

# Faith United Methodist Church

October 18, 2020



TWENTIETH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Welcome & Opening Prayer

Hymn

*Sweet, Sweet Spirit*

#334

*There's a sweet, sweet Spirit in this place,  
and I know that it's the Spirit of the Lord;  
there are sweet expressions on each face,  
and I know they feel the presence of the Lord.*

*Sweet Holy Spirit, sweet heavenly Dove,  
stay right here with us, filling us with your love;  
and for these blessings we lift our hearts in praise;  
without a doubt we'll know that we have been revised  
when we shall leave this place.*

Scripture Reading

Genesis 42

<sup>1-2</sup> When Jacob learned that there was food in Egypt, he said to his sons, "Why do you sit around here and look at one another? I've heard that there is food in Egypt. Go down there and buy some so that we can survive and not starve to death."

<sup>3-5</sup> Ten of Joseph's brothers went down to Egypt to get food. Jacob didn't send Joseph's brother Benjamin with them; he was afraid that something bad might happen to him. So Israel's sons joined everyone else that was going to Egypt to buy food, for Canaan, too, was hit hard by the famine.

<sup>6-7</sup> Joseph was running the country; he was the one who gave out rations to all the people. When Joseph's brothers arrived, they treated him with honor, bowing to him. Joseph recognized them immediately, but treated them as strangers and spoke roughly to them.

He said, "Where do you come from?"

"From Canaan," they said. "We've come to buy food."

<sup>8</sup> Joseph knew who they were, but they didn't know who he was.

<sup>9</sup> Joseph, remembering the dreams he had dreamed of them, said, "You're spies. You've come to look for our weak spots."

<sup>10-11</sup> "No, master," they said. "We've only come to buy food."

We're all the sons of the same man; we're honest men; we'd never think of spying."

<sup>12</sup> He said, "No. You're spies. You've come to look for our weak spots."

<sup>13</sup> They said, "There were twelve of us brothers—sons of the same father in the country of Canaan. The youngest is with our father, and one is no more."

<sup>14-16</sup> But Joseph said, "It's just as I said, you're spies. This is how I'll test you. As Pharaoh lives, you're not going to leave this place until your younger brother comes here. Send one of you to get your brother while the rest of you stay here in jail. We'll see if you're telling the truth or not. As Pharaoh lives, I say you're spies."

<sup>17</sup> Then he threw them into jail for three days.

<sup>18-20</sup> On the third day, Joseph spoke to them. "Do this and you'll live. I'm a God-fearing man. If you're as honest as you say you are, one of your brothers will stay here in jail while the rest of you take the food back to your hungry families. But you have to bring your youngest brother back to me, confirming the truth of your speech—and not one of you will die." They agreed.

<sup>21</sup> Then they started talking among themselves. "Now we're paying for what we did to our brother—we saw how terrified he was when he was begging us for mercy. We wouldn't listen to him and now we're the ones in trouble."

<sup>22</sup> Reuben broke in. "Didn't I tell you, 'Don't hurt the boy'? But no, you wouldn't listen. And now we're paying for his murder."

<sup>23-24</sup> Joseph had been using an interpreter, so they didn't know that Joseph was understanding every word. Joseph turned away from them and cried. When he was able to speak again, he took Simeon and had him tied up, making a prisoner of him while they all watched.

<sup>25</sup> Then Joseph ordered that their sacks be filled with grain, that their money be put back in each sack, and that they be given rations for the road. That was all done for them.

<sup>26</sup> They loaded their food supplies on their donkeys and set off.

<sup>27-28</sup> When they stopped for the night, one of them opened his sack to get food for his donkey; there at the mouth of his bag was his money. He called out to his brothers, "My money has been returned; it's right here in my bag!" They were puzzled—and frightened. "What's God doing to us?"

<sup>29-32</sup> When they got back to their father Jacob, back in the land of Canaan, they told him everything that had happened, saying, "The man who runs the country spoke to us roughly and accused us of being spies. We told him, 'We are honest men and in no way spies. There were twelve of us brothers, sons of one father; one is gone and the youngest is with our father in

Canaan.'

33-34 "But the master of the country said, 'Leave one of your brothers with me, take food for your starving families, and go. Bring your youngest brother back to me, proving that you're honest men and not spies. And then I'll give your brother back to you and you'll be free to come and go in this country.'"

35 As they were emptying their food sacks, each man came on his purse of money. On seeing their money, they and their father were upset.

36 Their father said to them, "You're taking everything I've got! Joseph's gone, Simeon's gone, and now you want to take Benjamin. If you have your way, I'll be left with nothing."

37 Reuben spoke up: "I'll put my two sons in your hands as hostages. If I don't bring Benjamin back, you can kill them. Trust me with Benjamin; I'll bring him back."

38 But Jacob refused. "My son will not go down with you. His brother is dead and he is all I have left. If something bad happens to him on the road, you'll put my gray, sorrowing head in the grave."

Hymn

*Abide With Me*

#700

*Abide with me; fast falls the eventide;  
The darkness deepens; Lord, with me abide.  
When others helpers fail and comforts flee,  
Help of the helpless, O abide with me.*

*...Help of the helpless O abide with me.  
O thou that changes not, abide with me.  
In life, In death, O Lord, abide with me.*

Scripture Reading

Genesis 43

1-2 The famine got worse. When they had eaten all the food they had brought back from Egypt, their father said, "Go back and get some more food."

3-5 But Judah said, "The man warned us most emphatically, 'You won't so much as see my face if you don't have your brother with you.' If you're ready to release our brother to go with us, we'll go down and get you food. But if you're not ready, we aren't going. What would be the use? The man told us, 'You won't so much as see my face if you don't have your brother with you.'"

6 Israel said, "Why are you making my life so difficult! Why did you ever tell the man you had another brother?"

7 They said, “The man pressed us hard, asking pointed questions about our family: ‘Is your father alive? Do you have another brother?’ So we answered his questions. How did we know that he’d say, ‘Bring your brother here?’”

8-10 Judah pushed his father Israel. “Let the boy go; I’ll take charge of him. Let us go and be on our way—if we don’t get going, we’re all going to starve to death—we and you and our children, too! I’ll take full responsibility for his safety; it’s my life on the line for his. If I don’t bring him back safe and sound, I’m the guilty one; I’ll take all the blame. If we had gone ahead in the first place instead of procrastinating like this, we could have been there and back twice over.”

11-14 Their father Israel gave in. “If it has to be, it has to be. But do this: stuff your packs with the finest products from the land you can find and take them to the man as gifts—some balm and honey, some spices and perfumes, some pistachios and almonds. And take plenty of money—pay back double what was returned to your sacks; that might have been a mistake. Take your brother and get going. Go back to the man. And may The Strong God give you grace in that man’s eyes so that he’ll send back your other brother along with Benjamin. For me, nothing’s left; I’ve lost everything.”

15-16 The men took the gifts, double the money, and Benjamin. They lost no time in getting to Egypt and meeting Joseph. When Joseph saw that they had Benjamin with them, he told his house steward, “Take these men into the house and make them at home. Butcher an animal and prepare a meal; these men are going to eat with me at noon.”

17-18 The steward did what Joseph had said and took them inside. But they became anxious when they were brought into Joseph’s home, thinking, “It’s the money; he thinks we ran off with the money on our first trip down here. And now he’s got us where he wants us—he’s going to turn us into slaves and confiscate our donkeys.”

19-22 So they went up to Joseph’s house steward and talked to him in the doorway. They said, “Listen, master. We came down here one other time to buy food. On our way home, the first night out we opened our bags and found our money at the mouth of the bag—the exact amount we’d paid. We’ve brought it all back and have plenty more to buy more food with. We have no idea who put the money in our bags.”

23 The steward said, “Everything’s in order. Don’t worry. Your God and the God of your father must have given you a bonus. I was paid in full.” And with that, he presented Simeon to them.

24-25 He then took them inside Joseph’s house and made them comfortable—gave them water to wash their feet and saw to the feeding of their donkeys. The brothers spread out their gifts as they waited for Joseph to show up at noon—they had been told that they were to have dinner with him.

<sup>26</sup> When Joseph got home, they presented him with the gifts they had brought and bowed respectfully before him.

<sup>27</sup> Joseph welcomed them and said, “And your old father whom you mentioned to me, how is he? Is he still alive?”

<sup>28</sup> They said, “Yes—your servant our father is quite well, very much alive.” And they again bowed respectfully before him.

<sup>29</sup> Then Joseph picked out his brother Benjamin, his own mother’s son. He asked, “And is this your youngest brother that you told me about?” Then he said, “God be gracious to you, my son.”

<sup>30-31</sup> Deeply moved on seeing his brother and about to burst into tears, Joseph hurried out into another room and had a good cry. Then he washed his face, got a grip on himself, and said, “Let’s eat.”

<sup>32-34</sup> Joseph was served at his private table, the brothers off by themselves and the Egyptians off by themselves (Egyptians won’t eat at the same table with Hebrews; it’s repulsive to them). The brothers were seated facing Joseph, arranged in order of their age, from the oldest to the youngest. They looked at one another wide-eyed, wondering what would happen next. When the brothers’ plates were served from Joseph’s table, Benjamin’s plate came piled high, far more so than his brothers. And so the brothers feasted with Joseph, drinking freely.

Leader: The Word of God, for the People of God

**Response: Thanks Be to God. Amen.**

Children’s Time

Special Music

Witness

*Feasting & Famine*

Response to the Word –

Once we were no people, but now we are your people, declaring your wonderful deeds in Christ, who called us out of darkness into his marvelous light to be the body of Christ in the World.

**Now with the Holy Spirit may we live our faith as we tell our story.**

Prayers for the World & the Gifts of the Community

Hymn

*Thank You Lord*

#84

*Thank you, Lord.*

*Thank you, Lord.*

*Thank you, Lord.*

*I just want to thank you, Lord.*

Benediction

## Prayer List

Margaret Arceneaux  
Paul Arceneaux, Jr.  
Sidney Arceneaux  
*Family of Darlene Ard*  
Kim Craigen Ard  
Lucian Adams  
Dolores Anderson  
Natalie Avery  
Johnny & Ovelia Battaglio  
Linda Bergen  
Lloyd Betar  
Mary Bevil  
Bonnie Blankenship  
Henry Blevins  
Donna Suppa Bolton  
Jo Bordeaux  
Pat Borel  
Glenda Brooks  
Jean Brooks  
Ann Campbell  
Norma Campbell  
Robert & Roxie Castilaw  
Jared Castolenia  
Beulah Cathey  
Tana Champeau  
Rebecca Chance  
Billie Cherry  
Kim Wilber Conn  
Derick Cooper  
Kyle & Beth Craigen  
Dakota Crutchfield  
Jimmy & Emily Davis  
John & Paula Davis

Bobbie Dean  
Mary Delafosse  
JoAnn Docken  
Tammy Dufour  
Julie Duplichan  
Rachel Edmondson  
Joe Floyd  
*Family of Peggy Gibson*  
Lorene Green  
Rachel Grimmett  
Kathy Guidry  
Connie Hebert  
MaryJo Hebert  
Edna & Raymond Jones  
Alice Kethley  
Kristie Key  
Clyde Landry  
Gail Lauve  
Christi Leblanc  
*Family of Jim Leblanc*  
Fred Ledesma  
Alice & Louis Loftin  
Orianna Marchand  
Matt Markos  
*Family of Mandi "Hamilton" Marks*  
Barbara Martin  
Lloyd Martin  
Linda Meyers  
Maribeth Moore  
Jimmy Mott  
Ron & Michelle Mueller  
Joyce Murphy

Arnold Northcut  
Kelly Simmons Owens  
Jim Padgett  
John & Candance Perkins  
Melva Phillips  
Harlan Phipps  
Alfred Pierson  
Mercedes Pierson  
Justin Plake  
John Pool  
Kenny Puckett  
Buddy Renkema  
Nikki Castilaw Rice  
Edward Rivet  
Randy & Darlene Rivett  
*Family of Betty Romero*  
Ezekiel Romero  
Misti Sanchez  
Joann Savelle  
Jim & Loretta Shearer  
Brooke Simon  
Harriet Simpson  
James Sowell  
Kim Streed  
Bob Taylor  
*Family of June Waits*  
Keith Walls  
Sadina Hammock Ward  
Mary Alice Weitzel  
Mary Rose Williams  
JR Wise, Jr.  
Gail Wright  
Greta Zerasky



[faithfannettumc@gmail.com](mailto:faithfannettumc@gmail.com) + 409.794.1121 (office) + 832.792.4951 (Pastor)

We are called to be:

**Transformed** by God's love, Christ's sacrifice and the Spirit's work in our lives.

**Engaged** with all of God's children from the small to the tall, the near and the far.

**Celebrate**, worship & praise God as we care for each other.

**Share** the Good News of God's love in our thoughts, words and deeds.

## Attributes

**Hymns:** "Sweet, Sweet Spirit" words & music by: Doris Akers, 1962, © 1962 Manna Music. "Abide with me" words by Henry F. Lyte 1847 & music by W. H. Monk, 1861 in public domain. "Thank You, Lord" words & music by: R. Kelso Carter, 1886, in public domain. Scripture are from "Scripture taken from The Message. Copyright © 1993, 1994, 1995, 1996, 2000, 2001, 2002. Used by permission of NavPress Publishing Group." *Response to the Word*, The United Methodist Book of Worship ©1992, United Methodist Publishing House, used with permission, CCLI License #3821436 One License A-733754 used by permission.