

Hymn Lord, When I Came Into.. #522

Matthew 18:15-20

²¹Then Peter came and said to him, "Lord, if another member of the church sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?" ²²Jesus said to him, "Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times. ²³"For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves. ²⁴When he began the reckoning, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him; ²⁵and, as he could not pay, his lord ordered him to be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions, and payment to be made.

²⁶So the slave fell on his knees before him, saying, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.' ²⁷And out of pity for him, the lord of that slave released him and forgave him the debt.

²⁸But that same slave, as he went out, came upon one of his fellow slaves who owed him a hundred denarii; and seizing him by the throat, he said, 'Pay what you owe.' ²⁹Then his fellow slave fell down and pleaded with him, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you.'

³⁰But he refused; then he went and threw him into prison until he would pay the debt. ³¹When his fellow slaves saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their lord all that had taken place. ³²Then his lord summoned him and said to him, 'You wicked slave! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. ³³Should you not

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have had mercy on your fellow slave, as I had mercy on you?' ³⁴And in anger his lord handed him over to be tortured until he would pay his entire debt. ³⁵So my heavenly Father will also do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother or sister from your heart."

Sermon

Rev. Sharon Carter

Responding in Faith

Affirmation of Faith Romans 14: 7-9
We do not live to ourselves, and we do not die to ourselves. If we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord; so then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's. For to this end Christ died and lived again.

The Service of Giving

Prayer of Dedication Offering Music

Response *Gloria Patri* #578

Sharing of Joys and Concerns
Prayers of the People

Going into the World

+Hymn *Arise, Your Light Has...* #411

+Charge and Benediction

+Postlude

MISSION



FELLOWSHIP

WORSHIP



Community of Faith

THE BODY OF CHRIST



Community of Faith Presbyterian Church
September 17, 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 *from Ministry Matters*

L: Let us sing songs of hope and peace.

P: God's love and power have lifted us.

L: Let us sing songs of mercy and grace.

P: God's mercy and forgiveness frame our lives.

L: Thanks be to God for all God's love and mercy.

P: Praise be to God for the healing power God extends to each one of us.

+Opening Prayer *Ministry Matters*

We sing and speak your praise, O God, grateful for the many ways in which you have healed us. Keep our hearts, our minds, and our spirits open to learn ways in which we can offer healing love for others. 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 *Holy God, We Praise...* #460

Call to Confession

Confession Let us pray: **Lord, your grace and mercy are ever-present in our lives, your forgiveness is boundless in mercy when we fail to live in Christlike ways. And yet, we are quick to carry a grudge— quick to find fault, quick to assign blame, quick to harden our hearts toward others. Set us apart, loving God, to extend and model the grace you have shown us by offering grace to others. We pray in the name of the One who died so that we might fully live. Amen. (Moment of silence.)**

—*Ministry Matters*

What does it mean to you when Paul says that we live and die to the Lord?

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 *If My People—Goodness is Stronger than Evil*

(Congregation echoes the choir)

If my people (if my people), called by my name (called by my name)

Turn from evil (turn from evil), and seek my face (and seek my face)

repeat

I will hear (I will hear), I'll forgive (I'll forgive), I will heal (I will heal their land)

Hearing the Word

Prayer for Illumination

Hear our prayer O Lord, and open our ears and hearts to the beauty and meaning of your word. Amen.

Scripture Readings

Romans 14:1-20 Welcome those who are weak in faith, but not for the purpose of quarreling over opinions. ²Some be-

lieve in eating anything, while the weak eat only vegetables. ³Those who eat must not despise those who abstain, and those who abstain must not pass judgment on those who eat; for God has welcomed them. ⁴Who are you to pass judgment on servants of another? It is before their own lord that they stand or fall. And they will be upheld, for the Lord is able to make them stand. ⁵Some judge one day to be better than another, while others judge all days to be alike. Let all be fully convinced in their own minds. ⁶Those who observe the day, observe it in honor of the Lord. Also those who eat, eat in honor of the Lord, since they give thanks to God; while those who abstain, abstain in honor of the Lord and give thanks to God. ⁷We do not live to ourselves, and we do not die to ourselves. ⁸If we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord; so then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's. ⁹For to this end Christ died and lived again, so that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living. ¹⁰Why do you pass judgment on your brother or sister? Or you, why do you despise your brother or sister? For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God. ¹¹For it is written, "As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall give praise to God." ¹²So then, each of us will be accountable to God.

What does forgiveness look like to you? In the passage from Matthew, who do you identify with? Why?