

Pentecost 9 Year A, July 26th 2026

Presenter: Rev Josh McPaul

Focus Reading: Romans 8:26-39, Matthew 8:26-39

Message: 9 minutes 42 seconds

"True and Beautiful Words"

Discussion Starters

1. Which phrase or word in the reading from Romans means the most to you today?
2. When did your faith in God go deeper than words? When did God's promises become real to you?
3. Sometimes churches can overemphasize words – and lose their impact. How can your church make the word of God more credible in your fellowship?
4. What word of hope does your community most need to hear today? How can you get the message out?

Readings for this day

Genesis 29:15-28 Deception is the order of the day as Jacob, who covenants with and works with Laban for 7 years as the bride price for Rachel. Laban's second son, is given the 1st daughter, Leah, his bride. It is a betrayal of the covenant between Jacob and Laban.

Psalms 105: 1-11 The festal psalm calls the people to offer their praises to God because of who God is and particularly what God has done as part of the covenant between God and the people.

Abingdon Theological Companion to the Lectionary, Year A. Copyright c2013 by Abingdon Press, an imprint of the United Methodist Publishing House. (Used by permission. All rights reserved.)

Intergenerational Talk

"Stuck on You"

Rev Josh McPaul

Length: 3 minutes 12 seconds

Precis of IT:

Stickers are placed on many things, cars, doors, windows, school bags to remind us of something or show our love for certain things. When they get very old, they are often very hard to get off! God's connection with us is stronger than any sticker. When we trust in Jesus we are locked into God's love forever. Nothing is strong enough to break that link.

Uniting in Worship (Blue Book). Psalm 105:1-11, 45b – pages 325-326

Rev Josh McPaul

I'm the minister at Northern Illawarra Uniting Church, just north of Wollongong. I am married to Robin, a teacher who comes from California, USA. I spent most of my working life in the US, helping to start a church in Oakland, California, focussed on racial reconciliation. I love living near Wollongong, close to family – swimming, kayaking and camping up and down the coast.