

Reflection Written for Sunday June 14, 2026

The story begins quietly: Abraham is sitting at the entrance of his tent in the heat of the day, when three strangers appear near the oaks of Mamre. Before Abraham knows exactly who they are, before he hears their message, before Sarah's laughter and the promise of a son, he does something simple and holy: he welcomes them.

He runs to meet them. He bows low. He offers water for their feet, shade for their rest, and bread for their strength. Then the meal grows from "a little bread" into choice flour, a tender calf, curds, and milk. Abraham does not offer the least he can spare; he offers the best he has. And in that ordinary act of hospitality, the Lord is revealed.

Hospitality begins with seeing. Abraham "looked up" and saw three men standing near him. That small phrase matters. He was not so enclosed in his own comfort, his own household, or his own concerns that he missed the people God placed before him. In a world where so many people are passed by, hospitality is the grace of noticing.

To serve the world with hospitality and grace is first to refuse indifference. It is to look up from the doorway of our own lives and ask, "Who is standing near? Who is weary? Who needs shade? Who needs bread? Who needs to be treated not as an interruption, but as a neighbour?"

Abraham's welcome is not cautious or calculating. He does not ask whether the strangers can repay him. He does not ask whether they belong. He does not wait until he has solved every mystery about them. He simply makes room. That is often how grace begins: not with certainty, but with welcome.

In Genesis 18, the table becomes a place of revelation. Under the tree, with dust washed from feet and food placed before guests, heaven draws near. Abraham stands by while the visitors eat, and what began as service becomes encounter. God's presence is discovered in the sharing of food, time, attention, and care.

This is a deeply practical kind of holiness. It is not removed from kitchens, doorways, flour, milk, labour, and conversation. Abraham and Sarah's service reminds us that God's love is often revealed through ordinary things offered generously. A meal can become a ministry. A home can become a sanctuary. A conversation can become a doorway through which hope enters.

To serve with grace is not merely to provide something; it is to offer ourselves. It is to say, "You are not invisible here. Your need matters here. Your dignity is safe here." The hospitality of God is not stingy. Grace sets the table with more than enough.

If we ask what it means to serve the world with hospitality and grace, Genesis 18 gives us a picture. It means we meet people before we categorize them. It means we offer dignity before we demand explanation. It means we make room for strangers, neighbours, friends, doubters, and those who have forgotten how to hope.

It also means we trust that God may be doing more in our acts of service than we can see. Abraham thought he was feeding travellers. In truth, he was hosting the presence of God.

When the church serves with hospitality, we proclaim that the world is not abandoned. When we welcome the stranger, feed the hungry, visit the lonely, listen to the wounded, and share what we have, we bear witness to the God who welcomes us first. We do not serve in order to earn God's love; we serve because God's love has already made room for us.

So perhaps the invitation today is simple: look up. Look up from the entrance of your tent. Look up from the routines that make life feel small. Look up from fear, scarcity, and suspicion. Look up and see who God has placed near you.

Then make room. Offer what you can. Share what you have. Let your table, your time, your words, your church, and your life become places where grace is not only spoken about but tasted. For we may discover, as Abraham and Sarah did, that when we welcome others, God is already there.

And we may hear again the question that carries every weary heart toward hope: Is anything too wonderful for the Lord? So we pray:

Gracious God, you come to us in ways we do not always recognize. Open our eyes to see you in the stranger, the neighbour, and the one in need. Teach us to serve the world with hospitality and grace. Make our tables wide, our hearts generous, and our lives attentive to your presence. When hope feels impossible, remind us that nothing is too wonderful for you. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.