

Daily Morning Message

St Paul United Church of Christ

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Tuesday, March 2, 2021

Daily Lectionary Readings Psalm 105:1-11, 37-45
 Genesis 22:1-19
 Hebrews 11:1-3, 13-19

Today's Scripture Verse: *By faith Abraham, when put to the test, offered up Isaac. He who had received the promises was ready to offer up his only son, of whom he had been told, "It is through Isaac that descendants shall be named for you." He considered the fact that God is able even to raise someone from the dead – and figuratively speaking, he did receive him back. (Hebrews 11:17-19)*

What it means: Let's be honest: if anyone wrote the story about Abraham binding his son Isaac and preparing to sacrifice him on an altar as a story of faith today, we would reprimand him for gross immorality for suggesting that such a repulsive action was anything but child abuse. There is little we can do to reclaim such a story - better to confess that it is a tale told by a culture we cannot completely understand. The story is intended to illustrate a lesson, but it feels like the lesson would be better taught without the story. The lesson calls upon us as people of faith to place our life and our destiny in God's hands. It is about trusting a faithful God. But we'd have to wonder about trusting a god who would ask us to do what the story in Genesis asks.

Our time of reflection: God, our trust in you is based in the teachings of Jesus and in the lessons we have learned from those who follow the way of Christ and show us each day the richness of your compassion. May we be moved to set aside self-interest when needed, so that our lives may reveal the work of your Spirit among us.

