

Hebrew Scripture

Genesis 43:3-11,15

Joseph said to his brothers, "I am Joseph. Is my father still alive?" But his brothers could not answer him, so dismayed were they at his presence. Then Joseph said to his brothers, "Come closer to me." And they came closer. 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 five more years in which there will be neither plowing nor harvest. 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; he has made me a father to Pharaoh, and lord of all his house and ruler over all the land of Egypt. Hurry 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 delay. You shall settle in the land of Goshen, and you shall be near me, you and your children and your children's children, as well as your flocks, your herds, and all that you have. I will provide for you there--since there are five more years of famine to come--so that you and your household, and all that you have, will not come to poverty.' And he kissed all his brothers and wept upon them; and after that his brothers talked with him.

Psalter

Psalms 37:1-11, 39-40

Do not fret yourself because of evildoers; do not be jealous of those who do wrong.

For they shall soon wither like the grass, and like the green grass fade away.

Put your trust in the Lord and do good; dwell in the land and feed on its riches.

Take delight in the Lord, who shall give you your heart's desire.

Commit your way to the Lord and put your trust in the Holy One who will bring it to pass.

God will make your righteousness as clear as the light

and your just dealing as the noonday.

Be still before the Lord and wait patiently for God.

**Do not fret yourself over the one who prospers,
the one who succeeds in evil schemes.**

Refrain from anger, leave rage alone; do not fret yourself; it leads only to evil.

**For evildoers shall be cut off,
but those who wait upon the Lord shall possess the land.**

In a little while the wicked shall be no more;
you shall search out their place, but they will not be there.

**But the lowly shall possess the land;
they will delight in abundance of peace.**

But the deliverance of the righteous comes from the Lord,
who is their stronghold in time of trouble.

**The Lord will help them and rescue them;
rescuing them from the wicked and delivering them,
because they seek refuge in God.**

Gospel

Luke 6:27-38

Jesus continued, "But I say to you that listen, Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who abuse you. If anyone strikes you on the cheek, offer the other also; and from anyone who takes away your coat do not withhold even your shirt. Give to everyone who begs from you; and if anyone takes away your goods, do not ask for them again. Do to others as you would have them do to you. "If you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners love those who love them. If you do good to those who do good to you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners do the same. If you lend to those from whom you hope to receive, what credit is that to you? Even sinners lend to sinners, to receive as much again. But love your enemies, do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return. Your reward will be great, and you will be children of the Most High; for he is kind to the ungrateful and the wicked. Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful. "Do not judge, and you will not be judged; do not condemn, and you will not be condemned. Forgive, and you will be forgiven; give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap; for the measure you give will be the measure you get back."

Reflection

Prayers of the People and the Prayer of Jesus

For the Church: that we may be instruments of God's mercy and compassion by sharing what the forgiveness that we have received with others

For Peace: that God will guide world leaders to end nuclear weapon proliferation and use their resources to end famine, disease, and oppression

For all who have been our enemies, whether politically, economically, or personally: that we may let go of hurts and grudges, and seek a new understanding of them

For healing of racial and ethnic hatreds: that all people may see the value and dignity of each person as a child of God

For new minds and hearts: that the Spirit will help us to recognize those in need as our sisters and brothers and give us the courage to respond to them as friends

For the grace to forgive: that God will help us to forgive those who have injured us and to pray for them and their needs

For all who have never experienced forgiveness: that they may encounter the free and healing gift of forgiveness through someone who loves as Jesus taught

For all who are suffering: that God will free those unjustly held, bring justice to the oppressed, hope to those who are grieving, and healing to the sick

Please pray the Prayer of Jesus in whatever language is most comfortable for you.

The following are offered as examples...

**Our Father/Mother/Creator,
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 debts/sins/trespases,
as we forgive our debtors/those who sin/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.**

Musical Offering

By the Grace of God

arr. Anthony Giamonco

Offerings may be placed in passed plates, mailed to:

First Church of Christ in Mansfield UCC.

Box 36. Mansfield Center, CT 06250, or given online at www.myfcc.info

Doxology

Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise God all creatures here be low; Praise
5 God for all that love has done: Cre - a - tor, Christ and Spi - rit, One. A - men!

Prayer of Dedication

Holy God, we give you thanks for the diverse gifts you have bestowed upon us. Bless us with your Spirit that they may be used to proclaim your good news in word and deed. Amen.

Hymn

They'll Know We are Christians By Our Love

CH494

Benediction

The Week Ahead...

Sunday, February 20	10:15am Worship and Worship Circle
Tuesday, February 22	7pm Prayers at the End of the Day on Facebook
Wednesday, February 23	11am Covid Team Meeting 11am-1pm Open Office Hours 1pm Book Group in Fellowship Hall
Sunday, February 27	10:15am Worship and Worship Circle