

Waiting with Faith

Enlighten Advent Prayer Week 1

- Please keep your microphones muted unless you are a designated Reader. (I'll let you know if you are a Reader)
- As we read these Scripture selections, we won't read the references.
- If you are using candles, light one candle today.

Reader 1:

..Your steadfast love is before my eyes, and I walk in faithfulness to you.

(Psalm 26:3)

Unison:

Let me hear what God the Lord will speak, for he will speak peace to his people, to his faithful, to those who turn to him in their hearts. (Psalm 85:8)

Reader 2:

Today we remember Abraham, man of faith, friend of God, father of a nation.

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...(Genesis 12:1-4)

Unison:

..Your steadfast love is before my eyes, and I walk in faithfulness to you.

(Psalm 26:3)

Let me hear what God the Lord will speak, for he will speak peace to his people, to his faithful, to those who turn to him in their hearts. (Psalm 85:8)

Reader 3:

By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to set out for a place that he was to receive as an inheritance; and he set out, not knowing where he was going. By faith he stayed for a time in the land he had been promised, as in a foreign land, living in tents, as did Isaac and Jacob, who were heirs with him of the same promise. For he looked forward to the city that has foundations, whose architect and builder is God. (Hebrews 11:8-10)

Unison:

And Abram believed the Lord, and the Lord counted him as righteous because of his faith. (Genesis 15:6 NLT)

Thus the scripture was fulfilled that says, "Abraham believed God, and it was reckoned to him as righteousness," and he was called the friend of God. (James 2:23)

Reader 1:

When Abram was 99 years old, Yahweh appeared to him. He said to Abram, "I am El Shadday. Live in my presence with integrity. I will give you my promise, and I will give you very many descendants."

Immediately, Abram bowed with his face touching the ground... (Genesis 17:1-3 NOG)

Unison:

Faith shows the reality of what we hope for; it is the evidence of things we cannot see. (Hebrews 11:2 NLT)

The friendship of the Lord is for those who fear him, and he makes his covenant known to them. (Psalm 25:14)

Reader 2:

Today we remember Sarah, a woman who believed that God would keep his promise.

[Abraham's visitors] said to him, "Where is your wife Sarah?" And he said, "There, in the tent." Then one said, "I will surely return to you in due season, and your wife Sarah shall have a son." And Sarah was listening at the tent entrance behind him.

Now Abraham and Sarah were old, advanced in age; it had ceased to be with Sarah after the manner of women. So Sarah laughed to herself, saying, "After I have grown old, and my husband is old, shall I have pleasure?"

The Lord said to Abraham, "Why did Sarah laugh, and say, 'Shall I indeed bear a child, now that I am old?' Is anything too wonderful for the Lord? At the set time I will return to you, in due season, and Sarah shall have a son." (Genesis 18:9-14)

Unison:

Faith shows the reality of what we hope for; it is the evidence of things we cannot see. (Hebrews 11:2 NLT)

It was by faith that even Sarah was able to have a child, though she was barren and was too old. She believed that God would keep his promise. (Hebrews 11:11 NLT)

Reader 3:

The Lord dealt with Sarah as he had said, and the Lord did for Sarah as he had promised. Sarah conceived and bore Abraham a son in his old age, at the time of which God had spoken to him. Abraham gave the name Isaac to his son whom Sarah bore him. (Genesis 21:1-3)

Unison:

Faith shows the reality of what we hope for; it is the evidence of things we cannot see. Through their faith, the people in days of old earned a good reputation. (Hebrews 11:1-2) I have chosen the way of faithfulness; I set your ordinances before me. (Psalm 119:30)

Reader 1:

Today we commemorate Jesus' disciple Andrew, who brought people to Jesus. *[John the Baptist] was standing with two of his disciples, and as he watched Jesus walk by, he exclaimed, "Look, here is the Lamb of God!" The two disciples heard him say this, and they followed Jesus.*

When Jesus turned and saw them following, he said to them, "What are you looking for?" They said to him, "Rabbi" (which translated means Teacher), "where are you staying?"

He said to them, "Come and see." They came and saw where he was staying, and they remained with him that day. It was about four o'clock in the afternoon.

One of the two who heard John speak and followed him was Andrew, Simon Peter's brother. He first found his brother Simon and said to him, "We have found the Messiah." (John 1:35-41)

Reader 2

[Jesus] looked up and saw a large crowd coming toward him, Jesus said to Philip, "Where are we to buy bread for these people to eat?"...

One of his disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, said to him, "There is a boy here who has five barley loaves and two fish. But what are they among so many people?"

...Then Jesus took the loaves, and when he had given thanks, he distributed them to those who were seated; so also the fish, as much as they wanted. (John 6:5-11)

Unison:

Sing praises to the Lord, O you his faithful ones, and give thanks to his holy name. (Psalm 30:4) I have chosen the way of faithfulness; I set your ordinances before me. (Psalm 119:30)

Reader 3

We come to you,
El Shadday,
trusting in your promises.
Give us the faith of Abraham and Sarah
to trust that you will carry us
through the long waiting seasons of our lives.
We ask for the faith and courage of your disciple Andrew
to bring others to you,
and to trust that you can take the smallest of resources
and use them to bring great nourishment.

Unison:

..Your steadfast love is before my eyes, and I walk in faithfulness to you.

(Psalm 26:3)

***Let me hear what God the Lord will speak, for he will speak peace to his people,
to his faithful, to those who turn to him in their hearts. (Psalm 85:8)***