

# Church Together

Joseph – Son & Brother

21st April 2024



# Welcome

Today's Service we will be looking at: **Genesis 37 v. 1 - 11**

The theme for our service today is: **Joseph - Son & Brother**

Today our service also includes: **Communion**

We hope that you will be able to engage with everything that has been produced for today's service and that you would be able to **Be Open For God To Change You, For The Better!**

# Call To Worship

## **Psalm 121 v. 1 - 8 NLT**

I look to the mountains -

Does my help come from there?

My help comes from the Lord,

Who made the heavens and the earth!

He will not let you stumble and fall;

The one who watches over you will not sleep.

Indeed, he who watches over Israel

Never tires and never sleeps.

The Lord himself watches over you!

The Lord stands beside you as your

Protective shade.

The sun will not hurt you by day,

Nor the moon at night.

The Lord keeps you from all evil

And preserves your life.

The Lord keeps watch over you as you come and go,

Both now and forever.

# Opening Prayer

Lord, we thank you that we are able to come and meet together in your name today. As we gather we come as individuals, but also as a fellowship of believers together. We recognise that although we are all different, we are all bound together through your love that was shown to us by Jesus. Therefore, we thank you loving Lord that we can come together this morning to worship and offer our praise and thanks to you.

Be with us in our worship today Lord as we look at your word this morning, guide us we pray as we try and understand what your word has to say to us both as individuals and as a church. Lord with you all things are possible, therefore, help us to live our lives full of your love and wisdom. Encourage us we pray to work together for your kingdom in and through your name we pray.

**Amen**

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# Song Suggestion

Amazing Grace, How Sweet The  
Sound



**Cherish your human connections: your relationships with friends and family.**

**-Joseph Brodsky**

# Tithes, Gifts & Offerings

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No matter wherever you are, whatever you do, whoever you are, together we can grow as Church Together here at Salendine Nook.

If you feel that your are able to, then please keep on giving with a cheerful and grateful heart, praising God for all that he has given to you and share in the finances of the church.



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# Song Suggestion

The Lord's My Shepherd, I'll Not  
Want





# Bible Reading

## Genesis 37 v. 1 – 11 NIV

### Joseph's Dreams

37 Jacob lived in the land where his father had stayed, the land of Canaan. 2 This is the account of Jacob's family line.

Joseph, a young man of seventeen, was tending the flocks with his brothers, the sons of Bilhah and the sons of Zilpah, his father's wives, and he brought their father a bad report about them.

3 Now Israel loved Joseph more than any of his other sons, because he had been born to him in his old age; and he made an ornate robe for him. 4 When his brothers saw that their father loved him more than any of them, they hated him and could not speak a kind word to him.

5 Joseph had a dream, and when he told it to his brothers, they hated him all the more. 6 He said to them, "Listen to this dream I had: 7 We were binding sheaves of grain out in the field when suddenly my sheaf rose and stood upright, while your sheaves gathered around mine and bowed down to it."

8 His brothers said to him, "Do you intend to reign over us? Will you actually rule us?" And they hated him all the more because of his dream and what he had said.

9 Then he had another dream, and he told it to his brothers. "Listen," he said, "I had another dream, and this time the sun and moon and eleven stars were bowing down to me."

10 When he told his father as well as his brothers, his father rebuked him and said, "What is this dream you

had? Will your mother and I and your brothers actually come and bow down to the ground before you?" 11 His brothers were jealous of him, but his father kept the matter in mind.



**IN LIFE YOU MAY  
FAIL, BUT GOD'S  
LOVE FOR YOU  
WILL NEVER FAIL.**

# Communion

As we gather today we come to share in this act of Communion together, remembering the love and sacrifice that Jesus made for us on the Cross. We remember the price that he paid for our sins and for our forgiveness. We gather together here in Church as the body of Christ in order to share the bread and the cup together. We come in faith, conscious of our weakness, seeking to renounce our sin, humbly putting our trust in Christ, and seeking his grace, as we look forward to the day when he will come again.

## **A prayer of Thanksgiving:**

Heavenly Father, we offer you this day our praise and thanksgiving; we thank you for raising Jesus to life again and exalting him so that we might call him 'Lord', as we offer our faithfulness to him and seek to share in his ways. Loving Lord, we thank you for the gift of your Holy Spirit, powerfully present in your people and your world, for the fellowship of your church, and for all the means of grace and the hope of glory. Living God, fill us with your Spirit, that as we share this bread and this cup we may feed on the body and blood of Christ, and be empowered for service in your world. Heavenly Father, accept our prayers and thanksgiving in the name of Jesus, the light of the world and the life of your people.

## **Our normal practice is to say these words:**

For I received from the Lord what I also pass on to you: The Lord Jesus, on the night he was betrayed, took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, 'This is my body, which is for you; do this in remembrance of

me.' In the same way, after supper he took the cup, saying, 'This cup is the new covenant in my blood; do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me.' For whenever you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

### **1 Corinthians 11 v. 22 - 26**

**After all have received the bread and the cup and after a period of silence, we end with these words in a Prayer of Thanksgiving for the blessings received at the Table:**

**Leader:** Your death, O Lord, we commemorate. Your resurrection we celebrate. Your final coming we await. May the glory be to you, O Lord.

**Response:** Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

Loving Gracious God, we praise you for what you have given and for what you have promised us here. You have made us one with all who know you as Lord and Saviour. You have fed us with the bread of life and renewed us for your service. Now we give ourselves to you and we ask that our daily living may be part of the life of your eternal kingdom, and that our love may be your love in the world where we find ourselves., through Jesus Christ our Lord, we pray these things.

**Amen**

# Church Together

## Thought

You don't have to be a psychologist to realise that Jacob's family as seen in the Old Testament had some relationship problems! Some family members had an overdose of attention, while others were ignored. Jacob's wives vied for his affection, and Joseph enjoyed the status of being a favourite son, while the rest of his brothers struggled with jealousy, anger, and rage. You cannot love too much, but there is such a thing as showing love inappropriately.

Encouraging self-centredness and neglecting to teach concern for others is not loving, but that's what Jacob did. He loved Joseph dearly but didn't teach him concern or sensitivity to his brothers' feelings. Joseph seems to have grown up believing that the whole world revolved around him. His thoughtless, even arrogant attitude aggravated his brothers' feelings of anger and jealousy and paved the way for the events that followed.

In the New Testament we read in **James 2 v. 1 – 9**, the following: 'My brothers and sisters, believers in our glorious Lord Jesus Christ must not show favouritism. 2 Suppose a man comes into your meeting wearing a gold ring and fine clothes, and a poor man in filthy old clothes also comes in. 3 If you show special attention to the man wearing fine clothes and say, "Here's a good seat for you," but say to the poor man, "You stand there" or "Sit on the floor by my feet," 4 have you not discriminated among

yourselves and become judges with evil thoughts? Listen, my dear brothers, and sisters: Has not God chosen those who are poor in the eyes of the world to be rich in faith and to inherit the kingdom he promised those who love him? 6 But you have dishonoured the poor. Is it not the rich who are exploiting you? Are they not the ones who are dragging you into court? 7 Are they not the ones who are blaspheming the noble name of him to whom you belong? 8 If you really keep the royal law found in Scripture, "Love your neighbour as yourself," you are doing right. 9 But if you show favouritism, you sin and are convicted by the law as lawbreakers'. **James 2 v. 1 – 9** warns us not to show prejudice. Admittedly, it is easier to love people who are pleasant and attractive, but often, those who are the hardest to love are the ones most in need of our love. Excluding, ignoring or shunning someone is like saying, 'You don't matter. You're not important.' That's what Jacob did - not with words, but with his actions.

That robe (the famous 'coat of many colours'), represented time, thought and trouble on Jacob's part - time and trouble he didn't expend on his other sons. It wasn't the coat they wanted, but the assurance of their father's love; it was not the robe they resented, but what it represented - a special relationship in which they had no part.

In our family, classroom, workplace, neighbourhood, or church, do our words, body language or actions exclude people? Do we show partiality based on wealth, beauty, or status? Do we take special pains to demonstrate love for the 'unlovable'? God loves you unconditionally - will you extend that same love to others?

Joseph's dreams (and the ability to interpret them) were a gift from God, but, as **Ecclesiastes 3 v. 7** says, there is, 'a time to be silent and a time to speak'.

Joseph might have asked, and answered, three questions before boasting about his superiority. Is it true? Is it fair? Is it necessary? Joseph spoke the truth, but he was insensitive to his brothers' feelings.

Paul writes in **Ephesians 4 v. 15** about 'speaking the truth in love', but sometimes, love demands that we swallow our words, and our pride and choose to be silent instead. The robe belonged to Joseph, but love demanded sensitivity in wearing it; love invited Joseph to share that robe with his brothers, or, at the very least, keep it tucked away out of sight.

Signs of God's favour can make us proud, boastful, and insensitive. God gives us blessings, not so that we can show off, arousing envy and discontent in others, but so that we, in turn, might become a blessing to others. I wonder how do we respond to the blessings of home, health, family, friendship, talents, money? Do we parade them proudly for all to see or accept them gratefully and share them with humility and sensitivity?

It is a great responsibility to be rich, whether in terms of wealth, health, abilities, or relationships, for much will be expected from those whom much has been given to.

Even the wisest of parents and the best of friends sometimes fail us. Only God is perfectly loving all the time. When you feel like no one is listening, talk to God. When you feel unloved, open your heart to God. When you struggle with feelings of unworthiness, pour out your heart to God.

What then does **Genesis 37 v. 1 – 11** teach us about our



relationships with others?

The point of this story from **Genesis 37** is that God is always there, but mostly in the background. Sadly, the main characters barely make an opening for him in their lives, but we can. The story forms part of a family saga. Like any blockbuster, the characters are controlled by feuds and standpoints of previous generations. Their behaviour is shocking, but agonisingly inevitable. They chase their own desires, and they end up losers. So, let's look at each of the main characters in the Genesis account.

### **JACOB – RULED BY FOLLY, DEFEATED BY DECEIT**

Jacob was one of two brothers – he suffered Isaac's favouritism for Esau as we are told in **Genesis 25 v. 28**.

Jealousy led him to deceive as seen in **Genesis 27**, but he himself was then tricked into marrying two sisters, as we read in **Genesis 29**. Following his father's bad example, he loved one son more than the other, making Rachel's son his favourite, as we read in **Genesis 37 v. 3**.

He was to be deceived by his sons, as **Genesis 37 v. 31 – 33** tells us: 'Then they got Joseph's robe, slaughtered a goat and dipped the robe in the blood. 32 They took the ornate robe back to their father and said, "We found this. Examine it to see whether it is your son's robe." 33 He recognized it and said, "It is my son's robe! Some ferocious animal has devoured him. Joseph has surely been torn to pieces', just as he had deceived his father.

### **THE BROTHERS – RULED BY RESENTMENT, DEFEATED BY SHAME**

The word 'Hate' occurs three times in **Genesis 37 v. 4, 5, 8**. They are so consumed by it that they're 'not able' to speak civilly, as we are told in **Genesis 37 v. 4**. They

cannot discern Joseph's dreams – their understanding is blocked by their rage. Jealousy leads them to shameful acts, which haunt them for two decades.

### **JOSEPH – RULED BY VANITY, DEFEATED BY ISOLATION**

Joseph loved to be the loved one. 'Bad reports', as seen in **Genesis 37 v. 2** were 'telling tales', enhancing his own position. His dreams were recounted gloatingly, and his coat worn tactlessly, as **Genesis 37 v. 23** tells us. Joseph craved the love lavished by Jacob but failed to make friends with his brothers.

### **OURSELVES**

And then there is us. I wonder again in what ways do we show favouritism, jealousy or vanity in the family, the church, socially or at work. We can be ruled by our responses to past or present experience. The challenge for us, I believe, is to make an opening for God to change us, for the better. Are we prepared to allow that to happen?

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# Song Suggestion

All My Days I Will Sing This Song  
Of Gladness



# Prayers Of Intercession

Lord accept our lives just as we are, with all our faults and failings, but also with our talents and our strengths and use us for your service to proclaim the Good News of Jesus wherever we find ourselves. We thank you Lord for all the many gifts and talents that we have received from you. Help us we pray in the mission of your church here at Salendine Nook, may we not be afraid to share the wonderful message of your salvation with all those we meet.

Loving Lord, we also pray for the many varied churches here in Huddersfield and the surrounding areas. We pray that we may work together more closely to use the different skills that each church has in order that your Kingdom may be seen to grow here in this part of Yorkshire. Guide us Lord, and help us to see your vision. Help us to build on all that you have given us down through many years and past generations and guide us so that we may move forward in your name. Help us to connect with the wider community of Salendine Nook and may we be positive in all that we seek to do in your name. Encourage us when the going seem to be hard and tough, help us to be positive in the mission that you have called us too, so that your name may be glorified. Heavenly Father, we are mindful that there are many places and situations within our world that need our prayers at this time, we especially remember these

places and people in the quietness of our hearts. Bring them peace and strength and help us through our prayers to pray for them and to offer our support in any way that we can.

We also pray this day for all those who work in the communities where we live, who seek to keep us safe. We remember in prayer, the emergency services, doctors and nurses. For voluntary services and for all who work in whatever way to bring relief, support, care and comfort to those who need it.

Help us dear Lord, to be a people who are outward looking. Help us to see your plan for our future, both here in this church and in our own lives. Encourage us to grow in love for you and for each other as we strive to worship you in new ways; help us to see ourselves as the family of God in this place. May our enthusiasm never wain, but give us a deep sense of your presence among us, we pray.

Finally Lord, we give thanks for our families and our friends. We thank you Lord for those times of relaxation and fun that we can have with those who love us and care for us. Help us dear Lord, to have those times when we can build up good solid relationships with those close to us, in order that we might be strengthened and that we may be a blessing to others as well.

All of these prayers we ask in your precious name.

**Amen**



HOW BIG IS YOUR  
**GOD?**

# The Lord's Prayer

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 trespasses,  
As we forgive those who trespass against us.  
Lead us not into temptation  
But deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom, the power  
And the glory, forever and ever.

**Amen**

God wants to transform  
you into a new person  
by renewing your mind.





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# Song Suggestion

I, The Lord Of Sea And Sky



# Blessing

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Lord, let us go from here in peace,  
May your Word be fulfilled with us.  
May your blessing be ever with us,  
As we seek to be your witnesses in the  
world. May your grace, love and  
fellowship,  
Be with us until we meet again.  
**Amen**