

Story Time with the West Island and Friends - 12 July 2020 10am

Welcome & Receiving the Torah

Welcome to the Roxboro United Facebook Group live worship as we continue our Combined Virtual Summer Services. Thank you to Cedar Park United and Ste. Genevieve United for the Torah, passed on to us from last week. We are also joined this morning by Dorval/Strathmore, St. John's United, Beaconsfield United, Merging Waters Pastoral Charge and Riverside United in Laval. Our Summer Worship theme is Tales from the Torah, focusing on the foundational stories of Genesis and Exodus, from Abraham to Moses.

I invite you to take a moment now and centre yourself in the presence of God. Plant your feet firmly on the ground; feel your body and how you are sitting (can you open yourself a little more to your breathing?); open your hands to give what you need to let go of and to receive what God can offer you in this moment.. Let your in-breath bring awareness, let your out-breath help you let go. Come into God's presence, let God be present in you.

Candle is Lit

Psalm of the Day

Psalm 119.105-108

Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.

I have sworn an oath and confirmed it,
to observe your righteous ordinances.

I am severely afflicted; give me life, O Lord, according to your word.

Accept my offerings of praise, O Lord, and teach me your ordinances.

Prayer

Singing Bowl

Tales From the Torah

Genesis 25 & 27 selections

Isaac was forty years old when he married Rebekah. Isaac prayed to the Lord for his wife, because she was barren; and the Lord granted his prayer, and his wife Rebekah conceived. The children struggled together within her; and she said, "If it is to be this way, why do I live?" So she went to inquire of the Lord. And the Lord said to her,

"Two nations are in your womb, and two peoples born of you shall be divided; the one shall be stronger than the other, the elder shall serve the younger."

When her time to give birth was at hand, there were twins in her womb. The first came out red, all his body like a hairy mantle; so they named him Esau. Afterward his brother came out, with his hand gripping Esau's heel; so he was named Jacob. Isaac was sixty years old when she bore them.

When the boys grew up, Esau was a skillful hunter, a man of the field, while Jacob was a quiet man, living in tents. Isaac loved Esau, because he was fond of game; but Rebekah loved Jacob.

Once when Jacob was cooking a stew, Esau came in from the field, and he was famished. Esau said to Jacob, "Let me eat some of that red stuff, for I am famished!" (Therefore he was called Edom.) Jacob said, "First sell me your birthright." Esau said, "I am about to die; of what use is a birthright to me?" Jacob said, "Swear to me first." So he swore to him, and sold his birthright to Jacob. Then Jacob gave Esau bread and lentil stew, and he ate and drank, and rose and went his way. Thus Esau despised his birthright.

When Isaac was old and his eyes were dim so that he could not see, he called his elder son Esau and said to him, "My son"; and he answered, "Here I am." He said, "See, I am old; I do not know the day of my death. Now then, take your weapons, your quiver and your bow, and go out to the field, and hunt game for me. Then prepare for me savory food, such as I like, and bring it to me to eat, so that I may bless you before I die."

Now Rebekah was listening when Isaac spoke to his son Esau. So when Esau went to the field to hunt for game and bring it, Rebekah said to her son Jacob, "I heard your father say to your brother Esau, 'Bring me game, and prepare for me savory food to eat, that I may bless you before the Lord before I die.' Now therefore, my son, obey my word as I command you. Go to the flock, and get me two choice kids, so that I may prepare from them savory food for your father, such as he likes; and you shall take it to your father to eat, so that he may bless you before he dies." But Jacob said to his mother Rebekah, "Look, my brother Esau is a hairy man, and I am a man of smooth skin. Perhaps my father will feel me, and I shall seem to be mocking him, and bring a curse on myself and not a blessing." His mother said to him, "Let your curse be on me, my son; only obey my word, and go, get them for me." So he went and got them and brought them to his mother; and his mother prepared savory food, such as his father loved. Then Rebekah took the best garments of her elder son Esau, which were with her in the house, and put them on her younger son Jacob; and she put the skins of the kids on his hands and on the smooth part of his neck. Then she handed the savory food, and the bread that she had prepared, to her son Jacob.

So he went in to his father, and said, “My father”; and he said, “Here I am; who are you, my son?” Jacob said to his father, “I am Esau your firstborn. I have done as you told me; now sit up and eat of my game, so that you may bless me.” But Isaac said to his son, “How is it that you have found it so quickly, my son?” He answered, “Because the Lord your God granted me success.” Then Isaac said to Jacob, “Come near, that I may feel you, my son, to know whether you are really my son Esau or not.” So Jacob went up to his father Isaac, who felt him and said, “The voice is Jacob’s voice, but the hands are the hands of Esau.” He did not recognize him, because his hands were hairy like his brother Esau’s hands; so he blessed him. He said, “Are you really my son Esau?” He answered, “I am.” Then he said, “Bring it to me, that I may eat of my son’s game and bless you.” So he brought it to him, and he ate; and he brought him wine, and he drank. Then his father Isaac said to him, “Come near and kiss me, my son.” So he came near and kissed him; and he smelled the smell of his garments, and blessed him, and said,

“Ah, the smell of my son is like the smell of a field that the Lord has blessed. May God give you of the dew of heaven, and of the fatness of the earth, and plenty of grain and wine. Let peoples serve you, and nations bow down to you. Be lord over your brothers, and may your mother’s sons bow down to you. Cursed be everyone who curses you, and blessed be everyone who blesses you!”

As soon as Isaac had finished blessing Jacob, when Jacob had scarcely gone out from the presence of his father Isaac, his brother Esau came in from his hunting. He also prepared savory food, and brought it to his father. And he said to his father, “Let my father sit up and eat of his son’s game, so that you may bless me.” His father Isaac said to him, “Who are you?” He answered, “I am your firstborn son, Esau.” Then Isaac trembled violently, and said, “Who was it then that hunted game and brought it to me, and I ate it all before you came, and I have blessed him?—yes, and blessed he shall be!” When Esau heard his father’s words, he cried out with an exceedingly great and bitter cry, and said to his father, “Bless me, me also, father!” But he said, “Your brother came deceitfully, and he has taken away your blessing.” Esau said, “Is he not rightly named Jacob? For he has supplanted me these two times. He took away my birthright; and look, now he has taken away my blessing.”

Offering Time

We acknowledge the gifts the we have received in our lives, especially those we love, those who have taught us, the earth and all its goodness. life and its abundance. Your Community of Faith has provided ways for you to help support. Some give through Par. Some Communities of Faith have set up a donation link on Canada Helps. Others are accepting mailed in cheques or other ways to continue financial support. Our Communities of Faith are keeping in touch with phone calls, Zoom meetings, outside visits to care facilities and other safe ways to connect. We are alive and well as the United Church on the West Island and the surrounding municipalities. God continues to bless us and makes us a blessing to others.

Meditation

The Lord's Prayer (Paraphrase)

God, Lover of us all, whose presence fills us with awe;

let kindness, justice and love shine in our world.

Help us to create what you want for us here on earth.

Give us the food and the hope we need for today.

Forgive us our wrongdoing as we forgive the wrongs done to us.

Protect us from pride and from despair

and from the fear and hate which can swallow us up.

In you is truth, meaning, glory and power, while worlds come and go.

Blessing & Passing the Torah

Psalm 119.109-112

I hold my life in my hand continually, but I do not forget your law.

The wicked have laid a snare for me, but I do not stray from your precepts.

Your decrees are my heritage forever; they are the joy of my heart.

I incline my heart to perform your statutes forever, to the end.

We thank you for joining us this morning for worship and now pass the Torah on to the next hosts: Beaconsfield United and Riverside United who will be on Zoom. Just open the Worship PDF, and under the header Tales of the Torah, press the date July 19 and it will take you to the Zoom link for the worship.