

PRELUDE

GREETING AND GATHERING

O God, open our lips and we will declare your praise.

CALL TO WORSHIP

God said: *Let there be light; and there was light.*

And God saw that the light was good.

God said to Abraham and Sarah and to all their children and to all their generations: *I will make of you a great nation and I will bless you; and you shall be a blessing.*

And we shall bless the Lord and bless all God's creation.

This very day our God has acted! Let us rejoice!

Alleluia! God's name be praised!

HYMN - I SING THE ALMIGHTY POWER OF GOD 152

I sing the almighty power of God, that made the mountains rise,
that spread the flowing seas abroad, and built the lofty skies.

I sing the wisdom that ordained the sun to rule the day;
the moon shines full at God's command, and all the stars obey.

I sing the goodness of the Lord, who filled the earth with food, who formed the creatures thru the
Word, and then pronounced them good. Lord, how thy wonders are displayed, where'er I turn
my eye, if I survey the ground I tread, or gaze upon the sky.

There's not a plant or flower below, but makes thy glories known, and clouds arise, and
tempests blow, by order from thy throne; while all that borrows life from thee is ever in thy care;
and everywhere that we can be, thou, God, art present there.

PRAYER

The promise of God's peace and mercy be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray:

**New every morning is your love, great God of light and all day long you are working for
good in the world. Stir up in us a desire to serve you, to live peacefully with our
neighbors and all your creation; and to devote each day to your Son, our Savior, Jesus
Christ.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

RESPONSE - GREAT IS THY FAITHFULNESS 140 (verses 1 & 2)

Great is thy faithfulness, O God my Father, there is no shadow of turning with thee; thou changest not, thy compassions they fail not; as thou hast been, thou forever wilt be.

Great is thy faithfulness! Great is thy faithfulness! Morning by morning new mercies I see; all I have needed thy hand hath provided; great is thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!

Summer and winter and springtime and harvest, sun, moon, and stars in their courses above join with all nature in manifold witness to thy great faithfulness, mercy, and love.

MINISTRY MOMENT - Zoe Gary (NOLA Wesley Minister)

THE RED STEPS

OFFERTORY

Grant Peace, We Pray

duet Laurie Phillips, soprano Randall Bunnell, baritone

*Grant peace, we pray, in mercy, Lord,
In our time peace, oh, send us!
For there is none on earth but Thee,
None other to defend us.
Thou only, Lord, canst fight for us.
None but Thou only, Lord*

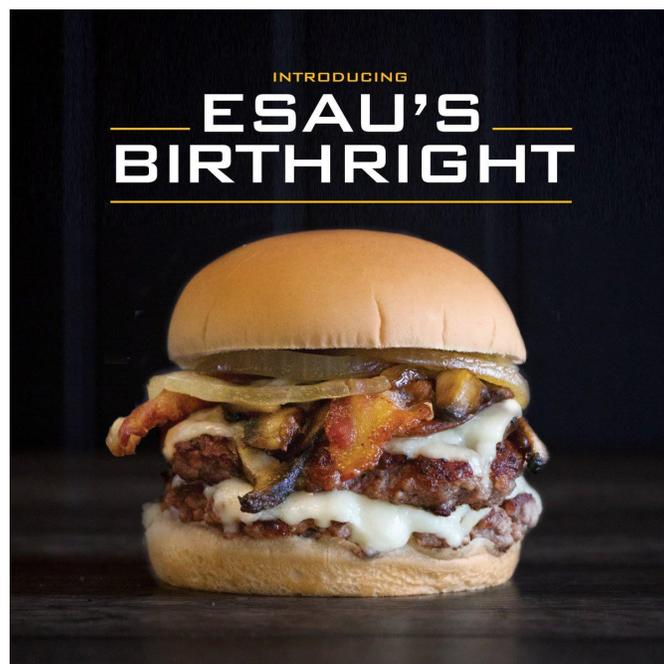
SCRIPTURE - Genesis 25:19-34

These are the descendants of Isaac, Abraham's son: Abraham was the father of Isaac, and Isaac was forty years old when he married Rebekah, daughter of Bethuel the Aramean of Paddan-aram, sister of Laban the Aramean. 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.

HOMILY

*Birthrights and Buffoons, Hungers and Hoaxes
(How God Can Make the Best of Our Worst)*



ANTHEM

This is My Father's World
soloist Laurie Phillips

*This is my Father's world; and to my list'ning ears
all nature sings, and 'round me rings the music of the spheres.
This is my Father's world; I rest me in the thought of rocks and trees,
of skies and seas; His hand the wonders wrought.*

*This is my Father's world; the birds their carols raise;
the morning light, the lily white, declare their maker's praise.
This is my Father's world; he shines in all that's fair,
in the rustling grass I hear him pass; he speaks to me ev'rywhere.*

*This is my Father's world; Oh, let me ne'er forget
that though the wrong seems oft so strong, God is the ruler yet.
This is my Father's world, why should my heart be sad?
The Lord is King, let the heavens ring, God reigns,
let the earth be glad.*

INVITATION

HYMN - O GOD OF EVERY NATION 435

O God of every nation, of every race and land,
redeem the whole creation with your almighty hand.
where hate and fear divide us and bitter threats are hurled,
in love and mercy guide us, and heal our strife torn world.

From search for wealth and power and scorn of truth and right,
from trust in bombs that shower destruction through the night,
from pride of race and nation and blindness to your way,
deliver every nation, eternal God, we pray!

Lord, strengthen those who labor that all may find release
from fear of rattling saber, from dread of war's increase.
When hope and courage falter, Lord, let your voice be heard;
with faith that none can alter, your servants undergird.

Keep bright in us the vision of days when war shall cease,
when hatred and division give way to love and peace,
till dawns the morning glorious when truth and justice reign,
and Christ shall rule victorious o'er all the world's domain.

BENEDICTION
POSTLUDE