



January 31, 2021

Contemporary Service - 9:30 am

Scripture for Meditation

"Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge Him, and he will make straight your paths." (Proverbs 3:5-6)

Prelude

Welcome

Call to Worship

Leader: This is the day the Lord has made.

People: Let us rejoice and be glad in it!

Leader: May the peace of Christ be with you all

People: And also with you.

Opening Praise and Prayer

We Praise You

Music by Brandon Lake, Brian Johnson, Matt Redman, and Phil Wickham
CCLI # 7130961; © 2019 Maverick City Publishing

Graves Into Gardens

Music by Brandon Lake | Chris Brown | Steven Furtick | Tiffany Hammer
CCLI Song # 7138219; © 2019 Elevation Worship Publishing

Prayer of Confession

Kids' Time

Announcements

Scripture Reading

Genesis 32:22-32

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord

All: Thanks be to God!

Sermon

The Moment that Caused a Great Struggle

4th in the series "Moments"

Offering

You are Good

Music by Kari Job
CCLI Song #5075001; ©2008 Gateway Create Publishing

(Offerings are received weekly via mail and [online giving](#).)

Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer

Closing Song

Yes, I Will

Music by Eddie Hoagland, Mia Fieldes and Jonathan Smith
CCLI Song #7105442; © All Essential Music | Be Essential Songs

Blessing

Postlude

Traditional Service - 11:00 am

Scripture for Meditation

"Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge Him, and he will make straight your paths." (Proverbs 3:5-6)

Prelude

Cantabile

Cesar Franck

Welcome and Announcements

Call to Worship

Leader: This is the day the Lord has made.
People: Let us rejoice and be glad in it!
Leader: May the peace of Christ be with you all;
People: And also with you.

Opening Hymn

Pass Me Not, O Gentle Savior

#422

Psalm Response

Psalm 13 (NIV)

O LORD, how long will you forget me? Forever?
How long will you look the other way?
**How long must I struggle with anguish in my soul,
with sorrow in my heart every day? How long will my enemy have the upper hand?**
Turn and answer me, O LORD my God!
Restore the sparkle to my eyes, or I will die.
**Don't let my enemies gloat, saying, "We have defeated him!"
Don't let them rejoice at my downfall.**
But I trust in your unfailing love.
I will rejoice because you have rescued me.

Prayer of Confession (Unison)

God of compassion, in your mercy, we humble ourselves before you and admit our weakness and doubts when life gets tough. Lord, we have sinned, without considering how much you love us. You see our sins more clearly than we can ourselves. Lord, you know when we are indifferent to your Word, the Bible; how often we forget to pray; the times we come unwillingly to worship; and yet we turn to you when we are in trouble. Lord, you know when we are untruthful and when we think evil of others. You see our anger and unfairness to our friends. You know how hard it is for us to forgive. Forgive us and make us clean, so that we can put our trust in you and obey your call to take up your cross and follow you.

(People silently offer their personal confessions to God.)

Assurance of Pardon

Leader: Friends, believe the Good News:
People: In Jesus Christ we are forgiven!

Gloria Patri

Anthem

Joshua fit the battle of Jericho

arr. Mark Hayes

Questions for Reflection: The Moment That Caused a Great Struggle

Opening Discussion:

- Can you think of a restless night you had due to a stressful or anxious situation in your life? What were your concerns? What was keeping you awake?

Digging Deeper:

- Jacob and his brother were twins. Based on the following verse alone, how would you describe their relationship? "Esau said, "Isn't he rightly named Jacob?"¹ This is the second time he has taken advantage of me: He took my birthright, and now he's taken my blessing!" (Gen. 27:36)
- Many years passed from the time Jacob took Esau's blessing and then returned home. During that time, he worked for Laban and was married to two of his daughters. He had 12 sons from Rachel and Leah as well as their two maidservants. In order to return to Canaan, Jacob and his family had to pass through Edom where Esau lived. Genesis 32:1-21 describe the plans Jacob made for this journey. What were Jacob's concerns and worries as he anticipated a confrontation with his brother Esau?
- Now we come to today's reading. Read Genesis 32:22-32. What were Jacob's circumstances the night before he was to see Esau? (See verses 22-24a.)
- Verse 24b says that Jacob wrestled with a man all night long? Who was this man? (see verses 28 and 30)
- Why do you think Jacob wanted to be blessed? What feelings of fear, guilt or shame might he have had?
- Why did God give Jacob a new name? What did it mean? Why did he call the place "Peniel?"
- How do you think Jacob was affected by this struggle – physically, emotionally, and spiritually?
- Read Genesis 33:4-11. What was the outcome of Jacob's confrontation with Esau?

Life Application:

- What are things you think most people struggle with God about? Do you think it is ok with struggle with God?
- Was there a time in your life when you struggled with God? How did you pray about it? What was the outcome?
- Are there any areas in your life right now where you are struggling? Based on Jacob's experience in this passage, what do you think God wants to do for you in the midst of your struggle?

Suggestion for Prayer:

- Thank God for wanting to meet you where you are with the things that cause great stress, anxiety, and uncertainty, and invite him into those places in your own life.
- Thank God for his loving presence, and appealing to his grace and mercy, ask for his blessing on your life even in the midst of your struggle.
- Ask God for strength to help you endure your struggle, that you too might have a new beginning on the other side.

¹ Jacob can be translated "trickster."