

evidence of two or three witnesses. ¹⁷If the member refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church; and if the offender refuses to listen even to the church, let such a one be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector. ¹⁸Truly I tell you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you lose on earth will be lost in heaven. ¹⁹Again, truly I tell you, if two of you agree on earth about anything you ask, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven. ²⁰For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them.”

Sermon Rev. Sharon Carter

Responding in Faith

Affirmation of Faith *From the Confession of Belhar*
We believe in the triune God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, who gathers, protects and cares for the church through Word and Spirit. This, God has done since the beginning of the world and will do to the end. We believe in one holy, universal Christian church, the communion of saints called from the entire human family. We believe that Christ’s work of reconciliation is made manifest in the church as the community of believers who have been reconciled with God and with one another... We believe that God has entrusted the church with the message of reconciliation in and through Jesus Christ; that the church is called to be the salt of the earth and the light

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of the world, that the church is called blessed because it is a peacemaker, that the church is witness both by word and by deed to the new heaven and the new earth in which righteousness dwells.

The Service of Giving

Prayer of Dedication Offering Music

Response *Gloria Patri* #577

Sharing of Joys and Concerns
Prayers of the People

Going into the World

+**Hymn** *The Spirit Sends...* STF2241

+**Charge and Benediction**

MISSION



FELLOWSHIP



WORSHIP



THE BODY OF CHRIST



Community of Faith Presbyterian Church
September 10, 2017

+Stand as you are able
Leader reads plain type, Congregation reads bold type

Preparing Ourselves

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

Lighting of the Christ candle

+Call to Worship

L: Praise the Lord! Sing to the Lord a new song!

P: Let us be glad in our Maker; let us rejoice in our redeemer.

L: Let us praise God with dancing, music and song.

P: For God loves us and is pleased when we rejoice in God.

+Opening Prayer

Creator God, you created us for singing and making music, for sharing all good things together. May our worship today be pleasing to you in its expressions of love for you and for each other. Hear us as we pray together the prayer that Christ taught: *Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.*

+Hymn *Give Praise to the Lord* #257
(Sung to "O Worship the King.")

Call to Confession

Confession Let us pray:

Merciful God, in your wisdom you have given us laws and commands to follow; in Jesus you brought your law to life. In him we learned that the greatest commandment is that we love one another as Jesus loved those around him. And we do our best; but sometimes we are not as loving as we could be; we turn away from those who need us and are guided by our own self-interest instead of the Way of Christ. Have mercy on us, O God, and lead us to be more loving of our family and friends as well as the strangers in our midst. (Moment of silence.)

How easy/ hard is it to be guided by Paul's words in Romans 13:8-14? How do we make sense of Paul's belief that Jesus would return soon, perhaps in his lifetime? What does it mean to put on the armor of light?

Assurance of Pardon

L: In Jesus Christ we are all forgiven. Thanks be to God! Amen.

P: In Jesus Christ we are all forgiven. Thanks be to God! Amen.

Song *Come & Fill Our Hearts* STF2157

The Peace

L: As God has forgiven us in Christ, let us forgive one another: the Peace of Christ be with you.

P: And also with you.

Anthem *Prayer for Guidance by Allen Pote*

Hearing the Word

Prayer for Illumination

In our hearing and thinking about your Word may we grow closer to you, O God; and may our sense of discipleship be strengthened. Amen.

Scripture Readings

Romans 13:8-14 ⁸Owe no one anything, except to love one another; for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law. ⁹The commandments, "You shall not commit adultery; You shall not murder; You shall not steal; You shall not covet"; and any other commandment, are summed up in this word, "Love your neighbor as yourself." ¹⁰Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore, love is the fulfilling of the law. ¹¹Besides this, you know what time it is, how it is now the moment for you to wake from sleep.

For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; ¹²the night is far gone, the day is near. Let us then lay aside the works of darkness and put on the armor of light; ¹³let us live honorably as in the day, not in reveling and drunkenness, not in debauchery and licentiousness, not in quarreling and jealousy. ¹⁴Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

Hymn *Just a Closer Walk* STF2158

Matthew 18:15-20 ¹⁵"If another member of the church sins against you, go and point out the fault when the two of you are alone. If the member listens to you, you have regained that one. ¹⁶But if you are not listened to, take one or two others along with you, so that every word may be confirmed by the

Jesus teaches us here a healthy way to navigate disagreements within the church. How can we use this method to improve relationships in our congregational and in our personal relationships?