

Our Service of Worship for August 8, 2021
THE NINETEENTH SUNDAY IN
ORDINARY TIME

Westwood First Presbyterian Church

Cincinnati, OH

Welcome and Announcements

Prelude: “*Beautiful Savior*”—Flor Peeters

During the Prelude, we invite you to take a moment to prepare for worship.

Call to Worship (based on Psalm 111—responsive) and Opening Prayer

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all!

And also with you!

Come, let us praise God together in the company of his gathered people. For the works of our God are unparalleled. Everything He does reveals his glory and majesty.

Our God is full of grace and mercy, and his righteousness never fails.

So come, let us worship, all you who revere the Lord, for reverence and awe is the foundation of true wisdom.

Let us worship God together!

** Hymn: “*Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah*” *

A Time of Confession

Call to Confession and Prayer of Confession (unison)

Gracious God, source of all life, Lord of mercy and grace, hear our prayer. We come before you in need of healing: The healing of our bodies and souls, the healing of our relationships, the healing of our pride and fear and apathy. We know that with you, nothing is impossible, not even our healing, not even the restoration of the whole world. We pray that you will heal us, that you will heal our world, so that we will be freed to serve and love and dream and be, as those whom Christ calls, for it is in His name we humbly pray. Amen.

Moment of Silent Confession and Assurance of Pardon

Gloria Patri

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. Amen.

Prayer for Illumination

Scripture Readings: *Psalm 105:1-11, 16-22; Genesis 37:1-20* *

Sermon: “*Living the Dream*”

A Time of Offering

Invitation

Offertory Prayer (unison)

Thank you, Gracious God, for the generosity that enables us to share. We are rich in many things. Help us to empty ourselves of pretense, even as we pour out gifts of gratitude. We dedicate our offerings and ourselves to shaping the community you intend, in the spirit of Christ, in whose name we pray. Amen.

Solo: “*Guide My Feet*”—arr. Jacqueline B. Hairston

Travis Pearce, tenor

Pastoral Prayer and The Lord's Prayer

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.

** Hymn: "*Help Us Accept Each Other*" *

Charge and Benediction

Postlude: "*I Sing the Mighty Power of God*"—arr. Michael Burkhardt

* The words to the hymns and readings are included with the order of worship.
Where indicated (**) please rise, and stand as you are able.

Rev. Dr. Jeff Colarossi
Pastor

Mary Bramlage
Guest Organist

Jane Colarossi
Lay Worship Leader



Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah

1. Guide me, O Thou great Jehovah, pilgrim through this barren land;
I am weak, but Thou art mighty; hold me with Thy powerful hand.
Bread of heaven, bread of heaven, feed me till I want no more,
Feed me till I want no more.
2. Open now the crystal fountain, whence the healing stream doth flow;
Let the fire and cloudy pillar lead me all my journey through;
Strong deliverer, strong deliverer, be Thou still my strength and shield,
Be Thou still my strength and shield.
3. When I tread the verge of Jordan, bid my anxious fears subside;
Death of death, and hell's destruction, land me safe on Canaan's side;
Songs of praises, songs of praises I will ever give to Thee,
I will ever give to Thee.

Help Us Accept Each Other

1. Help us accept each other as Christ accepted us;
Teach us as sister, brother, each person to embrace.
Be present, Lord, among us and bring us to believe
We are ourselves accepted, and meant to love and live.
2. Teach us, O Lord, your lessons, as in our daily life
We struggle to be human and search for hope and faith.
Teach us to care for people, for all, not just for some,
to love them as we find them, or as they may become.
3. Lord, for today's encounters with all who are in need,
Who hunger for acceptance, for righteousness and bread,
We need new eyes for seeing, new hands for holding on;
Renew us with your Spirit, Lord, free us, make us one!

First Reading: Reading: Psalm 105:1-11, 16-22—God’s Faithfulness to Israel

O give thanks to the Lord, call on his name, make known his deeds among the peoples. Sing to him, sing praises to him; tell of all his wonderful works. Glory in his holy name; let the hearts of those who seek the Lord rejoice. Seek the Lord and his strength; seek his presence continually. Remember the wonderful works he has done, his miracles, and the judgments he has uttered, O offspring of his servant Abraham, children of Jacob, his chosen ones. He is the Lord our God; his judgments are in all the earth.

He is mindful of his covenant forever, of the word that he commanded, for a thousand generations, the covenant that he made with Abraham, his sworn promise to Isaac, which he confirmed to Jacob as a statute, to Israel as an everlasting covenant, saying, “To you I will give the land of Canaan as your portion for an inheritance.”

When he summoned famine against the land, and broke every staff of bread, he had sent a man ahead of them, Joseph, who was sold as a slave. His feet were hurt with fetters, his neck was put in a collar of iron; until what he had said came to pass, the word of the Lord kept testing him.

The king sent and released him; the ruler of the peoples set him free. He made him lord of his house, and ruler of all his possessions, to instruct his officials at his pleasure, and to teach his elders wisdom.

Second Reading: Genesis 37:1-20—Joseph Dreams of Greatness

¹Jacob settled in the land where his father had lived as an alien, the land of Canaan. ²This is the story of the family of Jacob.

Joseph, being seventeen years old, was shepherding the flock with his brothers; he was a helper to the sons of Bilhah and Zilpah, his father’s wives; and Joseph brought a bad report of them to their father. ³Now Israel loved Joseph more than any other of his children, because he was the son of his old age; and he had made him a long robe with sleeves. ⁴But when his brothers saw that their father loved him more than all his brothers, they hated him, and could not speak peaceably to him.

⁵Once Joseph had a dream, and when he told it to his brothers, they hated him even more. ⁶He said to them, “Listen to this dream that I dreamed. ⁷There we were, binding sheaves in the field. Suddenly my sheaf rose and stood upright; then your sheaves gathered around it, and bowed down to my sheaf.” ⁸His brothers said to him, “Are you indeed to reign over us? Are you indeed to have dominion over us?” So they hated him even more because of his dreams and his words.

⁹He had another dream, and told it to his brothers, saying, “Look, I have had another dream: the sun, the moon, and eleven stars were bowing down to me.” ¹⁰But when he told it to his father and to his brothers, his father rebuked him, and said to him, “What kind of dream is this that you have had? Shall we indeed come, I and your mother and your brothers, and bow to the ground before you?” ¹¹So his brothers were jealous of him, but his father kept the matter in mind.

¹²Now his brothers went to pasture their father’s flock near Shechem. ¹³And Israel said to Joseph, “Are not your brothers pasturing the flock at Shechem? Come, I will send you to them.” He answered, “Here I am.” ¹⁴So he said to him, “Go now, see if it is well with your brothers and with the flock; and bring word back to me.” So he sent him from the valley of Hebron.

He came to Shechem,¹⁵ and a man found him wandering in the fields; the man asked him, “What are you seeking?”¹⁶ “I am seeking my brothers,” he said; “tell me, please, where they are pasturing the flock.”¹⁷ The man said, “They have gone away, for I heard them say, ‘Let us go to Dothan.’” So Joseph went after his brothers, and found them at Dothan.¹⁸ They saw him from a distance, and before he came near to them, they conspired to kill him.¹⁹ They said to one another, “Here comes this dreamer.²⁰ Come now, let us kill him and throw him into one of the pits; then we shall say that a wild animal has devoured him, and we shall see what will become of his dreams.”

Moment for Meditation—Dreams

In our Christian lives, we often encounter experiences we can’t explain. Recently I had a dream that surprised me and left me wondering about its significance. It was startling because I rarely remember my dreams, and it pertained to something that was not immediately on my radar. In the course of conversation with one of the elders in our church, he sympathized with me and told me that he carries a big bag behind him into which he tosses all of the experiences he doesn’t understand. (He admits that after four decades of ministry, this bag is getting rather full.)

But more than just not understanding things, how do we process these surprising and sometimes strange incidents? They are tough to ignore, but does that mean they are automatically divine revelation? Are they fallible? How do we understand them?

First, we should remember that nothing escapes God’s providence. That is, God upholds and governs all things. All things come to pass as if from his fatherly hand. Even these surprising coincidences and dreams come to us under the providence of God. But just because God is sovereign over the events of our daily life doesn’t mean he is speaking to us through all of these things. Some things happen without any ultimate divine significance.

Second, remember that God speaking to people through dreams is not a routine occurrence in the Bible and throughout history. We might be tempted to think otherwise, assuming it’s the normal experience of all who follow God. But is it? While there are certainly examples, it is not the norm. Graeme Goldsworthy speaks to this question in his book *Gospel Trilogy*. He writes, “Every case of special guidance given to individuals in the Bible has to do with that person’s place in the outworking of God’s saving purposes.” He adds, “There are no instances in the Bible in which God gives special and specific guidance to the ordinary believing Israelite or Christian in the details of their personal existence.”

What do we do with dreams?

As believers living today, we are well advised to, as the centuries of Christians who have come before us, to find our guidance chiefly from the Word of God, the Scriptures, rather than our dreams or even our intuitions. This does not mean that God won’t use dreams or that he can’t, but just that it is not the primary way that God speaks to us; this is reserved for the Scriptures. We should be careful to submit everything—even dreams or feelings or other experiences—to the Bible.

~ Erik Raymond, The Gospel Coalition

GOD is *Good,*
all the time.

Joseph

A O O B B U W R B L D B O T D H S F D I J B X E
K V D R L H L W J C Z J Z H A W W S N O V Q F P
F Z Z O Q M M L M T V S F D C L T P A W Z Q U V
G F M T U D X A G E U I C U A R B K A Z J W C P
F I H H R S M A E R D B P T M W C B N O D A J N
Q P I E S E T D N N G O D R V B B R A S R P R P
I S A R T J U E L B K U Z K C K Q O C O W K G A
Y R E S L S D B U H T Y U A I S T Z C J M G E K
F A Z N H L E V E H X F E V G N G I R A Z N C Q
H C M Y N J M V U N V N C F E Y Z C Y Y J H E C
S D D B T T Q P R V Z X H M R I T Q F T K Z E X
M L H Q F J I H J A S B G J T D E Z Z A V A T N
T W C Z Y Z G N A B H N L M M M O Q K B E A I X
P S I Y Y Q C H J F A E W E P U A J V Q I V P M
Y N D F G Y X J N D G M F W M P F R T Y M B C Q
G A R A D T B E N J A M I N D A P R I S O N C F
E Q A L T C S W H F N C Y J M O C O F E V S H S
T A H O C J N X K A P S S T O Y G R R H P Z P T
W B P G C C O W F W T B M Q C U S B I S R F E H
X O I P F K D V O C Y L Q F W L H O M J Y R S R
E F T G K B K G A T W D U F A M H V J S K B O D
J L O L S C S Y G S K Z T V N D U X V D N N J I
T M P Q T T S E N O H Z E S A T N W X A M P J B
S E N D T Y W S C C M J H P K B J H U G V N C Y

Slave	Reuben	Prison	Potiphar
Joseph	Jacob	Honest	Harvest
God	Egypt	Dream	Dan
Cup	Canaan	Camel	Brothers
Benjamin			