

**Sermon Notes:** By faith:

Abraham Follows \_\_\_\_\_  
Abraham Believes the \_\_\_\_\_  
God chooses in \_\_\_\_\_  
God creates an alternate \_\_\_\_\_  
Our \_\_\_\_\_ is stretched.  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Volunteers—Sunday, May 12**

Greeters: Bev Elbert, Joe Gause, Myrna Gause, Carol Griffith  
Ushers: Ron Kesterson, Frank Sheppard, Mark Wishart, Marion Watson-Wishart, Melanie Mixon  
Attendance: Martha Hillbick, Shelagh Wirth  
Counters: Tish Lowe, Jeanne LeBoeuf  
Children's Church: Janice Reiser, Mary Dempster  
Time With the Children: Rusty Creighton  
Nursery: Amy Schwartz  
Sound: Greg Mixon  
Acolyte: Finn Bundrick

**STAFF**

**Senior Pastor:** Rev. Jana Creighton - jana@sopc.net  
**Parish Associate:** Rev. Alice A. Odell - alice@sopc.net  
**Director of Music Ministry:** Dr. Lloyd R. Pilkington  
**Children/Youth Director:**  
Miss Michaela Craven - michaela@sopc.net  
**Volunteer Finance Administrator:**  
Mrs. Sharon Staton, sharon@sopc.net  
**Building Superintendent:** Mr. Karl Thompson  
**Office Manager:** Mrs. Beth Morelock  
**Accompanist:** Mrs. Sharon Watkins  
**Nursery Coordinator:** Amy Schwartz  
**Acolyte:** Finn Bundrick

**SESSION MEMBERS**

**2019:** Pat Byrne - Congreg. Care Chair  
Marty Hilyer - Missions  
Kathy Keane - Christian Education Chair  
Jim Taylor - Good News Chair  
Jim Wilhide - Clerk of Session  
**2020:** Jeanne LeBoeuf - Christian Education  
Tish Lowe - Missions Chair  
Kathryn Morganelli - Worship Chair  
Jack Noë - Good News  
Mark Wishart - Fellowship Chair  
**2021:** Richard Brinkley - Administration  
Linda Floyd - Worship  
Fred Holbrook - Administration Chair  
Melanie Mixon - Good News  
John Whitfield - Missions  
Shelagh Wirth - Building/Grounds Chair

**Trustees:** Janice Reiser, Lucretia Seigler  
**Treasurer:** Hal Bowman

**PRAYER REQUESTS:**

Richard Brinkley, Marjorie Claytor,  
Rosemary and Tom Falls, Nan Foster, Ben Killian,  
Kathy Killian, Dick and Barbara Schneider

**THIS WEEK AT SOPC**

**May 5, Sunday**  
9:45 am Sunday School\*  
11:00 am Worship Service\Communion  
12:15 pm Covenant Ringers  
5:15 pm Boot Camp  
6:00 pm Chin Worship  
**May 6, Monday**  
4:00 pm Christian Education  
5:00 pm Worship  
7:00 pm NANA  
**May 7, Tuesday**  
5:30 pm Admin  
6:00 pm PW Birthday Dinner  
**May 8, Wednesday**  
12:15 pm Chair YOGA  
6:00 pm Chin Bible Study  
5:30 pm Elder Training  
7:00 pm NANA  
**May 9, Thursday**  
10:30 am Ruth Circle  
6:30 pm Hannah Circle  
**May 10, Friday**  
6:45 am Lanterns  
7:00 pm Chin Band—Sanctuary  
**May 11, Saturday**  
10:00 am Overeaters  
**May 12, Sunday - Mother's Day**  
9:45 am Sunday School  
11:00 am Worship  
12:15 pm Covenant Ringers  
6:00 pm Chin Worship Service

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sevenoakspresbyterianchurch

**4 WAYS TO GIVE!**

<b>IN PERSON</b>	<b>BY MAIL</b>	<b>ONLINE</b>	<b>BY TEXT</b>
Offering plate during the worship service	530 St. Andrews Rd. Columbia, SC 29210 www.sopc.net	(click on the GIVE menu)	Text SEVENOAKS to 73256 text rates may apply



**SEVEN OAKS PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

**Worship Service May 5, 2019**

Welcome!  
We pray that you will truly experience God's love and grace as you worship!

**GATHERING AROUND THE WORD**

STRIKING OF THE HOUR

CALL TO WORSHIP:

*Alleluia, Let Us Rejoice!*

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENT

Rev. Jana Creighton and Rev Alice Odell

PRELUDE:

*God and God Alone*

arr. Cindy Berry

\*GATHERING OF OUR HEARTS: (inspired by Genesis 12: 1-4)

Rev. Jana Creighton

One: We are met in the presence of God

**All: And we do not meet alone.**

One: With the angels in the highest heaven

**All: We gather to worship the Lord.**

One: With Abraham and Sarah

**All: We gather to worship the Lord.**

One: With the saints of every age

**All: We gather to worship the Lord.**

One: We embark on our own journey of faith

**All: God's Holy name be praised.**

One: God makes of us a great people

**All: God's Holy name be praised.**

One: In the desert and in the den, in barrio and basilica

**All: God's Holy name be praised.**

One: We journey in the presence of God.

**All: And we do not journey alone. Thanks be to the Risen Lord!**

\*HYMN # 238

*Thine is the Glory*

\*PRAYER OF THE DAY

CALL TO CONFESSION

Rev. Alice Odell

PRAYER OF CONFESSION:

HYMN # 243

*Be not Afraid*

*Chancel Choir*

One: Gracious God, you reached into Abraham and Sarah's lives and asked them to dream the impossible dream—that you would transform what appears to have been a barren and lifeless situation into one overflowing with promise and hope—and, through faith in you, they believed your promises.

**All: Forgive us, O God, if we never get beyond thinking of your call on our lives as an impossible dream or even as an unwelcome interruption.**

One: Faithful God, the apostle Paul emphasizes Abraham's complete trust and faith in your promises and how he grew ever stronger in faith, fully convinced of your ability to fulfil what had been promised.

**All: Forgive us, O God, when we find it hard even to hear your promises above commercial assurances of transformation—promises tempting us to trust the newest and trendiest product to realize our dreams.**

One: Merciful God, Jesus revealed the great depth of your love in his determination to defeat evil even when this meant giving up his own life.

**All: Forgive us, O God, when we allow the power of evil to flourish because we fear that taking up one's cross would be just too costly an exercise.**

One: Gracious and loving God, forgive our lack of trust in you;

**All: Have mercy on us and forgive us.**

One: Help us when we hesitate,

**All: and strengthen us when we are weak**

One: Breathe your Spirit afresh into our hearts and minds—our lives—so that we have the courage to follow Jesus wherever he takes us. (time of silent confession) Amen

Written by Moira Laidlaw

#### ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Believe the good news of the gospel. In Jesus Christ we are forgiven.

**Thanks be to God!**

\*CONGREGATION RESPONSE: # 243

*Be Not Afraid*

#### PROCLAIMING THE WORD

A MOMENT FOR MISSION

Elder Hal Bowman

TIME WITH THE CHILDREN

Elder Judy Barnes

ANTHEM

*In the Bulb There is a Flower*  
Chancel Choir

Natalie Sleeth

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

NEW TESTAMENT:

Acts 9:1-20

OLD TESTAMENT:

Genesis 12:1-4, 15:1-6, 22:1-3, 22:9-14

One: This is the Word of the Lord

**All: Thanks be to God.**

MEDITATION

By Faith..... Abraham

Rev. Jana Creighton

#### RESPONDING TO THE WORD

\*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH: The 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 again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on 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.**

PRESENTATION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY:

*When Peace Like a River*  
Sharon Watkins— Flute

arr. Jay Althouse

CONGREGATION RESPONSE: #606

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise Him, all creatures here below; Praise Him above, ye heavenly host; Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

\*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

#### SEALING OF THE WORD: The Eucharist

INVITATION TO THE LORD'S TABLE

Rev. Jana Creighton

THE GREAT PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

THE 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.**

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD: *gluten free wafers are wrapped individually in the communion trays*

THE TAKING OF THE VINE

#### PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

#### BEARING AND FOLLOWING THE WORD INTO THE WORLD

\*HYMN # 49

*The God of Abraham Praise*

(Choir sings Verse 1, Congregation joins in on remaining verses)

\*CHARGE AND BLESSING

\*CHORAL RESPONSE:

*Go Rejoicing!*

POSTLUDE:

*Glorious Things of Thee Are Spoken*

arr. Gina Springer

*\*Please stand in body or in spirit*

**During the Welcome and Announcements** please pass the Friendship Books to record your presence here today. You are invited to greet each other with the love of Christ after worship.

**Nursery:** A nursery is available in building A for ages 0 - 3. If you have any questions please see anyone of our volunteers with an "ASK ME" badge.

**Children's Worship:** Every Sunday following "A Time with the Children", ages 4-4<sup>th</sup> grade can either choose to continue to worship with their families, or go to Children's Church. Please pick up children from Building "A". Worship Bags for wiggly children ages 4-12 are hanging on the coat rack in the Narthex.

**Guests are invited to stop by the Guest Table** in the narthex. Please leave your information when you take a goody bag as a reminder of God's love. If you have questions please ask an Elder with an "ASK ME" badge.

**Worship CD's of services.** Contact the office, ask a Sound System Volunteer in the balcony, or listen/download to podcast at [www.sopc.net/sermons](http://www.sopc.net/sermons).

**Music Notes:** *God and God Alone* is a worship song whose refrain is, "God and God alone is fit to take the universe's throne. *Let everything that lives reserve its truest praise for God and God alone*". This arrangement also incorporates the great hymn, *Holy, Holy, Holy*. The choir's anthem is Hymn of Promise, and is based on hymn #250. The offertory reminds us that even in life's most difficult times, God is faithful and we can say, "It is well with my soul". The music during communion will include *Lamb of God* and *Jesus Paid it All*.

**Easter Offering:** Many thanks to everyone who contributed to the One Great Hour of Sharing Offering. We collected \$869 to help share God's love with those in need through Presbyterian Disaster Assistance. Your donations also help with programs that empower the poor and oppressed around the world.

**2019 Flowers:** If you would like to place flowers in the Sanctuary, please contact the church office at 772-1761. The cost is \$75. Dates available are June 9, 16, July 7, 21, Sept. 8, Oct. 20, Nov 10 & 24.

**Relay for Life Recap:** Thanks to everyone who contributed to the Relay for Life campaign. The SOPC team raised \$1,997 this year.

**Elder Training:** Current and future Elders are requested to participate on Wednesdays, May 8th from 5:30 pm-8:00 pm; Friday, May 17th 5:30 pm-8:00 pm; Saturday, May 18th 9:00 am-3:00 pm.

**No Bible Study this week (Monday May 6)** We will resume Bible Study on May 13.

**Mother's Day Offering:** This special offering will be collected next Sunday. These donations support older adults at Presbyterian Communities who have outlived their savings. PCSC has had a long standing commitment to care for residents who can no longer pay for such services. All funds collected via the Mother's Day Offering are set aside strictly for this purpose. Thank you for your contributions.

**Sound System:** Given the ongoing concerns some have expressed with difficulty hearing and understanding the spoken Word and music during worship, we have contacted several acoustical and sound system consultants. They have provided both physical adjustment suggestions and additional options to correct equipment issues. We will be carefully examining the role of these for acoustics in the sanctuary. Our goal is to be certain that everyone hears clearly in every part of our worship space.

**Ladies, join us** Tuesday, May 7, for the Presbyterian Women's 31st birthday celebration @ 6:00 pm here at SOPC.

**Holy Humor Sunday** is all about celebrating the greatest joke ever played on the devil—Jesus is Alive! What does that mean you can expect on May 19?

- Come dressed down for worship. At the very least wear shorts and t-shirts for our block party and picnic outside afterwards. At most, don a humorous, costume! Kids (or kids at heart) wear a bathing suit! The theme this year is the symbol of the butterfly in resurrection. Colors should adorn the "sanctuary" of the Fellowship Hall (clothes, hats, wings, etc.)
- Come prepared to laugh! Last year there was much that was 'silly' in the worship service. This year we are exploring laughter in all its varieties. How does God call us to laugh Biblically and in the midst of life? Come find out!
- Come prepared to worship! We feed our souls and the sermon, scriptures, music all reflect the reality that Christ is risen and gives us strength. Our job is to give thanks in worship!
- Bring a friend to celebrate with you this Sunday especially. What a wonderful way to share the joy of faith in Christ than to laugh with our friends.

**Lanterns invites you** to a Cook out on Saturday, May 11 @ 6:00 pm. Join us as we fellowship @ Byron & Nicki Dickson's, 14 Brittany Way, 29212. Ribs & drinks will be provided. Bring a side dish and adult beverage. RSVP: [byron.dickson@att.net](mailto:byron.dickson@att.net) or 361 1927