



Sunday, February 23, 2025

7th Sunday after Epiphany

Joseph said to his brothers, "I am Joseph! Is my father still living?" But his brothers were not able to answer him, because they were terrified at his presence.

Then Joseph said to his brothers, "Come close to me." When they had done so, he said, "I am your brother Joseph, the one you sold into Egypt! And now, do not be distressed and do not be angry with yourselves for selling me here, because it was to save lives that God sent me ahead of you. For two years now there has been famine in the land, and for the next five years there will be no plowing and reaping. But God sent me ahead of you to preserve for you a remnant on earth and to save your lives by a great deliverance.

"So then, it was not you who sent me here, but God. He made me father to Pharaoh, lord of his entire household and ruler of all Egypt. Now hurry back to my father and say to him, 'This is what your son Joseph says: God has made me lord of all Egypt. Come down to me; don't delay. You shall live in the region of Goshen and be near me—you, your children and grandchildren, your flocks and herds, and all you have. I will provide for you there, because five years of famine are still to come. Otherwise you and your household and all who belong to you will become destitute.' And he kissed all his brothers and wept over them. Afterward his brothers talked with him. *Genesis 45:3-11 niv*

"But to you who are listening I say: Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who mistreat you. If someone slaps you on one cheek, turn to them the other also. If someone takes your coat, do not withhold your shirt from them. Give to everyone who asks you, and if anyone takes what belongs to you, do not demand it back. Do to others as you would have them do to you.

"If you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? Even sinners love those who love them. And if you do good to those who are good to you, what credit is that to you? Even sinners do that. And if you lend to those from whom you expect repayment, what credit is that to you? Even sinners lend to sinners, expecting to be repaid in full. But love your enemies, do good to them, and lend to them without expecting to get anything back. Then your reward will be great, and you will be children of the Most High, because he is kind to the ungrateful and 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 and running over, will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you." *Luke 6:27-38 niv*

- Highland, A Place to be Seen, Known, and Loved -

Greeters: Dolores Murray, Joyce & Peter DeBarger, Betty & Bob Rishel, Shelby & Jack Snyder

Ushers: Johnny Wood, Gary & Sandy Cross, Nancy Holtzapple, David Levens, Bev Campbell, Howard McIntyre

The Chancel Flowers are presented by:

Rev. Robert Burns in honor of Shirley Burns birthday.

Johnny & Barry Wood in honor of the birth of their newest great-grandchild, Eliza Erin Lee Schaub,
born Feb 17th.

Gathering in God's Name

Chimes

Prelude

Welcome & Ministry Highlights

Rev. Matt Drumheller

Please sign and pass the "Friendship Pad" down the pew.

At the end of the row, pass it back so that we can greet one another by name after the service.

Call to Worship

Rev. Matt Drumheller

Leader: The heavens are telling the glory of God!

People: May our worship reflect God's glory.

Leader: The firmament proclaims God's handiwork!

People: May we see each other as the handiwork of God.

*Opening Hymn #139

"Come, Thou Almighty King"

Children 5th grade and under are invited to attend Sunday School. Teachers are stationed at the main doors of the sanctuary and will walk the children to the children's classrooms in the Narthex. Parents/Guardians may pick up their children after the service in the classroom.

Silent Prayer of Confession

Prayer of Confession

Rev. Dr. Robert Burns

Gracious and Loving God, you are slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love. So often we fall short of your glory, but you give us each an equal amount of grace. God, we accept that grace with gratitude, knowing that we cannot save ourselves. It is only by the gracious mercy of your Son that we are reconciled to you and each other. Help us to live as people transformed by your Word and saved by grace. Help us to be merciful as you are merciful. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

Congregational Response

Humble yourself in the sight of the Lord

Humble yourself in the sight of the Lord

And He shall lift you up, higher and higher,

And He shall lift you up.

Assurance of Pardon

Rev. Dr. Robert Burns

The Psalmist writes, "The LORD is compassionate and gracious, slow to anger, abounding in love. He will not always accuse, nor will he harbor his anger forever; he does not treat us as our sins deserve or repay us according to our iniquities. For as high as the heavens are above the earth, so great is his love for those who fear him; as far as the east is from the west, so far has he removed our transgressions from us." Friends, believe the good news of the gospel. **In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.**

Passing of the Peace

Rev. Dr. Robert Burns

Leader: As we are forgiven and reconciled to God through Christ Jesus, let us be reconciled to one another. The peace of the Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

* Gloria Patri 579

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;

As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

Proclaiming God's Word

Scripture Readings

Genesis 45:3-11, 15 & Luke 6:27-38

Jimmy Kiiru

Message

"Leveling the Playing Field"

Rev. Allison Beaulieu

Invitation To The Offering

Mindy Witmer

Offertory Anthem

"He will keep you in perfect peace" *S. Wesley*

Prayer of Dedication

Rev. Dr. Robert Burns

Responding to God's Word

Prayers of Thanksgiving, Lord's Prayer

Rev. Matt Drumheller

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 debts, as we forgive our debtors;

and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

Going in God's Name

*Closing Hymn #391

"Take My Life"

Meeting of the Corporation

Charge & Benediction

Rev. Allison Beaulieu

Congregational Response

Surely The Presence Of The Lord Is In This Place

I Can Feel His Mighty Power And His Grace

I Can Hear The Brush Of Angel's Wings

I See Glory On Each Face

Surely The Presence Of The Lord Is In This Place

*PLEASE STAND IN BODY OR SPIRIT

*MUSIC: DR. PAUL THORLAKSON, DIRECTOR OF MUSIC
JONATHAN LEFEVER, ORGANIST*

Please be advised that services are recorded and you may be incidentally captured on video as part of the recording of the service. The back of the right side of the sanctuary as you enter is out of the range of the camera.

A description of the stained Chancel window can be found in the front of the hymnal.

FM sound devices are available. Please ask an usher for your own personal receiver.

Cell Phones should be silenced during the worship service.

Video Recordings of the service can be found on the Highland website at www.HighlandPC.org

In the event of an emergency, please refer to the card in the pew racks for evacuation and re-assembly information.