

Faith United Methodist Church

October 11, 2020



NINETEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Welcome & Opening Prayer

Hymn

There's a Wideness in God's Mercy

#121

*There's a wideness in God's Mercy
like the wideness of the sea;
there's a kindness in God's justice,
which is more than liberty.*

Scripture Reading

Genesis 40

¹⁻⁴ As time went on, it happened that the cupbearer and the baker of the king of Egypt crossed their master, the king of Egypt. Pharaoh was furious with his two officials, the head cupbearer and the head baker, and put them in custody under the captain of the guard; it was the same jail where Joseph was held. The captain of the guard assigned Joseph to see to their needs.

⁴⁻⁷ After they had been in custody for a while, the king's cupbearer and baker, while being held in the jail, both had a dream on the same night, each dream having its own meaning. When Joseph arrived in the morning, he noticed that they were feeling low. So he asked them, the two officials of Pharaoh who had been thrown into jail with him, "What's wrong? Why the long faces?"

⁸ They said, "We dreamed dreams and there's no one to interpret them."

Joseph said, "Don't interpretations come from God? Tell me the dreams."

⁹⁻¹¹ First the head cupbearer told his dream to Joseph: "In my dream there was a vine in front of me with three branches on it: It budded, blossomed, and the clusters ripened into grapes. I was holding Pharaoh's cup; I took the grapes, squeezed them into Pharaoh's cup, and gave the cup to Pharaoh."

¹²⁻¹⁵ Joseph said, "Here's the meaning. The three branches are three days. Within three days, Pharaoh will get you out of here

and put you back to your old work—you'll be giving Pharaoh his cup just as you used to do when you were his cupbearer. Only remember me when things are going well with you again—tell Pharaoh about me and get me out of this place. I was kidnapped from the land of the Hebrews. And since I've been here, I've done nothing to deserve being put in this hole.”

¹⁶⁻¹⁷ When the head baker saw how well Joseph's interpretation turned out, he spoke up: “My dream went like this: I saw three wicker baskets on my head; the top basket had assorted pastries from the bakery and birds were picking at them from the basket on my head.”

¹⁸⁻¹⁹ Joseph said, “This is the interpretation: The three baskets are three days; within three days Pharaoh will take off your head, impale you on a post, and the birds will pick your bones clean.”

²⁰⁻²² And sure enough, on the third day it was Pharaoh's birthday and he threw a feast for all his servants. He set the head cupbearer and the head baker in places of honor in the presence of all the guests. Then he restored the head cupbearer to his cupbearing post; he handed Pharaoh his cup just as before. And then he impaled the head baker on a post, following Joseph's interpretations exactly.

²³ But the head cupbearer never gave Joseph another thought; he forgot all about him.

Hymn

For the Beauty of The Earth

#92

*For the beauty of the earth,
For the glory of the skies,
for the love which from our birth
over and around us lies;*

*Christ, our God, to thee we raise
this our sacrifice of praise.*

*For the joy of human love,
brother, sister, parent, child,
friends on earth and friends above,
for all gentle thoughts and mild;*

*Christ, our God, to thee we raise
this our sacrifice of praise.*

¹⁻⁴ Two years passed and Pharaoh had a dream: He was standing by the Nile River. Seven cows came up out of the Nile, all shimmering with health, and grazed on the marsh grass. Then seven other cows, all skin and bones, came up out of the river after them and stood by them on the bank of the Nile. The skinny cows ate the seven healthy cows. Then Pharaoh woke up. ⁵⁻⁷ He went back to sleep and dreamed a second time: Seven ears of grain, full-bodied and lush, grew out of a single stalk. Then seven more ears grew up, but these were thin and dried out by the east wind. The thin ears swallowed up the full, healthy ears. Then Pharaoh woke up—another dream.

⁸ When morning came, he was upset. He sent for all the magicians and sages of Egypt. Pharaoh told them his dreams, but they couldn't interpret them to him.

⁹⁻¹³ The head cupbearer then spoke up and said to Pharaoh, "I just now remembered something—I'm sorry, I should have told you this long ago. Once when Pharaoh got angry with his servants, he locked me and the head baker in the house of the captain of the guard. We both had dreams on the same night, each dream with its own meaning. It so happened that there was a young Hebrew slave there with us; he belonged to the captain of the guard. We told him our dreams and he interpreted them for us, each dream separately. Things turned out just as he interpreted. I was returned to my position and the head baker was impaled."

¹⁴ Pharaoh at once sent for Joseph. They brought him on the run from the jail cell. He cut his hair, put on clean clothes, and came to Pharaoh.

¹⁵ "I dreamed a dream," Pharaoh told Joseph. "Nobody can interpret it. But I've heard that just by hearing a dream you can interpret it."

¹⁶ Joseph answered, "Not I, but God. God will set Pharaoh's mind at ease."

²⁵⁻²⁷ Joseph said to Pharaoh, "Pharaoh's two dreams both mean the same thing. God is telling Pharaoh what he is going to do. The seven healthy cows are seven years and the seven healthy ears of grain are seven years—they're the same dream. The seven sick and ugly cows that followed them up are seven years and the seven scrawny ears of grain dried out by the east wind are the same—seven years of famine.

²⁸⁻³² "The meaning is what I said earlier: God is letting Pharaoh in on what he is going to do. Seven years of plenty are on their way throughout Egypt. But on their heels will come seven years of famine, leaving no trace of the Egyptian plenty. As the country is emptied by famine, there won't be even a scrap left of the previous plenty—the famine will be total. The fact that Pharaoh dreamed the same dream twice emphasizes God's determination to do this and do it soon.

³³⁻³⁶ "So, Pharaoh needs to look for a wise and experienced man and put him in charge of the country. Then Pharaoh needs to appoint managers throughout the country of Egypt to organize it during the years of plenty.

Their job will be to collect all the food produced in the good years ahead and stockpile the grain under Pharaoh's authority, storing it in the towns for food. This grain will be held back to be used later during the seven years of famine that are coming on Egypt. This way the country won't be devastated by the famine."

37 This seemed like a good idea to Pharaoh and his officials.

38 Then Pharaoh said to his officials, "Isn't this the man we need? Are we going to find anyone else who has God's spirit in him like this?"

39-40 So Pharaoh said to Joseph, "You're the man for us. God has given you the inside story—no one is as qualified as you in experience and wisdom. From now on, you're in charge of my affairs; all my people will report to you. Only as king will I be over you."

41-43 So Pharaoh commissioned Joseph: "I'm putting you in charge of the entire country of Egypt." Then Pharaoh removed his signet ring from his finger and slipped it on Joseph's hand. He outfitted him in robes of the best linen and put a gold chain around his neck. He put the second-in-command chariot at his disposal, and as he rode people shouted "Bravo!"

Joseph was in charge of the entire country of Egypt.

44 Pharaoh told Joseph, "I am Pharaoh, but no one in Egypt will make a single move without your stamp of approval."

45 Then Pharaoh gave Joseph an Egyptian name, Zaphenath-Paneah (God Speaks and He Lives). He also gave him an Egyptian wife, Asenath, the daughter of Potiphera, the priest of On (Heliopolis).

And Joseph took up his duties over the land of Egypt.

46 Joseph was thirty years old when he went to work for Pharaoh the king of Egypt. As soon as Joseph left Pharaoh's presence, he began his work in Egypt.

47-49 During the next seven years of plenty the land produced bumper crops. Joseph gathered up the food of the seven good years in Egypt and stored the food in cities. In each city he stockpiled surplus from the surrounding fields. Joseph collected so much grain—it was like the sand of the ocean!—that he finally quit keeping track.

50-52 Joseph had two sons born to him before the years of famine came. Asenath, daughter of Potiphera the priest of On, was their mother. Joseph named the firstborn Manasseh (Forget), saying, "God made me forget all my hardships and my parental home." He named his second son Ephraim (Double Prosperity), saying, "God has prospered me in the land of my sorrow."

53-54 Then Egypt's seven good years came to an end and the seven years of famine arrived, just as Joseph had said. All countries experienced famine; Egypt was the only country that had bread.

56-57 As the famine got worse all over the country, Joseph opened the store-houses and sold emergency supplies to the Egyptians. The famine was very bad. Soon the whole world was coming to buy supplies from Joseph. The famine was bad all over.

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

Response: Thanks Be to God. Amen.

Children's Time

Special Music

Witness

Dreams & Provisions

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

*O How I Love Jesus
There is a name I love to hear,
I love to sing its worth;
it sounds like music in my ear,
the sweetest name on earth.*

#170

*O how I love Jesus,
O how I love Jesus,
O how I love Jesus
because he first loved me!*

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

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



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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

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