



9TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

MEDITATION BEFORE WORSHIP:

Begin this week's worship with a time to meditate on our theme expressed in Jesus' words from Matthew 25: 31

“When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on the throne of his glory. 32 All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats, 33 and he will put the sheep at his right hand and the goats at the left.

34 Then the king will say to those at his right hand, ‘Come, you that are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world; 35 for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, 36 I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me.’

37 Then the righteous will answer him, ‘Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food, or thirsty and gave you something to drink? 38 And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you, or naked and gave you clothing? 39 And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?’

40 And the king will answer them, ‘Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family,[g] you did it to me.’

41 Then he will say to those at his left hand, ‘You that are accursed, depart from me into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels; 42 for I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink, 43 I was a stranger and you did not welcome me, naked and you did not give me clothing, sick and in prison and you did not visit me.’

44 Then they also will answer, ‘Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not take care of you?’ 45 Then he will answer them, ‘Truly I tell you, just as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to me.’

PASTORAL WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

THOUGHTS FOR THE DAY:

- ❖ “To be a Christian means to forgive the inexcusable because God has forgiven the inexcusable in you.” - C.S. Lewis
- ❖ “Forgiveness does not change the past, but it does enlarge the future.” - Paul Boose
- ❖ “To forgive is the highest, most beautiful form of love. In return, you will receive untold peace and happiness.” - Robert Muller

OPENING SONG: *There's a Wideness in God's Mercy; verses 1, 2 & 3*
(music at end of bulletin)

CALL TO WORSHIP:

L: How blessed we are that God forgives us and loves us!

P: For all those times when we have fallen short of what God would have us be, we have been forgiven.

L: God makes us new in God's Spirit!

P: Now is the time to joyfully accept the newness of life which God offers to us.

L: Come, let us worship and be thankful.

P: Let us open our hearts to God's forgiveness, peace and joy. Amen.

OUR CONFESSION :

For those who have betrayed us...Father, forgive them.

for those who have let us down...Father, forgive them.

for those who have been indifferent to us...Father, forgive them.

for those who have crippled our lives...Father, forgive them.

for those who have doubted us...Father, forgive them.

for those who have accused us...Father, forgive them.

for those who have preferred others to us...Father, forgive them.

for family members who have hurt us...Father, forgive them.

for friends who have denied us...Father, forgive them.

for those who have walked away from us...Father, forgive them.

For my own self pity...Father, forgive me.

for my apathy ...Father, forgive me.

for my times of despair and distrust...Father, forgive me.

for my refusals to be involved...Father, forgive me.

for my disbelief in your love...Father, forgive me.

for my searchings everywhere but in your heart...**Father, forgive me.**

for apologies frozen on my lips...**Father, forgive me.**

for my words of love unspoken...**Father, forgive me.**

for my kisses and embraces ungiven...**Father, forgive me.**

for compliments never offered...**Father, forgive me.**

for a heart closed in self-centeredness...**Father, forgive me.**

for my own unforgiving postures...**Father, forgive me.**

for not believing in your forgiveness...**Father, forgive me.**

ASSURANCE OF PARDON:

Leader: Hear the good news. Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners. He bore our sins in his body on the cross, that we might be forgiven and freed to live lives of love. In the name of Jesus Christ, embrace God's forgiveness and peace.

People: Amen.

THE CONFESSION RESPONSE: Forgiven (music at end of bulletin)

THE GOSPEL: Matthew 18:23-35 (The Message)

²³⁻²⁵ "The kingdom of God is like a king who decided to square accounts with his servants. As he got under way, one servant was brought before him who had run up a debt of a hundred thousand dollars. He couldn't pay up, so the king ordered the man, along with his wife, children, and goods, to be auctioned off at the slave market.

²⁶⁻²⁷ "The poor wretch threw himself at the king's feet and begged, 'Give me a chance and I'll pay it all back.' Touched by his plea, the king let him off, erasing the debt.

²⁸ "The servant was no sooner out of the room when he came upon one of his fellow servants who owed him ten dollars. He seized him by the throat and demanded, 'Pay up. Now!'

²⁹⁻³¹ "The poor wretch threw himself down and begged, 'Give me a chance and I'll pay it all back.' But he wouldn't do it. He had him arrested and put in jail until the debt was paid. When the other servants saw this going on, they were outraged and brought a detailed report to the king.

³²⁻³⁵ "The king summoned the man and said, 'You evil servant! I forgave your entire debt when you begged me for mercy. Shouldn't you be compelled to be merciful to your fellow servant who asked for mercy?' The king was furious and put the screws to the man until he paid back his entire debt. And that's exactly what my Father in heaven is going to do to each one of you who doesn't forgive unconditionally anyone who asks for mercy."

MESSAGE: *“Forgiveness in Action”* - Nate Shubat

MESSAGE RESPONSE: *The Compassion Hymn (music at end of bulletin)*

THE PRAYERS

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, and the Power, and the Glory, forever and ever. Amen.

THE SENDING OUT:

Leader: Forgiven and Beloved Ones of God, go now in peace, sharing with others the Good News of God’s love. Forgive as you have been forgiven. Help those in need. Give and receive from each other the joy of peace.

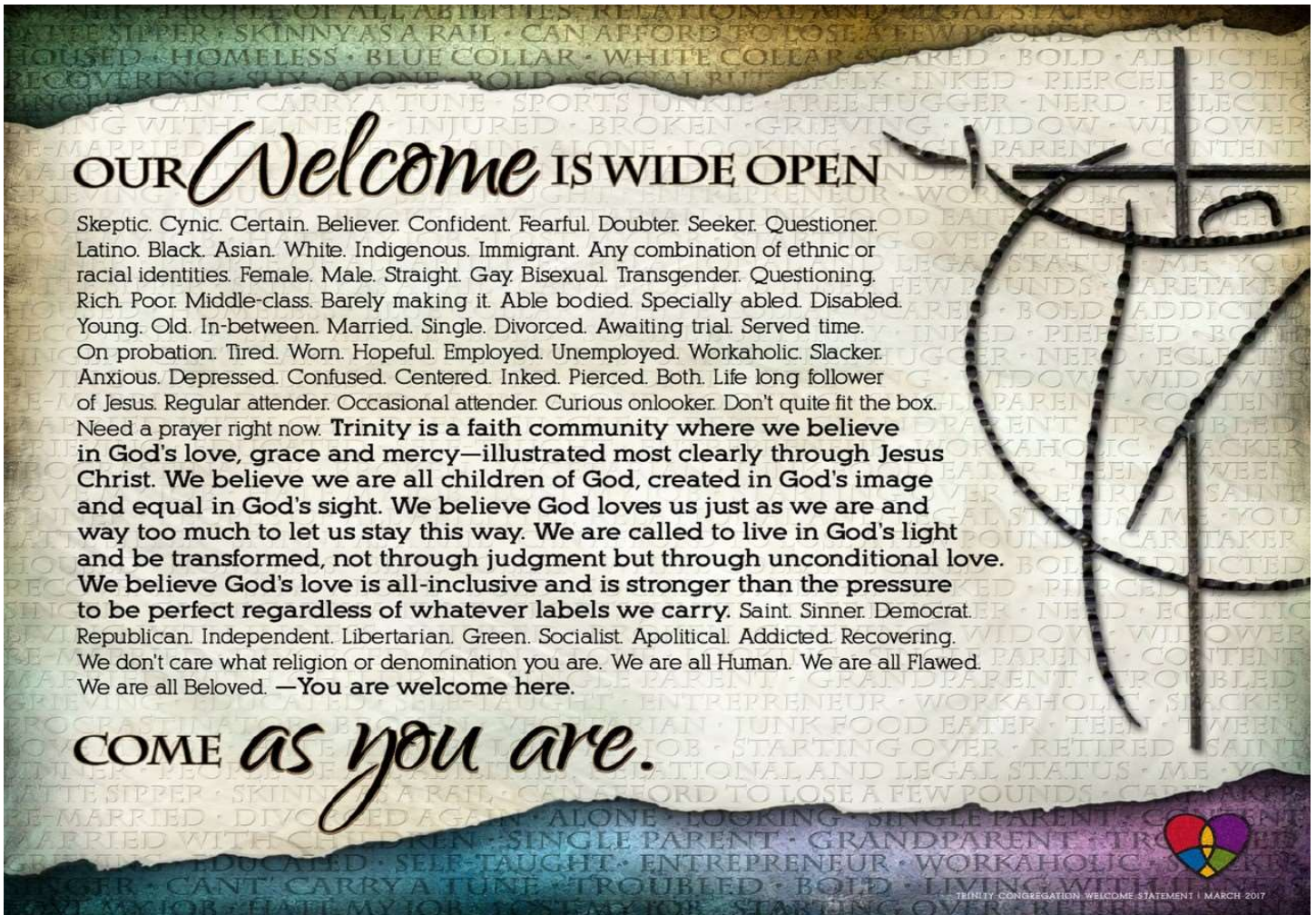
All: Amen.

THE SENDING SONG: *Go Now (music at end of bulletin)*

THE DISMISSAL:

Leader: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.



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ELW 588 There's a Wideness in God's Mercy to tune ELW 631

1. There's a wide - ness in God's mer - cy like the
 2. There is the pro - mise of for God the is sin - ner, like and the
 3. For the love of God is broad - er than the

wide - ness of grace the sea; there's a
 prom - ised of made good; there and is
 mea - sures of our mind; and the

kind - ness in God's jus - tice which is more heal - than
 mer - cy with the E - Sav - ior there is is is won - ing der -
 heart of the E - ter - nal is most won - der -

lib - er - ty. There is no place where earth's
 in his blood. There is is we grace make e - nough love for
 ful - ly kind. But we make this love too

sor - rows are more felt than up in heav'n.
 nar - sands of new worlds as great of as our this;
 row by false lim - its of our own;

There is no room place where earth's fail - ings
 There is we no room mag - ni - fy fresh cre - a - tions
 and we mag - ni - fy fresh cre - a - tions
 its strict - ness

have such kind - ly judg - ment giv'n.
 in with that a zeal - per God home - ment of bliss.
 with a zeal - per God will not own.

Forgiven

For - giv - en, I've been for - giv - en; God has looked be -
 yond my sin, Saved me from what I might have been, Gave me a new
 life with - in, I am for - giv - en by His grace.

The Compassion Hymn

1. There is an ev - er - last - ing kind - ness_ You
 (3. We stood be) - neath the cross of Cal - v'ry_ and
 (4. How beau - ti) - ful the feet that car - ry_ this

lav - ished on us, when the ra - diance of hea - ven came to
 gazed on Your face at the thorns of op - pres - sion and the
 Gos - pel of peace to the fields of in - jus - tice and the

res - cue the lost. You called the sheep with - out a
 wounds of dis - grace; for sure - ly You have borne our
 val - leys of need. To be a voice of hope and

shep - herd_ to leave their dis - tress for Your streams of for -
 suff - 'ring_ and car - ried our grief, as You par - doned the
 heal - ing, to an - swer the cries of the hun - gry and

give - ness and the shade of your rest. 3. We stood be -
 scoff - er and showed grace to the
 help - less with the mer - cy of

2., 3.
 thief. What bound - less love, what fath - om - less grace You have shown us, O
 Christ.

God of com - pas - sion. Each day we live an off - 'ring of praise, as we

show to the world Your com - pas - sion. 4. How beau - ti -

