



*Joseph recognized by his brothers, by Léon Pierre Urbain Bourgeois
1863 oil on canvas, Musée Municipal Frédéric Blandin, Nevers*

Order of Worship August 16, 2020

WELCOME, and tech adjustments

We enter this sacred time conscious that we are called to celebrate and deepen our connectedness to the Source of life, and to each other.

**We light our small flame to affirm that new light
is ever waiting to break through to enlighten our ways**

CENTERING MUSIC

Lily Breshears

CALL TO WORSHIP

How very good and pleasant it is when kindred live together in unity!

It is like a summer rain which restores the parched earth.

It is like vistas from the top of a mountain one has climbed...

Or the beauty of rest promised by sunset after a long day's work

Separate in place, united in spirit

**We gather to worship the Maker of our days, the Restorer of our souls; the Breath
of our lives.**

OPENING HYMN

We Yearn, O Christ, for Wholeness

Ian Timmons

(Although our various internet speeds require us to stay muted, please join in singing as Ian leads us)

*We yearn, O Christ, for wholeness and for your healing touch;
too long have we felt helpless; our burdens seem too much,
Forgetting all pretenses we make our pleadings heard,
in hope and expectation await your gracious word.*

*We long to have companions who travel by our side,
strong friends to call and answer with whom we are allied;
As we lit up each other when struggles lay us low,
community develops, our faith and caring grow.*

PRAYER OF UNBURDENING

SUNG RESPONSE

*We need your living presence, O Christ of Galilee,
a presence that revives us and sets our spirits free.
No longer are we fearful, your love pervades each place.
Empower us with courage to claim your healing grace.*

LIBERATING WORD

The Story Before the Story
Joseph

Pastor Jeanne

Genesis 45: 1 – 15

Kathy Jones

Joseph Reveals Himself to His Brothers

Then Joseph could not control himself before all those who stood by him; and he cried, “Make every one go out from me.” So no one stayed with him when Joseph made himself known to his brothers. And he wept aloud, so that the Egyptians heard it, and the household of Pharaoh heard it. And Joseph said to his brothers, “I am Joseph; is my father still alive?” But his brothers could not answer him, for they were dismayed at his presence.

So Joseph said to his brothers, “Come near to me, I pray you.” And they came near. And he said, “I am your brother, Joseph, whom you sold into Egypt. And now do not be distressed, or angry with yourselves, because you sold me here; for God sent me before you to preserve life. For the famine has been in the land these two years; and there are yet five years in which there will be neither plowing nor harvest. And God sent me before you to preserve for you a remnant on

earth, and to keep alive for you many survivors. So it was not you who sent me here, but God; and he has made me a father to Pharaoh, and lord of all his house and ruler over all the land of Egypt. Make haste and go up to my father and say to him, ‘Thus says your son Joseph, God has made me lord of all Egypt; come down to me, do not tarry; you shall dwell in the land of Goshen, and you shall be near me, you and your children and your children’s children, and your flocks, your herds, and all that you have; and there I will provide for you, for there are yet five years of famine to come; lest you and your household, and all that you have, come to poverty.’ And now your eyes see, and the eyes of my brother Benjamin see, that it is my mouth that speaks to you. You must tell my father of all my splendor in Egypt, and of all that you have seen. Make haste and bring my father down here.” Then he fell upon his brother Benjamin’s neck and wept; and Benjamin wept upon his neck. And he kissed all his brothers and wept upon them; and after that his brothers talked with him.

REFLECTION

Pastor Jeanne

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE and The PRAYER OF JESUS

*Lord prepare me to be a sanctuary, pure and holy, tried and true;
with thanksgiving, I’ll be a living sanctuary for you.*

*God empower me to be a witness for you, acting boldly, in your name;
seeking justice, where there is hurting offering hope where there is pain.*

Please feel free to unmute your zoom connection as we share joys and concerns and for the prayer of Jesus.

Our father, our Mother, in heaven, hallowed be your name.

**Your kingdom come, your will be done on earth
as it is in heaven.**

Give us this day our daily bread.

And forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors.

And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil.

For yours is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

OFFERING

Members and friends of the congregation continue to give to our mutual life in many ways: with time and effort, prayer and love, and yes, money. We cannot give and receive offering in our usual way, but we can bless the monetary gifts sent by mail and through the website, and the gifts of time and care shared daily across our community.

**Holy One, give of all good things, bless we pray all the gifts we offer,
that we may become gifts to one another, and to the world just as Jesus taught and lived.
Amen**

SENDING SONG

The Universe is Bending

Ian Timmons

*The Universe is bending, stretching long and stretching out,
embracing all our struggles with gentle arms of Hope.*

*The Universe is bending, stretching long and stretching out
and it's leading toward Justice by the Clear Light of Love.*

BLESSING

POSTLUDE

ANNOUNCEMENTS

COFFE HOUR