



ELEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

NEWPORT-MT. OLIVET UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

August 4, 2024

11:00 a.m.

GATHERING & PRAISE

PRELUDE Connie Sublett & Jean Williams

WELCOME & OPPORTUNITIES FOR MINISTRY Nancy Sasser

* CALL TO WORSHIP based on Psalm 114

One: In the presence of our God, we offer our worship, our thanks, and our praise.

All: God of sea and sky, God of wind and stillness, we sing your praise.

One: In the presence of our God, we sing: All creation is the work of your hands.

All: God of fire and rain, God of freedom and possibility, we sing your praise.

One: From the rising of the sun to its setting, we sing your praise, O God.

Day into day and night into night, we hallow your name.

**All: You give life to all you touch,
yours is the life that no death overcomes,
you alone can turn dark into light;
therefore, we sing your praise.**

* HYMN OF PRAISE *Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah* UMH 127

* PRAYER OF APPROACH

One: Let us pray:

**All: God, our source and our salvation,
in love you made us
and by love you have redeemed us.**

**Make your love for us bear fruit in our forgiveness of others,
that in this life we may know your all-embracing compassion
and in the world to come
receive the everlasting joy of fellowship
you share with your Son, Jesus Christ, and the Holy Spirit.**

**Empower our worship, O God,
so that we may be transformed
in the light and love of Christ. Amen.**

SHARING THE BREAD & CUP

The United Methodist Church celebrates an open Communion Table. According to The United Methodist Book of Worship:

All who intend to lead a Christian life, together with their children are invited to receive the bread and cup. We have no tradition of refusing any who present themselves desiring to receive the bread and cup.

If you are unable to come forward, we will be happy to come and serve you in the pew. All ages are welcome to receive these gifts of God's grace.



PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

One: Let us pray:

**All: Eternal God, we give you thanks for this holy mystery
in which you have given yourself to us.
Grant that we may go into the world
in the strength of your Spirit,
to give ourselves for others,
in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

SENDING FORTH

* HYMN OF DEDICATION *O God Our Help in Ages Past* UMH 117

* COMMISSION & BLESSING

* POSTLUDE Connie Sublett & Jean Williams

* Indicates congregation standing (if able)
UMH = United Methodist Hymnal

**Forgiveness is not weakness;
it is the power of God—
the power of God to overcome evil
by depriving evil of a host for retaliation.**



This painting is one of a series of panels painted in 1515 by Italian Artist Francesco Bacchiacca for the Florentine bedchamber of Pierfrancesco Borgherini. It depicts three different moments in the story as a continuous narrative, the brothers are brought to Joseph, with Benjamin a prisoner. They beg for Joseph's mercy; he reveals his true identity and forgives them.

RESTORATIVE JUSTICE

The way of forgiveness does not forget the past, but through truth and reconciliation it finds a way beyond the toxic memory. It is the way of restorative justice.

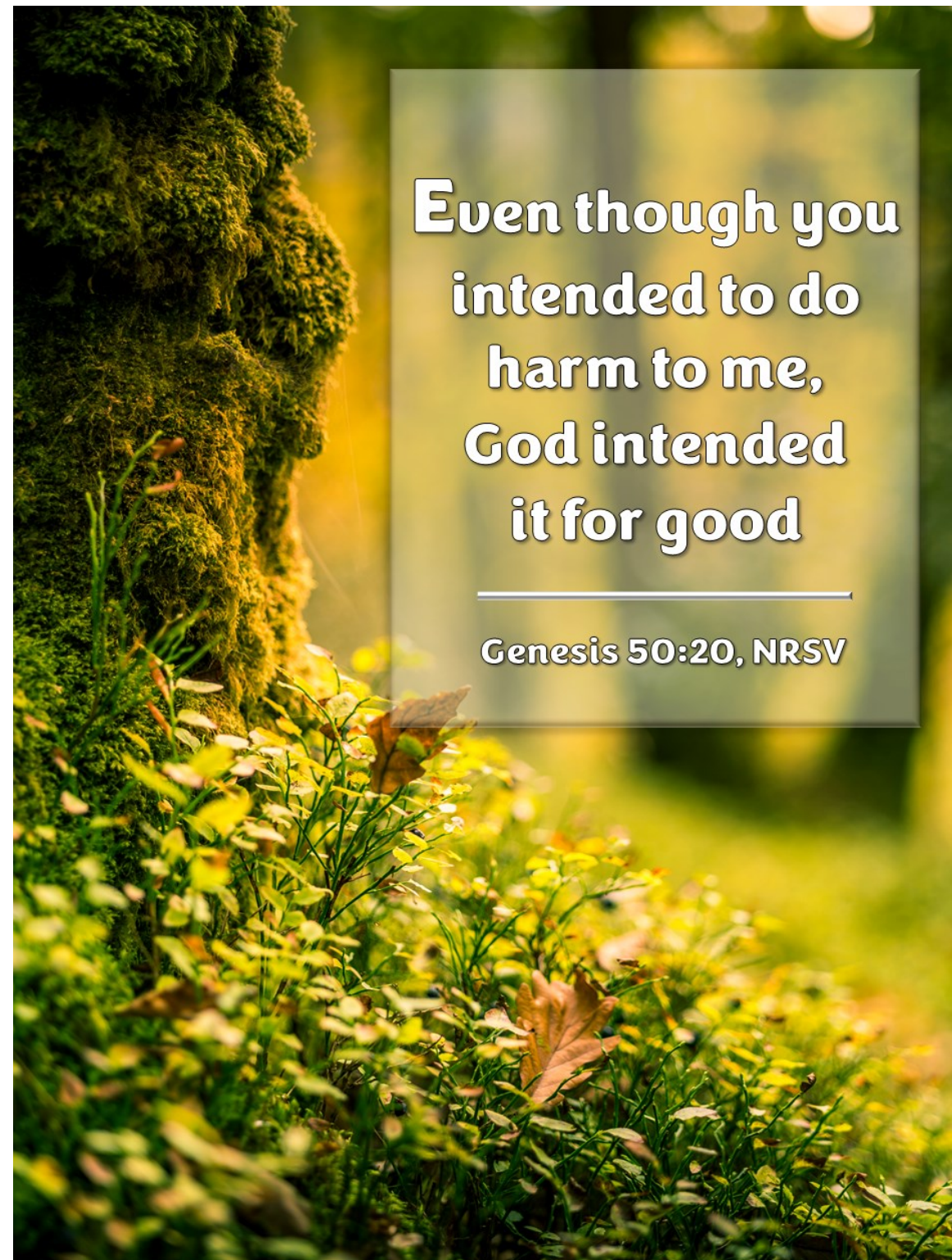
—Brian Zahnd, *Unconditional: The Call of Jesus to Radical Forgiveness*

We contend that there is another kind of justice, restorative justice.... Here the central concern is not retribution or punishment.... The central concern is the healing of breaches, the redressing of imbalances, the restoration of broken relationships, a seeking to rehabilitate both the victim and the perpetrator, who should be given the opportunity to be reintegrated into the community he has injured by his offense.... Thus we would claim that justice, restorative justice, is being served when efforts are being made to work for healing, for forgiving, and for reconciliation.

—Desmond Tutu, *No Future Without Justice*

Pilate deserves our sympathies, not because he was a good through tragically misunderstood man, but because we are not much better. We may believe in Jesus, but we do not believe in his ideas, at least not in his ideas about violence, truth, and justice.

—Miroslav Wolf, *Exclusion and Embrace: A Theological Exploration of Identity, Otherness, and Reconciliation*



**Even though you
intended to do
harm to me,
God intended
it for good**

Genesis 50:20, NRSV

One: Longing to experience the fullness of life that you offer,
 we receive these gifts that you have given us, this bread and this cup,
 and celebrate with joy the life abundant and eternal
 offered to us through Jesus Christ.
 Accept our praise and thanksgiving, O God.
 Accept our lives as holy offerings to you,
 that in losing our life we might find true life
 and proclaim the Resurrected Christ who offers this life to all.
 So now we proclaim the mystery of our faith:

**All: Dying, Christ destroyed our death;
 Rising, Christ restored our life.
 Christ will come again in glory.**

One: Pour out your Holy Spirit upon us
 and upon these your gifts of bread and cup.
 Unite us with the living Christ and with all who seek to follow him,
 that we may further your reign of peace and justice in every place.
 In the eating of this bread, as Christ's body,
 and in the sharing of this cup, as Christ's blood,
 we welcome your life into ours.
 May your Spirit lead us to ever embody your love more faithfully in the world.
 All glory and honor are yours, eternal God, now and forever. **Amen.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

One: And now, with the confidence of children of God we pray:

**All: 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.**

PROCLAMATION & RESPONSE

SCRIPTURE LESSON

Genesis 50:15-21, NRSV

¹⁵Realizing that their father was dead, Joseph's brothers said, "What if Joseph still bears a grudge against us and pays us back in full for all the wrong that we did to him?" ¹⁶So they approached Joseph, saying, "Your father gave this instruction before he died, ¹⁷'Say to Joseph: I beg you, forgive the crime of your brothers and the wrong they did in harming you.' Now therefore please forgive the crime of the servants of the God of your father." Joseph wept when they spoke to him. ¹⁸Then his brothers also wept, fell down before him, and said, "We are here as your slaves." ¹⁹But Joseph said to them, "Do not be afraid! Am I in the place of God? ²⁰Even though you intended to do harm to me, God intended it for good, in order to preserve a numerous people, as he is doing today. ²¹So have no fear; I myself will provide for you and your little ones." In this way he reassured them, speaking kindly to them.

One: Holy Wisdom, Holy Word.

All: Thanks be to God!

MESSAGE

No Future Without Forgiveness

Pastor Fleischer

INVITATION

One: Christ our Lord invites to his table all who love him,
 who earnestly repent of their sin and seek to live in peace with one another.
 Therefore, let us confess our sin before God and one another.

CONFESSION & PARDON

**All: Loving God, we confess that we have failed
 to live in harmony with our sisters and brothers.
 We have been self-righteous in our attitudes,
 closed-minded in our beliefs, and judgmental in our opinions.
 We have shunned those whose ways we do not understand,
 and we have despised those who do not endorse our convictions.
 Forgive our sins of discord and conceit
 and heal our divisiveness and quarreling.
 Help us to be charitable in our regard for others
 that we may dwell in peace with Christ, who is Lord of all.**

moment of silent confession

One: Hear the good news:
Christ died for us while we were yet sinners;
that proves God's love toward us.
In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!

All: Thanks be God. Alleluia! Amen.

THANKSGIVING & COMMUNION

OFFERTORY *O Thou Who This Mysterious Bread* Jackie Livesay

* DOXOLOGY *Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow* UMH 95

* SHARING OUR GIFTS

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

One: God be with you!
All: And also with you.

One: Lift up your hearts.
All: We lift them up to God.

One: Let us give thanks to our Creator.
All: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

One: It is right, and a good and joyful thing,
always and everywhere to give you our thanks and praise, Almighty God.
By your Word, the universe came into being—
galaxies swirled, planets turned, and stars blazed,
illuminating the darkness of space.
You formed animals to roam the land,
birds to soar in azure skies,
and fish to swim in the depths of the sea.
You breathed your life into the primordial clay
and shaped us into your own image,
placing within us your creative power to make and nurture life.
When your people found themselves enslaved in Egypt,
you heard their cries for freedom and delivered them from oppression.
In the wilderness,
you guided them by a pillar of cloud by day and a pillar of fire by night,
and made a covenant with them on your holy mountain.

When we willfully chose the ways of sin and death,
you called forth prophets who dared to speak your truth.
It was into our vengeance-filled world that you sent your Son Jesus—
taking on our flesh and our bone—
to embody the way of life you had always intended for us.
When he confronted our violent and death-dealing ways,
we nailed him to the cross.
On Easter morning, he rose again in final victory over the power of sin and death.
And so, with your people on earth and all the company of heaven,
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

**All: Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is the one who comes in the name of our God.
Hosanna in the highest.**

One: You are holy, O God of Life,
and holy is Jesus Christ, your Son, the resurrected One.
Revealing your love and radiating your life,
Jesus taught all who would listen,
healed those who placed their hope in him,
and restored the dignity of those whom the world had rejected.
He offered peace in the presence of violence and love in the face of hatred.
We thank you, O God, for the incredible gift of Jesus, the Word made flesh.
Through his resurrection life you gave birth to your church,
delivered us from slavery to sin and death, and made us a new people.
As the renewed, redeemed, enlivened people of God,
we gather this day to remember and celebrate his redeeming love.

On the night in which he gave himself up for us, he took bread,
gave thanks to you, broke the bread, gave it to his disciples, and said:
"Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you.
Do this in remembrance of me."

SUNG RESPONSE *Let Us Break Bread Together* UMH 618 (v. 1)

One: When the supper was over he took the cup,
gave thanks to you, gave it to his disciples, and said:
"Drink from this, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant,
poured out for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins.
Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me."