

THE LORD'S DAY IN WORSHIP

A FORGIVING SPIRIT

"Forgive us our sins, for we ourselves forgive everyone who is indebted to us."

LUKE 11:4

At a quick glance, this request may sound like a quid pro quo-that our forgiveness of others somehow earns us the right to be forgiven. If we allow the Scriptures to speak for themselves, however, we will recognize that the opposite is true. God forgives only the penitent – those who feel godly sorrow and repent of their sins. And what is one of the chief evidences of being penitent? A forgiving spirit! In other words, when we forgive one another, we don't earn forgiveness; we show that we have already been transformed by God's forgiving grace.

Jesus taught that it is inconceivable that we who have been forgiven so much should refuse to forgive the debts of others against us (Matthew 18:21-35). Yet we're still tempted to hold grudges, stay angry, to "forgive but not to forget." D. L. Moody is said to have compared that idea to somebody who buries the hatchet but leaves the handle sticking out.

An unforgiving spirit is perhaps the greatest killer of genuine spiritual life. We shouldn't claim to be seeking God if we actively harbor enmity in our hearts against our brothers and sisters. It will extinguish the flame of Christian joy and make it nearly impossible to benefit from the Bible's teaching. It is no surprise, then, that Jesus essentially says, "What I'm saying about a forgiving spirit is a fundamental element of believing prayer. Check your life for it."

Are you bearing a grudge or replaying someone's wronging of you in your mind? Is there someone you have failed to forgive? Reflect on the forgiveness you have received, and ask God to teach and enable you to forgive. For in your forgiveness of the sins of others against you, you reveal that you understand His grace and have been truly forgiven by Him.

How can Your pardon reach and bless the unforgiving heart that broods on wrongs and will not let old bitterness depart? In blazing light Your cross reveals the truth we dimly knew, how small the debts men owe to us, how great our debt to You. Lord, cleanse the depths within our souls, and bid resentment cease; then, reconciled to God and man, our lives will spread Your peace.

ECHOING MATTHEW 18:21-35

The Parable of the Unforgiving Servant

TRINITY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA

MARCH 13, 2022

MORNING WORSHIP

THE SILENT MEDITATION UPON ENTERING THE SANCTUARY

See "A Forgiving Spirit" on the front cover of the bulletin.



APPROACHING GOD'S THRONE

The Christian Greeting and Call to Preparation

9:55 a.m.

The Prelude

Adagio for Strings (agnus Dei), op. 11

Samuel Barber

Maria Chirinos, *violin*; Sicong Chen, *violin*; Nikko White, *viola*; Michael Knowles, *cello*

*The next day [John] saw Jesus coming toward him, and said,
"Behold, the Lamb of God, Who takes away the sin of the world! This is He of Whom I said,
'After me comes a Man Who ranks before me, because He was before me.'"*

John 1: 29-30

Masks are recommended in the Westminster Room.

The Striking of the Hour

The Choral Introit

How Can I Keep from Singing?

Covenant Choir

My life goes on in endless song, above Earth's lamentation.
I catch the sweet, though far-off hymn that hails a new creation.

*Refrain: No storm can shake my inmost calm while to that Rock I'm clinging
Since Christ is Lord of Heaven and Earth, how can I keep from singing?*

The peace of Christ makes fresh my heart, a fountain ever springing.
All things are mine since I am His! How can I keep from singing? *Refrain*

Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the Earth! Serve the Lord with gladness! Come into His presence with singing! Know that the Lord, He is God! It is He Who made us, and we are His; we are His people, and the sheep of His pasture. Enter His gates with thanksgiving, and His courts with praise! Give thanks to Him; bless His Name! For the Lord is good; His steadfast love endures forever, and His faithfulness to all generations.

† The Hymn *Love Divine, All Loves Excelling* (see page 7)

† The Prayer of Invocation

† The Lord's Prayer

**Our Father Which art in Heaven, hallowed be Thy Name.
Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in 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, for ever. Amen.**

† The Gloria Patri

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, amen.

SEEKING GOD'S FACE

The Corporate Prayer of Confession – *The Valley of Vision*

O Lover of the loveless, it is Your will that we should love You with all our heart, soul, mind, strength, and our neighbor as ourselves. But we are not sufficient for these things. There is, by nature, no pure love in our souls; every affection in us is turned from You; we are bound, slaves to lust, we cannot love You, lovely as You are, until You set us free. By grace we are Your free men and would serve You, for we believe You are our God in Jesus, and that through Him we are redeemed, and our sins are forgiven. With this freedom, we would always obey You, but we cannot walk in liberty, any more than we could first attain it, of ourselves. May Your Spirit draw us nearer to You and Your ways. Spirit of Love, make us like the loving Jesus; give us His benevolent temper, His beneficent actions, that we may shine before men to Your glory. The more You do in love in us and by us, humble us the more; keep us meek, lowly, and always ready to give You honor.

The Assurance of God's Pardon – I John 1:9

Child of God, hear the good news. If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. Believe the gospel. Live in peace.

The Offering of His Tithes and Our Gifts Beyond the Tithe

HEARING GOD'S VOICE

The Anthem

Oh Holy Jesus

Jonathan Willcocks

Izzy Woodham, *flute*; Laura Nabholz, *clarinet*

O Holy Jesus, most merciful Redeemer,
may I know Thee more clearly, love Thee more dearly,
and follow Thee more nearly, day by day. Amen.

The Prayer of Illumination

† The Reading of God's Word

I John 1:4-7; I Thessalonians 2:17-3:5

4 And we are writing these things so that our joy may be complete. 5 This is the message we have heard from Him and proclaim to you, that God is Light, and in Him is no darkness at all. 6 If we say we have fellowship with Him while we walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth. 7 But if we walk in the Light, as He is in the Light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus His Son cleanses us from all sin.

17 But since we were torn away from you, brothers, for a short time, in person not in heart, we endeavored the more eagerly and with great desire to see you face to face, 18 because we wanted to come to you—I, Paul, again and again—but Satan hindered us. 19 For what is our hope or joy or crown of boasting before our Lord Jesus at His coming? Is it not you? 20 For you are our glory and joy.

3 Therefore when we could bear it no longer, we were willing to be left behind at Athens alone, 2 and we sent Timothy, our brother and God's coworker in the gospel of Christ, to establish and exhort you in your faith, 3 that no one be moved by these afflictions. For you yourselves know that we are destined for this. 4 For when we were with you, we kept telling you beforehand that we were to suffer affliction, just as it has come to pass, and just as you know. 5 For this reason, when I could bear it no longer, I sent to learn about your faith, for fear that somehow the tempter had tempted you and our labor would be in vain.

All men are like grass, and all their glory is like the flowers of the field.

**The grass withers and the flowers fade,
but the Word of our God shall stand forever. Amen.**

The Personal Meditation and Preparation of the Heart

Children age four through kindergarten may leave to attend Children's Church. They may be picked up in Room E-100 (Pre-K4) and Room E-212 (Kindergarten) after the service.

The Sermon

CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP

Mr. McRoberts

The Benefits of True Friendship

I John 1:4-7; I Thessalonians 2:17-3:5

Why Trinity, VII

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A sermon outline can be found on the back panel of the bulletin.

COMMUNING WITH THE LORD JESUS CHRIST AND HIS PEOPLE

The Invitation to and Fencing of the Table

Participation requires your reverence and attention, discernment of the Lord's Body, a clear understanding of the meaning of the Lord's Supper, meditation on Christ's suffering and death, self-judgment, sorrow for sin, desire for Christ, feeding on Him in faith, trusting in Him, rejoicing in His love, giving thanks for His grace, renewal of your covenant with God and commitment to Christ, and your special love to all Christians.

† The Hymn

Blest Be the Tie That Binds
(stanzas 1, 2, and 5)

(see page 8)

† The Confession of Our Faith

The Apostles' Creed

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of Heaven and earth; and in Jesus Christ His only Son our Lord, Who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; He descended into hell; the third day He rose again from the dead; He ascended into Heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence He shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

† The Prayer of Humble Access

The Words of Institution

The Serving of the Meal

Panis Angelicus

César Franck

The bread of angels becomes bread for all mankind; The Bread of Heaven fulfills all that was foreshadowed; Oh, Miraculous Gift! The body of the Lord nourishes the poor and the humble.

(translated from Latin)

FOLLOWING GOD'S SPIRIT

† The Hymn

O Church, Arise

(see pages 9-10)

† The Benediction of God's Grace

The Threefold Amen (*sung by all*):



A - men, A - men, A - men.

The Postlude

Gospel Prelude - What a Friend We Have in Jesus

William Bolcom

*“This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you.
Greater love has no one than this, that someone lay down his life for his friends.
You are My friends if you do what I command you. No longer do I call you servants,
for the servant does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends,
for all that I have heard from My Father I have made known to you.*

John 15:12-15

Love divine, all loves excelling, Joy of Heav'n, to Earth come down:
fix in us Thy humble dwelling, all Thy faithful mercies crown:
Jesus, Thou art all compassion, pure, unbounded love Thou art;
visit us with Thy salvation, enter ev'ry trembling heart.

Breathe, O breathe Thy loving Spirit into ev'ry troubled breast;
let us all in Thee inherit, let us find the promised rest:
take away the love of sinning; Alpha and Omega be;
End of faith, as its Beginning, set our hearts at liberty.

Come, Almighty to deliver, let us all Thy life receive;
suddenly return, and never, nevermore Thy temples leave.
Thee we would be always blessing, serve Thee as Thy hosts above,
pray, and praise Thee, without ceasing, glory in Thy perfect love.

Finish, then, Thy new creation; pure and spotless let us be:
let us see Thy great salvation perfectly restored in Thee;
changed from glory into glory, till in Heav'n we take our place,
till we cast our crowns before Thee, lost in wonder, love, and praise.

Blest Be the Tie That Binds

Stanzas 1, 2, and 5

1. Blest be the tie that binds our hearts in
 2. Be - fore the Fa - ther's throne we pour our
 3. We share our mu - tual woes, our mu - tual
 4. When we a - sun - der part, it gives us
 5. This glo - rious hope re - vives our cour - age
 6. From sor - row, toil and pain, and sin, we

Chris - tian love: the fel - low - ship of
 ar - dent prayers; our fears, our hopes, our
 bur - dens bear, and of - ten for each
 in - ward pain; but we shall still be
 by the way, while each in ex - pec -
 shall be free; and per - fect love and

kin - dred minds is like to that a - bove.
 aims are one, our com - forts and our cares.
 oth - er flows the sym - pa - thiz - ing tear.
 joined in heart, and hope to meet a - gain.
 ta - tion lives, and longs to see the day.
 friend - ship reign through all e - ter - ni - ty.

WORDS: John Fawcett, 1782
 MUSIC: Hans G. Nägeli, 1828; arr. Lowell Mason, 1845

DENNIS
 SM
Galatians 3:28

O Church, Arise

Bb7sus Eb Ab Bb

1. O church, a - rise, and put your ar - mor on; hear the
 2. Our call to war, to love the cap - tive soul, but to
 3. Come see the cross, where love and mer - cy meet, as the
 4. So Spir - it, come, put strength in ev - 'ry stride, give

Eb Ab Bb sus Eb Bb7sus Eb

call of Christ our Cap - tain, for now the weak can say that
 rage a - gainst the cap - tor; and with the sword that makes the
 Son of God is strick - en; then see his foes lie crushed be -
 grace for ev - 'ry hur - dle; that we may run with faith, to

Ab Bb Eb Ab Bb sus Eb

they are strong, in the strength that God has giv - en.
 wound - ed whole, we will fight with faith and val - or.
 neath his feet, for the Con - quer - or has ris - en.
 win the prize of a ser - vant, good and faith - ful.

WORDS: Keith Getty and Stuart Townend
 MUSIC: Keith Getty and Stuart Townend
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O CHURCH, ARISE
 10.8.10.8.8.8.10.8
Ephesians 6:11

Ab Eb Bb Eb

With shield of faith and belt of truth, we'll stand a -
 When faced with trials on ev - 'ry side, we know the
 And as the stone is rolled a - way and Christ e -
 As saints of old still line the way, re - tell - ing

Ab Eb Cm Bb Bb7sus Eb

gainst the dev - il's lies; an ar - my bold, whose bat - tle
 out - come is se - cure. And Christ will have the prize for
 merg - es from the grave, this vic - t'ry march con - tin - ues
 tri - umphs of his grace, we hear their calls, and hun - ger

Ab Bb Eb Ab Bbsus Eb

cry is love, reach - ing out to those in dark - ness.
 which he died, an in - her - i - tance of na - tions.
 till the day ev - 'ry eye and heart shall see him.
 for the day when, with Christ, we stand in glo - ry.

CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP
The Benefits of True Friendship
I John 1:4-7; I Thessalonians 2:17-3:5
Why Trinity, VII

OPENING COMMENTS

INTRODUCTION

I. CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP REQUIRES WALKING IN THE LIGHT ~ JOHN 1:7

- A. God Is Light
- B. Walking in the Light
- C. Fellowshiping in the Light
 - 1. *Unity ~ John 17:21*
 - 2. *Service ~ Mark 10:45; Galatians 5:13; I Peter 4:10*
 - 3. *Koinonia ~ Acts 2:42; I Corinthians 1:9; Philippians 2:1-4*
 - 4. *Acceptance ~ Philippians 2:3; Galatians 3:28; Colossians 3:11*
 - 5. *Grace, Love and Fellowship ~ II Corinthians 13:14*
 - 6. *Longing ~ II Timothy 4:9, 21a*
 - 7. *Sincerity and Fervency ~ I Peter 1:22*

 - 8. *Familial ~ I Thessalonians 4:9*

II. CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP GROUNDS ITSELF IN GOSPEL-CENTERED FRIENDSHIPS ~ I THESSALONIANS 2:17-3:5

- A. Gospel-centered Friendships Start at the Cross
- B. Gospel-centered Friendships Are Present in the Moment
- C. Gospel-centered Friendships Are Our Glory and Joy
- D. Gospel-centered Friendships Are Always Under Attack
- E. Gospel-centered Friendships Sharpen My Faith

CONCLUSION