



**Inverurie** West Parish Church

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## **Order of Service: Sunday 17 September 2023**

Thank you for joining our Sunday worship with Inverurie West Parish Church. Whether you are joining us online or in-person; as a newcomer, occasional visitor, or regular, we are delighted to have you with us. This morning we begin our second year working our way through the Narrative Lectionary. This morning we look at how the birth of Isaac came about as we think about promise and protest, hospitality and laughter.

### **Call To Worship**

#### **LONGING FOR LIGHT (CH4 543)**

#### **Opening Prayer (Including the Lord's prayer)**

Our heavenly father  
May your holy name be honoured  
May your kingdom come  
May your will be done on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us today what we really need  
Forgive us the wrong we do  
as we forgive those who wrong us

Lead us away from temptation  
Keep us safe from evil

For the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours forever  
Amen

### **Intro to the Word**

## TEACH ME TO DANCE

**Reading 1: Genesis 18: 1-15; 21: 1-7**

**Read by Laura Gray**

The Lord appeared to Abraham near the great trees of Mamre while he was sitting at the entrance to his tent in the heat of the day. 2 Abraham looked up and saw three men standing nearby. When he saw them, he hurried from the entrance of his tent to meet them and bowed low to the ground.

3 He said, "If I have found favour in your eyes, my lord, do not pass your servant by. 4 Let a little water be brought, and then you may all wash your feet and rest under this tree. 5 Let me get you something to eat, so you can be refreshed and then go on your way—now that you have come to your servant."

"Very well," they answered, "do as you say."

6 So Abraham hurried into the tent to Sarah. "Quick," he said, "get three seahs of the finest flour and knead it and bake some bread."

7 Then he ran to the herd and selected a choice, tender calf and gave it to a servant, who hurried to prepare it. 8 He then brought some curds and milk and the calf that had been prepared, and set these before them. While they ate, he stood near them under a tree.

9 "Where is your wife Sarah?" they asked him.

"There, in the tent," he said.

10 Then one of them said, "I will surely return to you about this time next year, and Sarah your wife will have a son."

Now Sarah was listening at the entrance to the tent, which was behind him. 11 Abraham and Sarah were already very old, and Sarah was past the age of childbearing. 12 So Sarah laughed to herself as she thought, "After I am worn out and my lord is old, will I now have this pleasure?"

13 Then the Lord said to Abraham, "Why did Sarah laugh and say, 'Will I really have a child, now that I am old?' 14 Is anything too hard for the Lord? I will return to you at the appointed time next year, and Sarah will have a son."

15 Sarah was afraid, so she lied and said, "I did not laugh."

But he said, "Yes, you did laugh."

**Reflection part 1 - 'The pregnant pause'**

## **Reading 2: Genesis 21: 1-7**

Now the Lord was gracious to Sarah as he had said, and the Lord did for Sarah what he had promised. 2 Sarah became pregnant and bore a son to Abraham in his old age, at the very time God had promised him.

3 Abraham gave the name Isaac to the son Sarah bore him. 4 When his son Isaac was eight days old, Abraham circumcised him, as God commanded him. 5 Abraham was a hundred years old when his son Isaac was born to him.

6 Sarah said, "God has brought me laughter, and everyone who hears about this will laugh with me." 7 And she added, "Who would have said to Abraham that Sarah would nurse children? Yet I have borne him a son in his old age."

## **Reflection part 2: 'The delivery'**

## **JESUS PUT THIS SONG INTO OUR HEARTS (CH4 692)**

**Prayer**

**News**

## **YOU SHALL GO OUT WITH JOY (CH4 804)**

**Grace**

**Blessing**

**News**

**Bible Study** - our Zoom bible study continues on Wednesday evening at 730 pm. This session we will be looking at different ways of reading the bible following a book called "How we eat bread" by Miranda Threlfall-Holmes. It isn't necessary to buy the book for the study, and you don't need any background or bible expertise to be part of the group which is informal and has amazing discussions. If you've never tried bible study before, this might be the time!

**Exploring faith/membership** - It's been a while since we've had what they used to call 'new communicants'. This means adults (or older teenagers) who would like to explore the basics of our faith and/or prepare to take the step of becoming a Church of Scotland member by profession of faith. If God is giving you a nudge this way and you'd like to find out more, please speak to Rhona.

**Presbytery Resourcing conference on Climate Justice** - Saturday September 30th 10am-1pm at Inverurie West Church. This event is jointly run by Christian Aid, Eco-Congregations, the Guild and the Church of Scotland. This will be an interactive and informative day where you will hear about the impacts of climate change locally and globally, and get resources and ideas as to how churches can respond. You can book for the conference on: [https://url.avanan.click/v2/https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/christian-aid-and-faith-action-climate-conference-tickets-708760901937?aff=oddtcreator\\_\\_\\_\\_.YXAzOmNvczphOm86NGNiNzE0YWMIIMmUIMGY0YWViYTc5MWM5ZGNjMDZjMzU6Njo5NzgwOjgyZjg3MzJmNDJiOTRiOWU0NmM0OWJkNDFlkNDMwZTdmZTEIMmlzOTlwNWQ2MmJjODYyZjJmMmZkZjc5NTM0YTg6aDpU](https://url.avanan.click/v2/https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/christian-aid-and-faith-action-climate-conference-tickets-708760901937?aff=oddtcreator____.YXAzOmNvczphOm86NGNiNzE0YWMIIMmUIMGY0YWViYTc5MWM5ZGNjMDZjMzU6Njo5NzgwOjgyZjg3MzJmNDJiOTRiOWU0NmM0OWJkNDFlkNDMwZTdmZTEIMmlzOTlwNWQ2MmJjODYyZjJmMmZkZjc5NTM0YTg6aDpU)

**Italian evening** - Friday 6th October 2023. Join us for an evening of fine food, great hospitality, music and song at the Acorn Centre. Doors open 7pm. Bring Your Own Alcohol - Soft Drinks Bar Available £20 per person. Tickets from the reception desk.

**Foodbank Wish List** - The North Aberdeenshire Foodbank is continuing to experience real shortages of some of their key items as demand outstrips supply. If you can help, this month they are in particular need of: UHT Milk (full cream /semi-skimmed); Tinned vegetables; Tinned Fruit; Tinned fish; Jam/Marmalade; Jars of sauce; Chocolate (100g bars); Deodorant; Soap, Toothpaste

**Practical help** - if you, or anyone you know need shopping, errands etc done, we have lots of volunteers keen to help. For assistance ring Joyce Petrie on 01467 620932 or email [help@inveruriewestchurch.org](mailto:help@inveruriewestchurch.org)

For prayer requests, joys and concerns, or content which you would like shared on Sunday, please email Rhona on [r.cathcart@inveruriewestchurch.org](mailto:r.cathcart@inveruriewestchurch.org) by Saturday night, or you can text her on her mobile.

Donations to the work of the church (either nationally or to an individual congregation like ours) can be made online at <https://cos.churchofscotland.org.uk/donate/>