



## “Worship from Home” for February 28, 2021 Second Sunday in Lent



On the Second Sunday of Lent, we will continue exploring our theme, "God's Promises." This week our story centers on the promise God made to Abraham, promising to make of him a great nation. What the story tells us is that despite all odds, Abraham and Sarah welcome a son, Isaac, and that upon this birth, God's promise is fulfilled. What we find upon greater examination is that the story of Abraham and Sarah is one that is full of complexity and of promises delayed. It is a story with many twists and turns, illuminating the realities of the faith journey as we covenant to be God's people. Please join us as we continue to reflect on the promises of God, both when they are fulfilled and when they seem not to be. As always, wherever you are on life's journey, you are welcome to join with us as we worship and fellowship together.

**A NOTE ABOUT THE PHOTOGRAPH ABOVE:** As the service closes each Sunday during Lent, we will continue to hear the song, "In the Bulb, There is a Flower." We invite you to reflect upon the idea that sometimes God's promises are out of sight yet exist within the bulb, always promising a flower. Join us each week as we walk the Lenten walk, watching God's promised flower bloom.

**TIP: If you prefer to have the videos open in a new window, hold the “CTRL” key and click the link.**

## **Worship Together on Zoom**

At **10:00 am on Sunday morning**, we will worship together on Zoom, walking through an abridged version of the service below. If you wish to join us, **please log in at 9:50am** so that we have time to greet one another and take our virtual seats. Please [click here to join a Zoom videoconference](#), then enter the password: 243520. You can also call in to Zoom by phone: dial 1-669-900-6833 and when prompted, enter the meeting code 91476102408 and password 243520.

## **COMING TOGETHER IN SPIRIT**

### **Centering Words**

*Choose a comfortable, quiet place free from interruption. Invite family members or friends to gather with you. If desired, have a candle, lighter, and Bible nearby.*

God names you in holy love, claiming you as God’s own.

*If you have a candle, light it as we begin worship. Give thanks for the promise of your place among God’s people. Invite the light of Christ to fill you with grace and peace, as you rest in the household of God.*

### **Video: Prelude**

“He Leadeth Me” performed by Chad Kemp

*As you listen to the music, take time in silence to come fully into God’s presence.*

### **Opening Prayer (Scifres)**

*Read these words silently or say them aloud:*

Promised One, you come to us with ancient truths  
and new insights.

May the ageless message of faith  
be our foundation.

May the ever-changing experience of grace  
be our strength.

Guide us to live as your covenant people,  
that we may be a blessing to all the nations  
and a light of love for all to see. Amen.

### **Video: Opening Song**

“God, Whose Giving Knows No Ending” performed by Andy Riggs

### **Video: Moment for Children of All Ages**

“God’s Promise” with Jimi Valiente-Neighbours

## **Prayers of the People/Lord's Prayer** (*Seasons of the Spirit*)

Loving parent,  
hoping against hope,  
we come to you in prayer,  
expecting that you will use our desires to call into existence things that do not yet exist in our world,  
but are plentiful in yours.  
We dream of a just peace in places stricken by oppression and violence...  
We dream of loving-kindness among people afflicted by prejudice and hate...  
We dream of abundant life in communities suffering from generational trauma...  
We dream of healing mercies in people living with devastating illness...  
We dream of your reign here on earth, as it is in heaven.  
And so, with our siblings and cousins in the faith, from generation to generation, we join in the prayer that Jesus taught...

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

## **LISTENING TO OUR STILL SPEAKING GOD**

### **Scripture: Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16 (NRSV)**

*Open your Bible, or if you do not have one, read aloud or silently the words below:*

Then the Lord said to Noah, "Go into the ark, you and all your household, for I have seen that you alone are righteous before me in this generation. <sup>2</sup>Take with you seven pairs of all clean animals, the male and its mate; and a pair of the animals that are not clean, the male and its mate; <sup>3</sup>and seven pairs of the birds of the air also, male and female, to keep their kind alive on the face of all the earth. <sup>4</sup>For in seven days I will send rain on the earth for forty days and forty nights; and every living thing that I have made I will blot out from the face of the ground." <sup>5</sup>And Noah did all that the Lord had commanded him.

<sup>6</sup>Noah was six hundred years old when the flood of waters came on the earth. <sup>7</sup>And Noah with his sons and his wife and his sons' wives went into the ark to escape the waters of the flood.

<sup>15</sup>They went into the ark with Noah, two and two of all flesh in which there was the breath of life. <sup>16</sup>And those that entered, male and female of all flesh, went in as God had commanded him; and the Lord shut him in.

### **[Video: Special Music](#)**

“Morning Has Broken” pre-recorded by the POVUCC Choir

### **[Video: Sermon](#)**

“Promises, Promises” by Pastor Mary Sue Brookshire (for [written transcript](#) click here)

## **RESPONDING TO GOD’S GRACE**

### **Invitation to Offering**

*Here at POVUCCC we take an offering. You are never obligated to give, but invited to do so – either by making an electronic gift through the link below or by sending a check, or prayerfully offering to give of your time or talents. These gifts allow us to be the church in this time and in this place. If you would like to make a financial contribution to the ministries of POVUCC, online giving is available by clicking [here](#).*

### **Prayer of Dedication** (Scifres & Beu)

Bless us and our gifts this day,  
that we may be a blessing  
to those in need,  
and that our gifts may extend  
to the ends of the earth.

## **GOING FORTH TO SERVE**

### **[Video: Closing Song](#)**

“Every Praise” performed by Andy Riggs

### **Benediction** (Scifres & Beu)

A calling, a naming, a claiming, and a promise from God...  
Once we were not a people; now we are God’s people.

### **[Video: Sending Song](#)**

“In the Bulb There is a Flower” performed by Andy Riggs

### **[Video: Postlude](#)**

“I Love to Tell the Story” by Fisher, performed by Chad Kemp  
*During these final moments, take a moment to reflect upon the varied seasons of promises fulfilled, those unfulfilled, and those that came with delay, in your own faith journey.*

**Worship adapted from the following resources:**

*Seasons of the Spirit*: Wood Lake Publishing Inc, 2020

*Worship at Home: Lent 2021 A Season of Promise* by Mary Scifres and B.J. Beu. Used by permission.

*Words for Worship*, Lent 2021, Mary Scifres Ministries