



July 12, 2020. The 6th Sunday after Pentecost. Part six of "Unraveled" series.

GATHERING OF THE PEOPLE

Prelude

Greeting

Call to Worship

One: Gracious God, we bring you the broken parts of ourselves.

All: Hem us in before and behind.

One: Creator God, we bring you the joyful parts of ourselves.

All: Weave us together in hope and praise.

One: God of new life, we bring you doubt and faith knotted up in our hearts.

All: Unravel our doubt. Weave faith into our hearts.

Draw us together and point us toward you.

One: In hope and faith we pray. In hope and faith we worship.

All: Amen.

Prayer of Confession

God of new life,

What would we give to have you appear with a flash of light and a clear voice like you did for Saul? **Maybe then, our doubts would disappear.** Maybe then, we would live as you called us to live. **However, when our lives depend on faith, we forget your surprising grace. Instead, we draw lines around enemies and friends, who's in and who's out. We see the "other," faster than we see our "neighbor," and refuse second chances.** Pull the scales from our eyes. **Help us see as you see. Help us live as you live, and forgive us when we fail to. Humbly we pray, Amen.**

Words of Assurance and Passing of the Peace

Hymn #117 "O God, Our Help in Ages Past" vs. 1,4,5,6

Pastoral Prayer and Lord's Prayer

Special Music: "There is Beyond the Azure Blue" Matt Sanders,

Dawn Higgs, Jerry Higgs, and Michael Callahan

Offering and Prayer of Thanksgiving

Hymn "Saul Left for Damascus" - See Attached

PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

Acts 9:1-20

9 Meanwhile, Saul was still spewing out murderous threats against the Lord's disciples. He went to the high priest, seeking letters to the synagogues in Damascus. If he found persons who belonged to the Way, whether men or women, these letters would authorize him to take them as prisoners to Jerusalem.

3 During the journey, as he approached Damascus, suddenly a light from heaven encircled him. 4 He fell to the ground and heard a voice asking him, "Saul, Saul, why are you harassing me?"

5 Saul asked, "Who are you, Lord?"

"I am Jesus, whom you are harassing," came the reply.

6 "Now get up and enter the city. You will be told what you must do."

7 Those traveling with him stood there speechless; they heard the voice but saw no one. 8 After they picked Saul up from the ground, he opened his eyes but he couldn't see. So they led him by the hand into Damascus. 9 For three days he was blind and neither ate nor drank anything.

10 In Damascus there was a certain disciple named Ananias. The Lord spoke to him in a vision, "Ananias!"

He answered, "Yes, Lord."

11 The Lord instructed him, "Go to Judas' house on Straight Street and ask for a man from Tarsus named Saul. He is praying. 12 In a vision he has seen a man named Ananias enter and put his hands on him to restore his sight."

13 Ananias countered, "Lord, I have heard many reports about this man. People say he has done horrible things to your holy people in Jerusalem. 14 He's here with authority from the chief priests to arrest everyone who calls on your name."

15 The Lord replied, "Go! This man is the agent I have chosen to carry my name before Gentiles, kings, and Israelites. 16 I will show him how much he must suffer for the sake of my name."

17 Ananias went to the house. He placed his hands on Saul and said, "Brother Saul, the Lord sent me—Jesus, who appeared to you on the way as you were coming here. He sent me so that you could see again and be filled with the Holy Spirit."

18 Instantly, flakes fell from Saul's eyes and he could see again. He got up and was baptized. 19 After eating, he regained his strength.

He stayed with the disciples in Damascus for several days.

20 Right away, he began to preach about Jesus in the synagogues. "He is God's Son," he declared.

Sermon "Saul Blinded"

RESPONSE OF THE PEOPLE

Blessing

Saul Left For Damascus

A Hymn Inspired by Acts 9:1-20

Text: Stephen M. Fearing, 2019

Tune: ST. DENIO

Meter: 11.11.11.11

Music: Welsh Folk Melody; arr. Caniadau y Cyssegr, 1839

Piano

Saul left for Da - mas - cus, his ord - ers were clear:
 A bright light from hea - ven! Saul fell to the ground!
 His friends had to lead him for now he was blind.
 No more would Saul mur - der; he grew in God's grace.

Pno.

to send folks to pri - son and leave them in fear.
 A voice boomed a - round him, a voice most pro - found:
 They came to Da - mas - cus by God's own de - sign.
 In all he would serve he would see Je - sus' face.

Pno.

He searched for the peo - ple who fol - lowed the Way,
 "Saul, why do you mur - der and per - se - cute me?"
 God sent A - na - ni - as to tell Saul God's plan.
 Lord, help us to fol - low with hearts that are brave,

Pno.

but found some - one else when he vent - ured that day.
 Saul saw on - ly dark - ness; his eyes could not see.
 Saul's sight was re - stored and he was a new man!
 and wor - ship our sa - vior who rose from the grave.



Pastor

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WEEKLY GPS

GROW

PRAY

STUDY

Coming Next:

“Unraveled”

July 19	Jeremiah Calms	Jeremiah 29:1-7
July 26	Samaritan Woman	John 4:1-29
Aug 2	Thomas Questions	John 20:19-29

SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THE WEEK: Acts 9:17

Ananias went to the house. He placed his hands on Saul and said, “Brother Saul, the Lord sent me

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

Monday	Acts 9:19-31
Tuesday	Jeremiah 1:1-19
Wednesday	Jeremiah 18:1-11
Thursday	Jeremiah 19:1-15
Friday	Jeremiah 23:1-8
Saturday	Jeremiah 25:15-29

CARING CONVERSATIONS or REFLECTIONS

- ◇ **Thinking about this week’s story:** Who is the hero of the story? Saul or Ananias? Does it take more courage to change or to accept someone who is different?
- ◇ **Thinking About Next Week’s Story:** Where do you see social exile occurring in your own city? What communities have been uprooted, disempowered, and marginalized? What does it look like to garden—literally and metaphorically—in these spaces?
- ◇ **Unraveling:** What needs to be unraveled in order to grow?

Two Rivers Connections

**Subscribe to the Two Rivers e-newsletter by going to
<http://tworiversumc.org/subscribe>**

This week's Connections Schedule:

Sunday 10:30-11:30—Adult Sunday School

Monday 12:00-1:00 — Bible Study

Wednesday 12:00-12:30—Devotion and Prayer

Wednesday 5:00-6:00 — Youth Zoom*

Thursday 7:00-8:00—Pub Theology*

Zoom Room ID: 961-006-728

Zoom Password: 029397

Phone Number: 312-626-6799

***Youth Zoom and Pub Theology have different Zoom codes.**