

WAKE FOREST BAPTIST CHURCH  
TWENTIETH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST  
September 25, 2016

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**Chiming of the Hour**

**Preparation for Worship**

Forgiveness is an act of the will, and the will can function regardless of the temperature of the heart. ~Corrie Ten Boom

The weak can never forgive. Forgiveness is the attribute of the strong. ~Mahatma Gandhi

**Prelude**

*Autumn* from *The Seasons* Antonio Vivaldi (1678-1741)

\* **Call to Worship** Lia Scholl

If we were self-sufficient, and had all the answers,  
**we would not be here, all-wise God.**

If our achievements matched our aims  
And if our deeds perfectly mirrored our vows,  
**we would not be so spiritually hungry, God of truth and grace.**

If we had cared for our neighbors with the love of Jesus Christ,  
and cherished our loved ones without selfishness or impatience,  
**we would not be seeking your forgiveness, redeeming God.**

\* **Hymn of Praise No. 73** WELLESLEY  
*There's a Wideness in God's Mercy*

*There's a wideness in God's mercy like the wideness of the sea;  
there's a kindness in God's justice, which is more than liberty.*

*There is welcome for the sinner, and more graces for the good!  
There is mercy with the Savior; there is healing in his blood.*

*For the love of God is broader than the measure of our mind;  
and the heart of the Eternal is most wonderfully kind.*

*If our love were but more simple, we would rest upon God's word;  
and our lives would be illumined by the presence of the Lord.*

\* **Invocation** Nancy Hall

**Welcome and Passing of the Peace of Christ**

**Gathering Music** MAKE US ONE

*Make us one, Lord, make us one,  
Holy Spirit, make us one.  
Let your love flow so the world will know,  
we are one in you.*

**Introduction to Our Sacred Text**

**First Lesson from the Hebrew Bible** Genesis 37:3-8, 17b-22, 26-34, NRSV  
Jacob loved Joseph more than any of his other children because Joseph had been born to him in his old age. So one day Jacob had a special gift made for Joseph—a beautiful robe. But his brothers hated Joseph because their father loved him more than the rest of them. They couldn't say a kind word to him.

One night Joseph had a dream, and when he told his brothers about it, they hated him more than ever. "Listen to this dream," he said. "We were out in the field, tying up bundles of grain. Suddenly my bundle stood up, and your bundles all gathered around and bowed low before mine!"

His brothers responded, "So you think you will be our king, do you? Do you actually think you will reign over us?" And they hated him all the more because of his dreams and the way he talked about them.

So Joseph followed his brothers to Dothan and found them there. When Joseph's brothers saw him coming, they recognized him in the distance. As he approached, they made plans to kill him. "Here comes the dreamer!" they said. "Come on, let's kill him and throw him into one of these cisterns. We can tell our father, 'A wild animal has eaten him.' Then we'll see what becomes of his dreams!"

But when Reuben heard of their scheme, he came to Joseph's rescue. "Let's not kill him," he said. "Why should we shed any blood? Let's just throw him into this empty cistern here in the wilderness. Then he'll die without our laying a hand on him." Reuben was secretly planning to rescue Joseph and return him to his father.

Judah said to his brothers, "What will we gain by killing our brother? We'd have to cover up the crime. Instead of hurting him, let's sell him to those Ishmaelite traders. After all, he is our brother—our own flesh and blood!" And his brothers agreed. So when the Ishmaelites, who were Midianite traders, came by, Joseph's brothers pulled him out of the cistern and sold him to them for twenty pieces of silver. And the traders took him to Egypt.

Some time later, Reuben returned to get Joseph out of the cistern. When he discovered that Joseph was missing, he tore his clothes in grief. Then he went back to his brothers and lamented, "The boy is gone! What will I do now?"

Then the brothers killed a young goat and dipped Joseph's robe in its blood. They sent the beautiful robe to their father with this message: "Look at what we found. Doesn't this robe belong to your son?" Their father recognized it immediately. "Yes," he said, "it is my son's robe. A wild animal must have eaten him. Joseph has clearly been torn to pieces!" Then Jacob tore his clothes and dressed himself in burlap. He mourned deeply for his son for a long time.

\* **Hymn of Offering No. 566** FINLANDIA  
*Be Still, My Soul*

**Giving Our Tithes and Offerings**

\* **Offertory Response** LASST UNS ERFREUEN  
*Praise God from Whom All Blessings Come*

*Praise God from whom all blessings come;  
Praise God, in Christ, the risen one:  
Alleluia! Alleluia!*

*Praise God, the source of all our gifts!  
Praise Jesus Christ, whose power uplifts!  
Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit!  
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!*

*The children may exit to the Children's Room (107B) for playtime.*

\* **Offertory Prayer**

**Second Lesson from the Hebrew Bible** Genesis 50:15-21, NLT

But now that their father was dead, Joseph's brothers became fearful. "Now Joseph will show his anger and pay us back for all the wrong we did to him," they said.

So they sent this message to Joseph: "Before your father died, he instructed us to say to you: 'Please forgive your brothers for the great wrong they did to you—for their sin in treating you so cruelly.' So we, the servants of the God of your father, beg you to forgive our sin." When Joseph received the message, he broke down and wept. Then his brothers came and threw themselves down before Joseph. "Look, we are your slaves!" they said.

But Joseph replied, "Don't be afraid of me. Am I God, that I can punish you? You intended to harm me, but God intended it all for good. He brought me to this position so I could save the lives of many people. No, don't be afraid. I will continue to take care of you and your children." So he reassured them by speaking kindly to them.

**Prayers of the People**

\* **Lesson from the Gospels** Luke 6:35, NRSV

But love your enemies, do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return. Your reward will be great, and you will be children of the Most High; for he is kind to the ungrateful and the wicked.

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord. **All: Thanks be to God.**

**Anthem** word and music by Jonas Myrin and Matt Redman  
*Bless the Lord (10,000 Reasons)*

*Bless the Lord, O my soul, O my soul, Worship God's holy name.  
Sing like never before, O my soul. I'll worship Your holy name.*

*The sun comes up, it's a new day dawning. It's time to sing Your song again.  
Whatever may pass and whatever lies before me let me be singing when the evening comes.*

*You're rich in love and You're slow to anger. Your name is great and Your heart is kind.  
For all Your goodness, I will keep on singing, ten thousand reasons for my heart to find.*

*And on that day when my strength is failing, the end draws near and my time has come,  
Still my soul will sing Your praise unending, ten thousand years and then forevermore.*

**Sermon**

*Seeking Forgiveness: Making Peace with the Past*

Lia Scholl

**Reflecting on the Sermon**

*Following the sermon, we will have a few moments of silent reflection. If you feel the movement of the Spirit to share your thoughts, please make your way to the microphone.*

\* **Hymn of Commitment No. 494**

*They'll Know We Are Christians*

ST. BRENDAN'S

*We invite you to commit your life to Christ as a disciple and to join our church as a member. We receive members by transfer of church membership, confession of faith in Jesus followed by believer's baptism, or by statement of previous Christian experience. You may also wish to reaffirm your faith in Christ or make other commitments. You are welcome to come forward at this time.*

**Announcements and Welcoming New Members**

\* **Benediction**

**Postlude**

*Little Prelude in C*

J.S. Bach (1685-1750)

*\*Please stand as you are able.*

**TODAY IN WORSHIP**

**Sexton** ..... *Steve Andrews*  
**Worship Leader** ..... *Nancy Hall*  
**Reception** ..... *Marianne McIver*  
**Ushers** ..... *Eve and Steve Andrews, Lydia Cavanaugh, Erica Jernigan*  
**Sound System** ..... *Glenn Aldridge, Steve Andrews, Bob Ellison*

**STAFF**

**Minister of Campus Engagement** ..... *Elizabeth Corney*  
**Choir Director/Organist** ..... *Woodson Faulkner*  
**Member Care Specialist** ..... *Don Roberson*  
**Pastor** ..... *Lia Scholl*

**PRAYER CONCERNS**

**Our Faith Community**

Ed Adams and David Marshall  
Angie Bowman  
Jim and Mabel Brandon  
Penny Ender  
Margaret Johnston

**Our Loved Ones**

Doris Adams, Betty Ellison's friend  
Beverly Aldridge, Glenn's relative  
Carolyn Christman, Jean's daughter  
R.W. Goins, Teresa's father  
Carol Goyne, Betty Ellison's brother  
Dorothy Griffin, Howard Shields' sister  
Joyce Hash, Kathi Diana's friend  
Robert Mercurio, Kathi Diana's brother  
Wendell Swain, Martha Wood's cousin  
Della Terrell, Martha Wood's aunt  
Donna Warden, sister of Eve Andrews  
Louie, friend of Terry Lovelace

**WAKE FOREST BAPTIST CHURCH**

**CALENDAR OF ACTIVITIES**

**Sunday Schedule**

10:00 Sunday School Classes, Rooms 206 and 202  
Godly Play, Children's Room 107B  
11:00 Worship, Wait Chapel  
12:00 Reception, Narthex  
12:15 Chancel Choir Rehearsal, Wait Chapel

**Sunday, September 25**

11:00 Worship  
12:15 Called Church Conference, Wait Chapel

**Tuesday, September 27**

7:00 Shifting the Paradigm, Wait Chapel

**Wednesday, September 28**

10:00 Community Office Hours, Starbucks – North Dining Hall  
5:30 Supper – Lower Auditorium

**Sunday, October 2**

11:00 Worship  
Communion and Hunger Offering

**COMMUNITY NEWS**

**Shifting the Paradigm: The Roll of Faith Communities in Improving the Lives of LGBTQ Individuals and Families** Join us Tuesday, September 27 in Wait Chapel as we find ways to combat the stigma and oppression that our LGBTQ neighbors still face, whether through HB2 or other legislation. Pastor Lia, Rabbi Mark Strauss-Cohn, and Robert Hoffman, LPCA will join an LGBTQ panel in highlighting the ways faith communities can welcome, affirm, and celebrate LGBTQ folks. If you're willing to host, please contact Lia.

**Wednesday Night Supper:** This Wednesday night supper will be soup, salad and dessert. If you would like to bring soup, please let Judy Lovelace know.

**Sign Ups for PRIDE and the CROP Walk are in the Narthex.** Join us in these fun activities that raise awareness for LGBTQ rights and inclusion and local and global hunger, respectively, on the weekend of October 15 and 16.

**College Students and Young Adults:** Please join us for pancakes and conversation downstairs in the Lower Auditorium on the first Sunday of every month.

**Hearing Devices and Large Print Hymnals** are available. Talk with an usher if you need assistance. **Audio recordings** of the Worship Service are available on the church website. **Music and Lyrics** are reprinted with permission of OneLicense # A-719218.

*Wake Forest Baptist Church is a progressive, welcoming and affirming Christian community committed to Jesus Christ. We value prophetic worship, thoughtful religious education, social justice, and peacemaking.*



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