



AUGUST 26-27 2023

13TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

MEDITATION PRAYER BEFORE WORSHIP:

O God who forgives and restores those who are lost: Grant us the faith to trust that you truly love us and forgive us all our sins. Help us to share your love and forgiveness with others so that they may know the joy we have found in you. Amen.

PASTORAL WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

THOUGHTS FOR THE DAY:

❖ *Without forgiveness, there's no future.* - Desmond Tutu

❖ *To forgive somebody is to say one way or another, "You have done something unspeakable, and by all rights I should call it quits between us. Both my pride and my principles demand no less. However, although I make no guarantees that I will be able to forget what you've done, and though we may both carry the scars for life, I refuse to let it stand between us. I still want you for my friend."*

To accept forgiveness means to admit that you've done something unspeakable that needs to be forgiven, and thus both parties must swallow the same thing: their pride.

This seems to explain what Jesus means when he says to God, "Forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us." Jesus is not saying that God's forgiveness is conditional upon our forgiving others. In the first place, forgiveness that's conditional isn't really forgiveness at all, just fair warning; and in the second place, our unforgivingness is among those things about us that we need to have God forgive us most. What Jesus apparently is saying is that the pride that keeps us from forgiving is the same pride that keeps us from accepting forgiveness, and will God please help us do something about it.

- Frederick Buechner

CALL TO WORSHIP:

L: We have been given a ministry of reconciliation and sharing.

P: God reconciled us to God's self through the witness of Jesus Christ.

L: No longer do we need to fear.

P: Hope has been given to us. We are forgiven.

L: So we are now ambassadors for Christ. God is making God's appeal to all humankind through us - in all that we say, think and do.

P: Praise be to God who has placed God's trust in us. We will strive to serve God faithfully as we forgive one another. Amen.

PRAISE SONG: *Cry Mercy (music at end of bulletin)*

THE CONFESSION:

Leader: The God who knows us better than we know ourselves invites us to come and confess the state of our lives so that we might receive forgiveness and newness of life.

People: We confess before one another and to our God that we are a sinful people. We have not loved others as ourselves. We have not even loved ourselves well. We have taken God's love for granted and failed to reform our lives. We have looked down on others in an attempt to feel better about ourselves. We have failed to forgive as God forgives us. Forgive us and renew us as your image so that we may freely share your love and forgiveness with others. Amen.

Leader: God loves you and all creation, delighting in your life and not your death. In the name of Jesus Christ you are forgiven. Amen.

CONFESSION RESPONSE: *Mercy (music at end of bulletin)*

THE LESSON: *Ephesians 4:15-16, 31-32*

Writing to the congregation he started on the coast of the Aegean Sea of what we call Turkey today, the Apostle Paul suggests some behaviors that they might exhibit individually and as a community who believe in Jesus.

But speaking the truth in love, we must grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, from whom the whole body, joined and knitted together by every ligament with which it is equipped, as each part is working properly, promotes the body's growth in building itself up in love.

Put away from you all bitterness and wrath and anger and wrangling and slander, together with all malice, and be kind to one another, tender-hearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ has forgiven you.

THE GOSPEL: *John 8:1-11*

As John tells the story of Jesus' life, he includes this incident involving the religious leadership of the scribes and Pharisees and a woman who was caught in adultery. They said their law required stoning and whether Jesus also supported such action. Jesus responds by saying whoever is without sin should throw the first stone at her. When none do it, He tells her she is forgiven.

Early in the morning Jesus came again to the temple. All the people came to him and he sat down and began to teach them. The scribes and the Pharisees brought a woman who had been caught in adultery; and making her stand before all of them, they said to him, 'Teacher, this woman was caught in the very act of committing adultery. Now in the law Moses commanded us to stone such women. Now what do you say?' They said

this to test him, so that they might have some charge to bring against him. Jesus bent down and wrote with his finger on the ground. When they kept on questioning him, he straightened up and said to them, 'Let anyone among you who is without sin be the first to throw a stone at her.' And once again he bent down and wrote on the ground. When they heard it, they went away, one by one, beginning with the elders; and Jesus was left alone with the woman standing before him. Jesus straightened up and said to her, 'Woman, where are they? Has no one condemned you?' She said, 'No one, sir.' And Jesus said, 'Neither do I condemn you. Go your way, and from now on do not sin again.'

MESSAGE: "To err is human; to forgive, divine. Ain't it the truth?"

- Pastor David Schoob

THE MESSAGE RESPONSE: *The Reconciliation Song*
(music at end of bulletin)

THE PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

THE LORD'S PRAYER:

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come, Your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread and forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are Yours now and forever. Amen.

THE SENDING OUT:

Leader: Go into God's world knowing that you are loved more than you can imagine. Share God's love and forgiveness with all you encounter. Love and forgive them as God has loved and forgiven you and you will find and share the blessing of God Almighty. **Amen.**

THE SENDING SONG: *Let the Walls Fall Down* (music at end of bulletin)

THE DISMISSAL:

Leader: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

OUR *Welcome* IS WIDE OPEN

Skeptic. Cynic. Believer. Confident. Fearful. Doubter. Seeker. Questioner. Latino. Black. Asian. White. Indigenous. Immigrant. Any combination of ethnic or racial identities. Female. Male. Straight. Gay. Bisexual. Transgender. Questioning. Rich. Poor. Middle-class. Barely making it. Able bodied. Specially abled. Disabled. Young. Old. In-between. Married. Single. Divorced. Awaiting trial. Served time. On probation. Tired. Worn. Hopeful. Employed. Unemployed. Workaholic. Slacker. Anxious. Depressed. Confused. Centered. Inked. Pierced. Both. Life long follower of Jesus. Regular attender. Occasional attender. Curious onlooker. Don't quite fit the box. Need a prayer right now. **Trinity is a faith community where we believe in God's love, grace and mercy—illustrated most clearly through Jesus Christ. We believe we are all children of God, created in God's image and equal in God's sight. We believe God loves us just as we are and way too much to let us stay this way. We are called to live in God's light and be transformed, not through judgment but through unconditional love. We believe God's love is all-inclusive and is stronger than the pressure to be perfect regardless of whatever labels we carry.** Saint. Sinner. Democrat. Republican. Independent. Libertarian. Green. Socialist. Apolitical. Addicted. Recovering. We don't care what religion or denomination you are. We are all Human. We are all Flawed. We are all Beloved. —You are welcome here.

COME *as you are.*



TRINITY CONGREGATION WELCOME STATEMENT | MARCH 2017

Cry Mercy

Eyes of want and depths of need. Creeds of hate and
 Worlds of hun-ger, miles of waste. Hearts of stone and
 From the hurt we can't es-cape. We're con-nect-ed,
 piles of greed. Loss of truth and groans of pain.
 lives of haste. Crimes of war and tears of grief.
 bound by grace. Ev'-ry col-or, young and old.
 Voic-es cry for change. Cry mer____-cy, your
 Voic-es of be-lief.
 Voic-es on the road.
 touch I need. Cry mer____-cy, oh, hear my plea. Cry
 mer____-cy, oh, oh, oh, oh. Cry mer____-cy.

Mercy

Mer - cy, Oh, mer - cy, ev - er - lov - ing kind - ness that
sees be - yond our blind - ness. Mer - cy, Oh, mer - cy, we're
call - ing on you Lord for us to be re stored. Oh, mer - cy.

Song ending

1. I know I hurt you
2. An - ger and hat - red
3. Sun - set brings dark - ness,
with things I do and say. I want to
speak too loud on earth; steal - ing the
a chance to rest our hearts. Sun - rise brings
love you but I lose my way.
sa - cred tear - ing at our worth.
day - light and a brand new start.

The Reconciliation Song



1. Oh, let us be_ the gen - er - a__ - tion of
2. Oh, let us be_ the gen - er - a__ - tion of
3. Oh, let us be the gen - er - a__ - tion of



rec - on - cil - i - a - tion and peace, and let us be
rec - on - cil - i - a - tion and peace, and let us build
rec - on - cil - i - a - tion and peace, and let us pray



a ho - ly na__ - tion where
on one foun - da__ - tion 'til He
for res - to - ra__ - tion and



pride_____ and prej - u - dice shall cease. Let us
comes__ and the wars of men shall cease. Let us
seek the Lord to - geth - er on our knees. Let us



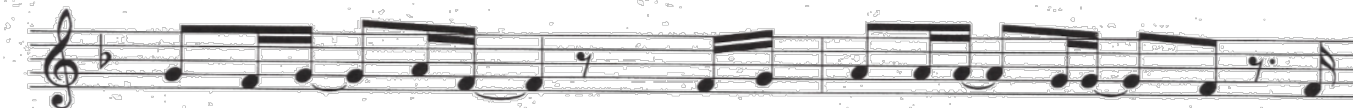
speak the truth in love to the
share the love of Je - sus with
keep our hearts from e - vil and



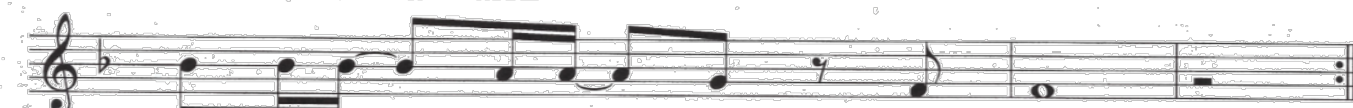
lost and least of these, let us
- out hy - poc - ri - sy, let_
cling to what is good, let us



serve the Lord in u__ - ni - ty so
mer - cy and for - give - ness be -
hon - or one an - oth - er and



oth - ers will be - lieve. Let us be the gen - er - a - - tion of
gin with you and me.
love the broth - er - hood.



rec - on - cil - i - a - tion and peace.

Let the Walls Fall Down

Let the walls fall down, — let the walls fall down, —
let the walls fall down; —
By His love let the walls fall — down.
1. One by one, we're drawn to - geth - er, one by one, to
2. In His love, no walls be - tween us, in His love, a
Je - sus' side. One in Him, we'll live for - ev - er,
com - mon ground. Kneel - ing at the cross of Je - sus
stran - gers He has rec - on - ciled.
all our pride comes tum - bl'ing down. *Repeat Chorus.*

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