

January 17th Bulletin

Prelude

Announcements (will be on Facebook Live screen)

Call to Worship:

Pastor: The Lord is a stronghold for the oppressed

People: A stronghold in times of trouble

Pastor: And those who know your name put their trust in you

People: For you, O Lord, have not forsaken those who seek you

Opening Hymn #29 “*O Worship the King*”

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. The third day he rose from the dead;

he ascended into heaven and sitteth 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.

Opening Prayer and Prayer of Confession

Picture Recap From Last Week (due to live-stream issues)

Scripture: Genesis 22:1-18 OT page 17

Sermon: Abraham Tested

Time of Prayer and 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.

Closing Hymn #75 “*God Is So Good*”

Offering Reminder (*online giving is available at www.cedarvilleunited.org*)

Benediction

Postlude

Sermon Notes:

BACKGROUND OF PASSAGE

- God appears to Abraham for the purpose of testing him
- Mountain of Moriah: 50 miles / 3 days
- God gives Abraham strongest promise possible

WHY DOES GOD TEST US?

- Hebrew = examine, investigate, prove, scrutinize
- Greek = prove, examine, and, by implication, to approve.
- The objective of testing is to discover the truth...NOT to trick or harm us
- God tests us for our own good
- God tests us so we can grow spiritually
- God tests us to reward us
- God tests us to reveal what is in our hearts
- God tests us to purify us and refine us
- God tests us to keep us from sinning
- God tests our obedience to him
- God tests our love for him
- God sometimes tests us to keep us humble. God tests and proves our character.
- God tests us to bring glory to God

WHAT IS NOT A TEST?

- God does not send sickness, disease, or calamity into our lives
- We do not decide when someone else is being tested...

HOW DO WE KNOW IF WE ARE BEING TESTED?

- God may be testing you if a trial in life is causing you to rejoice because of the faith God has granted you
- God is testing you if a trial is making you aware of your need for more faith in Him
- God is testing you if a difficult trial is giving you an opportunity to reap the rewards of trusting Him

Consider calling someone in the congregation or making a small group on Zoom to discuss further. This is one way we can stay more connected as a congregation right now.

Question To Discuss:

Have you ever felt like God was testing you? If so, why do you think He was and what was the result? Did your faith deepen? Do you feel more dependent on Him?

Opening Hymn #29 *“O Worship the King”*

O worship the King, all glorious above,
O gratefully sing his power and his love;
our Shield and Defender, the Ancient of Days,
pavilioned in splendor and girded with praise.

O tell of his might, O sing of his grace,
whose robe is the light, whose canopy space.
His chariots of wrath the deep thunderclouds form,
and dark is his path on the wings of the storm.

Thy bountiful care what tongue can recite?
It breathes in the air, it shines in the light;
it streams from the hills, it descends to the plain,
and sweetly distills in the dew and the rain.

Frail children of dust, and feeble as frail,
in thee do we trust, nor find thee to fail;
thy mercies how tender, how firm to the end,
our Maker, Defender, Redeemer and Friend.

Closing Hymn #75 *“God Is So Good”*

God is so good, God is so good,
God is so good, he's so good to me!

He answers prayer, he answers prayer,
he answers prayer, he's so good to me!

He cares for me, he cares for me,
he cares for me, he's so good to me!

I love him so, I love him so,
I love him so, he's so good to me!