



SWEDENBORGIAN CHURCH

of S A N F R A N C I S C O

Promoting Spiritual Growth through the Arts, Theology, Fellowship, and Service

ONLINE WORSHIP SERVICE

January 10, 2021

***Greetings**

Contemplation III

Opening of the Holy Word

Meditation with Gong

Contemplation I

Silent Meditation /Deep Prayer

Meditation with Music

Canonic Variation #4

on "Vom Himmel hoch da komm ich her"

BY J. S. BACH

Mindful Offering

Don't Be Afraid

BY JOHN BELL

Scripture Readings

Genesis 37:12-28; Luke 9:37-45

Susan Lucas

Blessings

Closing of the Holy Word

Contemplation II

Postlude

Canonic Variation #3

on "Vom Himmel hoch, da komm ich her"

BY J. S. BACH

Reflection with Music

A Prayer for My Country

JONATHAN DIMMOCK



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READINGS

Genesis 37:12-28

Now his brothers went to pasture their father's flock near Shechem. And Israel said to Joseph, 'Are not your brothers pasturing the flock at Shechem? Come, I will send you to them.' He answered, 'Here I am.' So he said to him, 'Go now, see if it is well with your brothers and with the flock; and bring word back to me.' So he sent him from the valley of Hebron.

He came to Shechem, and a man found him wandering in the fields; the man asked him, 'What are you seeking?' 'I am seeking my brothers,' he said; 'tell me, please, where they are pasturing the flock.' The man said, 'They have gone away, for I heard them say, "Let us go to Dothan."' So Joseph went after his brothers, and found them at Dothan. They saw him from a distance, and before he came near to them, they conspired to kill him. They said to one another, 'Here comes this dreamer. Come now, let us kill him and throw him into one of the pits; then we shall say that a wild animal has devoured him, and we shall see what will become of his dreams.' But when Reuben heard it, he delivered him out of their hands, saying, 'Let us not take his life.' Reuben said to them, 'Shed no blood; throw him into this pit here in the wilderness, but lay no hand on him'—that he might rescue him out of their hand and restore him to his father. So when Joseph came to his brothers, they stripped him of his robe, the long robe with sleeves that he wore; and they took him and threw him into a pit. The pit was empty; there was no water in it.

Then they sat down to eat; and looking up they saw a caravan of Ishmaelites coming from Gilead, with their camels carrying gum, balm, and resin, on their way to carry it down to Egypt. Then Judah said to his brothers, 'What profit is there if we kill our brother and conceal his blood? Come, let us sell him to the Ishmaelites, and not lay our hands on him, for he is our brother, our own flesh.' And his brothers agreed. When some Midianite traders passed by, they drew Joseph up, lifting him out of the pit, and sold him to the Ishmaelites for twenty pieces of silver. And they took Joseph to Egypt.

Luke 9:37-45

On the next day, when they had come down from the mountain, a great crowd met him. Just then a man from the crowd shouted, 'Teacher, I beg you to look at my son; he is my only child. Suddenly a spirit seizes him, and all at once he shrieks. It throws him into convulsions until he foams at the mouth; it mauls him and will scarcely leave him. I begged your disciples to cast it out, but they could not.' Jesus answered, 'You faithless and perverse generation, how much

longer must I be with you and bear with you? Bring your son here.' While he was coming, the demon dashed him to the ground in convulsions. But Jesus rebuked the unclean spirit, healed the boy, and gave him back to his father. And all were astounded at the greatness of God.

While everyone was amazed at all that he was doing, he said to his disciples, 'Let these words sink into your ears: The Son of Man is going to be betrayed into human hands.' But they did not understand this saying; its meaning was concealed from them, so that they could not perceive it. And they were afraid to ask him about this saying.

From Emanuel Swedenborg: *Arcana Coelstia* #4721

[2] That it may be known what is meant by the special things of false principles, let us take for illustration some of the doctrinals of a church which acknowledges faith alone as a principle, as that a person is justified by faith alone, that then all sins are wiped away from the person, that the person may be saved by faith alone even in the last hour of one's life, that salvation is merely admission into heaven through grace, that children also are saved by faith, that the Gentiles because they have no faith are not saved; besides many others. These and the like are the special things belonging to the principle of faith alone. But if the church would acknowledge as its principle the life of faith, it would acknowledge charity toward the neighbor and love to the Lord, consequently the works of charity and of love, and then all these special things would fall to pieces; and instead of justification it would acknowledge regeneration, in regard to which the Lord says in John, "Except a man be born anew, he cannot see the kingdom of God" (John 3:3); and it would acknowledge that regeneration is effected by a life of faith, but not by faith separate. Neither would it profess that all sins are then wiped away from people, but that it is of the Lord's mercy that we are withheld from them, and kept in good and thence in truth; thus that all good is from the Lord, and all evil from our self.

Join us for Virtual Coffee Hour
Today and ongoing, 12:00 p.m.

All are welcome to a congregational virtual coffee hour
after service through Zoom!

Meeting ID: 822-1102-6466

Password: 673039

Dial-in: 669-900-9128