

Mission: To be a church where faith is fostered, community is cherished, and Christ's love thrives.

ENTRANCE

PRELUDE

GATHERING SONG

O How I love Jesus

Soloist, Sam Cordasco

WELCOME

CALL TO WORSHIP*

UMH 757: PSALM 25:6-10

Liturgist

L: Be Mindful of your mercy, O Lord, and of your steadfast love, for they have been from of old.

P: Remember not the sins of my youth, or my transgressions; according to your steadfast love remember me, for the sake of your goodness, O Lord.

L: Good and upright is the Lord; therefore the Lord instructs sinners in the way, and leads the humble in what is right, and teaches them their way.

P: All the paths of the Lord are steadfast love and faithfulness, for those who keep the Lord's covenant and testimonies.

HYMN*

Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee

UMH 89

1. Joyful, joyful, we adore thee, God of glory, Lord of love; hearts unfold like flowers before thee, opening to the sun above. Melt the clouds of sin and sadness; drive the dark of doubt away. Giver of immortal gladness, fill us with the light of day!

2. All thy works with joy surround thee, earth and heaven reflect thy rays, stars and angels sing around thee, center of unbroken praise. Field and forest, vale and mountain, flowery meadow, flashing sea, chanting bird and flowing fountain, call us to rejoice in thee.

3. Thou art giving and forgiving, ever blessing, ever blest, wellspring of the joy of living, ocean depth of happy rest! Thou our Father, Christ our brother, all who live in love are thine; teach us how to love each other, lift us to the joy divine.

4. Mortals, join the mighty chorus which the morning stars began; love divine is reigning o'er us, binding all within its span. Ever singing, march we onward, victors in the midst of strife; joyful music leads us sunward, in the triumph song of life.

CONGREGATIONAL PRAYER

Liturgist

Following the Liturgist prayer please respond by saying:

L: Lord in your mercy.

P: Hear our prayer.

PROCLAMATION AND RESPONSE

SCRIPTURE READING

Matthew 18:21-35

Then Peter came and said to him, "Lord, if my brother or sister sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?" Jesus said to him, "Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times. "For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves. When he began the reckoning, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him, and, as he could not pay, the lord ordered him to be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions and payment to be made. So the slave fell on his knees before him, saying, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.' And out of pity for him, the lord of that slave released him and forgave him the debt. But 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.' Then his fellow slave fell down and pleaded with him, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you.' But he refused; then he went and threw him into prison until he would pay the debt. When his fellow slaves saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their lord all that had taken place. Then his lord summoned him and said to him, 'You wicked slave! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. Should you not have had mercy on your fellow slave, as I had mercy on you?' And in anger his lord handed him over to be tortured

until he would pay his entire debt. So my heavenly Father will also do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother or sister from your heart.”

L: This is the Word of God for the Children of God

P: Thanks be to God

HYMN OF REFLECTION

Help Us Accept Each Other

UMH 560

1. Help us accept each other as Christ accepted us; teach us as sister, brother, each person to embrace. Be present, Lord, among us, and bring us to believe we are ourselves accepted and meant to love and live.
2. Teach us, O Lord, your lessons, as in our daily life we struggle to be human and search for hope and faith. Teach us to care for people, for all, not just for some, to love them as we find them, or as they may become.
3. Let your acceptance change us, so that we may be moved in living situations to do the truth in love; to practice your acceptance, until we know by heart the table of forgiveness and laughter's healing art.
4. Lord, for today's encounters with all who are in need, who hunger for acceptance, for righteousness and bread, we need new eyes for seeing, new hands for holding on; renew us with your Spirit; Lord, free us, make us one!

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. Amen

SERMON

Lord Teach Us to Pray: Forgiven

Rev. Amy Beth Coleman

THANKSGIVING

RESPONSE TO THE WORD

PASTORAL PRAYER

CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF THE CHURCH

SENDING FORTH

HYMN*

There is a Wideness in God's Mercy

UMH 121

1. There's a wideness in God's mercy like the wideness of the sea; there's a kindness in God's justice, which is more than liberty.
2. There is welcome for the sinner, and more graces for the good! There is mercy with the Savior; there is healing in his blood.
3. For the love of God is broader than the measure of our mind; and the heart of the Eternal is most wonderfully kind.
4. If our love were but more simple, we should rest upon God's word; and our lives would be illumined by the presence of our Lord.

BENEDICTION*

POSTLUDE

RESPONSE TO THE WORD

Focus Verse: Romans 3.23-24

since all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God; they are now justified by God's grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus.

To forgive is to set a prisoner free and discover that the prisoner was you.

~Lewis Smedes

When have you found it especially difficult to forgive someone?

