

Woodbury United Methodist Church

July 19, 2020

7th Sunday after Pentecost

PRELUDE

Here in This Place
Christopher Shay, keyboard

David Haas

GREETING

Rev. John Thomason

*CALL TO WORSHIP

from *The Abingdon Worship Annual 2020*
based on Romans 8

We wait with hope,
for God's promises are sure.

We wait with patience,
for God's time is a mystery.

Come and worship.
We will wait upon the Lord together.

HYMN

Surely the Presence of the Lord
Hymns sung by the Bower-Richardson family

Lanny Wolfe

*OPENING PRAYER (unison)

led by JoAnn Behlman, Liturgist
from *The Abingdon Worship Annual 2020*
based on Genesis 28, Romans 8

Holy God of mystery and miracles, reveal your presence to us, as we gather in worship. Send your Holy Spirit to descend upon us, as angels once descended to Jacob. Raise our thoughts, that we may reflect on your promise and trust with hope in promises yet to come. In your holy name, we pray. Amen.

CHILDREN'S TIME

led by Julia Bower Richardson

THE LORD'S PRAYER (unison)

ANTHEM

For Good
The Bower-Richardson family

Stephen Schwartz

SHARING OF JOYS AND CONCERNS

led by Rev. Thomason

THE CHURCH AT PRAYER

led by JoAnn Behlman

SCRIPTURE READINGS

read by JoAnn Behlman

Old Testament Reading: Genesis 28:10-19a (NRSV)

Jacob left Beer-sheba and went toward Haran. He came to a certain place and stayed there for the night, because the sun had set. Taking one of the stones of the place, he put it under his head and lay down in that place. And he dreamed that there was a ladder set up on the earth, the top of it reaching to heaven; and the angels of God were ascending and descending on it. And the Lord stood beside him and said, "I am the Lord, the God of Abraham your father and the God of Isaac; the land on which you lie I will give to you and to your offspring; and your offspring shall be like the dust of the earth, and you shall spread abroad to the west and to the east and to the north and to the south; and all the families of the earth shall be blessed in you and in your offspring. Know that I am with you and will keep you wherever you go, and will bring you back to this land; for I will not leave you until I have done what I have promised you." Then Jacob woke from his sleep and said, "Surely the Lord is in this place—and I did not know it! And he was afraid, and said, "How awesome is this place! This is none other than the house of God, and this is the gate of heaven." So Jacob rose early in the morning, and he took the stone that he had put under his head and set it up for a pillar and poured oil on the top of it. He called that place Bethel.

New Testament Reading: Romans 8:12-25 (NRSV)

So then, brothers and sisters, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh—for if you live according to the flesh, you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live. For all who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God. For you did not receive a spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received a spirit of adoption. When we cry, "Abba! Father!" it is that very Spirit bearing witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs, heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ—if, in fact, we suffer with him so that we may also be glorified with him. I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory about to be revealed to us. For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the children of God; for the creation was subjected to futility, not of its own will but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to decay and will obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. We know that the whole creation has been groaning in labor pains until now; and not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly while we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies. For in hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what is seen? But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.

HYMN OF PREPARATION *We Are Climbing Jacob's Ladder* Afro-American spiritual

SERMON *Peril, Presence, and Promise* Rev. Thomason

MOMENT OF REFLECTION

THE OFFERING OF OUR GIFTS

OFFERTORY *You Raise Me Up* Brendan Graham

BENEDICTION Rev. Thomason

POSTLUDE *You Are the Light of the World* Stephen Schwartz