"Then he fell upon his brother Benjamin's neck and wept, while Benjamin wept upon his neck."

Drawing by Bill Armstrong
Please rise in body and spirit, as you are able

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

Passing the Peace – The West Park Wave
(You are invited to offer a greeting from your seat, offering the Peace of Jesus Christ from your own pew. Please remember to offer a greeting to our online congregation as well.)

♫ I’ve got peace like a river,
   I’ve got peace like a river,
   I’ve got peace like a river in my soul. ♫ (2x)

Call to Worship
One: We have gathered from our different places to worship our God this day.
Many: How good it is to worship together in unity!

One: We come from our different occupations, our diverse activities.
Many: How good it is to worship together in unity!

One: We come as unique individuals, bound together in the love of Christ.
Many: How good it is to worship together in unity!

One: We gather this day, as the Body of Christ, to offer God our praise.
Many: How good it is to worship today in unity!

One: Come, let us worship our God.
Many: AMEN.

Hymn of Praise
Sing Praise to God, Our Highest Good
BLACK 6

Gathering Prayer
Merciful God, we boldly pray to you, confident that you will not reject us.
In spite of our human failings, your love continues to draw us together.
Be with us today, as we rejoice in the power of your love.
Sing with us today, as we proclaim the good news of your grace.
Dance with us today, as we celebrate the unity we share in Christ.
How good it is to be together!
Hallelujah! Amen!
▲GLORIA PATRI
(Please sing the words most comforting to you. Here are two options.)

Glory be to the Father
Glory be to the Parent
and to the Son
and to the Child
and to the Holy Ghost;
as it was in the beginning,
is now and ever shall be,

FAITH FORMATION: For the Young and Young at Heart

THE LORD’S PRAYER
(Please pray the words most comforting to you. Here are two options.)

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 sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. And lead us not into
temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and
the glory, forever. Amen.

Holy God, who is in heaven, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come. Your
will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive
us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. And lead us not into
temptation but deliver us from evil. For yours is the kingdom and the power and
the glory, forever. Amen.

HYMN OF ILLUMINATION
Spirit of the Living God
BLACK 283

SCRIPTURE READING
Genesis 45:4-15,22-26

Then Joseph said to his brothers, “Come closer to me.” And they came
closer. He said, “I am your brother, Joseph, whom you sold into Egypt. And now
do not be distressed, or angry with yourselves, because you sold me here; for
God sent me before you to preserve life. For the famine has been in the land
these two years; and there are five more years in which there will be neither
plowing nor harvest. God sent me before you to preserve for you a remnant on
earth, and to keep alive for you many survivors. So it was not you who sent me
here, but God; he has made me a father to Pharaoh, and lord of all his house
and ruler over all the land of Egypt.

(Please Turn Page)
“Hurry and go up to my father and say to him, ‘Thus says your son Joseph, God has made me lord of all Egypt; come down to me, do not delay. You shall settle in the land of Goshen, and you shall be near me, you and your children and your children’s children, as well as your flocks, your herds, and all that you have. I will provide for you there—since there are five more years of famine to come—so that you and your household, and all that you have, will not come to poverty.’ And now your eyes and the eyes of my brother Benjamin see that it is my own mouth that speaks to you. You must tell my father how greatly I am honored in Egypt, and all that you have seen. Hurry and bring my father down here.”

Then he fell upon his brother Benjamin’s neck and wept, while Benjamin wept upon his neck. And he kissed all his brothers and wept upon them; and after that his brothers talked with him. To each one of them he gave a set of garments; but to Benjamin he gave three hundred pieces of silver and five sets of garments. To his father he sent the following: ten donkeys loaded with the good things of Egypt, and ten female donkeys loaded with grain, bread, and provision for his father on the journey. Then he sent his brothers on their way, and as they were leaving he said to them, “Do not quarrel along the way.”

So they went up out of Egypt and came to their father Jacob in the land of Canaan. And they told him, “Joseph is still alive! He is even ruler over all the land of Egypt.” He was stunned; he could not believe them.

One: God is still speaking
Many: and we are still listening. Thanks be to God.

SERMON
The Rev. Jason Thompson

▲ HYMN OF REFLECTION
There Is a Balm in Gilead
BLACK 553

BLESSING OF PRAYER SHAWLS & QUILTS
One: Trusting you, O God, each of these shawls and quilts was made specifically for the person who will receive it. May they see the intricate love and care given each stitch, to each piece of fabric, mirroring the intricate love and care that you bestow on all people.

Many: Hear our Prayer.
One: Each item was made to bring warmth to someone who feels a chill. May they feel the warm breath of the Holy Spirit as they wrap themselves with it.

Many: Hear our Prayer.

One: Each item was made to bring comfort to someone who feels alone. May they feel comfort in knowing that someone prayed for them as they pieced it together.

Many: Hear our Prayer.

One: Each item was made to bring peace to someone in need of prayer. May they feel the power of our prayers as they feel the yarn winding through their fingers.

Many: Hear our Prayer.

One: May this mantle be a safe haven...

Many: a sacred place of security and well-being... sustaining and embracing in good times as well as difficult ones. May the one who receives it be cradled in hope, kept in joy, and graced with the love and peace of our Savior Jesus Christ. AMEN.

PRESENTATION OF OFFERING
One: As we come to our time of offering, we are invited to offer our gifts before God. If you did not have an opportunity to drop your gift in the plate as you entered the church, our Deacons will slowly pass by each row to provide you an opportunity to give.

OFFERING OF MUSIC Selections from Jesus Christ Superstar Doug Henderson

One: God of all, you created us in your image, that we might be like you – like you in kindness, like you in humility, like you in love. In this moment of giving, let us be like you in generosity as well. We are invited to offer our gifts in person, by mail or online. This morning’s offering will now be received.

▲DOXOLOGY
(Please sing the words most comforting to you. Here are two options.)

Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Him all creatures here below; Praise God all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host; Praise God above, ye heavenly host;

5
PRAYER OF DEDICATION (adapted from Psalm 133)
Our hearts are overflowing with your love, Brother Jesus:
like precious oil that cascades down on the beards of old;
like the rains that shower down upon all creation.
Guide us now, as we share with others the abundance of our joy.
We pray that you will give us the vision to use our blessings to offer hope
to others. In your holy name, may we pray and act. AMEN.

COMMUNITY PRAYERS

PASTORAL PRAYER

HYMN OF DISCIPLESHIP

Sent Forth by God's Blessing
BLACK 76

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Parts of today’s liturgy are adapted from the worship resources of Ministry Matters.
**SUNDAY, 07/30:**
10:00 a.m. Worship  
11:15 a.m. Punch on the Porch  
11:30 a.m. Community Meal  

**MONDAY, 07/31:**
7:00 p.m. Mood Disorder Group, Parlor  

**TUESDAY, 08/01:**
7:30 p.m. Recovery, International, Bartter Hall  

**WEDNESDAY, 08/02:**

**THURSDAY, 08/03:**
6:30 p.m. Rooted and Rising  

**FRIDAY, 08/04:**
Office Closed  
7:30 p.m. Al-Anon, Parlor  

**SATURDAY, 08/05:**
9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. Volunteer Morning  

**SUNDAY, 08/06:**
10:00 a.m. Worship & Holy Communion  
11:15 a.m. Punch on the Porch  

**WE WELCOME** all who are worshiping our God this day into our hearts.  

**THANK YOU TO FELIX GRITTNER** for providing today’s music!  

**DIAL-IN WORSHIP:** For our friends without internet access, we have a dedicated phone line for call in worship.  
+1 929 205 6099  
Meeting ID: 895 0633 3927  
Passcode: 12345; there is no participant ID.  

**Do you play an instrument? Do you like to sing?** If so, please consider signing up for a summer music slot! Not sure what to do or need an accompanist? Email Sue at westparkuccmusic@gmail.com and she'll help you in any way. Scan the QR code, pick a date, and sign up!  

**NEW PHONE DIRECTORIES!** Updated phone directories are available in the church office. If you need one mailed to you, please contact Linda and she will get you one.
THE FLOWERS are in memory of Pat Rust's parents who taught her to enjoy and appreciate nature!

BY THE NUMBERS:
YTD income: $117,485.37. YTD expenses: $146,745.43.
Attendance: For the week of July 16, 76 in person, YouTube 37, Social Media 331. You can boost these numbers by sharing and liking content on our social media platforms!

JULY PINK ENVELOPE SPECIAL OFFERING: Each month, our church collects a special offering to support important and worthwhile ministries. This month's offering will benefit PROVIDENCE HOUSE. PROVIDENCE HOUSE provides safe havens for infants and young children while their parents are dealing with crises in their own lives. The program offers parenting classes so parents and children can be reunited. You may donate in person, by mail or online. When donating online, please select PINK ENVELOPE from the drop-down menu of giving options.

COMMUNITY CUPBOARD FOOD PANTRY: Our pantry is open every 2nd and 3rd Saturday from 9am-11am. If you or someone you know is experiencing food insecurity, please plan to visit us during these hours.

PRAYGROUND: We have our playground set up in the front of the church with various activities for our younger friends. Children are invited to either stay seated with their families or spend time at the playground while in church. As always, the giggles and wiggles of children are most welcome during worship!

SAVE THE DATE: Safe church training will take place after worship on Sunday, August 13. Anyone who works with children and youth in our congregation is required to attend this training every three years.

CHRISTMAS IN JULY: In December 2022, our MOPS group hosted the first annual Christmas Shop to offer free Christmas gifts to local children and youth. It was a huge success and gifts were provided to dozens of children. They hope to grow this ministry and bring the joy of Christmas to even more families this year. During the coming weeks, we are collecting NEW toys, books, clothing, etc. to offer as Christmas gifts during December. If you would like to donate, you may place your unwrapped gift on the table in the narthex. MERRY CHRISTMAS!

BLESSING OF THE BACKPACKS: All children and youth are invited to bring their backpacks to worship on Sunday, August 13. During our time of worship, we will offer blessings for the upcoming school year.
THANK YOU! I was surprised to receive a West Park Hero Award. It was an honor to be included with those younger members, who are doing so much for our church. I especially want to thank Mark Rust for his kind words in the nomination letter. We are all blessed to be members of WPUCC and its service to the community.

Lynne Rice

NOTES

MINISTERS OF GOD’S LOVE........................................................................................................Every Member of WPUCC
SENIOR PASTOR.........................................................................................................................Rev. Jason Thompson
ASSOCIATE PASTOR....................................................................................................................James R. Furry
MINISTER OF COMMUNION.....................................................................................................Dan Moreland
MINISTER OF MUSIC..................................................................................................................Susan Keserich
DIRECTOR OF DIGITAL MINISTRIES.........................................................................................Jennifer White
FOOD PANTRY COORDINATOR..............................................................................................Sara Jovanovic
CHURCH ADMINISTRATOR........................................................................................................Linda Ferro
LECTOR........................................................................................................................................Gail Kenney
COUNTERS....................................................................................................................................Margaret Owens, Marilyn & Jim Furry

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