*SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST*

*September 27, 2020*

WELCOME

PASSING OF THE PEACE OF CHRIST

CALL TO WORSHIP & INVOCATION

OPENING HYMN

***O God, Our Help in Ages Past***

[Hymnal #117; Isaac Watts]

*Our God, our help in ages past,*

*our hope for years to come,*

*our shelter from the stormy blast,*

*and our eternal home!*

*Under the shadow of your throne*

*your saints have dwelt secure;*

*sufficient is your arm alone,*

*and our defense is sure.*

*Before the hills in order stood,*

*or earth received her frame,*

*from everlasting you are God,*

*to endless years the same.*

*A thousand ages in your sight*

*are like an evening gone;*

*short as the watch that ends the night*

*before the rising sun.*

*The busy tribes of flesh and blood,*

*with all their lives and cares,*

*are carried downward by your flood,*

*and lost in foll'wing years.*

*Time, like an ever-rolling stream,*

*bears all its sons away;*

*they fly forgotten, as a dream*

*dies at the op'ning day.*

*Our God, our help in ages past,*

*our hope for years to come:*

*O be our guard while troubles last,*

*and our eternal home.*

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CHILDREN’S MOMENT

HEBREW BIBLE LESSON:

Genesis 37: 3-8, 17b-22, 26-34; 50:15-21

Now Israel loved Joseph more than any of his other sons, because he had been born to him in his old age; and he made an ornate robe for him. When his brothers saw that their father loved him more than any of them, they hated him and could not speak a kind word to him.

Joseph had a dream, and when he told it to his brothers, they hated him all the more. He said to them, “Listen to this dream I had: We were binding sheaves of grain out in the field when suddenly my sheaf rose and stood upright, while your sheaves gathered around mine and bowed down to it.”

His brothers said to him, “Do you intend to reign over us? Will you actually rule us?” And they hated him all the more because of his dream and what he had said.

“They have moved on from here,” the man answered. “I heard them say, ‘Let’s go to Dothan.’”

So Joseph went after his brothers and found them near Dothan. But they saw him in the distance, and before he reached them, they plotted to kill him.

“Here comes that dreamer!” they said to each other. “Come now, let’s kill him and throw him into one of these cisterns and say that a ferocious animal devoured him. Then we’ll see what comes of his dreams.”

When Reuben heard this, he tried to rescue him from their hands. “Let’s not take his life,” he said. “Don’t shed any blood. Throw him into this cistern here in the wilderness, but don’t lay a hand on him.” Reuben said this to rescue him from them and take him back to his father.

Judah said to his brothers, “What will we gain if we kill our brother and cover up his blood? Come, let’s sell him to the Ishmaelites and not lay our hands on him; after all, he is our brother, our own flesh and blood.” His brothers agreed.

So when the Midianite merchants came by, his brothers pulled Joseph up out of the cistern and sold him for twenty shekels of silver to the Ishmaelites, who took him to Egypt.

When Reuben returned to the cistern and saw that Joseph was not there, he tore his clothes. He went back to his brothers and said, “The boy isn’t there! Where can I turn now?”

Then they got Joseph’s robe, slaughtered a goat and dipped the robe in the blood. They took the ornate robe back to their father and said, “We found this. Examine it to see whether it is your son’s robe.”

He recognized it and said, “It is my son’s robe! Some ferocious animal has devoured him. Joseph has surely been torn to pieces.”

Then Jacob tore his clothes, put on sackcloth and mourned for his son many days.

When Joseph’s brothers saw that their father was dead, they said, “What if Joseph holds a grudge against us and pays us back for all the wrongs we did to him?” So they sent word to Joseph, saying, “Your father left these instructions before he died: ‘This is what you are to say to Joseph: I ask you to forgive your brothers the sins and the wrongs they committed in treating you so badly.’ Now please forgive the sins of the servants of the God of your father.” When their message came to him, Joseph wept.

His brothers then came and threw themselves down before him. “We are your slaves,” they said.

But Joseph said to them, “Don’t be afraid. Am I in the place of God? You intended to harm me, but God intended it for good to accomplish what is now being done, the saving of many lives. So then, don’t be afraid. I will provide for you and your children.” And he reassured them and spoke kindly to them.

GOSPEL LESSON:Luke 6:35

But love your enemies, do good to them, and lend to them without expecting to get anything back. Then your reward will be great, and you will be children of the Most High, because he is kind to the ungrateful and wicked.

MEDITATION:

 Brokenness and Forgiveness

SPECIAL MUSIC *sung by Beverly DiPaolo*

 ***Coat of Many Colors***

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE &

 LORD’S PRAYER

***Prayer in Song***

*Lord, prepare me to be a sanctuary*

*Pure and holy, tried and true.*

*With thanksgiving, I’ll be a living*

*Sanctuary for you.*

**Gathering of the Prayers**

 ***Prayer in Song***

 ***Lord’s Prayer***

*Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil, for thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.*

 ***Prayer in Song***

OFFERTORY

 **\*Invitation**

**\*Doxology:**

*Praise God from whom all blessing flow,*

*Praise God all creature here below,*

*Praise God above ye heavenly hosts*

*Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost.*

**\*Prayer of Dedication**

CLOSING HYMN:

***The Summons***

[TFWS#2130; John Bell]

*Will you come and follow me if I but call your name? will you go where you don’t know and never be the same? Will you let my love be shown, will you let my name be known, will you let my life be grown in you and you in me?*

*Will you leave yourself behind if I but call your name? Will you care for cruel and kind and never be the same? Will you risk the hostile stare should your life attract or scare? Will you let me answer prayer in you and you in me?*

*Will you let the blinded see if I but call your name? Will you set the prisoners free and never be the same? Will you kiss the leper clean, and do such as this unseen, and admit to what I mean in you and you in me?*

*Will you love the “you” you hide if I but call your name? Will you quell the fear inside and never be the same? Will you use the faith you’ve found to reshape the world around, through my sight and touch and sound in you and you in me?*

*Lord, your summons echoes true when you but call my name. Let me turn and follow you and never be the same. In your company I’ll go where your love and footsteps show. Thus I’ll move and live and grow in you and you in me.*

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BENEDICTION

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