

Wednesday Word

In reflection on the message for Sunday 17th September 2023.

Call to Worship, Psalm 103, v1-13, **Praise the LORD, my soul,
all my inmost being, praise his holy name.**

Extracts from Genesis 50, v15-21. **Joseph Reassures his Brothers.**
(Jacob had died.) v15f: **When Joseph's brothers saw that their father was dead,
they said, "What if Joseph holds a grudge against us and pays us back ..
for all the wrongs we did to him?" So they sent word to Joseph saying,
"Your father left these instructions before he died:
This is what you are to say to Joseph:
'I ask you to forgive your brothers the sins and the wrongs
they committed in treating you so badly.'
Now please forgive the sins of the servants of the God of your father."**
When their message came to him Joseph wept.
v18 f: **His brothers then came and threw themselves down before him.**
"We are your slaves," they said. But Joseph said to them,
"Don't be afraid. Am I in the place of God?
v20f: **You intended to harm me, but God intended it for good
to accomplish what is now being done, the saving of many lives.**
So then, don't be afraid. I will provide for you and your children."
And he reassured them and spoke kindly to them.

[**Preview to Genesis reading:** Ch. 37, In Canaan, Joseph dreams, predicting greatness – his jealous brothers sell him for 20s to the Ishmaelites. Ch.39, in Egypt, Joseph sold on to captain of Pharaoh's guard, and put in charge of household. Ch.41, Pharaoh's dream interpreted by Joseph – 7 good and 7 lean years – Joseph put in charge of Egypt. Ch. 42-49, brothers meet up again in Egypt on their father, Jacob's, death.]

Sermon. "Relationships Matter." In a family, relationships mean all are joined together for life. Often there are disagreements, but family kinship should survive. In Genesis 50, the relationship holds fast, and Joseph remembers his brothers who seem afraid because of the (now) greatness of his position in Egypt. To be part of God's family (Kingdom) we must forgive sins and wrongs (70 x7) of our brothers and sisters as Joseph did. Disagreements should be overcome through discussion, one-to-one, or involving others if necessary. We must be genuine when it comes to relationships and enjoy the benefits we get by walking in step with Jesus.

Communion was shared together.