



FIRST PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH FORT SCOTT, KANSAS

11th Sunday after Pentecost
August 16, 2020

Getting Better at Being Sad



august 16 @ fpc

image: disneyheroes.com

SERVING THIS MORNING:

Music Director: Dr. Greg Turner

Worship Leader: Stephanie Witt

Song Leaders: Emily and Heather Turner

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WiFi Network: FPC-WiFi Password: 620223380

PRELUDE

CALL TO WORSHIP:

God has forgiven us and drawn us close,
reconciling us through Jesus Christ,
who has lavished upon us
the fullness of the blessed Holy Spirit.
With glad and grateful hearts, praise the Lord!

PRAYER FOR THE DAY:

Lord Jesus, Son of God,
your blessings know no boundaries
that faith cannot cross.
Strengthen us to trust in your mercy,
reach out for your healing,
and receive your reconciliation. **Amen.**

FIRST READING: Genesis 45:1-15

¹ Then Joseph could no longer control himself before all his attendants, and he cried out, "Have everyone leave my presence!" So there was no one with Joseph when he made himself known to his brothers. ² And he wept so loudly that the Egyptians heard him, and Pharaoh's household heard about it. ³ 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. ⁴ 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!" ⁵ 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. ⁶ For two years now there has been famine in the land, and for the next five years there will be no plowing and reaping. ⁷ But God sent me ahead of you to preserve for you a remnant on earth and to save your lives by a great deliverance. ⁸ "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. ⁹ 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. ¹⁰ 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. ¹¹ 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.' ¹² "You can see for yourselves, and so can my brother Benjamin, that it is really I who am speaking to you. ¹³ Tell my father about all the honor accorded me in Egypt and about everything you have seen. And bring my father down here quickly." ¹⁴ Then he threw his arms around his brother Benjamin and wept, and Benjamin embraced him, weeping. ¹⁵ And he kissed all his brothers and wept over them. Afterward his brothers talked with him.

OPENING HYMN:

"There Is a Balm in Gilead"

#631

Refrain: *There is a balm in Gilead to make the wounded whole,
there is a balm in Gilead to heal the sin - sick soul.*

1. *Sometimes I feel discouraged, and think my work's in vain,
but then the Holy Spirit revives my soul again.*

Refrain

2. *If you can not preach like Peter, if you can not pray like Paul,
you can tell the love of Jesus, and say, "He died for all."*

Refrain

3. *Don't ever feel discouraged, for Jesus is your friend;
and if you lack for knowledge he'll ne'er refuse to lend.*

CALL TO CONFESSION:

Let us confess our sins without fear
to the One who yearns to embrace us,
forgive us, protect us, and bless us.

UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION:

Have mercy on us, Lord Jesus; we are tormented!
Our lives have been disrupted by the devil
and by our own devilish desires and evil exploits.
We are dismayed at your presence,
anguished by the awful fallout of our own failures.
We cannot take back what we have said or undo what we have done
or atone for the agony we have caused.
We are haunted by the past, plagued by the present,
and fearful of the future. We shrink away from your gaze
as strangers outside your circle of blessing.
Yet the faith you have planted in us reaches out for your favor,
returns to your presence, and hungers for your mercy,
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS:

Our God kisses us with kindness,
forgiving our sins, preserving our lives,
and restoring our souls through the abundant provision of
our Lord Jesus Christ. Receive now that for which faith has hungered:
you are forgiven and healed in the name of Jesus the Christ.

PASSING OF THE PEACE

Let us offer and receive the peace of Christ as a sign of
God's grace and assurance of forgiveness.

Leader: The peace of Christ be with you.

People: And also with you.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE:

Let us pray for the needs of the world, saying,
Lord help us. **We trust in you.**

God of mercy and healing,
you are Lord of all,
embracing the estranged,
blessing the banished,
reconciling the rejected.
We cry out to you now,
confident that your provision is
abundantly more than enough
to preserve the church, redeem the world,
and deliver the tormented.
Lord, help us. **We trust in you.**

For your people, the house of Israel,
and the household of faith near and far,
Lord, help us. **We trust in you.**

That the church may replicate your reconciliation,
model your mercy, and herald your healing for all,
Lord, help us. **We trust in you.**

For unity and harmony to flow freely
among your creatures and throughout your creation,
Lord, help us. **We trust in you.**

For reconciliation and new beginnings
among estranged families, races, nations, and peoples,
Lord, help us. **We trust in you.**

For healing for those who are tormented, rejected,
marginalized, fearful, forgotten, cast off,
Lord, help us. **We trust in you.**

For those whose names we now lift in your presence,
silently or aloud..
Lord, help us. **We trust in you.**

For our ancestors in the faith,
now kept in your care and never forgotten by you,
Lord, help us. **We trust in you.**

We stand in your circle of favor, embraced by you,
healed by you, blessed by you,
remembered by you, secured by you,
grateful for your loving care. **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 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.**

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION:

Merciful Savior, your suffering has saved our lives,
secured our future,
and restored us to relationship with God.
Remove the shame and fear
that cause us to cower in your presence.
By the power of your Spirit,
open our eyes and hearts
to your Word of love, mercy,
healing, and blessing;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

SECOND READING: Romans 11:1-2a, 29-32

¹ I ask then: Did God reject his people? By no means! I am an Israelite myself, a descendant of Abraham, from the tribe of Benjamin. ² God did not reject his people, whom he foreknew. Don't you know what Scripture says in the passage about Elijah—how he appealed to God against Israel:... ²⁹ for God's gifts and his call are irrevocable. ³⁰ Just as you who were at one time disobedient to God have now received mercy as a result of their disobedience, ³¹ so they too have now become disobedient in order that they too may now receive mercy as a result of God's mercy to you. ³² For God has bound everyone over to disobedience so that he may have mercy on them all.

SERMON:

"Getting Better at Being Sad"

Rev. Dr. Jared Witt

Apostle's 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 RECEIVING OF TITHES & OFFERINGS

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Gracious Lord, you have given us more mercy
than we could imagine
and more blessings than we deserve.
Receive now these gifts as tokens of our gratitude to you,
that your mercy may be multiplied
and your blessings abound
to embrace all those in need. **Amen.**

CLOSING HYMN

"Go, My Children, with my Blessing"

#719

1. *Go, my children, with my blessing, never alone.
Waking, sleeping, I am with you; you are my own.
In my love's baptismal river I have made you mine forever.
Go, my children, with my blessing - you are my own.*
2. *Go, my children, sins forgiven, at peace and pure.
Here you learned how much I love you, what I can cure.
Here you heard my dear Son's story; here you touched him, saw his glory.
Go, my children, sins forgiven, at peace and pure.*
3. *Go, my children, fed and nourished, closer to me;
grow in love and love by serving, joyful and free.
Here my Spirit's power filled you; here his tender comfort stilled you.
Go, my children, fed and nourished, joyful and free.*
4. *I, the Lord, will bless and keep you and give you peace;
I, the Lord, will smile upon you and give you peace;
I, the Lord, will be your Father, Savior, Comforter, and Brother.
Go, my children, I will keep you and give you peace.*

***BLESSING**

POSTLUDE

Household Prayers

Morning

Merciful God, this day is full of your possibilities
for healing and reconciliation,
for new beginnings and restored relationships.
Unite my heart with your will
so that your abundant anointing will flow through me.
Send me now with your promised blessings
to preserve the lives of those in need. Amen.

Evening

God of the night watches,
guard me from torment,
release me from distress.
Call me close to you and kiss me with your favor
that I may rest secure in you. Amen.