

8AM SANCTUARY SERVICE

PRELUDE

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

OPENING PRAYER

Let us pray. **O Lord God, merciful judge, you are the inexhaustible fountain of forgiveness. Replace our hearts of stone with hearts that love and adore you, that we may delight in doing your will, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

✠ HYMN No. 452 “My Faith Looks Up To Thee”

PRAYER OF CONFESSION & PARDON

Loving God, we confess that we struggle to forgive and we struggle to create space for forgiveness. We expect others to pardon our faults without also attending to our own need to repent. We demand forgiveness from others instead of recognizing forgiveness as a gift we give to one another and that we receive from you. Forgive us, we pray, and free us to joyfully extend mercy and grace to one another, to set and respect boundaries with one another, and to receive from you the love and wisdom we need to grow as the community of Christ. Amen.

pause in silence for personal confession

Hear the good news: Christ died for us while we were yet sinners; that proves God's love toward us. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

Glory to God. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE *Following each petition, please respond: Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.*

THE LORD'S PRAYER

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 trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

✠ HYMN No. 632 “Draw Us In the Spirit’s Tether” (Hymn of the Month)

OFFERTORY PRAYER

OFFERTORY: Organ Voluntary by Bernard Raley

✠ PRESENTATION OF TITHES & OFFERINGS No. 95 Doxology

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise Him all creatures here below; Praise Him above, ye heavenly host; praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Gracious God, as we turn to your Word for us, may the Spirit of God rest upon us. Help us to be steadfast in our hearing, in our speaking, in our believing, and in our living. Amen.

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON: Genesis 50:15-21

¹⁵Realizing that their father was dead, Joseph's brothers said, "What if Joseph still bears a grudge against us and pays us back in full for all the wrong that we did to him?" ¹⁶So they approached Joseph, saying, "Your father gave this instruction before he died, ¹⁷'Say to Joseph: I beg you, forgive the crime of your brothers and the wrong they did in harming you.' Now therefore please forgive the crime of the servants of the God of your father." Joseph wept when they spoke to him. ¹⁸Then his brothers also wept, fell down before him, and said, "We are here as your slaves." ¹⁹But Joseph said to them, "Do not be afraid! Am I in the place of God? ²⁰Even though you intended to do harm to me, God intended it for good, in order to preserve a numerous people, as he is doing today. ²¹So have no fear; I myself will provide for you and your little ones." In this way he reassured them, speaking kindly to them.

GOSPEL LESSON: Matthew 18:21-35

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 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."

May God bless our reading to these Holy Scriptures. Amen.

SERMON by Rev. Dane Womack

✠ AFFIRMATION OF FAITH No. 881 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 Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; the third day he rose from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth at 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 Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

✠ 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.

✠ INVITATION TO CHRISTIAN DISCIPLESHIP

✠ HYMN OF DEDICATION No. 408 "The Gift Of Love"

✠ BENEDICTION

✝ POSTLUDE

11AM SANCTUARY SERVICES

PRELUDE

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

OPENING PRAYER

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CHORAL CALL TO WORSHIP: "Come, Bless the Lord"

✠ HYMN No. 452 "My Faith Looks Up To Thee"

PRAYER OF CONFESSION & PARDON

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✠PASS THE PEACE OF CHRIST

CHILDREN'S TIME

As children come forward, let us sing together "Jesus Loves Me": *Jesus loves me, this I know, For the Bible tells me so, Little ones to Him belong, They are weak, but He is strong, Yes, Jesus loves me, Yes, Jesus loves me, Yes, Jesus loves me, The Bible tells me so.*

✠ HYMN No. 632 "Draw Us In the Spirit's Tether" (Hymn of the Month)

CHORAL ANTHEM: "Song of the Potter"

PRAYER OF THE PEOPLE *Following each petition, please respond:* Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

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† CLOSING SONG

† LORD'S PRAYER

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