

GBUMC COMPASS

A Weekly Worship Guide

www.GrandBlancUMC.org

Sunday, September 17, 2023



“Friends in Christ exercising love, hope and grace to enrich all lives.”

Sermon: “NOT THAT KIND OF gOD”

After these things God tested Abraham. He said to him, “Abraham!” And he said, “Here I am.” He said, “Take your son, your only son Isaac, whom you love, and go to the land of Moriah and offer him there as a burnt offering on one of the mountains that I shall show you.” So Abraham rose early in the morning, saddled his donkey, and took two of his young men with him and his son Isaac; he cut the wood for the burnt offering and set out and went to the place in the distance that God had shown him...Then Abraham reached out his hand and took the knife to kill his son. But the angel of the Lord called to him from heaven and said, “Abraham, Abraham!” And he said, “Here I am.” He said, “Do not lay your hand on the boy or do anything to him, for now I know that you fear God, since you have not withheld your son, your only son, from me.” And Abraham looked up and saw a ram, caught in a thicket by its horns. Abraham went and took the ram and offered it up as a burnt offering instead of his son. So Abraham called that place “The Lord will provide,” as it is said to this day, “On the mount of the Lord it shall be provided.”

Genesis 22:1-3; 10-14 (NRSV)

Thoughts to Consider Before the Sermon:

1. We read that God is testing Abraham as if it’s a cruel pass/fail scenario. What if the “testing” is similar to how an elementary school teacher would test their students after summer break to “see what they know”? What does Abraham know or *not know*?
2. Does God *require* a sacrifice or does God *desire* a sacrifice? And what is our sacrifice, today?

An Invitation For You

If you are worshiping with us today, and you don’t have a church home, but are looking for a faith community full of people who are discovering what it means to be a disciple of Jesus, following Christ’s example, love and grace, then we would love the opportunity to be that church home and family for you. If this sounds good to you, we simply want to encourage you to keep coming, talk to those around you, and discover what it means to be part of this beautiful church family and family of Christ.

Membership in the church is not about a status. Instead, it’s about taking a step as a follower of Jesus to commit yourself, along with others, to that journey! If you are interested in joining the church as a member, or even just learning more about it, please indicate that on your Connect Card, and we’ll be sure to reach out quickly!

Meeting you is a blessing for us, and we hope that this day was a blessing for you!

-Pastor Brian