

WORSHIP IN JUNE

At First Congregational of Evanston

In the Revised Common Lectionary, during what is called "Ordinary Time," readings from the Hebrew Scriptures follow either of two courses. The first course describes a series of events in Jewish history, from earliest to latest; the second course features selections from prophetic writings that resonate with themes found in the New Testament readings. Both courses are provided here, so that if you want to broaden your personal approach to the weekly texts, you can read the alternatives.

SUNDAY, JUNE 1

Anthem

Sermon

Genesis 6:11–22; 7:24; 8:14–19. Noah hears God speaking to him and prepares for a Flood.

Psalm 46. The Psalmist encourages the faithful not to be shaken by troubling events, with repeated assurances that God is their refuge.

OR

Deuteronomy 11:18–21, 26–28. The Israelites are instructed not only to heed God's word but to wear it (as phylacteries).

Psalm 31:1–5, 19–24. The prayer of one who, having emerged from difficulty, is thankful for having been preserved by God.

AND

Romans 1:16–17; 3:22b–31. Paul takes a starkly critical look at the basis and cause for Christian faithfulness – the Good News itself.

Matthew 7:21–29. Using imagery you might expect from a homebuilder, Jesus argues that people who faithfully attend his words construct their spiritual house on a reliable foundation.

SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

Hurd – "Love Bade Me Welcome"

Through Faith, for Faith, by Faith

SUNDAY, JUNE 8

Anthems

Near – "My Song Shall Be Always of thy Loving-kindness"

Pinkham – "Gloria in Excelsis Deo"

Oh, I'm the Tax Man

Sermon

Genesis 12:1–9. Abram hears and responds to the call of YHWH, to move to Canaan.

Psalm 33:1–12. Using creation imagery as proof, a Psalmist asserts that God's justice finds its origin in the love that created the universe.

OR

Hosea 5:15–6:6. Exasperated with a faithless people, God decides to withdraw until they sincerely return.

Psalm 50:7–15. The Psalmist claims that self-satisfied people already have their reward in this life, with no hope for an afterlife.

AND

Romans 4:13–25. Paul equates faithfulness with righteousness.

Matthew 9:9–13, 18–26. Jesus commands the tax man Matthew to follow. In the second portion, Jesus resuscitates the daughter of a synagogue official and heals a woman who has been hemorrhaging for twelve years.

SUNDAY, JUNE 15

FATHER'S DAY; "HONORING" SUNDAY FOR CHOIR AND SUNDAY SCHOOL

Anthem

Music from Mendelssohn's "Elijah"

Sermon

A Laughable Parenthood

Genesis 18:1–15. While her husband Abraham is entertaining mysterious guests, 90-year-old Sarah overhears that she will become pregnant... and laughs.

Psalm 116:1–2, 12–19. Praise to God for answering prayers.

OR

Exodus 19:2–8a. When YHWH promises to be Israel's God if they will heed a covenant, the Israelites promise that they will accept God's covenant with them.

Psalm 100. A familiar call to worship.

AND

Romans 5:1–8. Paul contends that suffering has its upside.

Matthew 9:35–10:23. Jesus commissions the Twelve to preach and heal throughout Galilee.

SUNDAY, JUNE 22

Sermon

Progressive Christianity

Genesis 21:8–21. After Isaac is born, Abraham abandons Sarah's slave Hagar and his son by her, Ishmael.

They nearly dehydrate in the wilderness, but find water at the last moment.

Psalm 86:1–10, 16–17. A needy person prays to God for restoration.

OR

Jeremiah 20:7–13. Jeremiah laments the slowness of God's justice.

Psalm 69:7–18. A Psalmist whose prayers have gone unanswered pleads to God for a reply.

AND

Romans 6:1b–11. Paul takes Jesus' resurrection as a metaphor that can be applied as a principle for living day-to-day.

Matthew 10:24–39. Jesus poetically advises the disciples that, because God is with them, they can afford – in contemporary terms – to stay on message with the gospel.

SUNDAY, JUNE 29

Sermon

I Don't Feel No Ways Tired

Genesis 22:1–14. Abraham begins to obey a command from God to sacrifice Isaac, but is countermanded at the last minute.

Psalm 13. One who feels forgotten by God begs for aid, to best an enemy.

OR

Jeremiah 28:5–9. To Hananiah who has just prophesied a peaceful outcome with the approaching Babylonians, Jeremiah sarcastically replies that the proof will be in the outcome.

Psalm 89:1–4, 15–18. Praise to God for good government.

AND

Romans 6:12–23. Still employing the language of resurrection (see above, June 22), Paul argues that, since we have come to realize God's grace, we must behave accordingly.

Matthew 10:40–42. Those who treat Christians hospitably will be rewarded.