Sermon Series: A Journey of Faith
A Study on the Life of Abraham

Letting Go and Letting God

Genesis 11:27-12:9

Vienna Presbyterian Church
A Disciple-Making Community

January 1, 2012
Prelude  
Noel 10 in G  

Welcome

Prayer of Adoration  
Pete James

Hymn #210  
Our God, Our Help in Ages Past

Prayer

Anthem  
When It’s All Been Said and Done

Children’s Message (9:30)

Offertory  
Angels We Have Heard on High  
Richard Walters

During the Offertory, please pass the Friendship Pad.

Sermon  
Letting Go and Letting God  
Glenda Simpkins Hoffman

Scripture  
Genesis 11:27-12:9

Sermon Series:  
A Journey of Faith: A Study on the Life of Abraham

Please request large-print hymnals from ushers.  
Assistive listening devices are available in the balcony from the Sound Technician.
A Service of Communion and Covenant Renewal Invitation to the Lord’s Table

The Confession:

Leader: looking at the year behind us, let us confess our inadequacy in living up to our high calling as sons and daughters of God.

People: O God, we know that we are a wayward people. Our footsteps falter as we seek to follow your ways; our gaze is turned away from awareness of your glory to preoccupation with our own needs and concerns; and even our love for one another grows cold. We trust only in your grace to create new life within us and to bind us together in love and common commitment. Let your spirit be born in us anew, and accept our lives, which we offer to you. Amen.

The Act of Covenant:

Leader: Choose this day whom you will serve, and whom you will worship. Will you worship and serve God in sincerity and faithfulness, or will you follow after other gods?

People: Far be it from us that we should forsake our Lord to serve other gods, for it is the Lord our God who has delivered us from bondage, and who has done great things in our midst.

Leader: What are the deeds to which you testify?

People: The Nicene Creed, 325 AD
We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen. We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end. We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father (and the Son), who with the Father and the Son is worshipped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Leader: Do you commit yourselves today to take up the cost and joy of discipleship to Jesus Christ during the coming year and henceforth?

People: We renew our covenant with one another to seek the word and will of God. We purpose to walk together in all God’s ways, made known and yet to be made known to us. We will join in the mission of the church to witness to the gospel of Jesus Christ in all the world, while worshiping God and striving for truth, justice, and peace, relying on the Holy Spirit to lead and empower us. We will pray for the coming of the realm of God, and we look with faith toward the triumph of righteousness and eternal life. This we will do, with the help of God.

Partaking of the Elements:
Worship Singing:

Hymn #391: Take My Life and Let It Be (v. 1, 5, 6)
Hymn #511: Jesus, Thou Joy of Loving Hearts (v.1, 5)
Hymn of Response

Worship Song

How Deep the Father’s Love For Us

How deep the Father’s love for us, how vast beyond all measure
That He should give His only Son to make a wretch His treasure.
How great the pain of searing loss. The Father turns His face away
As wounds which mar the Chosen One bring many sons to glory.

Behold the Man upon a cross, my sin upon His shoulders.
Ashamed, I hear my mocking voice call out among the scoffers.
It was my sin that held Him there until it was accomplished;
His dying breath has brought me life. I know that it is finished.

I will not boast in anything: no gifts, no pow’r, no wisdom.
But I will boast in Jesus Christ: His death and resurrection.
Why should I gain from His reward? I cannot give an answer.
But this I know with all my heart: His wounds have paid my ransom.

Worship Song

Wonderful Cross

When I survey the wondrous cross On which the Prince of Glory died,
My richest gain I count but loss, And pour contempt on all my pride.

See, from His head, His hands, His feet, Sorrow and love flow mingled down;
Did e’er such love and sorrow meet, Or thorns compose so rich a crown?

Chorus:
O the wonderful cross, O the wonderful cross bids me come and die and find that I may truly live,
O the wonderful cross, O the wonderful cross: all who gather here by grace draw near and bless Your name.

Were the whole realm of nature mine, That were an offering far too small;
Love so amazing, so divine, Demands my soul, my life, my all. (Chorus)
Love so amazing, so divine, Demands my soul, my life, my all. (Chorus)

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Benediction

Postlude

In dulci jubilo

Today’s flowers are given in celebration of
Ed and Jean Arndt’s 57th Wedding Anniversary.
Prayers

Grieving: The family of Todd Cunningham

Hospitalized: Barry Stackpole; Donna Delanoy's niece Elanor and her friend Adam; Danny & Janice Femal's newborn grandson, Felix; Jay Flounlacker's brother; Kelly Miller's uncle; Lois Miller's daughter; Christi Novak's stepfather; Michelle Rahal's mother; Sim Taylor's sister

Facing Tests or Surgery: Mildred Kratovil; Melissa; Pamela Vining's friend Joshua (12)

Homebound: Mildred Kratovil

Ill or Convalescing: Tom Addams; Curt Anderson; Jennifer Arnold; Dwight Avis; Ed Cunningham (former member); Ed Dawkins; Jim Delanoy; Holly Heiderer; Myrna Ives; Connie Kanady; Mary Ellen Keaton; Jenny Keenan; Charles Killion; Phil Kratovil; Alex Main; Nancy Martin; Audrey Neeson; Bill Phillips; Eric Robinson; Larry Root; Gloria Sladek; Bill Steinbach; Margaret Takesian; Jo Ann Talley; Rick Thompson; Dick Williams

Family and Friends: Julia Billington's mother, and brothers Ken & Woody; William Buterbaugh's sister and sister-in-law; Sandra Crippen's brother; Beth Crowder's brother; John Crowder's friend Doris; Arayanna Darst's brother Dayheem; Christa Davidson's mother, former member Jacque Jeutter; Gail Doughty's aunt (Hospice); Larry Dowdy's friend Michael; Ruth Dreher's mother; Mary Flounlacker's father; Joe Garrett's sister; Jeff Hunt's friend Jonathan; Wally & Martha Johnson's friend Darrell; Liz Kellman's friend Julie; Karen Dunlop's & Neil Kemple's friend Mike; Brenda Klimeczek's friend Lori; Phyllis Lauber's friend Mary Ann; Tana Leasure's friend Robert; Lynn Lotocki's aunt (& uncle); Linda Lyon's son-in-law; Beth Mackliet's friend Michael; Libby Mosher's grandfather; Mark Pella's mother; Karin Richardson's mother; Lee Self's mother-in-law; Chris Shenefiel's friend missionary's child, Anavah(2); Mary Ann Singlaub's brother-in-law; Barbara Spiller's friend Shirley; Bev Stream's goddaughter; Marnie Sturm's father; Jane Swinehart's son; Dottie Swink's son David; Ella Tynch's great-grandmother; Leslie Vereide's father; Pamela Vining's friends Kathy and Caden(2) and family; Daryl Wright's father

Other: Ruth Dreher; the Hunsperger family; Vilma Gronning; Patricia Namisi; Emily Hunsperger's friend Chris; Sony & Vinod; the Slover family; Haymarket Crossroads Mission; peaceful resolution of the conflicts in northern Africa and the Middle East; all people hit hard by natural disasters in the US, Haiti, Japan and others, and all those working on their behalf; persecuted Christians in Egypt, Iraq, Pakistan and the Sudan

Missions/Missionaries of the week: WEC International (International); Ministry in the North Country (MINC), NY (National); Our Daily Bread, Fairfax Co. (Local)

Congratulations to: Barbara Peterson-Cremer & Steven Novotny on the birth of Karla Jane Novotny on December 23. The proud grandparents are Jane Peterson & Ken Cremer.

Please keep these military men and women in your prayers:

Need Prayer for Yourself or Someone You Love?

USE THE CARDS in the Friendship Pad in your pew or at the rear of the church, and place them in the collection plate or the wooden box in the lobby/narthex; CALL the church office at 703.938.9050, x301;
E-MAIL linda.kemple@viennapres.org; or enter a prayer request ONLINE via www.viennapres.org/prayerrequest

Please ensure that you have permission before submitting a request on behalf of someone else.
Confidentiality requests are strictly honored.

If requested for the weekly bulletin, prayer notices will be made for up to four weeks but can certainly be extended upon request.
New Year - New Resolutions

In 2012, I want to love others better.
I want joy.
I want peace.
I want patience.
I want to be kind.
I want to be good.
I want to be gentle.
I want self-control!!!

We often come into the new year with a list of things about ourselves that we want to change. If some of the characteristics listed above are on your self-improvement plan, keep reading. If you have tried to make these changes in yourself in the past and haven’t had much luck, keep reading!

The list above is of the fruits of the spirit. God created us in such a way that we really do want to live in a world shaped by these traits. We deeply want to live into this way of life. But when we try and do it on our own power, we are not successful. We can only try to be more loving, peaceful, kind, joyous, etc., but we can’t actually change our hearts. Only God can. So don’t try and fix yourself this year, let God transform you from the inside out!

How do I get God to change me?

God just wants us to crack the door so the Holy Spirit can come in to work in us and through us. How can we work with God in this? By using things like small groups, prayer, Bible study, serving others and worship to change us in fundamental ways.

VPC is here to help you find a place to connect with God for this transformation. If you are unsure about which choice is best for you, please contact Shannon Jordan at shannon.jordan@viennapres.org or 703-938-9050 x123.
Daily Prayers and Devotionals

Daily checking in with God (viennapres.org/devotionals) is a great way to align your day to day life with God. An easy way to do this is through our daily devotionals. You can pick up a hard copy of these devotionals in the lobby of the sanctuary or have them e-mailed to you or even sent through Twitter. An added benefit of these devotionals is that you can read them before a sermon to help you be more familiar with concepts raised in the sermon, helping you get more out of it!

Group Learning Opportunities

Knowing who God is and how much God loves you is a cornerstone of discipleship. Learning the Bible in conversation with others is one of the best ways to let the Holy Spirit transform us. We have several options available.

- **Sunday Morning Classes** -- are paths for spiritual transformation for all ages that meet on Sunday mornings, when you are already at church! These communities of fellow travelers have a wide range of topics and formats. One is bound to help you grow!

- **Christianity Explored** -- appropriate for anyone who has not done a Bible study on a Gospel. Come and find out who Jesus is! Sundays, 9:30am, 2nd floor conference room.

- **Practical Christian Living** -- How do we live as Christians? How can we learn to be disciples? How can we learn to live our lives as Jesus would live them if he were us? Sundays, 11am, 2nd floor conference room.

- **Other Sunday Morning Options**: see page 12.
  - Adult Classes
  - Youth Classes -- Middle School and High School
  - Children's Classes

- **Men's Bible Studies and Women’s Bible studies**: see page 11.

- **Young Adults ReFuel** (Thursday Nights)

Sermon-based Small Groups

Sermon-based Small Groups are a wonderful way to travel together with a small number of others on this Journey of Transformation. Contact Shannon Jordan at shannon.jordan@viennapres.org or 703.938.9050 x123 to find a group that fits your availability!
CenterPoint Classes

CenterPoint adult education ([viennapres.org/centerpoint](https://viennapres.org/centerpoint)) is for adults at all stages of their faith journeys. Classes, ranging from basic to advanced provide content aimed at enhancing understanding of the Christian faith and what it means to be a disciple of Christ in modern life.

CenterPoint Winter Term:
- Sundays, Jan. 8 – Feb. 5: "Discipleship, Creation-care, and Climate Change,” The Rev. Jim Ball presents. This course explores a biblical approach to caring for the environment and a Christ-centered approach to overcoming global warming.
- Tuesdays, Jan. 10 – Feb. 7: Dr. Bruce Douglas presents "Reformed Portraits from the Great Depression until the Present." This course is the conclusion of the Presbyterian Church History series. Register online at [viennapres.org/centerpoint](https://viennapres.org/centerpoint)

Faith and Finances

Our relationship with money and spending has a direct link to our faith and discipleship. At VPC we offer several opportunities to explore this important piece of our faith life. Starting January 18 we will begin Dave Ramsey’s Financial Peace University. See more at [www.viennapres.org/faith&finances](https://www.viennapres.org/faith&finances). Join us for a lunch and preview on January 8, 12:15-1:30, 2nd floor conference room.

Jumpstart your Journey: Translating Belief into Action

Just like our cars need regular maintenance to run at optimum performance, our spiritual lives sometimes get sluggish, in a rut or left parked for another day. March 2 and 3 we will have a two day retreat here at VPC to help you recharge your spiritual batteries as we look at the Gospel of John with celebrated teacher, Dale Bruner.

Discipleship is for All Ages

VPC also offers classes and service opportunities for children and youth to help the entire family grow as disciples!

Count Me In Festival

On January 29 we will have our Count Me In Festival. At this festival many of our missions partners will be at VPC to share ways our church family can make a difference at VPC, in Vienna and around the world. You don’t want to miss it! Additionally, on February 3-4 we will be joining with other groups in the area to make meals for Stop Hunger Now. Last year we made 50,000; this year we want to at least double that!
VISITORS AND GUESTS – WELCOME TO VPC!

We are delighted you are here. Here are some ways to make the first steps on your spiritual journey at VPC easier. For more information, please visit www.viennapres.org/firststeps or contact Shannon Jordan at 703.938.9050 x123 or shannon.jordan@viennapres.org

Step 1: Visit the Welcome Table in the narthex for a gift, then visit the Great Hall for coffee.

Step 2: Orientation to the Journey: January 8, Room 108C, 11am. This class is an opportunity to look at who we are as a church, find out what we believe, ask questions, and find where you might fit. Come to the Great Hall, get a cup of coffee or tea, and look for our sign.

Step 3: “Invitation to the Journey” class: In this more in-depth look at our mission, beliefs, values, and practices, discover what we mean by “learning to follow Jesus with your life” and “living your life as Jesus would.” This 3-week class also serves as the pathway to membership at VPC. Please contact Linda Kemple (x100) to register and for more information. Next classes: January 22, February 5, and February 12, 2012.

Step 4: Share the Journey in a Small Group: Grow in Christ and connect with others. For more information go to viennapres.org/smallgroups or email smallgroups@viennapres.org

New Devotional series.
Get your copy online, by email, on twitter or pick up a copy in the narthex.

A Journey of Faith
A study on the Life of Abraham

Mark Your Calendars:
Congregational Meeting

Sunday, January 22, 12:15pm in the Great Hall
GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

Children’s Sunday school: Join us in the New Year! Sunday school will meet today.

Student Ministries’ Underground AM (Sunday School) will be on break January 1. We hope you all have a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year we will see all of you on Sunday, January 8.

Student Ministries’ Underground PM (Youth Group) First Underground PM of the New Year is January 8.

Virtus Training: Register today at www.virtus.org, select Vienna Presbyterian Church. Choose a training date that works for you! January 4 – Aug, 2012. Childcare available with 48-hour notice. Learn more at viennapres.org/virtus

The Sanctuary Choir invites and welcomes adults interested in joining and singing. Audition not required. Contact or approach any choir member for information.

U.S. Army Chorus Concert with the Miami University men’s Glee Club from Oxford, OH. January 6, 7:30 pm, VPC Sanctuary.

SWATT (Christian Fellowship for Seniors 55+): Luncheon Wednesday, January 11, 12:15 pm, Great Hall, no reservation required. Historian Jim Lewis will be speaking on the Civil War in Vienna-Oakton. Contact Steve Skjei, 703.938.4623 or pskjei@verizon.net

Club 56 celebrates the New Year on Jan 6, 7-9 pm, 3rd floor.

KidsNation 34: New Year’s Celebration, 7-8:30, 3rd Floor

Student Ministries Ski Trip registration is open! There are still a few spaces left. See details at viennapres.org/smskitrip

SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES

Our Daily Bread and VPC thank Matthew and Jennifer Stockburger for 4 years of faithful service as Our Daily Bread coordinators. Kyle Julian, Kelly Eldridge, and Lynn DeFazio will continue with the quarterly food drives each year that serve our local community.

Drivers wanted! Provide transportation to and from church for a couple of the Friendship Class members who live 10 minutes from church. If you are interested in volunteering on a monthly rotational schedule, please email TJ Funkhouser, tj.funkhouser@gmail.com

Miriam’s Kitchen is in need of your old ceramic coffee mugs. Please bring yours in and leave them in the box by the church office.

Cunningham Park Elementary School Mentoring: Join the SWAT Team in this after-school program. Come meet your neighbors and make a difference in the life of a child! Open to high school students and older. Contact Sue Hamblen at sue.hamblen@viennapres.org

More Service Opportunities: www.viennapres.org/serve

VPC Preschool Registration
For 2012/13 School Year

Vienna Presbyterian Church Preschool (VPCP) was founded in 1987 as a not-for-profit, early childhood program to provide a safe and nurturing environment for children ages 2 1/2 through 5.

January 25, 9 am, Preschool Office

Get all the details at viennapres.org/preschool
CARE MINISTRIES
At VPC, a number of ministries are dedicated to caregiving, healing, and support. To learn more, visit viennapres.org/care

GriefShare: for those grieving the death of a loved one. Sundays, 6-7:30pm, room 203/204. More info in the GriefShare brochures in the Gathering Space and the narthex or at GriefShare@viennapres.org

NewSpring: Hope for the Sexually Abused: david.jordan-haas@viennapres.org or 703.938.9050.

Christian Cancer Companions: Rita Lockwood, 703.573.6168 or luckylister32@verizon.net

NewSpring Leadership Team: To help with event planning, praying for the community, caring for abuse survivors, and researching safe-church practices, contact Jeanie Thomas, jthom1231@verizon.net, or david.jordan-haas@viennapres.org or 703.938.9050.

Passages: For those experiencing marital separation or divorce. Information: passages@viennapres.org or Romey McPherson, 703.478.9794. Tuesday nights, 7-9pm. Room 203/204.

Stephen Ministers: The holidays can be an especially difficult time for some. Stephen Ministry offer confidential, one-on-one care for people going through crises of many types. For information: lee.taylor@viennapres.org or 703.938.9050 x103.

STUDY OPPORTUNITIES
To register or for more information: viennapres.org/study or contact Shannon Jordan at 703.938.9050 x123

Women’s Tuesday Morning Bible Study: Transformations of the Heart: Studies from Romans. 9:30-11:30am, 3rd fl.


Beth Moore! Priscilla Shirer! Anne Graham Lotz! Women’s Bible study featuring wonderful teaching in January! Drop in and check out this Women’s Bible study. DVD teaching and discussion (no homework). Tuesdays 7-9pm. $5 one-time fee. No need to register.

Tuesday Morning Men’s Bible Study: please come join in our study of the Book of John. Begins January 10, 7am, 2nd Floor conference room. Contact Dale Luddeke at 703.626.6840 for additional info.

Westminster Confessions of Faith: Sunday morning class sponsored by Partners in Christ: 9:30am, room 205. Discussion leader: Charles Geschiere. Contact Martha Strauss for study guide: wmstrauss@aol.com. All are welcome!

Stop worrying about money; start your journey to Financial Peace.

Classes meet for two hours weekly for 13 weeks.

Wednesday evenings, starting January 18. Make plans to join us! Contact Phil Kratovil at phil.kratovil@viennapres.org
Children’s Room Assignments Today, January 1

NO Bridges or Gateways

There will be combined Sunday School classes for all ages PreK 3’s through 6th grade during both 9:30 and 11:00 services:

PreK 3's and 4's - 9:30 and 11:00 - Room 120
Kindergarten - 2nd grade at 9:30 - Rms 308-09
3rd/4th at 9:30 - Rooms 322-23
5th/6th at 9:30 - Boys, Rm 324; Girls, rm 310
Kindergarten - 4th grades at 11:00 - Rooms 308-09
5th/6th Grades - Room 310

Middle and High School Sunday Youth Services
Lower Level, Light Breakfast Served, 9-9:30am
Sunday School, 9:30-10:30
Middle School Youth Group, 5-7pm
High School Youth Group, 6:30-8:30pm

Adult Education Classes

9:30am
Beyond Basics continues Jan 8. See you all in the New Year!

Friendship Class: For adults with intellectual disabilities. Teachers: Emmy Parker, Helen Neely, & Beth Gourley. Room 108C.

Westminster Confessions of Faith: facilitated by Rev. Charles Geschiere. Sponsored by Partners in Christ. Room 205. Contact Martha Strauss for study guide: wmstrauss@aol.com

In the Grip of Grace by Max Lucado: Food, friends, and scripture-you’re invited! Contacts for Foundations Class: John and Kathy Draper, 703.539.8300 or jkdraper@ymail.com. Parlor.

Christianity Explored: 7-week course exploring the essentials of Christian faith. Starting January 8. 2nd-floor conference room. Phil Kratovil at phil.kratovil@viennapres.org or 703.937.1897.

11am
Coming in January! A study of Romans using A Normal Christian Life by Watchman Nee. Newcomers are always welcome. Contact Elaine Ryan, 703-470-1338 or Isaiah122elaine@aol.com. Room 205.

ESOL (English for Speakers of Other Languages) Bible Study: Room 317

Practical Christian Living: How do we live as Christians? How can we learn to be disciples? bStarting January 8, 2nd floor conference room. Contact Phil Kratovil at phil.kratovil@viennapres.org or 703.937.1897