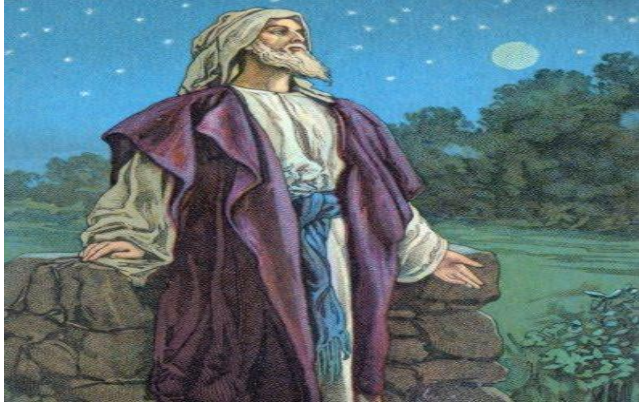


**SUNDAY, JUNE 7, 2026**  
**SECOND SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**  
**GENESIS 12:1-9**



**St. John United Church of Christ**

10207 Lincoln Trail Fairview Heights, IL

Telephone 618-397-6323

e-mail– [stjohnuccfairview@gmail.com](mailto:stjohnuccfairview@gmail.com)

Website: [www.stjohnfairview.org](http://www.stjohnfairview.org)

Rev. Rosemary Captain

**Organist – Sharon Banjavcic**

**Liturgy – Rev. Dr. Cheryl A. Lindsay**

**Communion Liturgy – B.J. Beu and Mary Scifres**

**Ushers –**

(NCH) New Century Hymnal CCLI LICENSE #11164431

\*Please stand if comfortably able.

**SUMMARY OF SCRIPTURE TEXTS**  
From “Preaching Through the Christian Year”  
**Fred Craddock**

The season after Pentecost is a time for serious, focused study of Scripture. In the *Common* Lectionary, the Old Testament lessons, beginning with Trinity Sunday, provide a series of 23 readings from the Pentateuch the first five books of the Bible (Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, and Deuteronomy) from the creation to the death of Moses, and concludes the season with texts from the Books of Joshua and Judges.

**Genesis 12:1-9** The story of Noah serves as the Old Testament reading, following naturally on last week’s creation account. This text provides an opportunity to reflect on the consequences of human actions on the created order.

**Romans 4:13-25** From this reading we hear Paul’s classical statement concerning righteousness, grace, and redemption.

**Matthew 9:9-13, 18-26** The sequence of readings from Matthew from Matthew begins with sayings of Jesus concerning those who profess to follow.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS AND PRAYER CONCERNS:**

**THE BELL IS RUNG:**

**PRELUDE: “Trust and Obey” Stewart Landon**

**PENNIES FOR MISSION: Penitentiary Chaplains**

**\*CALL TO WORSHIP (INSPIRED BY PSALM 33)**

One: Rejoice in the Holy One! God loves righteousness and justice; the earth is full of God's steadfast love.

**Many: The Voice created the heavens and the earth. Praise God with loud shouts!**

One: Rejoice in the Holy One! God loves righteousness and justice; the earth is full of God's steadfast love.

**Many: Let our voices ring and sing a new song. Let us turn toward the Creator in awe.**

One: Rejoice in the Holy One! God loves righteousness and justice; the earth is full of God's steadfast love.

**Many: Happy are the people who seek God's counsel, who seek God's heart, and who seek God's kingdom. Rejoice in the Holy One!**

**\*INVOCATION**

Wonderful God, we delight in your presence. We find shelter in your abiding and enduring love. You humble us, Holy Love, by gathering us as a people. Thank you for being our Companion and Guide on this journey. Receive our songs, prayers, and openness. Nourish us from the fountain of your word and the hospitality of your table. May we find hope and inspiration, courage and direction, community and resolve as we worship your

**\*OPENING HYMN: "O God, Our Help in Ages Past" 25**

**\*UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION:**

**Holy One, through the Prophet Hosea, you declared, "I desire steadfast love and not sacrifice, the knowledge of God rather than burnt offerings." We confess that, at times, we offer the ritual and routine of religious practices rather than a discerning heart that breaks with compassion and beats for justice. Strengthen us to the tenderness of knowing you, O God, more deeply, loving our neighbors more justly, and embracing our lives more fully.**

**\*WORDS OF GRACE:**

Community of Faith, rest assured that renewal and revival is possible and available to us. Let us embrace our rituals to sing even old songs as if they are new, pray routine prayers as if they have been written in our hearts, and join in worship as if this were the first or last time. The Holy One makes all things new, and that may be so in us this day and every day.

**\*GLORIA:**

**Glory to the Creator, and the Christ and the Spirit so near. As it was from the start so it shall be forever, One God always here. (repeat twice) (end) One God always here. One God always here.**

## SCRIPTURE LESSONS

### Genesis 12:1-9 Abram's family moves to Canaan

12 The Lord said to Abram, "Leave your land, your family, and your father's household for the land that I will show you. <sup>2</sup> I will make of you a great nation and will bless you. I will make your name respected, and you will be a blessing.

<sup>3</sup> I will bless those who bless you,  
those who curse you I will curse;  
all the families of the earth  
will be blessed because of you."

<sup>4</sup> Abram left just as the Lord told him, and Lot went with him. Now Abram was 75 years old when he left Haran. <sup>5</sup> Abram took his wife Sarai, his nephew Lot, all of their possessions, and those who became members of their household in Haran; and they set out for the land of Canaan. When they arrived in Canaan, <sup>6</sup> Abram traveled through the land as far as the sacred place at Shechem, at the oak of Moreh. The Canaanites lived in the land at that time. <sup>7</sup> The Lord appeared to Abram and said, "I give this land to your descendants," so Abram built an altar there to the Lord who appeared to him. <sup>8</sup> From there he traveled toward the mountains east of Bethel, and pitched his tent with Bethel on the west and Ai on the east. There he built an altar to the Lord and worshipped in the Lord's name. <sup>9</sup> Then

Abram set out toward the arid southern plain, making and breaking camp as he went.

### RESPONSORIAL PSALM: Psalm 33:1-12 Page 643

#### Romans 4:13-25

#### Abraham's promise is received through faith

<sup>13</sup> The promise to Abraham and to his descendants, that he would inherit the world, didn't come through the Law but through the righteousness that comes from faith. <sup>14</sup> If they inherit because of the Law, then faith has no effect and the promise has been canceled. <sup>15</sup> The Law brings about wrath. But when there isn't any law, there isn't any violation of the law. <sup>16</sup> That's why the inheritance comes through faith, so that it will be on the basis of God's grace. In that way, the promise is secure for all of Abraham's descendants, not just for those who are related by Law but also for those who are related by the faith of Abraham, who is the father of all of us. <sup>17</sup> As it is written: *I have appointed you to be the father of many nations.* So Abraham is our father in the eyes of God in whom he had faith, the God who gives life to the dead and calls things that don't exist into existence. <sup>18</sup> When it was beyond hope, he had faith in the hope that he would become the father of many nations, in keeping with the promise God spoke to him: *That's how many descendants you will*

have. <sup>19</sup> Without losing faith, Abraham, who was nearly 100 years old, took into account his own body, which was as good as dead, and Sarah's womb, which was dead. <sup>20</sup> He didn't hesitate with a lack of faith in God's promise, but he grew strong in faith and gave glory to God. <sup>21</sup> He was fully convinced that God was able to do what he promised. <sup>22</sup> Therefore, it was credited to him as righteousness.

<sup>23</sup> But the scripture that says *it was credited to him* wasn't written only for Abraham's sake. <sup>24</sup> It was written also for our sake, because it is going to be credited to us too. It will be credited to those of us who have faith in the one who raised Jesus our Lord from the dead. <sup>25</sup> He was handed over because of our mistakes, and he was raised to meet the requirements of righteousness for us.

### **\*GOSPEL: Matthew 9:9-13, 18-26**

#### **Calling of Matthew**

<sup>9</sup> As Jesus continued on from there, he saw a man named Matthew sitting at a kiosk for collecting taxes. He said to him, "Follow me," and he got up and followed him. <sup>10</sup> As Jesus sat down to eat in Matthew's house, many tax collectors and sinners joined Jesus and his disciples at the table.

<sup>11</sup> But when the Pharisees saw this, they said to his disciples, "Why does your teacher eat with tax collectors and sinners?"

<sup>12</sup> When Jesus heard it, he said, "Healthy people don't need a doctor, but sick people do. <sup>13</sup> Go and learn what this means: *I want mercy and not sacrifice*. I didn't come to call righteous people, but sinners."

#### **A ruler's daughter and the woman who touched Jesus' clothes**

<sup>18</sup> While Jesus was speaking to them, a ruler came and knelt in front of him, saying, "My daughter has just died. But come and place your hand on her, and she'll live." <sup>19</sup> So Jesus and his disciples got up and went with him. <sup>20</sup> Then a woman who had been bleeding for twelve years came up behind Jesus and touched the hem of his clothes. <sup>21</sup> She thought, If I only touch his robe I'll be healed.

<sup>22</sup> When Jesus turned and saw her, he said, "Be encouraged, daughter. Your faith has healed you." And the woman was healed from that time on.

<sup>23</sup> When Jesus went into the ruler's house, he saw the flute players and the distressed crowd. <sup>24</sup> He said, "Go away, because the little girl isn't dead but is asleep"; but they laughed at him. <sup>25</sup> After he had sent the crowd away, Jesus went in and touched her hand, and the little girl rose up. <sup>26</sup> News about this spread throughout that whole region.

### **MESSAGE: “Not E Nuf”**

Aunt Margaret was not a young woman anymore. She had taught first grade for 45 years and she just decided last year that it was time to retire. She enjoyed the peace and quiet now as she never married. She had only one nephew, Bill, and he and his family lived one state over. Bill’s wife, Sue, worried that Margaret would be lonely having no other relatives so she invited Margaret to come for a visit. Bill’s son Timmy, was just turning 4 and he loved Margaret whenever he saw her at Christmas time and other holidays. Aunt Margaret always brought Timmy new books and puzzles.

The first day of her visit Sue had some errands to run and Aunt Margaret volunteered to watch Timmy while Sue was busy. The weather was cool with autumn soon on its way. Margaret asked Timmy if she should make delicious alphabet vegetable soup for lunch. Timmy thought that would be great, although he was still working on his speaking so “great” sounded more like “gate”.

The soup was done at exactly 12 noon. Timmy ran into the kitchen, eagerly looking forward to having some hardy warm alphabet vegetable soup. He knew he would love it. Timmy climbed into his chair that was just his size, Aunt Margaret put a bowl of the soup right next to a glass of milk and a plate of crackers. She eagerly

waited for Timmy’s reaction. At first he smiled and then he frowned and said “Not E Nuf”.

Margaret was surprised. “Not enough”. She said “what do you mean? It has all the vegetables you like and I put extra alphabet noodles in it. “Not E Nuf.” “Timmy, you can have as much as you want. It’s not too hot. I made sure of it.” Timmy’s lower lip started to quiver and tears were starting to drip.

Margaret was getting frustrated, too. “Not E Nuf? What is the problem. You haven’t even tasted it yet.” Margaret looked down. Timmy was right. There was something missing. Aunt Margaret forgot to give Timmy a spoon. Timmy would love the soup if he had a chance, he was sure of that, but something important was missing.

Jesus’ lesson for us today is like Timmy’s lunch. It wasn’t enough. He couldn’t taste it if he didn’t have a spoon. A person can say “I believe in truth, it is a core commitment of my life. But in difficult circumstances the same person may lie to gain an advantage. Their real belief or core value is not truth, it’s something else.

For Christians we affirm and make much of doctrinal statements, views on social justice, poverty, or even what it means to be truly spiritual. Our challenge, however, is to align our practices - the behaviors of our

workaday lives – with our stated beliefs. It seems that this is the same problem that is articulated by Jesus here in Matthew.

Our reading today is the tail end of Jesus' Sermon on the Mount. That sermon had many points and does and don'ts. Jesus is trying to teach his disciples and followers that what they say and what they do are sometimes completely different things. Jesus uses several examples. Who built the strongest house and who built a shaky shelter.

In Matthew 7:21-29 we can understand Jesus' message. Its about the importance of not only hearing the teachings of Jesus but also putting them into practice, for true obedience to God involves not just listening but acting upon his words.

To understand the teachings of Matthew 7:21-29, consider these key points: 1.) True discipleship is demonstrated through actions not just words. 2.) Jesus emphasizes the importance of doing the will of God. The parable of the wise and foolish builders illustrates the need for a strong foundation in faith. 3.) Hearing Jesus' words is essential, but applying them is crucial for spiritual stability. 4.) The authority of Jesus' teachings is affirmed by the crowd's reaction. 5.) Building on the rock symbolizes obedience and resilience in life's storms.

In Matthew 7:21-23 we read the familiar words "Not everyone who says to me, Lord, Lord". We may think we

are being an excellent disciple. However, it may not be ENOUGH. Read Matthew 7:21-29 again.

### **SPECIAL MUSIC: "He Never Failed Me Yet" Video**

#### **PASTORAL PRAYER:**

#### **OUR LORD'S PRAYER:**

#### **PRAYER RESPONSE: 743 "Be Still and Know"**

**Be still and know that I am God.**

**Be still and know that I am God.**

**Be still and know that I am God.**

#### **INVITATION TO GENEROSITY**

Let us share the gifts of life and love given to sustain us on the journey. Our generosity strengthens communities and witnesses to the love of God in the world. May our time, talent, and treasure testify to the goodness and abundance of God's creation.

#### **OFFERTORY: "Standing on the Promises"**

**R. Kelso Carter**

#### **\*DOXOLOGY:**

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow;**

**Praise God, all creatures here below;**

**Praise God above you heavenly host;**

**Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen**

### **PRAYER OF DEDICATION AND THANKSGIVING:**

Holy One, as we worship you through our giving, we dedicate these gifts to the work of your kingdom come and our hope that your will be done in our community and world. Amen.

### **HOLY COMMUNION**

**INVITATION:** This table is for all Christians who wish to know the presence of Christ and to share in the community of God's people. This is the table of grace that was promised to our ancestors as they made their Exodus from Egypt. In Christ, manna in the wilderness becomes the bread of life. In the Lord of life, water from a rock becomes the living stream of Christ's grace. The promised land comes to us in the breaking of the bread and the sharing of the cup. Come to the table of grace. Drink from the cup of salvation. Hold fast to the love of God. Do this and your cup will be filled with a living water that wells up into eternal life.

### **THE GREAT THANKSGIVING**

The Spirit be with you. **And also with you.**  
Lift up your hearts. **We lift them up to God.**  
Celebrate God's love. **It is right to give God our  
thanks and praise.**

We give thanks and praise to you, O God, our guide and guardian! We celebrate your divine creativity that called forth the heavens above and the earth below.

We praise and glorify you for creating us in your image, and for taking us by the hand as we traveled the road of life together. We bless you and thank you for your help and for your guidance along the way. From the days of wandering Arameans and brave young prophets, you have shown us the path of faithful living.

And so, with your people on earth, and all the company of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn, saying:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.**

Holy are you, and holy is our guide on the journey, Jesus Christ, who sees us safely through the rapids of life.

On the journey to the cross, Christ sat at table with his disciples, gave thanks and offered not only bread and wine, but the bread of life and the wine of salvation, saying; "Take, eat, this is strength for the journey, given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

After the supper was over, Jesus took the cup, blessed it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: "Drink from this, all of you. This is my life for the new covenant, poured out for

you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.

And so, in remembrance of these, your mighty acts of love and grace, and your presence with us along the way, we offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving; As your covenant people seeking to honor your image within us, we proclaim the mystery of faith.

**Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

**PRAYER OF CONSECRATION:** God of love, send your Holy Spirit upon us, that we might receive the bounty of your hand and have the strength we need to walk with you on the journey of faith. Touch these gifts of bread and wine with your Spirit, that they be signs of hope and promise to a world in need of new beginnings, through Christ, our Lord, Amen.

#### **SHARING THE ELEMENTS**

The journey of faith, stirring within you. The courage of Christ's Spirit, working through you.

**\*PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING:**

**We give thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us at your table by granting us the presence of Jesus Christ. Strengthen our faith, increase our love for one another, and send us forth into the world in courage and peace, rejoicing in the power of the Holy**

**Spirit; through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.\*CLOSING HYMN: 24 "The God of Abraham Praise"**

**\*BENEDICTION:**

As you go from this gathering,  
Find hope in the journey  
Cultivate joy in the journey  
Give love in the journey  
Share peace in the journey  
And trust that the God of the journey  
Will be with you now and always

**\*BENEDICTION RESPONSE: 571**

**O God of Love, O God of Peace  
Make wars throughout the world to cease.  
The wrath of human wrong restrain;  
Give peace, O God, give peace again.**

**THE BELL IS RUNG:**

**POSTLUDE: "Surely Goodness and Mercy"  
Roger C. Wilson**

**PRAYER LIST:** Bennie Pointer, Ginny Ganschietz, Patti French, Becky Ballard, Mary Lou and Urban Baum, Russ Hartmann, Marilyn Paul, Pam and Syd Safriet, Yvonne Weber, Jackie Canterbury, our Beloved Country

