

Sermon Script	華語翻譯
GRACE IN FAMILIES	家庭的恩典
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Genesis 50: 15 – 21; Psalm 24: 1 – 6; Romans 8:28	創世記 50:15-21; 詩篇 24:1-6; 羅馬書 8:28
God of Wrath, God of Grace	憤怒之神，恩典之神
The Old Testament is often thought of as being full of God's wrath and judgment and the New Testament as being the source of passages about love and grace.	人們經常認為舊約充滿了神的憤怒和審判，而新約則多於討論愛與恩典。
I shared this impression too, until I went to Seminary.	我也同樣有這刻板印象，直到進入了神學院。
Now, when I'm writing sermons every week, I have the opportunity to look at the lectionary.	現在，當我每週寫佈道內容時，我會有機會再細看過往經文清單。
The Lectionary is a list of scripture passages that covers every week for 3 years.	這份經文清單列出了三年期每周建議研讀的段落。
Each week has two Old Testament passages and two New Testament passages and offers the challenge of preaching from at least one of them.	每周有兩段舊約經文和兩段新約經文，並會提供從這些經文中講道的挑戰。
Using the lectionary keeps preachers from just preaching from their favorite passages and gives both preachers and parishioners the opportunity to study passages that roughly fit into the church season and cover all the major parts and themes of the Bible.	使用這個清單可以避免傳教士只挑選他們最喜歡的經文講道，並讓傳教士和牧師有機會季節性的研究主題，其將涵蓋聖經所有主要經文和主題。
I find myself often being inspired to preach from the Old Testament, and see it as a rich source of stories about grace and forgiveness.	我發現自己在使用舊約傳道時經常受到鼓舞，並將其用為論述恩典和寬恕的故事來源。
The story of Joseph and his brothers in today's scripture is a powerful example of that.	今天聖經中約瑟和他的兄弟們的故事就是一個有力的例子。
Background of the Story of Joseph	約瑟故事的背景
I have to give a little background to the story.	我必須先敘明一些故事背景。
Jacob, also called Israel, had 12 sons from 2 wives and a couple of concubines.	雅各，也被稱為以色列，有十二個兒子，是來自他兩個妻子和另外一些旁妻。
The last two sons were his favorites, because their mother was his favorite, Rachel, whose hand in marriage he was worked 14 years to win.	最後兩個兒子是他的最愛，因為他們的母親瑞秋是他的最愛；而她是雅各努力工作十四年才娶到的。
Those boys were named Joseph and Benjamin.	這兩個男孩分別叫約瑟和便雅憫。
Before Benjamin was born, Jacob or Israel tended to spoil Joseph because he was the son of Jacob's old age, the baby of the family.	在便雅憫出生之前，雅各傾於寵愛約瑟，因為他是雅各晚年才得的兒子，且是整個家族的嬰兒。

Unfortunately, Jacob, and probably Rachel were a bit obvious in their favoritism.	不幸的是，雅各和瑞秋的偏愛都過於明顯。
Joseph did not get along very well with his brothers.	這導致約瑟和他的兄弟們相處得不太好。
Favoring one child over another will cause that in a family.	對家中某一孩子過於寵愛時，就會出現這種不平衡。
It affected Joseph's character as well.	它也影響了約瑟的性格。
First of all, he was a tattletale.	首先，他是個告密者。
He told his father bad things about his brothers.	他告訴父親關於兄弟的壞事。
Secondly, Joseph was given an expensive coat made of many different colored fabrics.	其次，約瑟擁有一件昂貴的外套，它是由許多不同顏色的布料製成的。
This was a luxury item, unlike anything the other sons had.	這是一種奢侈品，其他兒子都沒有相似的物品。
He gloated about this to his brothers.	他為此向兄弟炫耀。
When his brothers saw that their father loved Joseph more than any of them, they hated him and "could not speak a kind word to him." (Genesis 37: 4)	約瑟的哥哥們見父親愛約瑟過於愛他們，就恨約瑟，不與他說和睦的話。
As if things weren't already bad enough between Joseph and his brothers, Joseph had a couple of weird dreams.	彷彿約瑟和他兄弟間的事情還不夠糟糕，約瑟之後還做了幾個奇怪的夢。
In one, he and his brothers were binding sheaves of grain in the field when suddenly Joseph's sheaf rose and stood upright, while his brothers' sheaves gathered around his and bowed down to it.	其中一個訴說著，當約瑟和他兄弟在田裡捆禾稼，他的捆起來站著，而他兄弟的捆來圍著他的捆下拜
In the other dream, the sun and the moon and 11 stars were bowing down to Joseph.	在另一個夢中，約瑟訴說他夢見太陽、月亮，與十一個星向我下拜。
Near- Lethal Sibling Rivalry and a Spoiled Joseph	兄弟之爭和被寵壞的約瑟
Joseph made the mistake of telling his brothers about those dreams, which enraged them even more.	約瑟錯誤的把他的夢告知他的兄弟，這使他們更加憤怒。
It doesn't take an expert dream interpreter to understand that Joseph was dreaming that all his older brothers, and even his parents, would some day worship him or somehow be inferior to him.	約瑟的夢顯然隱射著他所有的哥哥，甚至他的父母，總有一天會敬拜他，或不如他。
Even his father rebuked him for what was pretty clearly his attitude toward others in his family.	甚至他父親因他對家中其他人的態度譴責他。
As it turns out, these dreams seem to have been prophetic as well.	事實證明，這些夢似乎是預言性的。
The brothers were boiling over with rage one day when they saw Joseph coming toward them far out in the fields in his fancy coat.	有一天，兄弟們看到約瑟穿著花哨的外套在田野中向他們走來，他們怒不可遏。
They grabbed him and tore the fancy robe off of him.	他們抓住他，把外套從他身上扯下來。

Most of them actually wanted to kill him, but the oldest brother Reuben convinced them just to throw him into an empty cistern.	他們中的大多數實際上是想殺死他的，但是呂便說服了他們把他扔進了一個空水池。
Then when a caravan of traders came by, they sold Joseph to them for 20 shekels of silver.	他們後來以二十舍客勒銀把約瑟賣給一群商人。
Reuben had planned to rescue him later, so he was horrified when he found the cistern empty.	呂便原本打算稍後來營救他，所以當他發現水池沒有人時，他十分驚恐。
Between them, they cooked up a scheme to soak his special coat in goat's blood and take it back to their father, as if Joseph had been devoured by a wild animal.	他們私下計劃將他的外套浸在山羊血後在帶回給父親，佯裝成約瑟已被野生動物吞噬了一般。
Pretty horrible, huh?	很恐怖對吧？
Brothers and sisters become jealous of one another quite frequently, but Joseph's brothers took things to a whole new level.	兄弟姐妹們彼此嫉妒是常見的事，但是約瑟的兄弟們把這妒忌帶到一個全新的境界。
This is another story where we see that the ancestors of our faith were far from perfect human beings! But it's not the end of the story.	在這故事裡，我們看到我們信仰上的祖先遠非完人！但這還不是故事的結局。
Joseph in Egypt	約瑟在埃及
Joseph ended up in Egypt as a slave to Potiphar, the captain of the guard for Pharaoh, the ruler of Egypt.	約瑟最終成為埃及法老的警衛隊長波提乏手下的奴隸。
After the cold harsh reality of his brothers' cruelty and betrayal, Joseph managed, with God's help, to earn the respect and trust of his master Potiphar.	在被兄弟們殘酷背叛後，約瑟在上帝的幫助下設法贏得了波提乏的尊重和信任。
As Joseph grew older, he developed into a handsome man, and Potiphar's wife began to desire him.	隨著約瑟的長大，他成了一個英俊的男人，而波提乏的妻子渴望得到他。
After days of persistent effort to seduce him, one day she saw her chance.	經過幾天不懈的引誘他，有一天她看到了機會。
No one was in the house but the two of them, so she grabbed his cloak to try to force Joseph to give her what she wanted.	屋裡除了兩個人之外沒有別人，所以她抓住他的斗篷，強迫約瑟給她她想要的東西。
Joseph, however, had also developed in wisdom and honor, and he fled from the house.	然而，隨著約瑟的智慧 and 榮譽已然成熟，所以他選擇逃出那屋子。
Unfortunately, Potiphar's wife still had his cloak.	不幸的是，波提乏的妻子仍然持有他的斗篷。
Then, of course, she made Joseph LOOK guilty, even though he wasn't.	即使約瑟沒有犯罪，她也使約瑟看來是有罪。
So Joseph was thrown into prison.	於是約瑟被關進了監獄。
He is lucky he wasn't executed on the spot, in my opinion.	我認為他很幸運沒有被當場處決。
I doubt slaves had many rights in those days if push came to shove.	在這樣緊要關頭時，我不認為奴隸在那個時候有多少權利。
Joseph must have been a remarkable young man.	約瑟肯定是個了不起的年輕人。

Even in prison he ended up being a trustee, with broad responsibility and freedom of movement.	即使在監獄中，他仍但任著受託人，承擔著許多的責任並擁有行動自由。
Eventually Joseph, known for his ability to interpret dreams, was called to interpret the Pharaoh's dreams.	最終，約瑟因善於解夢而聞名，而被要求為法老解夢。
He told Pharaoh that his dreams were a warning from God that there would be 7 years of plenty followed by 7 years of famine.	他告訴法老王，他的夢裡帶有神的警告，那就是將要有七年的豐年和七年的飢荒。
Pharaoh believed him, and made Joseph his second in command for the whole land of Egypt so that he could help the country prepare for the 7 years of famine that God had revealed were coming!	法老相信了他，使約瑟成為埃及的宰相，以利他可以幫埃及為上帝啟示的七年飢荒做準備！
The Fate of Other Slaves	其他奴隸的命運
African slaves in the United States have been a subject of a lot of discussion during the last few years.	在過去的幾年中，美國的非洲奴隸議題受到廣泛討論。
As slaves, they created much of the wealth of this new country, but have seen a disproportionate amount of the rewards.	作為奴隸，他們創造了這個新國家大部分財富，所獲得的回報卻不成比例。
The reason for this is that, even though African Americans now have the power to vote and to hold office here, serious problems remain.	儘管非洲裔美國人現在有權投票和擔任公職，現今卻仍然存在許多嚴重問題。
White people in power have come up with numerous schemes to prevent African Americans and other citizens of color from voting, even this year.	掌權的白人提出過許多計劃防止非洲裔美國人和其他有色人種參加選舉，甚至是今年。
Many of us fear that there might even be intimidation of voters in some polling places.	我們中的許多人擔心，在某些投票地點甚至會受到恐嚇。
And of course, we have seen repetitive stories of police officers killing Black men, men suspected of trivial crimes or even altogether innocent.	當然，我們一直看到重複的故事，講述了警察殺害黑人中受懷疑犯下輕微罪行，甚至是無辜的人。
Even in cases that make it to court, our justice system is marred by a bias in favor of the wealthy and the Caucasian.	即使是在法院案件裡，我們的司法制度也有偏袒富人和高加索人的汙點。
The Church and Slavery	教會與奴隸制
Our history of slavery here is a very dark blotch on the character of white citizens.	我們這裡的奴隸制歷史在白人公民扮演的角色上是一個非常黑暗的汙點。
Discrimination against people of color has a very shameful history.	對有色人種的歧視是非常可恥的歷史。
Part of the reason, some argue, is that Christianity has been seen as condoning slavery.	有人認為，部分原因是因基督教被視為在縱容著奴隸制。

Leviticus 25:44 – 46, for instance, says 44 “Your male and female slaves are to come from the nations around you; from them you may buy slaves.	例如，利未記 25:44 – 46，“至於你的奴僕、婢女，可以從你四圍的國中買。”
45 You may also buy some of the temporary residents living among you and members of their clans born in your country, and they will become your property.	45“並且那寄居在你們中間的外人和他們的家屬，在你們地上所生的，你們也可以從其中買人；他們要作你們的產業。”
46 You can bequeath them to your children as inherited property and can make them slaves for life, but you must not rule over your fellow Israelites ruthlessly.	46“你們要將他們遺留給你們的子孫為產業，要永遠從他們中間揀出奴僕；只是你們的弟兄以色列人，你們不可嚴嚴地轄管。”
In the New Testament, I Peter 2: 18 says 18 Slaves, in reverent fear of God submit yourselves to your masters, not only to those who are good and considerate, but also to those who are harsh.	在《新約》中，彼得前書 2:18 說“你們作僕人的，凡事要存敬畏的心順服主人；不但順服那善良溫和的，就是那乖僻的也要順服。”
However, Galatians 3: 28 says 28 There is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, nor is there male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus.	然而，加拉太書 3:28 說“沒有猶太人，沒有外邦人，沒有奴隸，沒有自由，也沒有男女，因為你們都在基督耶穌裡。”
I believe that Paul and other Christians brought the whole idea of equality into the world for the first time, at least in the Western world.	我相信，保羅和其他基督徒在西方世界是首次將整個平等觀念帶入了世界。
Joseph is the most famous slave in the Bible, but Paul also wrote the whole short letter to Philemon to plead with him to set free Onesimus, his runaway slave.	約瑟是聖經中最著名的奴隸，但保羅也寫了封給腓利門的短信，懇求他釋放逃脫的奴隸阿尼西母。
I don’t believe God ever condoned slavery, but in the times and places where slavery existed, different parts of the Bible speak to how slaves should be treated and gave slaves themselves advice as to how they could best survive their situation.	我不相信上帝曾經縱容奴隸制，但在過往存在奴隸制的時代和地點，聖經的不同部分都談到了應如何對待奴隸，並為奴隸們提供了如何度過自己困境的建議。
The Fate of Two Slaves in the Bible	聖經中兩個奴隸的命運
Joseph did more than just survive.	約瑟所做的不只是生存。
He rose to a position of trust and power, was betrayed and fell from that position, but then gained an even greater position of responsibility and power by the Providence of God and by virtue of his competent and ethical service.	他曾勝任了信任和權力，隨後被出賣並從該位置跌落，但後來按上帝的旨意、以他的能力和道德服務，終而獲得了更大的責任和權力。
We believe the runaway slave Onesimus WAS freed by Philemon, and later became a Bishop of the early church and may even have had a hand in preserving the letters of Paul!	我們相信，脫逃的阿尼西母斯被腓利門釋放，後來成為早期教會的主教；他甚至在保管保羅書信上也有幫助！
God did great things with those two former slaves!	上帝用這兩位曾經的奴隸完成偉大的事！

Our current passage from Genesis 50 shows what happened when Joseph saw his brothers again years later.	我們從創世記第 50 章的摘錄說明了幾年後約瑟再次見到兄弟時發生的事情。
They had come to Egypt during the famine to get grain in order to survive.	他們在飢荒時期來到埃及求生存。
The Brothers Face Some Consequences	兄弟們所面臨的一些後果
Although Joseph recognized them, the brothers did not recognize Joseph.	儘管約瑟認出了他們，但兄弟們認不得約瑟。
But they were saying among themselves, "Surely we are being punished because of our brother.	但是他們彼此說："我們在兄弟身上實在有罪。"
We saw how distressed he was when he pleaded with us for his life, but we would not listen; that's why this distress has come on us."	"他哀求我們的時候，我們見他心裡的愁苦，卻不肯聽，所以這場苦難臨到我們身上。"
22 Reuben replied, "Didn't I tell you not to sin against the boy? But you wouldn't listen! Now we must give an accounting for his blood." 23 They did not realize that Joseph could understand them, since he was using an interpreter. (Genesis 42: 21 – 23)	22"呂便說："我豈不是對你們說過，不可傷害那孩子嗎？只是你們不肯聽，所以流他血的罪向我們追討。" 23"他們不知道約瑟聽得出來，因為在他們中間用通事傳話。
Joseph's Heart Softens	約瑟的心軟化
Joseph left them and went to another room to weep.	約瑟離開他們，去另一個房間哭泣。
I think at that point he realized that revenge did not make him quite as happy as he might have expected.	我認為那時他意識到報仇並沒有如他預期的那樣使他快樂。
There are several more interactions between them before finally, Joseph could bear it no longer, and he told his brothers who he was.	他們之後還有更多互動，約瑟在忍受不了的情況下告訴了他的兄弟們。
At first that terrified them, because of what they had done, but Joseph welcomed them and had a feast for them.	這在剛開始嚇壞了他們，但約瑟選擇歡迎他們，並為他們盛宴。
There were many tears of joy and relief.	有許多喜悅和放鬆後的眼淚。
Then the Pharaoh himself heard about this and invited all the families to come to Egypt where they would have "the best of the land of Egypt" to live on.	法老得知了這一消息後，邀請約瑟家族搬來埃及，並供他們住在"埃及最好的土地"。
Pharaoh also sent many gifts with the brothers to convince their father of the sincerity of their welcome.	法老還贈與這些兄弟許多禮物，以說服他們的父親那法老是真誠地歡迎他們。
Jacob was convinced, and moved his entire extended family to Egypt where he lived in peace and plenty with all his loved ones to a ripe old age.	雅各被說服了，並將他整個家族搬到了埃及；在那裡他與所有親人和平相處，生活充裕，直到他老去。
It is a fantastic story.	這是一個奇妙的故事。
Forgiveness is a big part of it.	寬恕是其中很重要的一部分。

Apparently love finally overcame any desire Joseph had for revenge, and his relief and joy at having his family again was intense.	顯然，愛最終克服了約瑟想要報仇的渴望，而他對可再次擁有家人感到巨大的喜悅與解脫。
God also apparently forgave the brothers, for they ended up being much better off than they were before, and were set to survive the famine, as well as being reconciled with their brother for their grave crime against him.	上帝顯然也寬恕了這些兄弟，因為他們最終比以前有了更好的生活，並在飢荒中倖存下來，並因與兄弟的和好紓解了心中的罪惡感。
Forgiveness led to reconciliation which led to restoration of families and even to restoration of prosperity.	寬恕導致和解，乃至家族的復興，甚至是恢復繁榮。
God also had a very large part in it.	上帝在其中也幫了很多忙。
The Meaning of the Story	故事的意義
When Jacob died, his brothers became afraid again that he would take revenge on them.	雅各死後，他的兄弟們再次感到害怕，害怕約瑟對他們報仇。
But he said 19 "Don't be afraid.	但是他說 19 "別害怕。"
Am I in the place of God? 20 You intended to harm me, but God intended it for good to accomplish what is now being done, the saving of many lives." (Genesis 50: 19 – 20)	"我豈能代替神呢？" 20 "從前你們的意思是要害我，但神的意思原是好的，要保全許多人的性命，成就今日的光景。"
As the Apostle Paul says in Romans 8:28, "we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose."	正如使徒保羅在羅馬書 8:28 中所說"我們曉得萬事都互相效力，叫愛神的人得益處，就是按他旨意被召的人。"
That's exactly what God did for Joseph.	那正是神為約瑟所做的。
No one can claim that God wanted Joseph's brothers to throw him into a cistern and then sell him into slavery.	沒有人能說是上帝的安排要約瑟的兄弟們把他扔進水池，然後將他賣做奴隸。
But God surely worked it for good, for Joseph himself and for many others.	但是上帝的確以此完成對約瑟與許多其他人而言美好的事。
May God give us the patience and trust that Joseph had.	願上帝賜予我們與約瑟相仿的耐心和信任。
Our Obligations Now	我們現今的義務
The Presbytery of Giddings-Lovejoy met this past week.	吉丁斯-洛夫喬伊長老會在上週有個會議。
In honor of September being the month our church designates for a focus on the care of creation, we heard a lecture by Dr. Ben Sanders, a professor at Eden Seminary, who showed us that care of creation includes care of all its creatures, including all the peoples of the earth.	我們教會將九月定為"對受造物的看照"的紀念時期，而我們聽了伊甸神學院教授 Ben Sanders 博士的演講；他向我們展示了對受造物的照顧是包含對所有生物的看顧，包括地球上的所有人民。

<p>He pointed out how some of the same bad theology that led European conquerors to believe they had the right to enslave and slaughter many groups of people around the world also led them to treat the earth with violence and destructiveness.</p>	<p>他指出，部分錯誤的，導致歐洲征服者認為他們有權奴役和殺害世界各地許多人的神學思想，在現今同樣引領著以暴力和破壞對待地球的行為。</p>
<p>We are now reaping the consequences of all of those destructive acts.</p>	<p>我們現在正在承受這些破壞行為的後果。</p>
<p>Climate change is producing storms that are more severe.</p>	<p>氣候變化使得風暴更嚴重。</p>
<p>Callousness to the plight of poor people and people of color is fueling the spread of the virus here.</p>	<p>對窮人和有色人種困境的冷漠助長了病毒在這裡的傳播。</p>
<p>Perhaps the policies of Egypt led to years of famine in the time of Joseph, just as bad policies in our day and time have.</p>	<p>也許在約瑟時代，埃及的過往政策導致了多年的飢荒，就像我們現在的糟糕政策一樣。</p>
<p>God's creation is one.</p>	<p>上帝的創造是一體的。</p>
<p>It includes plants, animals, soil, water, air, and people of all races and religions.</p>	<p>它包括植物，動物，土壤，水，空氣以及各種種族和宗教。</p>
<p>We can't care for one without having all in mind.</p>	<p>如果沒有想到全部，我們就無法照顧到其中任何一個。</p>
<p>May God forgive us for our sins against the earth and against all its creatures.</p>	<p>願上帝赦免我們對地球及其所有創造物所犯的罪。</p>
<p>And may he help us find ways to restore our world and all its peoples to safety and health and prosperity.</p>	<p>也許他可以幫助我們找到使全世界人民恢復安全、健康、繁榮的途徑。</p>