

Stranger Blessings

July 27, 2025
9:00am

ENTRANCE

*Introit

This is the Day
Les Garrett

UMH #657

This is the day, this is the day
That the Lord hath made, that the Lord hath made
Let us rejoice, let us rejoice
And be glad in it, and be glad in it
This is the day that the Lord hath made
Let us rejoice and be glad in it
This is the day, this is the day that the Lord hath made

*Call to Worship

As Abraham welcomed the strangers with exuberance,
So God welcomes us.

God greets us with joy, and says,
"Rest here for awhile."

God brings out water to wash our dusty feet.

God prepares a meal to nourish our weary spirits.

So let us receive the gracious hospitality of our God.

**Let us rest in this holy place, where there is shade and
water, food and laughter.**

***Hymn of Praise** The God of Abraham Praise UMH #116

Hymn from The Yigdal of Daniel ben Judah; Hebrew tune LEONI

The God of Abraham praise, who reigns enthroned above
Ancient of Everlasting Days and God of love;
Jehovah, great I AM! By earth and heaven confessed
I bow and bless the sacred name forever blest.

The great I AM has sworn; I on this oath depend
I shall on eagle wings upborne, to heaven ascend.
I shall behold God's face; I shall God's power adore,
And sing the wonders of God's grace forevermore.

The heavenly land I see, with peace and plenty blest;
A land of sacred liberty and endless rest.
There milk and honey flow, and oil and wine abound,
and trees of life forever grow with mercy crowned.

The God who reigns on high the great archangels sing
And "Holy, holy, holy!" cry, "Almighty King!
Who was and is the same, and evermore shall be
Jehovah, Lord, the great I AM, we worship thee!"

PROCLAMATION & RESPONSE

Prayer for Illumination

Lord, open our hearts and minds by the power of your Holy Spirit, that as the Scriptures are read and your Word proclaimed, we may hear with joy what you say to us today. Amen.

The Word in Song In Remembrance of Me Chancel Choir

Old Testament Lesson

Genesis 18:1-10a, NRSV

The Lord appeared to Abraham[a] by the oaks[b] of Mamre, as he sat at the entrance of his tent in the heat of the day. 2 He looked up and saw three men standing near him. When he saw them, he ran from the tent entrance to meet them and bowed down to the ground. 3 He said, “My lord, if I find favor with you, do not pass by your servant. 4 Let a little water be brought, and wash your feet, and rest yourselves under the tree. 5 Let me bring a little bread, that you may refresh yourselves, and after that you may pass on—since you have come to your servant.” So they said, “Do as you have said.” 6 And Abraham hastened into the tent to Sarah and said, “Make ready quickly three measures[c] of choice flour, knead it, and make cakes.” 7 Abraham ran to the herd and took a calf, tender and good, and gave it to the servant, who hastened to prepare it. 8 Then he took curds and milk and the calf that he had prepared and set it before them, and he stood by them under the tree while they ate. 9 They said to him, “Where is your wife Sarah?” And he said, “There, in the tent.” 10 Then one said, “I will surely return to you in due season, and your wife Sarah shall have a son.”

The Word of God for the people of God:

Thanks be to God

Small Talk & Noisy Offering

Kate Beck

Sermon

Stranger Blessings

Rev. Jon Snape

by Lanny Wolfe

Surely the presence of the Lord is in this place
I can feel his mighty power and his grace
I can hear the brush of angels' wings
I see glory on each face
Surely the presence of the Lord is in this place

THANKSGIVING & COMMUNION

Invitation to Communion

Prayer of Confession/Assurance of Forgiveness UMH page 8

ALL: Merciful God, we confess that we have not loved you with our whole heart.

We have failed to be an obedient church.

**We have not done your will, we have broken your law,
we have rebelled against your love,
we have not loved our neighbors,
and we have not heard the cry of the needy.**

Forgive us, we pray.

Free us for joyful obedience, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen. Silence is kept.

Leader to people: Hear the good news:

Christ died for us while we were yet sinners;
that proves God's love toward us.

In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

People to leader:

**In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven! Glory to God!
Amen.**

***Passing the Peace**

Offering & Offertory

Kim Spivey

***Doxology**

UMH #95

The Great Thanksgiving

UMH pages 15-16

Receiving Bread and Cup

SENDING FORTH

Prayer After Receiving

Eternal God, we give you thanks for this holy mystery in which you have given yourself to us. Grant that we may go into the world, in the strength of your Spirit, to give ourselves for others. In the name of Jesus Christ, Amen.

***Closing Hymn** Pass Me Not O Gentle Savior UMH #351

Hymn by Fanny J. Crosby; Tune by William H. Doane

Pass me not O gentle Savior, hear my humble cry
While on others thou art calling, do not pass me by

**REFRAIN: Savior, Savior, hear my humble cry
While on others thou art calling, do not pass me by**

Let me at thy throne of mercy find a sweet relief
Kneeling there in deep contrition, help my unbelief (Refrain)

***Dismissal with Blessing**

Trusting only in thy merit, would I seek thy face;
Heal my wounded, broken spirit, heal me by thy grace