



Immanuel Presbyterian Church

8:30am Alternative Worship Service

September 10, 2023

*Discovering and displaying Christ
in here and out there*

CELEBRATION OF THE LORD'S DAY

(*Please stand as you are able)

Welcome and Community Life

Prayer of Adoration

*Song

Fill My Cup

Ripp, Hulse, Cockrell

*Call to Worship

Selections from Psalm 91

One: You who live in the shelter of the Most High, who abide in the shadow of the Almighty, will say to the LORD,

All: "My refuge and my fortress; my God, in whom I trust."

One: For he will deliver you from the snare of the hunter and from the deadly pestilence;

All: he will cover you with his pinions, and under his wings you will find refuge; his faithfulness is a shield and defense.

One: You will not fear the terror of the night or the arrow that flies by day

All: or the pestilence that stalks in darkness or the destruction that wastes at noonday.

One: Those who love me, I will deliver; I will protect those who know my name.

All: When they call to me, I will answer them; I will be with them in trouble; I will rescue them and honor them.

One: With long life I will satisfy them and show them my salvation.

*Song

Lutheran Hymn

Roe

*Song

In Christ Alone

Getty, Townend

Children's Message

Prayer for Illumination

Scripture Reading

Genesis 41: 1-16; 25-57 NRSVue

¹ After two whole years, Pharaoh dreamed that he was standing by the Nile, ² and there came up out of the Nile seven sleek and fat cows, and they grazed in the reed grass. ³ Then seven other cows, ugly and thin, came up out of the Nile after them and stood by the other cows on the bank of the Nile. ⁴ The ugly and thin cows ate up the seven sleek and fat cows. And Pharaoh

awoke.⁵ Then he fell asleep and dreamed a second time; seven ears of grain, plump and good, were growing on one stalk.⁶ Then seven ears, thin and blighted by the east wind, sprouted after them.⁷ The thin ears swallowed up the seven plump and full ears. Pharaoh awoke, and it was a dream.⁸ In the morning his spirit was troubled, so he sent and called for all the magicians of Egypt and all its wise men. Pharaoh told them his dreams, but there was no one who could interpret them to Pharaoh.⁹ Then the chief cupbearer said to Pharaoh, "I remember my faults today."¹⁰ Once Pharaoh was angry with his servants and put me and the chief baker in custody in the house of the captain of the guard.¹¹ We dreamed on the same night, he and I, each having a dream with its own meaning.¹² A young Hebrew was there with us, a servant of the captain of the guard. When we told him, he interpreted our dreams to us, giving an interpretation to each according to his dream.¹³ As he interpreted to us, so it turned out; I was restored to my office, and the baker was hanged."¹⁴ Then Pharaoh sent for Joseph, and he was hurriedly brought out of the dungeon. When he had shaved himself and changed his clothes, he came in before Pharaoh.¹⁵ And Pharaoh said to Joseph, "I had a dream, and there is no one who can interpret it. I have heard it said of you that when you hear a dream you can interpret it."¹⁶ Joseph answered Pharaoh, "It is not I; God will give Pharaoh a favorable answer."

²⁵ Then Joseph said to Pharaoh, "Pharaoh's dreams are one and the same; God has revealed to Pharaoh what he is about to do."²⁶ The seven good cows are seven years, and the seven good ears are seven years; the dreams are one.²⁷ The seven lean and ugly cows that came up after them are seven years, as are the seven empty ears blighted by the east wind. They are seven years of famine.²⁸ It is as I told Pharaoh; God has shown to Pharaoh what he is about to do.²⁹ There will come seven years of great plenty throughout all the land of Egypt.³⁰ After them there will arise seven years of famine, and all the plenty will be forgotten in the land of Egypt; the famine will consume the land.³¹ The plenty will no longer be known in the land because of the famine that will follow, for it will be very grievous.³² And the doubling of Pharaoh's dream means that the thing is fixed by God, and God will shortly bring it about.³³ Now therefore let Pharaoh select a man who is discerning and wise and set him over the land of Egypt.³⁴ Let Pharaoh proceed to appoint overseers over the land and take one-fifth of the produce of the land of Egypt during the seven plenteous years.³⁵ Let them gather all the food of these good years that are coming and lay up grain under the authority of Pharaoh for food in the cities, and let them keep it.³⁶ That food shall be a reserve for the land against the seven years of famine that are to befall the land of Egypt, so that the land may not perish through the famine."³⁷ The proposal pleased Pharaoh and all his servants.³⁸ Pharaoh said to his servants, "Can we find anyone else like this, one in whom is the spirit of God?"³⁹ So Pharaoh said to Joseph, "Since God has shown you all this, there is no one so discerning and wise as you."⁴⁰ You shall be over my house, and all my people shall order themselves as you command; only with regard to the throne will I be greater than you."⁴¹ And Pharaoh said to Joseph, "See, I have set you over all the land of Egypt."⁴² Removing his signet ring from his hand, Pharaoh put it on Joseph's hand; he arrayed him in garments of fine linen and put a gold chain around his neck.⁴³ He had him ride in the chariot of his second-in-command, and they cried out in front of him, "Bow the knee!" Thus he set him over all the land of Egypt.⁴⁴ Moreover, Pharaoh said to Joseph, "I am Pharaoh, and

without your consent no one shall lift up hand or foot in all the land of Egypt.”⁴⁵ Pharaoh gave Joseph the name Zaphenath-paneah, and he gave him Asenath daughter of Potiphera, priest of On, as his wife. Thus Joseph gained authority over the land of Egypt.⁴⁶ Joseph was thirty years old when he entered the service of Pharaoh king of Egypt. And Joseph went out from the presence of Pharaoh and went through all the land of Egypt.⁴⁷ During the seven plenteous years the earth produced abundantly.⁴⁸ He gathered up all the food of the seven years when there was plenty in the land of Egypt and stored up food in the cities; he stored up in every city the food from the fields around it.⁴⁹ So Joseph stored up grain in such abundance—like the sand of the sea—that he stopped measuring it; it was beyond measure.⁵⁰ Before the years of famine came, Joseph had two sons, whom Asenath daughter of Potiphera, priest of On, bore to him.⁵¹ Joseph named the firstborn Manasseh, “For,” he said, “God has made me forget all my hardship and all my father’s house.”⁵² The second he named Ephraim, “For God has made me fruitful in the land of my misfortunes.”⁵³ The seven years of plenty that prevailed in the land of Egypt came to an end,⁵⁴ and the seven years of famine began to come, just as Joseph had said. There was famine in every country, but throughout the land of Egypt there was bread.⁵⁵ When all the land of Egypt was famished, the people cried to Pharaoh for bread. Pharaoh said to all the Egyptians, “Go to Joseph; what he says to you, do.”⁵⁶ And since the famine had spread over all the land, Joseph opened all the storehouses and sold to the Egyptians, for the famine was severe in the land of Egypt.⁵⁷ Moreover, all the world came to Joseph in Egypt to buy grain, because the famine became severe throughout the world.

One: The grass withers and the flower fades, but the Word of God endures forever.

All: Thanks be to God!

Sermon Series

Sermon

When Dreams Come True
Pharaoh's Dream and Joseph's Rise
Rev. John C. Tittle

Response to the Good News

“Then Pharaoh sent for Joseph, and he was hurriedly brought out of the dungeon. When he had shaved himself and changed his clothes, he came in before Pharaoh.” Put yourself in the sandals of Joseph. Imagine yourself called from the dungeon to the palace of the king. *What old clothes of your old life of captivity do you want to throw away? What new clothes of your new life of freedom and responsibility do you want to put on?*

You are invited to go to one of the prayers stations and write on a rag what you want to dispose of from your old life. Throw it in the provided clothes hamper. Then pick up a new cloth provided at the prayer station to take with you as a reminder of your new position in Christ Jesus.

Prayer of Dedication

All: In gratitude, O God, we come to your table, into your presence, into your house. For all that you have done for us, most especially, for clothing us in the light and life of Jesus Christ, we offer our thanks and praise. Amen.

Prayers of the People

One: Lord in your mercy,

All: hear us and help us.

The Lord's Prayer

All: 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.

***Closing Song**

Greater

MercyMe

***Charge and Benediction**

Participants:

Rev. Dr. John C. Tittle

Clay Whittington, Director of Music Ministries

Kris Goorsky, Director of Christian Formation

Joey Samoy, lay reader

Ed Vander Woude, audio visual

Adoración Ensemble – George Davis, Joy Hager, Sandy Russell, Clay Whittington, Bob and Carol Van Gelder

Acknowledgments:

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Bulletin Art: Page from "Genesis", Koberger Bible, Nuremberg, 1483; verso: colored woodcut illustrating Pharaoh's dream of the seven kine, artmuseum.princeton.edu

