

ROSLYN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
140 EAST BROADWAY  
ROSLYN, NEW YORK

SERVICE OF WORSHIP  
SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

AUGUST 20, 2023

10:00 AM

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**GATHERING IN COMMUNITY BEFORE GOD**

WELCOME

ANNOUNCEMENTS

**WE PRAISE OUR GOD**

CALL TO WORSHIP

(Responsive)

One: O God Embodied, the one made flesh who dwelt among us, help us to arrive this morning with a “yes.” A “yes” to our faith that says our bodies are good and holy, just as and however they are.

**Many: A “yes” to show up here, even if our minds may be in other places at times.**

One: A “yes” to believing enough in you, this community, and our own call to know this is where we need to be in this moment.

**Many: A “yes” to bringing all that comes from and through our hearts to you, O Heart-maker.**

One: Come, let us bring ourselves to God’s table of plenty,

**All: With our inherent worth and dignity to guide us. Selah. Amen.**

\* HYMN: 56 (Red Hymnal) *To God Be the Glory*

PRAYER OF THE DAY

**Have mercy on us, O God of Healing. We call out to you for ourselves, our community, and our world that has so much suffering. At times we are discouraged to name what we need, by**

(“\*” invites all who are able to stand. **Bold** indicates read in unison.)

**society or family expectations that were uncomfortable with needs. So often we were simply never taught how to hold this part of us with tenderness and boundaries. But your Word invites us in to name what torments us and to receive your love and acceptance. Grant us your grace to take in the strength of your belonging. Amen.**

PASSING OF THE PEACE

(Please remain in your seat and wave to your neighbors.)

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**All: God our gentle parent, bring calm to the storms that batter us and blow us off course. We do not need to walk on water; we need only walk through our lives as whole and holy children who recognize that your love unites us, buoys us, and carries us forward to face miraculous challenges in a complex world. Help us to see through the clutter of daily existence in order to focus on what is most important: love, compassion, faith, and connection. Amen.**

(Please take a moment for silent reflection.)

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

\* HYMN: 342 (Red Hymnal) *Rock of Ages*

**WE LISTEN FOR GOD’S WORD**

PRAYER FOR UNDERSTANDING

**All: Today, our scripture passage shows us the power of repentance. And how profound is it to see this embodied in Christ, who changed his perspective and actions because of an encounter with the force of mother advocating for her child and dignity. May we have the courage to admit when we’ve been wrong, the courage to ask for forgiveness, and the open heart to change our ways. Amen.**

FIRST SCRIPTURE READING: Genesis 45:1-15

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord

**People: Thanks be to God**

SECOND SCRIPTURE READING: Matthew 15:10-20, 21-28

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord

People: **Thanks be to God**

MESSAGE *It's Not What You Eat* Rev. Dr. Antionette Walrond

**WE RESPOND IN WORD AND DEED**

SHARING OF JOYS AND CONCERNS FOR PRAYER

OUR LORD'S PRAYER

\* HYMN: 572 (Red Hymnal) *Blessed Assurance*

CALL TO OFFERTORY

\* DOXOLOGY

*Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise him, all creatures here below; Praise him above, ye heavenly host; Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.*

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

**Let us give thanks for all that we share, as well as the way that we share. May our gratitude for this community and the Spirit's presence in this space guide us in how to show up in our lives. May we know how to give but also how to receive, how to say, "yes" and when we need to say, "not today." Let us lift up, and take in, the gift of thanksgiving. Amen.**

CHARGE AND BLESSING

**THE WORSHIP IS OVER, LET THE SERVICE BEGIN**

Rev. Dr. Marjory J. Roth	Pastor
Dr. Gary de Sesa	Director, Ministry of Music
Dr. Natalie Naylor	Clerk of Session
Robert Gilmore	Treasurer

We welcome to the pulpit the Rev. Dr. Antionette Walrond, filling in for Pastor Marjory today.

We welcome Kexin Liu as pianist, filling in for Dr. Gary de Sesa.

Refreshments Host for today is Soraya Gage.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Upcoming Dates**

Wed, Aug. 23	7 PM Bible Study via Zoom
Mon, Aug. 28	4 PM Session Meeting
Wed, Aug. 30	7 PM Bible Study via Zoom

**PLEASE PRAY FOR**

Emily Dyer	Jojo Gencorelli
George Aridas	Richard and Lynn Cardozo
Emma Steck	Nora Shimmel
Dawn and John de Sesa	Rev. Stark Jones
Joyce Zanchelli	Eddie Balsamo
Sam Rizzo	Charlie Barba
The Catalanello Family	Graziella Girardi
Sheemeza Ali	Paul Whelan and Family
Nico Barley	Agatina D'Aria
Emmie Shoch	Dr. Ralph & Judy Mastrangelo
John Nistico	Jeff Lovering
Regina Maria	Rhonda Liss
Paula Liscio	Jennifer Galluzzo
Tom Stallone	Elizabeth Bienz
Ray Peres	Jennifer Monda
Katie Zarghami	

Families of victims in Ukraine and all the Ukrainian refugees  
All who are struggling due to the Coronavirus outbreak

## First Reading

### Genesis 45:1-15

### New Revised Standard Version (NRSV)

Then Joseph could no longer control himself before all his attendants, and he cried out, “Have everyone leave my presence!” So there was no one with Joseph when he made himself known to his brothers. <sup>2</sup> And he wept so loudly that the Egyptians heard him, and Pharaoh’s household heard about it. <sup>3</sup> Joseph said to his brothers, “I am Joseph! Is my father still living?” But his brothers were not able to answer him, because they were terrified at his presence. <sup>4</sup> Then Joseph said to his brothers, “Come close to me.” When they had done so, he said, “I am your brother Joseph, the one you sold into Egypt! <sup>5</sup> And now, do not be distressed and do not be angry with yourselves for selling me here, because it was to save lives that God sent me ahead of you. <sup>6</sup> For two years now there has been famine in the land, and for the next five years there will be no plowing and reaping. <sup>7</sup> But God sent me ahead of you to preserve for you a remnant on earth and to save your lives by a great deliverance. <sup>8</sup> “So then, it was not you who sent me here, but God. He made me father to Pharaoh, lord of his entire household and ruler of all Egypt. <sup>9</sup> Now hurry back to my father and say to him, ‘This is what your son Joseph says: God has made me lord of all Egypt. Come down to me; don’t delay. <sup>10</sup> You shall live in the region of Goshen and be near me—you, your children and grandchildren, your flocks and herds, and all you have. <sup>11</sup> I will provide for you there, because five years of famine are still to come. Otherwise you and your household and all who belong to you will become destitute.’ <sup>12</sup> “You can see for yourselves, and so can my brother Benjamin, that it is really I who am speaking to you. <sup>13</sup> Tell my father about all the honor accorded me in Egypt and about everything you have seen. And bring my father down here quickly.” <sup>14</sup> Then he threw his arms around his brother Benjamin and wept, and Benjamin embraced him, weeping. <sup>15</sup> And he kissed all his brothers and wept over them. Afterward his brothers talked with him.

## Second Reading

### Matthew 15:10-20, 21-28 New Revised Standard Version (NRSV)

<sup>10</sup> Jesus called the crowd to him and said, “Listen and understand. <sup>11</sup> What goes into someone’s mouth does not defile them, but what comes out of their mouth, that is what defiles them.” <sup>12</sup> Then the disciples came to him and asked, “Do you know that the Pharisees were offended when they heard this?” <sup>13</sup> He replied, “Every plant that my heavenly Father has not planted will be pulled up by the roots. <sup>14</sup> Leave them; they are blind guides. If the blind lead the blind, both will fall into a pit.” <sup>15</sup> Peter said, “Explain the parable to us.” <sup>16</sup> “Are you still so dull?” Jesus asked them. <sup>17</sup> “Don’t you see that whatever enters the mouth goes into the stomach and then out of the body? <sup>18</sup> But the things that come out of a person’s mouth come from the heart, and these defile them. <sup>19</sup> For out of the heart come evil thoughts—murder, adultery, sexual immorality, theft, false testimony, slander. <sup>20</sup> These are what defile a person; but eating with unwashed hands does not defile them.” <sup>21</sup> Leaving that place, Jesus withdrew to the region of Tyre and Sidon. <sup>22</sup> A Canaanite woman from that vicinity came to him, crying out, “Lord, Son of David, have mercy on me! My daughter is demon-possessed and suffering terribly.” <sup>23</sup> Jesus did not answer a word. So his disciples came to him and urged him, “Send her away, for she keeps crying out after us.” <sup>24</sup> He answered, “I was sent only to the lost sheep of Israel.” <sup>25</sup> The woman came and knelt before him. “Lord, help me!” she said. <sup>26</sup> He replied, “It is not right to take the children’s bread and toss it to the dogs.” <sup>27</sup> “Yes it is, Lord,” she said. “Even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their master’s table.” <sup>28</sup> Then Jesus said to her, “Woman, you have great faith! Your request is granted.” And her daughter was healed at that moment.