

I'll Fly Away

By Albert E. Brumley

Words in print copy.

Old Orchard Church

July 15, 2012 - 10:15 to 11:50 a.m.



*It was not through law
that Abraham and his offspring
received the promise
that he would be heir of the world,
but through the righteousness
that comes by faith.*

— Romans 4:13 —



We celebrate the Lord's Supper weekly—and in a circle, at the end of worship. A word of direction is given, and with this everyone stands and moves to the walls. The cup is passed iforms: in a chalice and then in small individual cups. You are free to choose.

And as this is the Supper of the Lord Christ, please listen to the instructions we give as to what qualifies a visitor to participate. **But whether you intend to take communion or not, please join us in the circle.**

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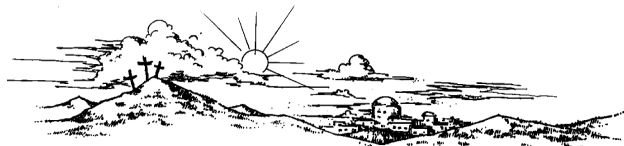
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*Celebrating Jesus Christ
Fulfiller of God's Covenant
with Abraham: the Promise of Land*

Blessed be the God of the ages
Who gave us the earth to live in:
Who by the blood of his Son
Rescued the earth from the ruin our sin brought on it;
Who will restore it one day in a great act of power.

O Lord,
Because of our foolish disobedience
You exiled us from the Garden,
And from the joy of your Presence.
Yet through our father Abraham
You gave to Israel the Promised Land,
An earthly realm of splendor under David the king,
To be a shadow-picture of the Life of the World to Come.

Blessed are you, O Lord,
For returning us to your presence by Mercy,
Remembering your promise to Abraham.
Praise is fitting for the One
Who plants us in a place,
And causes us to flourish until the whole round world
Becomes the Kingdom of our Lord and of his Christ!



Today's Scripture

Old Testament Lesson: Genesis 12:1-9

New Testament Reading: Hebrews 11:8-10, 12-16, 39-40

Christianity in Ephesus, Christianity in St. Louis

Sermon Series

“Your Life as Proof of Truth”

Acts 19:17-20; Ephesians 2:11-22

Ron Lutjens, pastor, preaching

Shadowland

Abraham had a few feet of earth, obtained by purchase—beyond that, nothing; he died a stranger and a pilgrim in the land. Isaac had a little. So small was Jacob's hold upon his country, that the last years of his life were spent in Egypt, and he died a foreigner in a strange land. His descendants came into the land of Canaan, expecting to find it a land flowing with milk and honey; they found hard work to do—war and unrest instead of rest....

Now, the surprising point is, that Abraham, deceived as you might almost say, did not complain of it as a deception; he was even grateful for the non-fulfillment of the promise; he does not seem to have expected its fulfillment; he did not look for Canaan, but for **“a city which has foundations”** (Hebrews 11:10); his faith appears to have consisted in disbelieving the letter, almost as much as in believing the spirit of the promise. . . .

And herein lies a principle, which, rightly expounded, can help us to interpret this life of ours. *God's promises never are fulfilled in the sense in which they seem to have been given.* Life is a deception; its anticipations, which are God's promises to the imagination, are never realized; they who know life best, and have trusted God most to fill it with blessings, are always the first to say that life is a series of disappointments. . . .

There are two ways of considering life. One is the way of sentiment; the other is the way of faith. The sentimental way is trite enough. Saint, sage, sophist, moralist, and preacher have repeated, in every possible image, till there is nothing new to say, that life is a bubble, a dream, a delusion, a phantasm. The other is the way of faith: the ancient saints felt as keenly as any moralist could feel the brokenness of life's promises; they confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims here; they said that here they had no continuing city; but they did not mournfully moralize on this; they said it cheerfully, and rejoiced that it was so. They felt that all was right; they knew that the promise itself had a deeper meaning; they looked undauntedly for **“a city which has foundations. . . .”**

—F.W. Robertson (1816-1853)

