



"Israel" by Mike Moyers

**Christ Church** **UNITED CHURCH**  
**OF CHRIST**

Rev. Dan Stark, Pastor  
Pam Kothrade, Musician

[www.uccmke.org](http://www.uccmke.org)

*In this fourteenth Sunday after the Pentecost event, we continue our sermon series, Emerge, with an exploration of scriptures which deal with returning in the context of relationships. In Genesis 33, Jacob and Esau are reunited twenty years after they had a falling out. The two brothers reconcile and return to being a family. In Matthew 26:14-16 and 27:3-10, Judas betrays Jesus for 30 pieces of silver. Even though he has a change of heart and tries to return the blood money, he cannot return to the way things were with his relationship with Jesus and he ends his own life because of it. In a time of political and racial unrest in our cities, state, and nation – as well as fierce debates about justice, these scriptures remind us that “return” does not have to be about going to some place or space. “Return” can also involve human interactions with other humans or with God.*

**Prelude**

**Morning Prayers**

**Heather Sorenson**

**Prayer for the Pooch That is Suddenly Alone and Doesn’t Understand Why**

**Matt Laney**

*For a time, a full staff of warm hands and laps, an endless buffet of tasty crumbs and scraps! Walks and walks and walks again, and not one trip to the groomer’s den!*

*Now, suddenly, he’s in the pen a lot more, tail drooping, sad puppy eyes fixed on the door.*

*Lover of creatures, great and small, bless our pets, one and all.*

...  
*Ó G-O-D who knows D-O-G so well, comfort them in this moment of canine-hell. Let them feel your fingers scratching behind soft ears. Be the steady lap that removes all their worst fears.*  
*Amen.*

**Words of Welcome**

**Opening Hymn**

**Give to God Our Immortal Praise**

**Isaac Watts**

**Opening Litany**

**One: Google Classroom at home. Video calls. Virtual everything.**

**All: We long to be together again in relationship with each other.**

**One: Protests in Kenosha. Riots. Violence. Racism. Division.**

**All: We long to reconcile our fragmented relations with one another.**

**One: Let us return to God, the Way, the Truth, and the Light.**

**All: Let us worship the One who always welcomes us with open arms.**

**Opening Prayer**

**The Gloria**

**Glory to God, whose goodness shines on me, and to the**

**Son, whose grace has pardoned me, and to the Spirit,**

**whose love has set me free, As it was in the beginning, is**

**now and ever shall be. Amen. World without end,**

**without end. Amen. World with-out end, without- end Amen. World with-out end,**

**with-out end. Amen. As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be. Amen.**

*Music and Words: Paul Vasile, ©2008, Paul Vasile. Permission granted by the composer for use in worship.*



*“Kiss, The” By Lauren Wright Pittman.*



*"Tangled Blessing" by Lauren Wright Pittman*

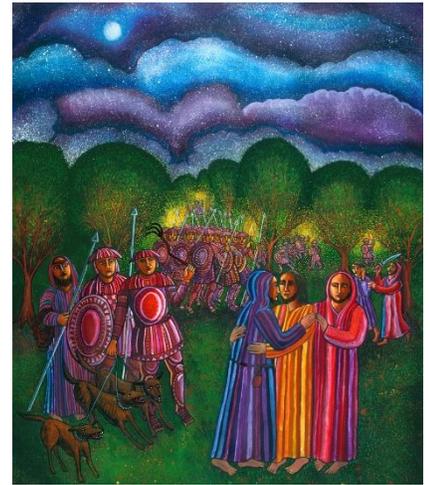
Genesis is a book of beginnings. Not only does Genesis detail the beginning of the universe and humankind, but it also tells the story of the beginnings of the ancestors of our faith and the tribes of Israel. This passage takes place twenty years after Jacob, the father of Israel, outwitted his twin brother Esau for his birthright. Jacob fled his brother Esau because Esau swore, he would kill him. In this story, Jacob encounters Esau and his entourage and prepares himself to be killed. However, in a stunning reversal of expectation, Esau runs up to him and embraces Jacob as a brother instead. The divided families become united in an act of compassion, forgiveness, and reconciliation.

*1 Now Jacob looked up and saw Esau coming, and four hundred men with him. So he divided the children among Leah and Rachel and the two maids. 2 He put the maids with their children in front, then Leah with her children, and Rachel and Joseph last of all. 3 He himself went on ahead of them, bowing himself to the ground seven times, until he came near his brother. 4 But Esau ran to meet him, and embraced him, and fell on his neck and kissed him, and they wept. 5 When Esau looked up and saw the women and children, he said, "Who are these with you?" Jacob said, "The children whom God has graciously given your servant." 6 Then the maids drew near, they and their children, and bowed down; 7 Leah likewise and her children drew near and bowed down; and finally Joseph and Rachel drew near, and they bowed down. 8 Esau said, "What do you mean by all this company that I met?" Jacob answered, "To find favor with my lord." 9 But Esau said, "I have enough, my brother; keep what you have for yourself." 10 Jacob said, "No, please; if I find favor with you, then accept my present from my hand; for truly to see your face is like seeing the face of God – since you have received me with such favor. 11 Please accept my gift that is brought to you, because God has dealt graciously with me, and because I have everything I want." So he urged him, and he took it. 12 Then Esau said, "Let us journey on our way, and I will go alongside you." 13 But Jacob said to him, "My lord knows that the children are frail and that the flocks and herds, which are nursing, are a care to me; and if they are overdriven for one day, all the flocks will die. 14 Let my lord pass on ahead of his servant, and I will lead on slowly, according to the pace of the cattle that are before me and according to the pace of the children, until I come to my lord in Seir." 15 So Esau said, "Let me leave with you some of the people who are with me." But he said, "Why should my lord be so kind to me?" 16 So Esau returned that day on his way to Seir. 17 But Jacob journeyed to Succoth, and built himself a house, and made booths for his cattle; therefore the place is called Succoth. 18 Jacob came safely to the city of Shechem, which is in the land of Canaan, on his way from Paddan-aram; and he camped before the city. 19 And from the sons of Hamor, Shechem's father, he bought for one hundred pieces of money the plot of land on which he had pitched his tent. 20 There he erected an altar and called it El-Elohe-Israel.*

## Creed for the Marginalized

Marchae Grair

*I am powerful. I deserve to live. Joy is my birthright.  
I am beautiful. I deserve to thrive. Community is my anchor.  
I am worthy. I deserve to be free. Liberation is my legacy.  
You can't take what my ancestors taught me. You can't destroy what my  
ancestors created.  
You can't heal in me what was never broken.  
You don't have to honor me for my life to matter.  
You don't have to save me because I'm saving myself.  
You don't have to notice me for this miracle to keep unfolding.  
I am the miracle because I live. And believe I deserve to.*



*"The Kiss of Judas" by John August Swanson.*

## New Testament

[Matthew 26:14-16, 27:3-10](#)

The Gospel of Matthew is keenly aware of Jesus' Jewish identity and tells the story of Jesus as the Messiah whose genealogy and miraculous birth is the sign that "God is with us." In these passages, Judas, one of the twelve disciples and friends of Jesus, agrees to betray him for thirty pieces of silver. After Jesus is arrested, Judas is wracked with guilt, repents, and returns the money. He takes his own life out of guilt for the relationship that he cannot reconcile or return to the way things once were.

*14 Then one of the twelve, who was called Judas Iscariot, went to the chief priests 15 and said, "What will you give me if I betray him to you?" They paid him thirty pieces of silver. 16 And from that moment he began to look for an opportunity to betray him. 3When Judas, his betrayer, saw that Jesus was condemned, he repented and brought back the thirty pieces of silver to the chief priests and the elders. 4 He said, "I have sinned by betraying innocent blood." But they said, "What is that to us? See to it yourself." 5 Throwing down the pieces of silver in the temple, he departed; and he went and hanged himself. 6 But the chief priests, taking the pieces of silver, said, "It is not lawful to put them into the treasury, since they are blood money." 7 After conferring together, they used them to buy the potter's field as a place to bury foreigners. 8 For this reason that field has been called the Field of Blood to this day. 9 Then was fulfilled what had been spoken through the prophet Jeremiah, "And they took the thirty pieces of silver, the price of the one on whom a price had been set, on whom some of the people of Israel had set a price, 10 and they gave them for the potter's field, as the Lord commanded me."*

**Sermon**

**Emerge: Reconciliation and Return**

**Rev. Dan Stark**

**Song of Response**

**Help Us to Accept Each Other**

**Fred Kaan**

## Prayers of the People

### Prayer Song

**1. Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me; Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me. Melt me, mold me, fill me, use me.**

**Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.**

**2. Spirit of the living God, move among us all; make us one in heart and mind, make us one in love: humble, caring, selfless, sharing.**

**Spirit of the living God, fill our lives with love.**

### The Lord's Prayer

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.**

**Thy Kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.**

Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.  
And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory forever. Amen.

Invitation to the Offering

Prayer of Dedication

Doxology

Praise God from whom all blessings flow, Praise God all creatures here below

Praise God above ye heavenly host, Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost.

A-men.

The Sacrament of Holy Communion

Telling the Story

Holy, Holy, Holy

Blessing the Elements

Sharing the Bread and Cup

Prayer of the Great Thanksgiving

Mary Luti

Closing Song

Immortal, Invincible, God Only Wise

Walter C. Smith

Sending Blessing

Postlude

He is Exalted

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If you should need to contact Pastor Stark, please email [pastor@uccmke.org](mailto:pastor@uccmke.org).  
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We are currently gathering in person for worship with safety and sanitation protocols in place.  
Learn more here. <https://www.uccmke.org/covid-19>

You can make your offering to Christ Church through [PayPal](#) or by mailing a check to Christ  
Church, 915 East Oklahoma Ave, Milwaukee, WI, 53207.

