

**Bethel United Church of Christ**  
**Tenth Sunday after Pentecost-**  
**August 9, 2020**

*"Go, go, go Joseph you know what they say. Hang on now  
Joseph you'll make it some day.*

*Don't give up Joseph, fight till you drop. We've read the  
book and you come out on top."*

lyrics from Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dream Coat.

**WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**GATHERING MUSIC "Arise"** Bethel Praise Team

**CALL TO WORSHIP/STATEMENT OF FAITH**  
*(responsive)*

"We are not alone, we live in God's world. We believe in  
God:

**who has created and is creating,  
who has come in Jesus to reconcile and make new,  
who works in us and others by the Spirit.**

Come Holy Spirit! We are called to be the church:

**to celebrate God's presence,  
to love and serve others,  
to seek justice and resist evil,  
to proclaim Jesus...our judge and our hope.**

In life, in death, in life beyond death, God is with us.

**We are not alone."**

Let us worship together.

*edited from the United Church of Canada Statement of Faith*

**INVOCATION** *(unison)*

**God of Life, today we ask that you become part of our worship. Move among us and shake us  
with your word, your vision and your love. Make us aware of your presence through a whisper, a  
song, a prayer. Remind us that we are the ones who are called to do your work and that you will  
give us the strength to carry on. Move us out of complacency and into action. Amen.**

**OPENING HYMN#263** *"Surely the Presence of the Lord"*

## Surely the Presence of the Lord

D F#m Gmaj9 Em

Sure - ly the pres - ence of the Lord is in this place;

A7 D G/D

I can feel his might - y pow - er and his grace.

A7 D F#m

I can hear the brush of an - gels' wings,

Gmaj9 Em

I see glo - ry on each face; sure - ly the

A7 Em7 A7 D

pres - ence of the Lord is in this place.

## OUR SACRED STORY

Genesis 37:1-4, 12-28

Jacob settled in the land where his father had lived as an alien, the land of Canaan. This 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. Now 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. But when his brothers saw that their father loved him more than all his brothers, they hated him, and could not speak peaceably to him.

Now his brothers went to pasture their father's flock near Shechem. And 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." So 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, and a man found him wandering in the fields; the man asked him, "What are you seeking?" "I am seeking my brothers," he said; "tell me, please, where they are pasturing the flock." 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. They saw him from a distance, and before he came near to them, they conspired to kill him. They said to one another, "Here comes this dreamer. 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." But when Reuben heard it, he delivered him out of their hands, saying, "Let us not take his life." Reuben said to them, "Shed no blood; throw him into this pit here in the wilderness, but lay no hand on him" —that he might rescue him out of their hand and restore him to his father.

So when Joseph came to his brothers, they stripped him of his robe, the long robe with sleeves that he wore; and they took him and threw him into a pit. The pit was empty; there was no water in it. Then they sat down to eat; and looking up they saw a caravan of Ishmaelites coming from Gilead, with their camels carrying gum, balm, and resin, on their way to carry it down to Egypt. Then Judah said to his brothers, "What profit is it if we kill our brother and conceal his blood? Come, let us sell him to the Ishmaelites, and not lay our hands on him, for he is our brother, our own flesh." And his brothers agreed. When some Midianite traders passed by, they drew Joseph up, lifting him out of the pit, and sold him to the Ishmaelites for twenty pieces of silver. And they took Joseph to Egypt.

## CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

*"Showing Off"*

**SPECIAL MUSIC**  
Praise Team

*"I am Yours/Take My Life and Let It Be"*

Bethel

**MESSAGE**

*"Tossed in a Pit or When All Seems Lost"*

**HYMN#88**

*"All My Hope on God is Founded"*

# All My Hope on God Is Founded

88

1. All my hope on God is found-ed, who does still my  
2. Hu - man pride and earth - ly glo - ry, sword and crown be -  
3. But in ev - ery time and sea - son, out of love's a -

trust re - new. Safe through change and chance God guides me,  
tray our trust; though with care and toil we build them,  
bun - dant store, God sus - tains the whole cre - a - tion

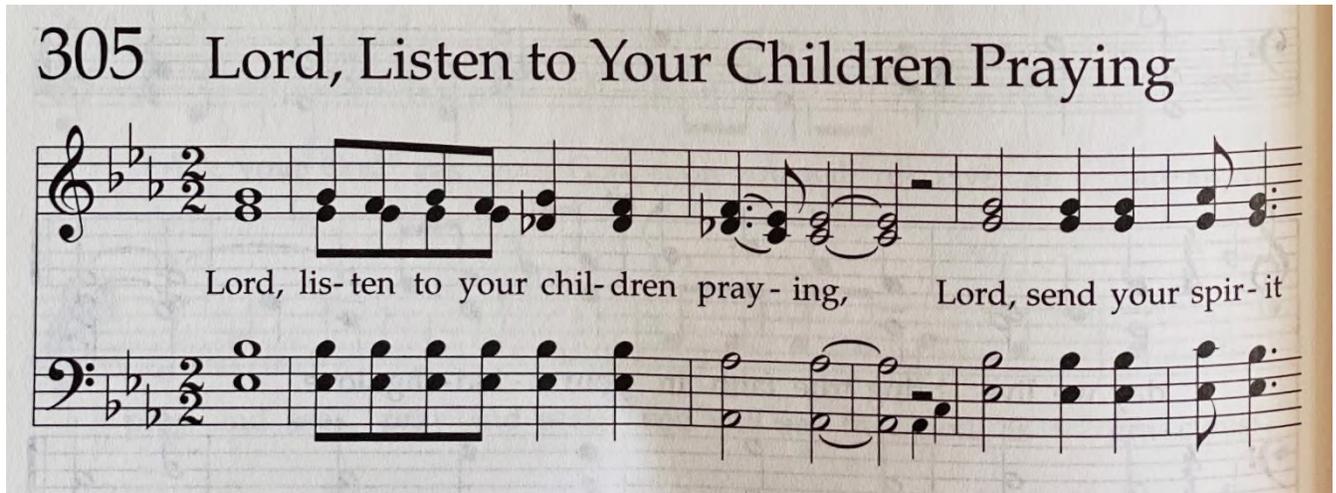
ev - er faith - ful, ev - er true. God un - known,  
tower and tem - ple fall to dust. But God's power,  
fount of life for - ev - er - more. We who share

God a - lone, seeks to claim my heart as home.  
hour by hour, is my tem - ple and my tower.  
earth and air count on God's un - fail - ing care.

The image shows a musical score for the hymn 'All My Hope on God Is Founded'. It consists of six systems of music, each with a vocal line (treble clef) and a bass line (bass clef). The key signature is one flat (B-flat) and the time signature is 4/4. The lyrics are arranged in three stanzas, with the first two lines of each stanza corresponding to the three numbered verses. The music is written in a simple, accessible style suitable for a church choir or congregation.

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE/LORD'S PRAYER** (*forgive us our sins...*)

**RESPONSE #305**    *"Lord Listen to Your Children Praying"*



**OFFERING OF OURSELVES AND OUR GIFTS TO GOD**

Invitation

Offertory

Response

*"Sing"*

*Praise God from whom all blessings flow.*

*Praise God all creatures here below.*

*Praise God above the heavenly host*

*Creator, Christ and Holy Ghost. Amen.*

Prayer of Dedication

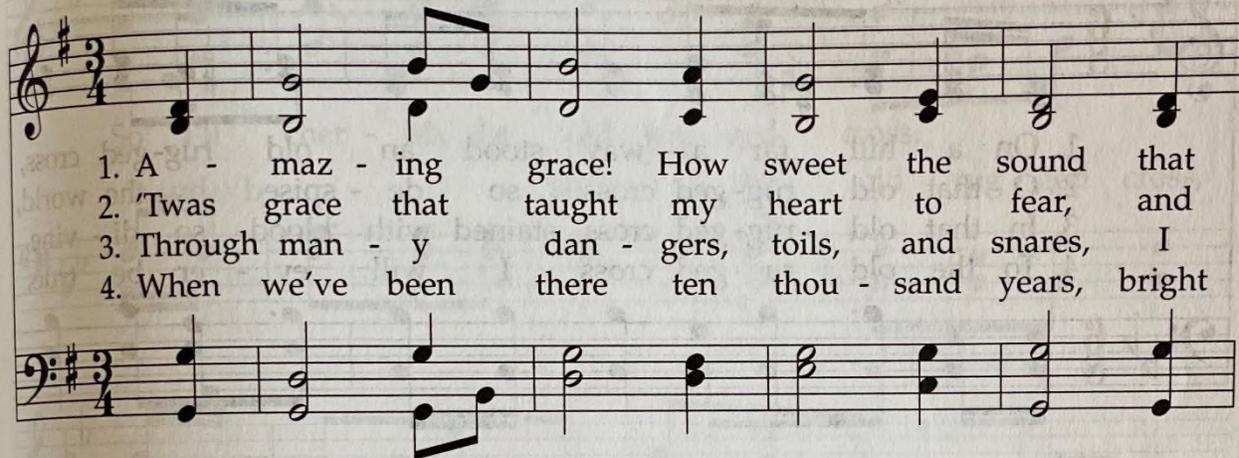
Bethel Praise Team

**CLOSING HYMN #546**

*"Amazing Grace"*

# Amazing Grace!

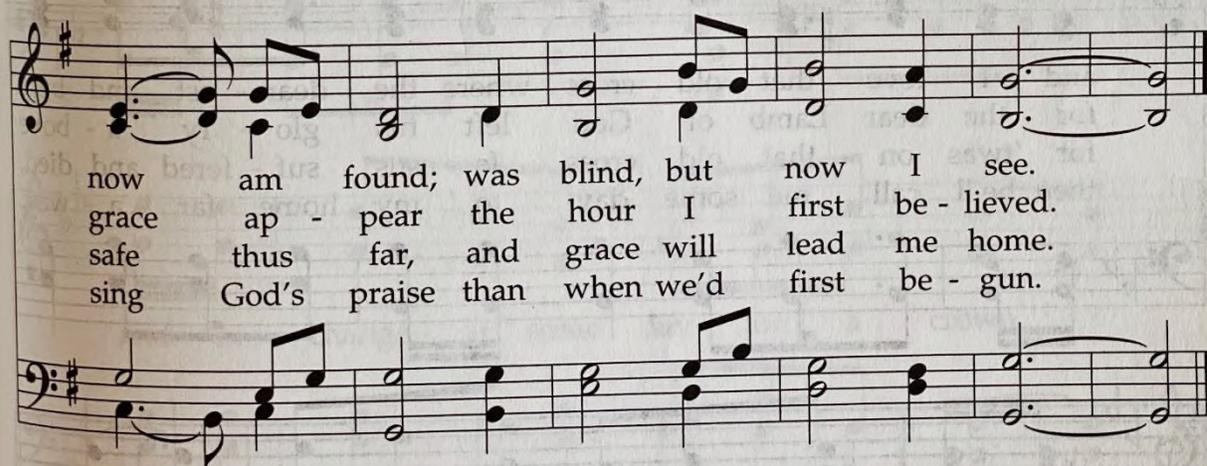
546



1. A - maz - ing grace! How sweet the sound that  
2. 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, and  
3. Through man - y dan - gers, toils, and snares, I  
4. When we've been there ten thou - sand years, bright



saved a wretch like me! I once was lost, but  
grace my fears re - lieved; how pre - cious did that  
have al - read - y come; 'tis grace hath brought me  
shin - ing as the sun, we've no less days to



now am found; was blind, but now I see.  
grace ap - pear the hour I first be - lieved.  
safe thus far, and grace will lead me home.  
sing God's praise than when we'd first be - gun.

WORDS: John Newton, 1779; st. 4 anonymous  
MUSIC: Virginia Harmony, 1821; harm. Edwin O. Excell, 1900

NEW BRITAIN  
CM

## COMMISSION AND BENEDICTION

As we leave let us put our words into action.

May God bless you and keep you.

May God's face shine upon you and be gracious to you.

May God look upon you with kindness and grant you peace. **Amen.**

## POSTLUDE

*"Go, Go Go Joseph"*

Bethel Praise Team

Jason Fleener and Stan Niederhauser

## TENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

August 9, 2020

Genesis 37:1-4, 12-28

### When All Seems Lost

Human trafficking is a real, terrible and often invisible component of our daily life. The United Church of Christ is working to shine light on this hidden human rights crisis.

According to the UCC's justice webpage, [https://www.ucc.org/justice\\_womens-issues\\_human-trafficking](https://www.ucc.org/justice_womens-issues_human-trafficking).<sup>\*</sup> "As of 2016, an estimated 24.9 million people were in modern slavery, not including the 15.4 million that were forced into marriage. Traffickers prey on those from vulnerable communities and force them into labor, and/or exploit them into commercial sexual enterprises. The influx of immigrants crossing the border into America are most susceptible to modern slavery, as traffickers use their vulnerability as immigrants as tools to manipulate and coerce.

Trafficking in persons is a crime against humanity and ultimately a sin. Human trafficking denies the values of human life, exposes victims to serious health risks, endangers the mental well-being of victims and impedes the ability of victims to reach their full God-given potential. As Christians, we believe that every human being is created in the image and likeness of the divine Creator, of God. The prophets cried out against the exploitation of the poor and of laborers who are not treated fairly and compensated justly (Job 24:1-12, for example).

The United Church of Christ has consistently upheld the rights and dignity of workers and of women and children, believing that God calls us into community with each other as sisters and brothers, not as exploiters and exploited. The violence done to the physical, psychological and spiritual wellbeing of children and women who are forced into prostitution, the pornography industry, sex tourism and other forms of exploitation are violations of the call of the Gospel of Jesus Christ to love our neighbors as ourselves. The kingdom of God among us requires us to provide protection for those most vulnerable and to seek conditions which support wholeness and health for everyone."

In today's reading from Genesis, Joseph is sold into slavery by his brothers and trafficked across national borders. For him, this was the first step on the road to a new life, but he needed a lot of helping hands to get him there. May we, as a denomination, as local congregations, and as individuals be that helping hand for those who need it.

<sup>\*</sup>Accessed January 2020. [https://www.ucc.org/justice\\_womens-issues\\_human-trafficking](https://www.ucc.org/justice_womens-issues_human-trafficking)