

Worship Service ~ *After Darkness, Light*

Epiphany 2, Year A,

18th January, 2026

Genesis 25:19-28 / Genesis 38

Prelude played by church musician Annie Center,

Gathering Together

Welcome

Good morning, It's my pleasure to welcome you to worship with Olympic View Community Church. Please stand with me, if you're able, and hear the Lord call us into worship.

Call to Worship

One: The Lord is my light and my salvation;

All: Whom shall I fear?

One: The Lord is the stronghold of my life;

All: of whom shall I be afraid?

One: One thing I ask of you, O Lord, and that I will pursue:

All: to live in your house all the days of my life, to behold your beauty and to seek you in your temple.

Invocation

O God, we are so often exposed to the ugliness of a world gone wrong; the calamity of sin gone astray; the suffering of bodies in decay.

But this morning we can be set in the direction of hope and light and beauty with just one glimpse of your glory. Through your mercy to us in Christ, Our God, we boldly respond to your call, to come into your presence, to behold you, to commune with you - and to be filled with your life.

Opening Hymn *Rejoice, the Lord is King ~ 288*

Engaging with God Together

Scripture Reading ~ Genesis 25:19-28

19 These are the generations of Isaac, Abraham's son: Abraham fathered Isaac, **20** and Isaac was forty years old when he took Rebekah, the daughter of Bethuel the Aramean of Paddan-aram, the sister of Laban the Aramean, to be his wife. **21** And Isaac prayed to the LORD for his wife, because she was barren. And the LORD granted his prayer, and Rebekah his wife conceived. **22** The children struggled together within her, and she said, "If it is thus, why is this happening to me?" So she went to inquire of the LORD. **23** And the LORD said to her,

"Two nations are in your womb,
and two peoples from within you shall be divided;
the one shall be stronger than the other,
the older shall serve the younger."

24 When her days to give birth were completed, behold, there were twins in her womb. **25** The first came out red, all his body like a hairy cloak, so they called his name Esau. **26** Afterward his brother came out with his hand holding Esau's heel, so his name was called Jacob. Isaac was sixty years old when she bore them.

27 When the boys grew up, Esau was a skillful hunter, a man of the field, while Jacob was a quiet man, dwelling in tents. **28** Isaac loved Esau because he ate of his game, but Rebekah loved Jacob.

Let's greet one another with the peace of Christ as we pass the peace.

Pass the Peace

Sharing Announcements and Prayer Requests

In a moment we are going to pray together, but before we do, does anyone have any announcements to share about anything in the life of the church coming up? Does anyone have any joys or concerns to share?

Pastoral Prayer

Prayer by pastor

Hymn

Will You Let Me be Your Servant ~ 307

Hearing the Word Together

Sermon Passage ~ Genesis 38

38 It happened at that time that Judah went down from his brothers and turned aside to a certain Adullamite, whose name was Hirah. **2** There Judah saw the daughter of a certain Canaanite whose name was Shua. He took her and went in to her, **3** and she conceived and bore a son, and he called his name Er. **4** She conceived again and bore a son, and she called his name Onan. **5** Yet again she bore a son, and she called his name Shelah. Judah was in Chezib when she bore him.

6 And Judah took a wife for Er his firstborn, and her name was Tamar. **7** But Er, Judah's firstborn, was wicked in the sight of the LORD, and the LORD put him to death. **8** Then Judah said to Onan, "Go in to your brother's wife and perform the duty of a brother-in-law to her, and raise up offspring for your brother." **9** But Onan knew that the offspring would not be his. So whenever he went in to his brother's wife he would waste the semen on the ground, so as not to give offspring to his brother. **10** And what he did was wicked in the sight of the LORD, and he put him to death also. **11** Then Judah said to Tamar his daughter-in-law, "Remain a widow in your father's house, till Shelah my son grows up"—for he feared that he would die, like his brothers. So Tamar went and remained in her father's house.

12 In the course of time the wife of Judah, Shua's daughter, died. When Judah was comforted, he went up to Timnah to his sheepshearers, he and his friend Hirah the Adullamite. **13** And when Tamar was told, "Your father-in-law is going up to Timnah to shear his sheep," **14** she took off her widow's garments and covered herself with a veil, wrapping herself up, and sat at the entrance to Enaim, which is on the road to Timnah. For she saw that Shelah was grown up, and she had not been given to him in marriage. **15** When Judah saw her, he thought she was a prostitute, for she had covered her face. **16** He turned to her at the roadside and said, "Come, let me come in to you," for he did not know that she was his daughter-in-law. She said, "What will you give me, that you may come in to me?" **17** He answered, "I will send you a young goat from the flock." And she said, "If you give me a pledge, until you send it—" **18** He said, "What pledge shall I give you?" She replied, "Your signet and your cord and your staff that is in your hand." So he gave them to her and went in to her, and she conceived by him.

19 Then she arose and went away, and taking off her veil she put on the garments of her widowhood.

20 When Judah sent the young goat by his friend the Adullamite to take back the pledge from the woman's hand, he did not find her. **21** And he asked the men of the place, "Where is the cult prostitute who was at Enaim at the roadside?" And they said, "No cult prostitute has been here." **22** So he returned to Judah and said, "I have not found her. Also, the men of the place said, 'No cult prostitute has been here.'" **23** And Judah replied, "Let her keep the things as her own, or we shall be laughed at. You see, I sent this young goat, and you did not find her."

24 About three months later Judah was told, "Tamar your daughter-in-law has been immoral. Moreover, she is pregnant by immorality." And Judah said, "Bring her out, and let her be burned." **25** As she was being brought out, she sent word to her father-in-law, "By the man to whom these belong, I am pregnant." And she said, "Please identify whose these are, the signet and the cord and the staff." **26** Then Judah identified them and said, "She is more righteous than I, since I did not give her to my son Shelah." And he did not know her again.

27 When the time of her labor came, there were twins in her womb. **28** And when she was in labor, one put out a hand, and the midwife took and tied a scarlet thread on his hand, saying, "This one came out first." **29** But as he drew back his hand, behold, his brother came out. And she said, "What a breach you have made for yourself!" Therefore his name was called Perez. **30** Afterward his brother came out with the scarlet thread on his hand, and his name was called Zerah.

Sermon ~ After Darkness, Light

Rev. Jonny Finlayson

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Responding to the Word Together

Welcome to the Table of the Lord *(Responsive Reading)*

One: God shows his love for us

All: in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

One: Jesus said to them, "I am the bread of life;

All: whoever comes to me shall not hunger, and whoever believes in me shall never thirst."

Prayer

Lord's Supper

Pastor: The Apostle Paul writes in 1 Corinthians 11: 23-26: "For I received from the Lord what I also handed on to you, that the Lord Jesus on the night when he was betrayed took a loaf of bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, 'This is my body that is for you. Do this in remembrance of me.' In the same way he took the cup also, after supper, saying, 'This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.' For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes."

(Remind the congregation to wait until all have been served, then we'll eat and drink together).

All: *The bread which we break is the communion of the body of Christ.*

All: *The cup which we bless is the communion of the blood of Christ.*

Reflection ~ Played during distribution of elements by church musician Annie Center,

Prayer

Hymn *Just as I Am, Without One Plea ~ 516*

Benediction

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all. Short prayer by pastor

Postlude played by church musician Annie Center,

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