

Pastoral Prayers  
4<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost  
By Zac Koons  
Genesis 22

Demanding God, you called Abraham to not withhold anything from you. Even while more and more is being taken from us, even with an uncertain future ahead, make us bold to use this time to give more of ourselves to you than ever before. Begin now a renewal of faith in our hearts that together we might bring about a renewal in your Church, by your Spirit, in your most holy Name. Amen.

God of Abraham and Isaac, if this pandemic is a test, it does not feel like one we are passing, especially in America, and especially in Texas. Give wisdom and courage to those who make decisions that affect millions—that they will prioritize human dignity over corporate profit, that they will choose what is right over what they think may get them reelected, and that all of us, even in our small decisions, would choose our neighbor before ourselves, in Christ's Name. Amen.

God our Father, in Jesus we see that you did not withhold anything from us. We are not abandoned to suffer alone, but instead when we were yet sinners, you gave your son, your only Son, the one whom you love, to suffer and die as one of us. Be with those who are suffering and dying now in our hurting world. Be their provider and their provision; be their ram caught in a thicket, the unexpected answer to their unspoken prayers and sacrifice on their behalf; provide them confidence in your eternal salvation, and gift them companionship for the journey, that whenever they feel alone, they may hear your voice saying, "Here I am," by your precious Name. Amen.

God of all time, we rejoice in the example of the saints gone before and in our midst today. And we commend to your eternal mercy those who have died in recent days. You are the place in the distance waiting for us. You are the summit of our mountain journey. You are the source of every delight. Give us patience as groan with your creation for redemption. Inspire us now and everyday with visions from your glorious future, when you will be in all in all, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Amen.