

August 27, 2023

13th Sunday after Pentecost



Come Worship the Living



PRELUDE

OPENING PRAYER

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

HYMN

There is a Balm in Gilead

UMH 375

Refrain:

There is a balm in Gilead
to make the wounded whole;
there is a balm in Gilead
to heal the sin-sick soul.

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

(Refrain)

1 Some times I feel discouraged,
and think my work's in vain.
But then the Holy Spirit
revives my soul again.

3 If you can't preach like Peter,
if you can't pray like Paul,
just tell the love of Jesus,
and say he died for all.

(Refrain)

(Refrain)

SPECIAL MUSIC

SCRIPTURE

Genesis 45:1-15

NRSV

Then Joseph could no longer control himself before all those who stood by him, and he cried out, "Send everyone away from me." So no one stayed with him when Joseph made himself known to his brothers. 2 And he wept so loudly that the Egyptians heard it, and the household of Pharaoh heard it. 3 Joseph said to his brothers, "I am Joseph. Is my father still alive?" But his brothers could not answer him, so dismayed were they at his presence. 4 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. 5 And now do not be distressed or angry with yourselves because you sold me here, for God sent me before you to preserve life. 6 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. 7 God sent me before you to preserve for you a remnant on earth and to keep alive for you many survivors. 8 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. 9 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. 10 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. 11 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.' 12 And now your eyes and the eyes of my brother Benjamin see that it is my own mouth that speaks to you.¹³ 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." 14 Then he fell upon his brother Benjamin's neck and wept, while Benjamin wept upon his neck. 15 And he kissed all his brothers and wept upon them, and after that his brothers talked with him.

NLT

Joseph could stand it no longer. There were many people in the room, and he said to his attendants, "Out, all of you!" So he was alone with his brothers when he told them who he was. 2 Then he broke down and wept. He wept so loudly the Egyptians could hear him, and word of it quickly carried to Pharaoh's palace. 3 "I am Joseph!" he said to his brothers. "Is my father still alive?" But his brothers were speechless! They were stunned to realize that Joseph was standing there in front of them. 4 "Please, come closer," he said to them. So they came closer. And he said again, "I am Joseph, your brother, whom you sold into slavery in Egypt. 5 But don't be upset, and don't be angry with yourselves for selling me to this place. It was God who sent me here ahead of you to preserve your lives. 6 This famine that has ravaged the land for two years will last five more years, and there will be neither plowing nor harvesting. 7 God has sent me ahead of you to keep you and your families alive and to preserve many survivors. 8 So it was God who sent me here, not you! And he is the one who made me an adviser to Pharaoh—the man

ager of his entire palace and the governor of all Egypt. 9 "Now hurry back to my father and tell him, 'This is what your son Joseph says: God has made me master over all the land of Egypt. So come down to me immediately! 10 You can live in the region of Goshen, where you can be near me with all your children and grandchildren, your flocks and herds, and everything you own. 11 I will take care of you there, for there are still five years of famine ahead of us. Otherwise you, your household, and all your animals will starve.'" 12 Then Joseph added, "Look! You can see for yourselves, and so can my brother Benjamin, that I really am Joseph!" 13 Go tell my father of my honored position here in Egypt. Describe for him everything you have seen, and then bring my father here quickly." 14 Weeping with joy, he embraced Benjamin, and Benjamin did the same. 15 Then Joseph kissed each of his brothers and wept over them, and after that they began talking freely with him.

LEADER: This is the Word of God for the people of God

ALL: Thanks be to God.

SERMON Family Lessons: *It's Me*

Pastor Claudia Stallings

PRAYER & LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father, which 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,

and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

OFFERING OUR TITHES & GIFTS

DOXOLOGY

Praise God from Whom all blessings flow,

Praise Him all creatures here below,

Praise Him above ye heavenly hosts,

Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

HYMN *Where Charity and Love Prevail*

UMH 549

1 Where charity and love
prevail, there God is ever
found;
Brought here together by
Christ's love,
by love are we thus bound.

2 With grateful joy and holy
fear true charity we learn;
Let us with heart and mind
and strength now love
Christ in return.

3 Forgive we now each other's
faults as we our faults
confess; And let us love
each other well in Christian
holiness.

4 Let strife among us be
unknown, let all contention
cease; Be Christ the glory
that we seek, be ours His
holy peace.

5 Let us recall that in our
midst dwells God's begot-
ten Son; As members of
His body joined, we are in
Him made one.

6 Love can exclude no race
or creed, if honored be
God's name; Our common
life embraces all whose
Maker is the same.

DISMISSAL WITH BLESSING

DRAWING CIRCLES OF PRAYER AROUND:

Matt Amason

Frannie Shreve

Mitch Early

Fred Snyder

Sherry Fox

Robert Earl Williams Jr.

Henry Gonzalez

Doris Hancock

Jim & Laurie

Harry Newman

UPCOMING EVENTS

Full calendar can be found at www.ramseymemorial.org

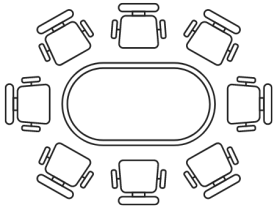
August 31	Prayer Group	11:00 am
September 3	14th Sunday after Pentecost	10:00 am, Sanctuary
September 7	Prayer Group	11:00 am
September 8	55+ Luncheon	12:00 pm, Fellowship Hall
September 10	15th Sunday of Pentecost	10:00 am, Sanctuary

Scan the QR code below to be
directed to our online giving
resource!



ANNOUNCEMENTS

LEADERSHIP BOARD

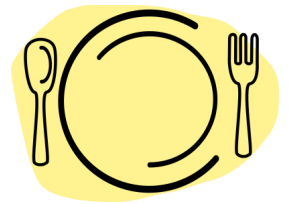


Ramsey Church's governance structure, the Leadership Board, will hold its monthly meeting Tuesday, September 19 at 6:00pm ON ZOOM.

All are invited. Please contact the church office if you would like the ZOOM link. The ZOOM link for each meeting is the same from month to month. If you have received the link in the past, you may use it for the upcoming meeting.

NEIGHBORHOOD SUPPER

Ramsey's next Neighborhood Supper will be Saturday, September 30 at 5:00 pm in the CLC. Come join us!



BIBLE STUDY

Our ongoing Ladies Bible Study is going to be starting a study on Revelation. We meet on Mondays from 10:00 to 11:30 at the church and would love to have you join us! Call Deborah (804-624-8390) about any questions you may have.



Please Pray for Your Leadership

Dear Brothers & Sisters in Christ,

Jesus said in Luke 11:9, "So I say to you: Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you."

Please be in prayer for your Leadership Board and Pastor Claudia as we prepare for Ramsey's Annual Leadership Retreat (September 15-17). Prayers are critical in this whole process. We ask God:

- To be with us and to speak to our church leadership
- To help us determine Ramsey's core values
- To know what God's Vision is for Ramsey
- To see our Mission Field with God's eyes

Your 2023/24 Leadership Board includes: Scotty Doyle, Will Flynn, Linda Guil-mart, Karen Hall, Rick Hallinan, Melanie Hewes, Tammy Howe, Craig Lane, Joan McGowan, Bert Smith, Mike Thomas.

Keep this displayed in a visible place as a reminder to pray.