



Sunday, April 21, 2024

"You have heard that it was said, 'An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth.' But I say to you, Do not resist an evildoer. But if anyone strikes you on the right cheek, turn the other also; and if anyone wants to sue you and take your coat, give your cloak as well; and if anyone forces you to go one mile, go also the second mile. Give to everyone who begs from you, and do not refuse anyone who wants to borrow from you.

"You have heard that it was said, 'You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.' But I say to you, Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, so that you may be children of your Father in heaven; for he makes his sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the righteous and on the unrighteous. For if you love those who love you, what reward do you have? Do not even the tax collectors do the same? And if you greet only your brothers and sisters, what more are you doing than others? Do not even the Gentiles do the same? Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect.

Matthew 5:38-48 (NRSV)

- CONNECTING YOU WITH CHRIST AND COMMUNITY -

Greeters: Sara Woodbury & Bob Ganse, Sonteary & Saron Keat, Denny Davish, Phyllis Thompson

Ushers: Grant Shonour, Gary & Sandy Cross, Donna Kinsey, Mike Eyster

The Chancel Flowers are Presented By:

Marge Carpenter, in memory of Michael Carpenter

Larry & Anita Ewing, in honor of Eileen & David Allison's wedding anniversary

Gathering in God's Name

Chimes

Prelude

Welcome & Ministry Highlights

Rev. Dr. Ann Osborne

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. Dr. Ann Osborne

Leader: God teaches us to love, even our enemies, so we learn to love others as ourselves.

People: God teaches us to deny ourselves, even walking the extra mile, so we will generously give ourselves to others, even as Christ has given himself for us.

All: God teaches us new ways to journey through life, so we will follow Jesus in all things as we journey together in the reign of God each day.

*Hymn #464

"Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee"

Proclaiming God's Word

Call to Confession

Rev. Dr. Bob Burns

The wisdom of the world is foolishness with God. We have become enmeshed in the world's foolishness. We speak of rights, and plot ways to get ahead. We live among revenge-seekers who label Christ's ways impossible. Let us confess our distance from God's design for our lives.

Prayer of Confession

Rev. Dr. Bob Burns

Gracious God, we do not understand Your ways. We have learned to treat others with conduct You do not intend for us. A friend hurts us so we hurt them back; someone hits us and we strike back; a family member ridicules us so we gossip about him or her. God of mercy, You call us to transform our lives into new ways of seeing, knowing and loving others. You call us to a life of forgiving, not avenging; peace, not anger; love, not hate. You forgive us of all we have done. Help us walk in Your new ways of living as we follow Jesus, our Savior, our Master and our Teacher. 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: All of life begins with God and ends with God – the love which can create, renew, restore, transform. God loves you and forgives you-now and forever. Friends, Believe the Good News of the Gospel!!

People: As we listen to God's songs of mercy, we are cradled in grace now and forever! 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.*

Anthem

"Alleluia"

by Randall Thompson

Scripture Reading

Matthew 5:38-48

Message

"How to Love Your Neighbor"

Rev. Dr. Ann Osborne

Responding to God's Word

Prayers of The People, Lord's Prayer

Will Massey

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 #392

"Take Thou Our Minds, Dear Lord"

* Charge and Benediction

Rev. Dr. Ann Osborne

* Congregational Response

Surely the presence of the Lord is in this place;

I can feel His mighty power and His grace;

I can hear the brush of angels' wings; I see glory in each face;

Surely the presence of the Lord is in this place.

Special Presentation

Chris McKim

*PLEASE STAND IN BODY OR SPIRIT

MUSIC: DR. PAUL THORLAKSON, DIRECTOR OF MUSIC

JONATHAN LEFEVER, ORGANIST

A/V: MARK ANDERSON AND JERRY ROTHACKER

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 right side of the sanctuary as you enter 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.