

Be sure to mark your calendars for a very special weekend as Countryside welcomes Rev. Dr. Molly Marshall and Dr. Munjed M. Murad, June 17 and 18.

Join us for a Welcome Reception, Saturday, June 17, 4-6 pm. We'll have light refreshments to welcome Rev. Dr. Marshall and Dr. Murad.



Theologian **Rev. Dr. Molly Marshall** is president of United Theological Seminary of the Twin Cities, a welcoming, ecumenical school that embraces all denominations and faith traditions on the cutting edge of progressive theological thought leadership. United trains leaders who dismantle systems of oppression, explore multifaith spirituality, and push the boundaries of knowledge.

Rev. Dr. Marshall was the first female theology professor and associate dean at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Kentucky, but she was forced out in 1994 after fundamentalists who oppose women in ministry gained control of the SBC. She then served 25 years at Central Baptist Theological Seminary in Kansas City, Kansas, 16 as president, before retiring and coming to United Theological. Rev. Dr. Marshall was the focus of the 6-part podcast series, Brother Molly which explores her life and ministry.

Dr. Munjed M. Murad is assistant professor of world religions and intercultural studies supported by the Johnson-Fry Endowment at United Theological Seminary of the Twin Cities.



Dr. Murad is United's first full-time Muslim scholar and faculty member, and program director for the school's new Eco-Justice concentration. His research interests include Islam, Christianity, mysticism, comparative religion, and the natural environment. He holds a Master of Environmental Management degree from Yale School of the Environment, where he studied religion and ecology.

For his doctorate of theology at Harvard Divinity School, he defended a dissertation entitled "A Tale of Two Trees: Unveiling the Sacred Life of Nature in Islamic and Christian Traditions."

COUNTRYSIDE COMMUNITY CHURCH

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REV. DR. KEITH HERRON



PLAYBILL®

Countryside Community Church
OMAHA, NE

Summer Sermon Series

GENESIS

THE FIRST STORIES

The Passion of Living a Called Life

June 11, 2023

Genesis 12:1-9

SYNOPSIS

The journey of this little Bedouin man and his family began near the shores of the Persian Gulf and ended up on a life-journey that took them to Egypt and back. Not until Sarah died did Abraham buy the parcel of land in which to bury his wife.

This story is told in a time and place about as remote and separated from our own experience as anything we can imagine. Truly they lived in historical obscurity on the backside of the desert. Perhaps it would help us if we imagined Abram and Sarai coming from a tribal family among the ancient forebears of the modern citizens of Iraq, Iran or Saudi Arabia.

They were herdsman living in a tribal world of nomadic people who lived in obscurity. Their ties to the land were largely based on tribal power, not in deeds or treaties that were recognized in some legal sense. Their sense of understanding of the natural world was pre-scientific and grounded in a host of religious fertility gods that ruled over the seasons and life processes that determined the success or failure of their lives.

But to be honest, we die daily for the sense of adventure that Abram was willing to undertake. That adventurous way of living is what is missing in most of us. Abram was called by God and that calling is what makes his life so compelling. There is something alive and vital about this story that makes our own lives pale in comparison.

The calling of Abram had the look and feel of one who cast for a part in a play. Actors are chosen for roles. They audition and one is selected. They are cast for what is needed in the character. When God calls us, we are chosen to act out a certain role in order for the story to move forward.

Abram and Sarai were called to be emigrants. They were called to be travelers, "viators" as Carlyle Marney would call them. All God said was "follow me and through your faithfulness, something incredibly powerful will take place."

They were not given anything more specific than that. They're told to pay attention and act on what they hear God say moment by moment. They're told God will provide for their needs moment by moment.

JOYS AND CONCERNS

Join us as we pray for our congregation members and their loved ones who are on our Joys and Concerns list every week on Thursdays at 9:00 a.m. in the Sanctuary. If you have someone who would benefit from prayer, want to share a joy or be included on the bulletin list and or on Countryside's Prayer Chain, contact Rev. Sarah Rentzel Jones at 402-391-0350, ext. 225 or sarah@countysideucc.org

JOYS:

Please lift these joys with prayers of celebration and praise!

We give thanks for the Quilts of Valor ceremony that will take place at 1 pm this afternoon and for members of the Board of Pastoral Care who have coordinated it.

CONCERNS:

Please join in praying for the following new and ongoing concerns:

Please keep **Lou Way** in your prayers as she has now entered at-home hospice care. Please also pray for **Deb (John) McCollister** as she cares for her mom in these tender days.

Shirley Crites took a fall while visiting her family in Bethesda, Maryland, and broke her kneecap. She had surgery to repair it and will now extend her stay with her family for 6-8 weeks while she recovers. Please keep her in your prayers for complete healing.

Maureen (Mike) Hornacek's mother, Kathy Griffith, passed away on June 5. Please keep Maureen and her family in your prayers during her time of grief. Please also pray for Maureen's father, Dick, as he grieves the loss of his wife.

Nona Morrison was admitted to Methodist Hospital this week. Please keep her in prayer for healing.

Mary Jo & Larry Weiss ask for prayers for their son Dominic's mother-in-law, Joyce. She has sepsis and is in intensive care in the St. Louis area.

Please pray for Pete S., a 16-year-old teen who was injured in a baseball accident during a school tournament game on May 12 and is recovering from skull and facial fractures. He is making slow progress but is now in a rehab facility where he can get the needed treatment.

Jody Hobson was admitted to Nebraska Medical Center this week. Please keep her in your prayers.

We continue to pray weekly for the Pastoral Search Committee, as they continue in their discernment towards calling Countryside's next Settled Pastor. We appreciate all the time and effort the PSC is putting into this process, and we continue to hold them in prayer.

CAST AND SCENES

Invitation to Quilts of Valor

Honoring the service of Countryside Veterans

Today, 1-2 p.m. Sanctuary

The Countryside congregation is cordially invited to attend a Quilts of Valor ceremony on June 11 from 1-2p.m. The ceremony honoring the military service of Robert Buckland, Thomas Welch, Michael Free and Tim Ekberg will be held in the Sanctuary. These four veterans will receive a handmade quilt and other honors for their service. The ceremony will include music and light refreshments in the Commons for an opportunity to thank these veterans and their families.

CAST

GOD, ALSO KNOWN AS YHWH

ABRAM

SARAI

LOT

SERVANTS ACQUIRED IN HARAN

SCENES

UR, A VILLAGE IN SOUTH IRAQ

THE ROAD TO WHERE?

SHECHEM, BETHEL, THE NEGEB

FOR DEEPER THOUGHT

This is an early snapshot of what faith is about. The Book of Hebrews says that and we sense something deep in this story that resonates in us. How have you felt called by God to do something, go somewhere, say something ...

On the journey of faith, Abram and Sarai experience the full spectrum of emotions, from the highs to the lows. Is faith the easy path to take, or is it the most meaningful challenge?

Faith is not so much about belief as it is about response. What do you think?

Order of Worship

Gathering

Prelude:

Sea Journey - Chick Corea

Words of Welcome / † Mission Statement

Rev. Dr. Keith Herron

Announcements

Dan Loven-Crum

Examen

Dan Loven-Crum

Musical Call to Worship:

The Call - Ralph Vaughan Williams

Bruce Blanchard, baritone

Hearing God's Word

Children's Church

Rebecca Morello

Musical Reflection:

Blue Skies - Irving Berlin

Scripture:

Genesis 12:1-9

Kathleen Samland

Reflection

Rev. Dr. Keith Herron

Musical Meditation:

Tightrope from "The Greatest Showman" - Benj Pasek and Justin Paul

Responding to God's Word

Communion

Rev. Sarah Rentzel Jones

† Hymn:

The Summons

Pastoral Prayer and Lord's Prayer

Rev. Sarah Rentzel Jones

The Basket

Rev. Dr. Keith Herron

Musical Reflection:

I Can See Clearly Now - Johnny Nash

Countryside Blessing

Nancy Deetz

Postlude:

Ain't No Mountain High Enough -

Valerie Simpson and Nikolas Ashford

OUR WORSHIP HAS CONCLUDED.

NOW OUR SERVICE BEGINS.

† Indicates those places where those who are able
are invited to stand.

Julia Olynyk, vocals - Matt Wallace, sax - Rick Avard, piano
Alex Ritter, organ - Steve Gomez, bass

The Summons



1. Will you come and fol - low me If I but
2. Will you leave your - self be - hind If I but
3. Will you let the blind - ed see If I but
4. Will you love the 'you' you hide If I but
5. Lord, your sum - mons ech - oes true When you but



call your name? Will you go where
call your name? Will you care for
call your name? Will you set the
call your name? Will you quell the
call my name. Let me turn and



you don't know And nev - er be the same?
cruel and kind And nev - er be the same?
pris - 'ners free And nev - er be the same?
fear in - side And nev - er be the same?
fol - low you And nev - er be the same.



Will you let my love be shown, Will you
Will you risk the hos - tile stare Should your
Will you kiss the lep - er clean, And do
Will you use the faith you've found To re -
In your com - pa - ny I'll go Where your



let my name be known, Will you let my
life at - tract or scare? Will you let me
such as this un - seen, And ad - mit to
shape the world a - round, Through my sight and
love and foot - steps show. Thus I'll move and



life be grown In you and you in me?
an - swer prayer In you and you in me?
what I mean In you and you in me?
touch and sound In you and you in me?
live and grow In you and you in me.