

Lifting our souls, Trusting in God

LENT AND EASTER COURSE FROM THE
DIOCESE OF ABERDEEN AND ORKNEY



Romans 4:1-5, 13-17

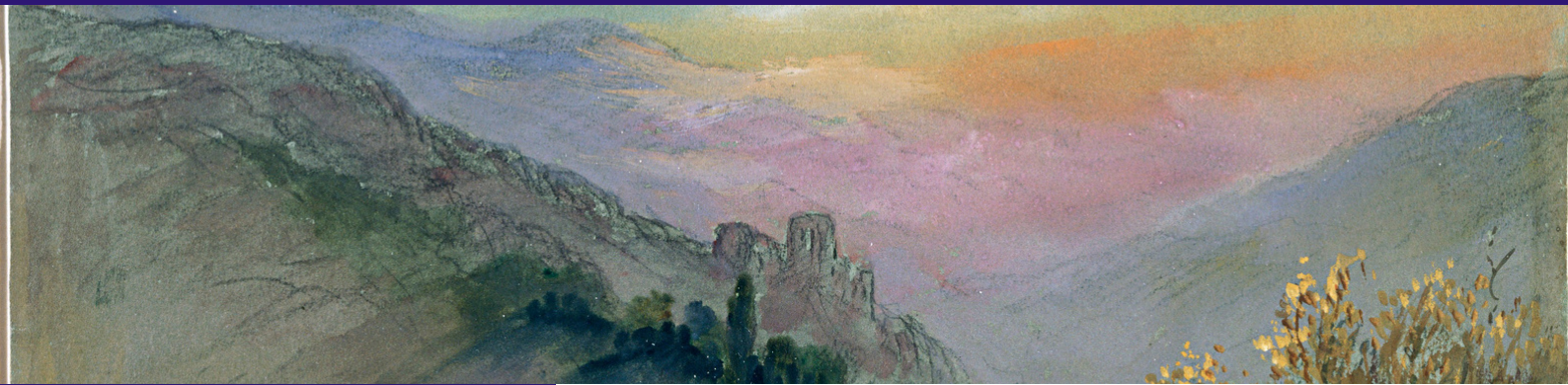
What then are we to say was gained by Abraham, our ancestor according to the flesh? For if Abraham was justified by works, he has something to boast about, but not before God. For what does the scripture say? "Abraham believed God, and it was reckoned to him as righteousness." Now to one who works, wages are not reckoned as a gift but as something due. But to one who without works trusts him who justifies the ungodly, such faith is reckoned as righteousness.

For the promise that he would inherit the world did not come to Abraham or to his descendants through the law but through the righteousness of faith. If it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. For the law brings wrath; but where there is no law, neither is there violation.

For this reason it depends on faith, in order that the promise may rest on grace and be guaranteed to all his descendants, not only to the adherents of the law but also to those who share the faith of Abraham (for he is the father of all of us, as it is written, "I have made you the father of many nations") —in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist.

COLLECT

God of patience and humility, in your love you gave your Son to be rejected and raised up on a cross. Gather us under its shadow and open our eyes to its mystery, that we may share even now in the life that is from above; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.
Amen.



Hercules Brabazon (1821-1906) *Mountain Landscape*, Phillips Collections Washington D.C.

*The shape of true love
isn't a diamond. It's a
cross. —Alicia Bruxvoort*

*“Though we yearn to
eventuate a future that
does not exist, we continue
to reach out because we
believe it nonetheless. We
have to believe in
bettering. We have to
believe in the lives that
come after us.” –Rev.
Grace Ji-Sun Kim*

*“Jesus will put the cosmos
right again. Creator uses
love to heal and restore,
and we can choose to
cooperate with that plan.
We were created in
Shalom and to Shalom we
shall return – to a
profoundly good creation.”
– Lenore Three Stars,*

In the Lectionary for the Second Sunday of Lent we hear of Abraham - in Genesis the Lord sending Abram away from the land of his fathers. In Romas we hear St Paul reflecting on the story of Abraham considering righteousness, grace and the Law. What passages in the Old Testament point you to the righteousness and grace of God? Today you're invited to spend some time with them, or delve deeper into part of scripture in the Old Testament you are not familiar with.

***The Sacrifice of Abraham (Excerpt)* by Nathaniel Parker Willis**

Light poureth on the world. And Sarah stands
Watching the steps of Abraham and her child
Along the dewy sides of the far hills,
And praying that her sunny boy faint not.
Would she have watched their path so silently,
If she had known that he was going up,
E'en in his fair-haired beauty, to be slain
As a white lamb for sacrifice? They trod
Together onward, patriarch and child,—
The bright sun throwing back the old man's shade
In straight and fair proportions, as of one
Whose years were freshly numbered. He stood up,
Tall in his vigorous strength; and, like a tree
Rooted in Lebanon, his frame bent not.
His thin white hairs had yielded to the wind,
And left his brow uncovered; and his face,
Impressed with the stern majesty of grief
Nerved to a solemn duty, now stood forth
Like a rent rock, submissive, yet sublime.
But the young boy—he of the laughing eye
And ruby lip—the pride of life was on him.
He seemed to drink the morning. Sun and dew,
And the aroma of the spicy trees,
And all that giveth the delicious East
Its fitness for an Eden, stole like light
Into his spirit, ravishing his thoughts
With love and beauty.

To Listen:

By Faith by Keith and Kristyn Getty

The God of Abraham Praise by Thomas Olivers

A playlist of music suggestions for the course can be found at
<https://open.spotify.com/playlist/3pJcG5xA1xzhL2Aolau0Q4?si=582cd1f921ae4fb1>