebrews 3:8, James 1:3

22:2 *Moriah's* also mentioned in II Chronicles 3:1

22:5 *Worship* This is the first mention of the word in the Bible

22:7 *Sacrifices* up to this point in the story include: Gen 4:4, 8:20, 12:8, 13:18,14:18-20, also possibly 3:21

22:12 *only son* see John 3:16

22:14 *Hebrew Name* for Lord will provide is Jehovah-Jirah

22:15 *Swearing by himself* compare with Hebrews 6:13-20

22:17 *Take possession of the cities of your enemies* was not previously mentioned in the covenant language

22:23 *Nahor's* family genealogy, don't overlook verse 23

Psalms 127. Only song of ascents attributed to Solomon

Acts

Chapter 4 is continuation of the healing in chapter 3

4:1 *Captain of the temple* guard also in 5:24

4:1 *Sadducees* religious party that denied the resurrection, compare with Acts 4:2

4:6 *Annas' priesthood* spans the public ministry of Jesus Christ, see Luke 3:2, John 18

4:8 *filled with the Holy Spirit* see Matthew 10:19-20

4:11 the stone the builders rejected also in Matthew 21:42, Mark 12:10, Luke 20:17, I Peter 2:7

4:15 *Sanhedrin* was the highest Jewish ruling council, mentioned 24 times in Scripture, with differing legal jurisdiction depending on historical period

4:25-26 quote from Psalm 2:1-2

4:32 *One heart and mind* see Philippians 2:2

Web Link

http://thinktheology.co.uk/blog/article/we_do_not_see_the_answers_to_our_own_prayers helpful as we prepare to offer testimony of God and his works on May 21st. Asks an important question: are we diligent in remembering our requests and acknowledging God's provision?

<https://www.oneforisrael.org/bible-based-teaching-from-israel/friend-of-god/> thoughts on today's Scripture, from the vantage point that Abraham was a friend of God

<http://considerthegospel.org/2013/02/14/the-sign-of-abrahams-sacrifice/> author suggests that the future tense "God will provide a lamb" referred to Jesus Christ's death on the cross

<http://biblehub.com/topical/m/moriah.htm> Scriptural and historical background on Mt. Moriah

http://www.textweek.com/art/abraham_and_isaac.htm a collection of web links to famous artwork of today's Genesis story

<http://www.christianitytoday.com/edstetzer/2014/march/atonement-and-abrahams-sacrifice-of-isaac-genesis-22-by-dav.html> part of a series of articles on God's Atonement for human sin

<https://www.poemhunter.com/poem/the-lord-will-provide-2/> poem by John Newton

New City Catechism

A 52 question catechism developed by Redeemer Presbyterian Church in New York. For an introduction to this catechism, visit: <http://www.newcitycatechism.com/intro.php>

Part 2: Christ, Redemption, Grace

Week 22 Why must the Redeemer be truly human?

Answer: **That in human nature he might on our behalf perfectly obey the whole law and suffer the punishment for human sin; and also that he might sympathize with our weaknesses.**

To learn more about Question 22, including Scripture background, prayer, commentary and video from scholars, visit <http://newcitycatechism.com/new-city-catechism/22>

Editorial: Worship and Sacrifice

"Through Jesus, therefore, let us continually offer to God a sacrifice of praise--- the fruit of lips that openly profess his name. And do not forget to do good and to share with others, for with such sacrifices God is pleased" (Hebrews 13:15-16)

Worship is 'worth-giving'. When worshipping, we assign worth. When we worship that which is not worthy, we commit idolatry. When we worship God, worth is given to the One who is worthy. "Worthy is the Lamb, who was slain, to receive power and wealth and wisdom and strength and honor and glory and praise!" (Revelation 5:12)

In being tested by God, Abraham is called to give back to God his son Isaac. He had heard God's promises for over a quarter of a century. (Some scholars feel that Isaac was in his late thirties when this story occurs, which would mean Abraham had interacted with God's promise and its fulfillment for over 60 years). Because God is worthy, Abraham trusted and went to sacrifice the son he loved.

"By faith Abraham, when God tested him, offered Isaac as a sacrifice. He who had embraced the promises was about to sacrifice his one and only son, even though God had said to him, 'It is through Isaac that your offspring will be reckoned.' Abraham reasoned that God could even raise the dead, and so in a manner of speaking he did receive Isaac back from death." (Hebrew 11:17-19)

In Scripture, worship and sacrifice cannot be separated. We see God's acceptance of worship in Abel's sacrifice. The Patriarch's offer sacrifices in response to God's saving works. There was the temple sacrificial system established by the law. Jesus Christ becomes the sacrifice for our sins and opens the door for us to be restored to right relationship with God the Father, living a life of worship and sacrifice. As Christ's disciples, our worship is always tied to his death and resurrection. As the author of Hebrews writes, even today we are to bring the 'sacrifice of praise'. Two Scriptures for further reading include Malachi 1 and Hebrews 8-10.

Anything we perceive as sacrifice is ultimately blessed by God, and therefore brings life and blessing, rather than loss and unhappiness. God has indeed provided! Whatever we give, or are asked to give, simply acknowledges that God is the giver of every good and perfect gift (James 1:17). "You are worthy, our Lord and God, to receive glory and honor and power, for you created all things, and by your will they were created and have their being" (Rev. 4:11).

Prayers to the Lord and Author of Life
(offered in 5/14 worship by the congregation)

Dear Tabby, Raising Life (issues) Acts 9:36

Dear Tabby,

I feel like God is out to get me. Why would a good God test people?

Disturbed in Doylestown

Dear Disturbed,

Of course God is out to get you. He wants you for his own. We see the great lengths in Scripture that God goes in order that his children might return to right relationship. And this is God's prerogative.

And of course, you meant the phrase in a different way. It sounds as if you are wondering about certain events in your life, and how they are putting pressure on you. They have come to you despite your desire that they not come. Feeling the weight of this pressure, you attribute to God as sending things that cause hurt or discomfort.

The story of Abraham is fascinating on so many levels. God had promised Isaac to Abraham and Sarah. They waited a quarter of a century upon that promise. While waiting, they brought upon themselves all the dysfunction and pain of the Ishmael story when they took matters into their own hands. Ultimately, God's promise came to fruition. And it seems that almost as quickly as Isaac came, God then seems to demand him back. The Scripture tells us why he demanded Isaac. The truth is, "God tested Abraham".

When I tested students at university, it was because I wanted them to know something, and I wanted evidence that they understand its importance. It is precisely because God is good that he might demand anything from us, yes, even everything. But just as the story reminds us that there was a lamb ready to be the propitiation, so God's ultimate goal in any test we face is our life and blessing. Abraham was called God's friend (James 2:23), and God did not deny this description (see II Chronicles 20:7).

The challenge is to see when it is God testing, and when challenges are simply a result of our own making. If God is testing, he will show both his character and his good provision. And to further show that God is good, if the challenges are of our own making, we can always call upon the name of the Lord. Even then we might see "on this mountain of the Lord it will be provided".