

And one of these Scriptures that clearly testify of Jesus, is found in the very first book of the Bible, and in particular, the life of Joseph. Here we see a portrait of Jesus, and God loves His Son so much, that He wants to give us many portraits of Him.

We are all familiar with the amazing story of Joseph found in the book of Genesis, but what is more amazing is the many similarities between the life of Joseph and the life of Jesus. No one else in the Bible foreshadows Jesus like Joseph.

Joseph was Jacob's 11th son. We also know that he was highly loved by his father, as he was the first son through his favoured wife Rachel. Genesis 27:30 says Jacob 'loved Joseph more than any of his other sons.'

The problem is, as with any case of favouritism, the brothers resented him. They were not happy that their father loved him so much, and out of envy they plotted to kill him.

Isn't that a lot like the story of Jesus?

God the Father Himself said of Jesus: "This is My beloved Son in whom I am well pleased."

And as Jesus went along doing His Father's business – healing, teaching, loving others, showing compassion – His brothers (the nation of Israel) envied Him, and eventually plotted to kill Him.

If you remember, Pilate noticed this in Mark 15:10 and remarked that it was 'out of envy that they handed Jesus over.'

When Joseph was just seventeen, his brothers decided to sell him as a slave to the Ishmaelites for twenty pieces of silver, and they brought Joseph to Egypt.

Twenty pieces of silver was the going rate for a slave at that time.

Jesus was also rejected by His brothers and sold for the going rate of a slave – which was thirty pieces of silver.

Jesus had no apparent value to those who rejected Him. Yet what a contrast when we realise that He who lost everything, gained all, and then turned to give us everything.

A lot happened to Joseph since those days in slavery. He had literally gone from prison to the palace, and we now fast forward to Joseph being Prime Minister. Second only to Pharaoh. Joseph now had two names. His Hebrew name and the name given to him by Pharaoh. His Egyptian name literally means 'Saviour of the world'. Does anyone else come to mind here? But these are not the only similarities in the life of Joseph and the life of Jesus.

There are many more, but the one which our text emphasises on is the forgiveness that Joseph showed his brothers when he was finally reunited with them in Egypt.

Many would have chosen revenge if they were in Joseph's shoes. But Joseph chose the opposite. He did this because God planted forgiveness in his heart.

His brothers had plotted to kill him. They sold him to slavery, and forgot all about him and his coloured coat. And what did Joseph do? He forgave them.

After being wrongly accused, Jesus was mocked, beaten, humiliated, and crucified. Hanging with mutilated body, gasping for breath, Jesus uttered a prayer contradicting every human impulse. He said "Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing."

The forgiveness Jesus offers seems impossible. Yet it's the same forgiveness He offers to us, and regardless of how difficult it is, He expects us to offer that same forgiveness to others.

Amen.

HYMN - TELL OUT MY SOUL

TELL OUT, MY SOUL, the greatness of the Lord!
Unnumbered blessings give my spirit voice;
Tender to me the promise of His word;
In God my Saviour shall my heart rejoice.

Tell out, my soul, the greatness of His name!
Make known His might, the deeds His arm has done;
His mercy sure, from age to age the same;
His holy name—the Lord, the mighty One.

Tell out, my soul, the greatness of His might!
Powers and dominions lay their glory by;
Proud hearts and stubborn wills are put to flight,
The hungry fed, the humble lifted high.

Tell out, my soul, the glories of His word!
Firm is His promise, and His mercy sure:
Tell out, my soul, the greatness of the Lord
To children's children and for evermore!

THE peace of God, which passeth all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God, and of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord: and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be amongst you and remain with you always.
Amen.



st andrews church bentley

Welcome to Issue #26. This Sunday our liturgy is based on the 'Our Father' worship sheet. The latest government legislation has directed that churches meeting for worship is unaffected. So we meet again in church this week as normal. In addition, we shall be holding the first Messy Church service for six months at 11:30am this Sunday. Please pass on this good news. We have so missed seeing the children in church and now they have all returned to school thought it right to meet together as one family.

O Lord, we wait on You today. As we cast all our cares on You, we know that You hear our prayers. May Your Holy Spirit fill us anew knowing that You forgive us for all the things we do against Your will. For we know that You are an unchanging faithful God and am always ready to pick us up when we fall down. You are our anchor through the storm. So Lord, we pray You will mould us and make us fit to be called a Christian. Where we are hard and cold, soften our hearts, Lord, so we can proclaim Your greatness to the people we meet this week. In the precious name of Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

HYMN - WE WAIT

WE WAIT

We're not in a hurry
O we need you, Lord
We wait
All our cares and worries
We lay aside for you
O how we long to see your face
O how we long for your embrace

We wait
We're not afraid to tarry
We yearn for you, Lord
We wait
For your mighty wind to carry us
Into your presence, Lord
And as we fill this house with praise
May your holy fire fill this place

We wait
We're not in a hurry
O we need you, Lord
We wait
All our cares and worries
We lay aside for you
O how we long to see your face
O how we long for your embrace

We wait...we wait for you Lord...we wait...

And as we fill this house with praise
Let your holy fire fill this place

As we wait... As we wait.

LET US PRAY

Heavenly Father, we thank You, Lord, for being with us. We thank You for Your presence which never leaves us and never forsakes us, Lord and Father we thank you for all the people who are watching this video and are listening on the telephone. Father, we pray that You will bless us right where we are, Lord and that we will begin to see just what a great God You really are and what an amazing grace You have. Father, we welcome You to this service, through Your Holy Spirit and through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

HYMN - HOLY SPIRIT, WE WELCOME YOU

HOLY SPIRIT, WE WELCOME YOU.

Holy Spirit, we welcome You.
Move among us with holy fire,
As we lay aside all earthly desires,
Hands reach out and our hearts aspire.
Holy Spirit, Holy Spirit,
Holy Spirit, we welcome You.

Holy Spirit, we welcome You.
Holy Spirit, we welcome You.
Let the breeze of Your presence blow,
That Your children here might truly know
How to move in the Spirit's flow.
Holy Spirit, Holy Spirit,
Holy Spirit, we welcome You.

Holy Spirit, we welcome You.
Holy Spirit, we welcome You.
Please accomplish in me today
Some new work of loving grace, I pray;
Unreservedly have Your way.
Holy Spirit, Holy Spirit,
Holy Spirit, we welcome You.

Our Family

God made us a family
We need one another
We love one another
We forgive one another

**We work together
We play together
We worship together**

**Together we use God's word
Together we grow in Christ
Together we love all men
Together we serve our God
Together we hope for heaven
These are our hopes and ideals
Help us to attain them, O God
Through Jesus Christ our Lord
Amen**

**WORSHIP SHEET #26
Sunday 13th September 2020**

If we refuse to admit that we are sinners, then we live in a world of illusion, and truth becomes a stranger to us. But if we freely admit that we have sinned, we find God utterly reliable and straightforward— He forgives our sins and makes us thoroughly clean from all that is evil.

The Bible urges us to admit and confess our many sins and evil ways. We are warned not to try to hide them from God, but to confess them to Him honestly and frankly. It is then that, in His mercy, God promises to forgive us. This is something we ought to be doing at all times, particularly when we meet together to thank God for what He has done for us, to praise Him, to hear His word and to ask for those things which we need for both our bodies and souls. I, therefore, ask all of you to join me humbly and sincerely in saying together—

ALMIGHTY AND MOST MERCIFUL FATHER, we have wandered from Your Way like lost sheep, following the inclinations of our own hearts. We have broken Your holy laws. We have ignored the things we should have done, and have done the things we should not have done. As You have promised, show us Your mercy, Lord; spare those who sincerely confess their sins and restore those who are truly sorry; so Lord, give us strength to live a godly and upright life, that will bring honour to Your Holy Name. For Jesus Christ's sake. Amen.

ALMIGHTY God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, Who does not desire the death of a sinner, but rather that we should turn from our sinfulness and live.

God pardons and delivers all those who truly repent and wholeheartedly believe His Holy Gospel.

Let us therefore ask Him to grant us true repentance, and also the power of His Holy Spirit, so that our lives may please Him both now and always.

With such help, we know we shall have the joy of being with Him in the life to come. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

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 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, the power and the glory for ever, and ever, Amen.

O Lord open our lips
And our mouths shall declare Your praise
O God come quickly to save us
O Lord make haste to help us
Let us praise the Lord
The Lord's Name be praised
Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit
As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

LESSON : Genesis 50:15-21

Joseph Reassures His Brothers

¹⁵ When Joseph's brothers saw that their father was dead, they said, "What if Joseph holds a grudge against us and pays us back for all the wrongs we did to him?" ¹⁶ So they sent word to Joseph, saying, "Your father left these instructions before he died: ¹⁷ 'This is what you are to say to Joseph: I ask you to forgive your brothers the sins and the wrongs they committed in treating you so badly.' Now please forgive the sins of the servants of the God of your father." When their message came to him, Joseph wept.

¹⁸ His brothers then came and threw themselves down before him. "We are your slaves," they said.

¹⁹ But Joseph said to them, "Don't be afraid. Am I in the place of God?" ²⁰ You intended to harm me, but God intended it for good to accomplish what is now being done, the saving of many lives. ²¹ So then, don't be afraid. I will provide for you and your children." And he reassured them and spoke kindly to them.

THIS IS THE WORD OF THE LORD THANKS BE TO GOD.

HYMN - FAITHFUL ONE

FAITHFUL ONE, so unchanging,
Ageless One, You're my Rock of peace.
Lord of all, I depend on You,
I call out to You again and again.
I call out to You again and again.
You are my rock in times of trouble.
You lift me up when I fall down.
All through the storm Your love is the anchor,
My hope is in You alone.

(REPEAT)

THE APOSTLES CREED

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth.
And in Jesus Christ His only Son our Lord, Who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, Born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified dead and buried; He descended into hell; the Third Day He rose again from the dead, He ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence He shall come to judge the quick and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic Church; The Communion of Saints; The Forgiveness of sins; The Resurrection of the body, And the life everlasting. Amen.

The Lord be with You.
And with your spirit.

Let us pray.

COLLECT - THE 14th SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY

ALMIGHTY and everlasting God, give unto us the increase of faith, hope and charity; and, that we may obtain that which Thou dost promise, make us to love that which Thou dost command; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

For Grace:

O Lord our heavenly Father, Almighty and Everlasting God, Who has brought us safely to another day, keep us by Your mighty power from doing wrong, and guard us from all danger. Watch over everything we do, so that all our actions may be right in Your sight. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

For Power:

O God, the Creator of peace and lover of unity, Whom to know is eternal life, and to serve is perfect freedom, guard us when we are attacked by the Devil, so that we, trusting in Your defence, may not fear any evil. Through the power of Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

OTHER PRAYERS

Please pray for the following people:

- * **Lord, be with Robert Wilson in his recovery after his fall.**
- * **Lord, be with the Revd Dr Gordon Wareing following an operation for a bleed on his brain. Thank You, Lord, he early signs are good.**
- * **Lord, be with the family of Kay Smith following a diagnosis of a brain tumour.**

- * **Lord, we hold Janet close to you following her operation. May she soon be back with us.**
- * **Lord, we pray for the start of Messy Church today.**
- * **We pray for Iris Tew with her ongoing treatment for cancer.**

THE GRACE

The Grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all, evermore, Amen.

CHURCH NOTICES

HYMN - RESTORE, O LORD

RESTORE, O LORD,

The honour of Your name,
In works of sovereign power
Come shake the earth again;
That men may see
And come with reverent fear
To the living God,
Whose kingdom shall outlast the years.

Restore, O Lord,
In all the earth Your fame,
And in our time revive
The church that bears Your name.
And in Your anger,
Lord, remember mercy,
O living God,
Whose mercy shall outlast the years.

Bend us, O Lord,
Where we are hard and cold,
In Your refiner's fire
Come purify the gold.
Though suffering comes
And evil crouches near,
Still our living God
Is reigning, He is reigning here.

JUST A BRIEF WORD by Revd Paul Reynolds

Let me start by saying the Word of God is an amazing, astounding book, and there is a dimension of Scripture that only opens up to those who approach it by faith.

And the key to unlocking the Bible is Jesus Christ Himself.

Jesus once said 'Search the Scriptures, for these are they which testify of Me.'

Now the Old Testament was written before Jesus touched down into His human body, but those where the Scriptures that Jesus was talking about.