

Sunday, March 13th

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements



***Call to Worship**

Leader: The Lord is my light and my salvation.

People: Whom shall I fear?

Leader: The Lord is the stronghold of my life.

People: Of whom shall I be afraid?

Leader: Come, seek God in this time of worship.

***Hymn # 49 – The God of Abraham Praise**

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession

Eternal God, as enemies circle and fear grows large, the distance between us feels like absence and we come to believe you are hidden and concealed. Forgive our doubt. Forgive our lack of spiritual seeking. Forgive us when we make our faith all about what you might do for us rather than how we might serve you and work at right relationship with you. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon

***Passing of the Peace**

Leader: The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

People: And also with you.

Prayer of Illumination

Scripture: Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Sermon: The Promise to Abram

Affirmation of Faith: The Brief Statement of Faith

We trust in God,

whom Jesus called Abba, Father.

In sovereign love God created the world good

and makes everyone equally in God's image

male and female, of every race and people,

to live as one community.

But we rebel against God; we hide from our Creator.

Ignoring God's commandments,

we violate the image of God in others and ourselves,

accept lies as truth,

exploit neighbor and nature,

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**and threaten death to the planet entrusted to our care.
We deserve God's condemnation.
Yet God acts with justice and mercy to redeem creation.
In everlasting love,
the God of Abraham and Sarah chose a covenant people
to bless all families of the earth.
Hearing their cry,
God delivered the children of Israel
from the house of bondage.
Loving us still,
God makes us heirs with Christ of the covenant.
Like a mother who will not forsake her nursing child,
like a father who runs to welcome the prodigal home,
God is faithful still. Amen.**

Special Music

Prayers of the People

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

***Hymn # 50 – Deep in the Shadows of the Past**

***Charge and Benediction**


***Congregational Response: Hymn # 606 – Doxology**

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise God, all creatures here below; Praise God above, ye heavenly host; praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.



Postlude

GOD'S COVENANT WITH ISRAEL



49 The God of Abraham Praise





1 The God of A-braham praise, who reigns en-throned a - bove,
2 Your spir - it still flows free, high surg - ing where it will.
3 Your good - ly land we seek, with peace and plen - ty blest,
4 You have e - ter - nal life im - plant - ed in the soul;




the An - cient of E - ter - nal Days, the God of love!
In proph-et's word you spoke of old and you speak still.
a land of sa - cred lib - er - ty and Sab - bath rest.
your love shall be our strength and stay, while a - ges roll.



The Lord, the great I AM, by earth and heaven con-fessed,
Es - tab-lished is your law, and change-less it shall stand,
There milk and hon - ey flow, and oil and wine a - bound,
We praise you, liv - ing God! We praise your ho - ly name:



we bow be - fore your ho - ly name, for - ev - er blest.
deep writ up - on the hu - man heart by your strong hand.
and trees of life for - ev - er grow with mer - cy crowned.
the first, the last, be - yond all thought, and still the same!



Shaped by its traditional Jewish tune, this selection of English stanzas conveys the essence of the *Yigdal*, a canticle based on a medieval Hebrew statement of faith about the nature of God and often used in synagogue worship, alternately chanted by cantor and congregation.

Deep in the Shadows of the Past 50

1 Deep in the shadows of the past, far out from settled lands,
 2 While others bowed to changeless gods, they met a mystery,
 3 From Exodus to Pentecost the promise changed and grew,
 4 For all the writings that survived, for leaders, long ago,

some nomads traveled with their God across the desert sands.
 invisible, without a name: "I AM WHAT I WILL BE";
 while some, remembering the past, recorded what they knew,
 who sifted, copied, and preserved the Bible that we know,

The dawning hope of human-kind by them was sensed and shown:
 and by their tents, around their fires in story, song, and law,
 or with their letters and laments, their prophecy and praise,
 give thanks, and find its story yet our promise, strength, and call,

a promise calling them ahead, a future yet unknown.
 they praised, remembered, handed on a past that promised more.
 re-covered, kindled, and expressed new hope for changing days.
 the model of emerging faith, a-live with hope for all.

This vivid text reminds us of two truths we often forget: how deeply our faith is rooted in God's enduring covenant with the descendants of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, and how much we can learn from their story. The tune began life as the setting for a family Christmas card.