



Sunday, March 17, 2024

Fifth Sunday in Lent

"If your brother or sister sins, go and point out their fault, just between the two of you. If they listen to you, you have won them over. But if they will not listen, take one or two others along, so that 'every matter may be established by the testimony of two or three witnesses.' If they still refuse to listen, tell it to the church; and if they refuse to listen even to the church, treat them as you would a pagan or a tax collector.

"Truly I tell you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.

"Again, truly I tell you that if two of you on earth agree about anything they ask for, it will be done for them by my Father in heaven. For where two or three gather in my name, there am I with them."

The Parable of the Unmerciful Servant

Then Peter came to Jesus and asked, "Lord, how many times shall I forgive my brother or sister who sins against me? Up to seven times?"

Jesus answered, "I tell you, not seven times, but seventy-seven times.

Matthew 18:15-22 (NIV)

- CONNECTING YOU WITH CHRIST AND COMMUNITY -

Greeters: Tom Stewart, Cindy Eidam, Trixi Ray, Elizabeth & Clair Hess, Dotty Leaman

Ushers: Michel Gibeault, Bev Campbell, Henry & Wendy Hershey

The white rose recognizes and bears witness to the life and memory of Donald Houghton

The Chancel Flowers are Presented By:

Harry & Eileen Flick, in loving memory of their parents

Gathering in God's Name

Chimes

Prelude

Welcome & Ministry Highlights

Rev. Allison Beaulieu

Please sign and pass the "Friendship Pad" down the pew.

At the end of the row, pass it back so that we can greet one another by name after the service.

* Call to Worship

Rev. Allison Beaulieu

Leader: Good and upright is the Lord

People: With our whole hearts we seek God's mercy

Leader: All the ways of the Lord are loving and faithful

People: With our whole hearts we seek God's wisdom

Leader: God guides the humble in what is right, and teaches them the way

People: With our whole hearts we seek God's path. Our hope is in God all day long!

* Opening Hymn #485

"To God Be The Glory"

Proclaiming God's Word

Call To Confession

Rev. Dr. Bob Burns

Friends, when you study Peter's story in scripture, you notice how much he loves asking questions. He asks Jesus: "What does the parable mean?" "Where are you going?" "How many times should we forgive?" Like a tenacious toddler, Peter was full of questions, because Peter was eager to learn. We may call this an example of "faith seeking understanding." So friends, let's be like Peter. Let's return to Christ with the humility of a student as we pray together the prayer of confession. Let this be a moment of learning. Let us pray:

Prayer of Confession

Rev. Dr. Bob Burns

Holy God, We long to be lifelong learners. We long to approach you with curiosity and an open mind. Instead, we often live as if we know best. We forget that the disciples called you "Rabbi, Teacher." Forgive us for the times when we fail to be curious. Forgive us for the times when we assume we know best. Forgive us for the moments when we imagine that our learning is done and that we have all the answers. Like Peter—who was brave enough to ask, "How many times should we forgive?"—make us brave. Spark a desire in us to learn, and may our curiosity carry our faith into deeper waters. With hope and humility we pray, amen.

Kyrie Eleison 572

Lord, have mercy upon us. Christ, have mercy upon us. Lord, have mercy upon us.

Assurance of Pardon

Rev. Dr. Bob Burns

Leader: Family of faith, when Peter asked Jesus, "How many times should I forgive?" Jesus responded with abundance. That abundance exists for you as well. No matter what you have done or left undone, no matter what lessons you have learned or are still learning, God's abundant grace exists for you. God's love will never run out. Let us proclaim together the good news of the Gospel:

People: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!

Passing of the Peace

Rev. Dr. Bob Burns

Leader: As we are forgiven and reconciled to God through Christ Jesus, let us be reconciled to one another. The peace of the Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

* Gloria Patri 579

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;

As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

*At this time, children through 4th grade are invited to attend Sunday School. Teachers are stationed at the main doors of the sanctuary and will walk the children to the children's classrooms in the Narthex.
Parents/Guardians may pick up their children after the service in the classroom.*

Baptism

Daniel Wang

Reception of New Member

Daniel Wang

Anthem

"Donne's Hymn" by J. Hilton

arr. Daniel Droz

Scripture Readings

Matthew 18:15-22

Message

"Teach Me"

Will Massey

Responding to God's Word

Prayers of Thanksgiving, Lord's Prayer

Rev. Dr. Ann Osborne

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.

Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread;

and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors;

and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

Invitation to the Offering

Rev. Dr. Ann Osborne

Wooden offering boxes are located in the narthex

Going in God's Name

* Closing Hymn #427

"Lord, Whose Love Through Humble Service"

* Charge and Benediction

Will Massey

*Congregational Response

**Come, thou Fount of every blessing;
tune my heart to sing thy grace;
Streams of mercy, never ceasing,
call for songs of loudest praise.
Teach me some melodious sonnet,
sung by flaming tongues above;
Praise the mount! I'm fixed upon it,
mount of God's unchanging love!**

Postlude

*PLEASE STAND IN BODY OR SPIRIT

MUSIC: DR. PAUL THORLAKSON, DIRECTOR OF MUSIC
JONATHAN LEFEVER, ORGANIST
A/V: JERRY ROTHACKER & KEN OSBORNE

Please be advised that services are recorded and you may be incidentally captured on video as part of the recording of the service. The back of the sanctuary is out of the range of the camera.

A description of the stained Chancel window can be found in the front of the hymnal.

FM sound devices are available. Please ask an usher for your own personal receiver.

Cell Phones should be silenced during the worship service.

Video Recordings of the service can be found on the Highland website at www.HighlandPC.org

In the event of an emergency, please refer to the card in the pew racks for evacuation and re-assembly information.