

*Daily Morning Message*  
*St Paul United Church of Christ*  
*5312 Old Blue Rock Road, Cincinnati, Ohio 45247*  
*Allen M Fluent, Pastor*  
*Tuesday, August 17, 2021*

*Lectionary Readings*

*Psalm 34*  
*Genesis 45:1-15*  
*Acts 7:9-16*

*Today's Scripture Verse:*

*Then Joseph said to his brothers, "Come closer to me." And they came closer. He said, "I am your brother, Joseph, whom you sold into Egypt. And now do not be distressed, or angry with yourselves, because you sold me here, for God sent me before you to preserve life. (Genesis 45:4-5)*

What it means:

The story of Joseph is foundational for understanding many parts of the Scriptures. One of the 12 patriarchs, the sons of Jacob, he was sold into slavery in Egypt, but he became prominent there, and in a time of famine, he brought his family there, where food was plentiful. Egypt thus first became the place of salvation from starvation for God's people, but many generations later, the Hebrews were enslaved, and in the time of Moses, were saved from slavery by God's hand. This story is also recounted in the reading from Acts, which is a portion of the sermon delivered by Stephen, on the day that he was martyred for his faith.

Our time of reflection:

The biblical stories tell about eras of turmoil, despair, hope and salvation. The authors of these stories seek within them to share with us their vision of how God is present in these historical times. Sometimes God is seen as an actor in the events, sometimes as a savior, sometimes as a judge. When we think about the events of our own time, how do we think about God's presence, and how does that cause us to act?

