

SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY
September 13, 2020
The Twenty-Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time

While in-person Worship services are suspended, Montgomery Presbyterian Church will be recording services. The following is an order of service that you can use to follow along with the recorded service, or use to read and reflect on your own. The recorded service can be found on the church's Facebook page and on YouTube. Please check Facebook, the website and emails from the church for links to the recorded service. Thank you for your cooperation and patience during this challenging time.

PRELUDE

There's a Wideness in God's Mercy

GTG 435

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Elder of the Month: Dave Bowen (703-2319)
- Deacon of the Month: Jennifer Mathis (374-3238)
- Pledge envelopes went out in the mail this week, please return before the end of September
- PNC Update
- Congregational Meeting via Zoom/Phone on September 20, 2020

CALL TO WORSHIP

Psalm 103:8-13

The LORD is compassionate and gracious,

slow to anger, abounding in love.

He will not always accuse,

nor will he harbor his anger forever;

he does not treat us as our sins deserve

or repay us according to our iniquities.

For as high as the heavens are above the earth,

so great is his love for those who fear him;

as far as the east is from the west,

so far has he removed our transgressions from us.

As a father has compassion on his children,

so the LORD has compassion on those who fear him;

For he knows how we are formed,

He remembers that we are dust.

HYMN

Glory to God, Whose Goodness Shines on Me GTG 582

*Glory to God, whose goodness shines on me,
And to the Son, whose grace has pardoned me,
And to the Spirit, whose love has set me free.
As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be. Amen.*

*World without end, without end. Amen.
World without end, without end. Amen
World without end, without end. Amen
As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be. Amen.*

CALL TO CONFESSION

Micah 6:8

He has shown you, O mortal, what is good.
And what does the Lord require of you?
To act justly and to love mercy
and to walk humbly with your God.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Merciful God, hear our voices, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed. We have not loved you with our whole heart. We praise you, our Triune God, yet with the same tongue, we curse our neighbors – made by you in your image. We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves, nor our enemies as friends – we have not loved one another as you love us. We have not entrusted our cares and worries to you. In your great compassion, you keep no record of our sin. Create in us clean hearts, ready to serve you. Sustain us with your Holy Spirit so that we may delight in your will, live in your light and walk in your ways, to the glory of your Holy name.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Hear the good news! As people born of water and the Spirit we have died to the old life, and a new life has begun. God's grace is poured out upon us day by day. Come to the water and remember your baptism. Be thankful, and live as one who has been raised to new life! In Christ, we are forgiven! **Amen.**

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Isaiah 55:10-11

“As the rain and the snow come down from heaven, and do not return to it without watering the earth and making it bud and flourish, so is my word that goes out from my mouth: It will not return to me empty, but will accomplish what I desire and achieve the purpose for which I sent it.” **Amen.**

FIRST READING

Genesis 50:15-21

When Joseph's brothers saw that their father was dead, they said, “What if Joseph holds a grudge against us and pays us back for all the wrongs we did to him?”¹⁶ So they sent word to

Joseph, saying, “Your father left these instructions before he died: ¹⁷ ‘This is what you are to say to Joseph: I ask you to forgive your brothers the sins and the wrongs they committed in treating you so badly.’ Now please forgive the sins of the servants of the God of your father.” When their message came to him, Joseph wept.

¹⁸ His brothers then came and threw themselves down before him. “We are your slaves,” they said.

¹⁹ But Joseph said to them, “Don’t be afraid. Am I in the place of God? ²⁰ You intended to harm me, but God intended it for good to accomplish what is now being done, the saving of many lives. ²¹ So then, don’t be afraid. I will provide for you and your children.” And he reassured them and spoke kindly to them.

The Word of God for the people of God!
Thanks be to God!

SPECIAL MUSIC

Forgive Our Sins as We Forgive

GTG 444

*“Forgive our sins as we forgive,” you taught us, Lord, to pray.
but you alone can grant us grace to live the words we say.
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:
what trivial debts are owed to us, how great our debt to you!
Lord, cleanse the depths within our souls and bid resentment cease.
Then, by your mercy reconciled, our lives will spread your peace.*

SECOND READING

Matthew 18:21-35

Then Peter came to Jesus and asked, “Lord, how many times shall I forgive my brother or sister who sins against me? Up to seven times?”

²² Jesus answered, “I tell you, not seven times, but seventy-seven times.

²³ “Therefore, the kingdom of heaven is like a king who wanted to settle accounts with his servants. ²⁴ As he began the settlement, a man who owed him ten thousand bags of gold was brought to him. ²⁵ Since he was not able to pay, the master ordered that he and his wife and his children and all that he had be sold to repay the debt.

²⁶ “At this the servant fell on his knees before him. ‘Be patient with me,’ he begged, ‘and I will pay back everything.’ ²⁷ The servant’s master took pity on him, canceled the debt and let him go. ²⁸ “But when that servant went out, he found one of his fellow servants who owed him a hundred silver coins. He grabbed him and began to choke him. ‘Pay back what you owe me!’ he demanded.

²⁹ “His fellow servant fell to his knees and begged him, ‘Be patient with me, and I will pay it back.’

³⁰“But he refused. Instead, he went off and had the man thrown into prison until he could pay the debt. ³¹When the other servants saw what had happened, they were outraged and went and told their master everything that had happened.

³²“Then the master called the servant in. ‘You wicked servant,’ he said, ‘I canceled all that debt of yours because you begged me to. ³³Shouldn’t you have had mercy on your fellow servant just as I had on you?’ ³⁴In anger his master handed him over to the jailers to be tortured, until he should pay back all he owed.

³⁵“This is how my heavenly Father will treat each of you unless you forgive your brother or sister from your heart.”

The grass withers and the flower fades,
But the word of our God endures forever.

Thanks be to God!

MESSAGE *Mercy, Forgiveness and Grace* Ruling Elder Beth Doebereiner

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Taken from A Brief Statement of Faith

In life and in death we belong to God.

Through the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit, we trust in the one triune God, whom alone we worship and serve.

We trust in Jesus Christ, fully human, fully God. Jesus proclaimed the reign of God: Preaching good news to the poor, teaching by word and deed, calling all to repent and believe the Gospel,

We trust in God, whom Jesus called Abba, Father. In sovereign love God created the world good and makes everyone equally good in God’s image. God acts with justice and mercy to redeem creation.

We trust in God the Holy Spirit everywhere the giver and renewer of life. In a broken and fearful world, the Spirit gives us courage to pray without ceasing, to witness among all peoples to Christ as Savior, and to work with others for justice, freedom and peace. In gratitude to God, empowered by the Spirit, we strive to serve Christ and to live holy and joyful lives.

With believers in every time and place, we rejoice that nothing in life or in death can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. Glory be to the Father, and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit. Amen.

PRAYERS FOR ALL GOD’S CHILDREN

God of all creation,

Hear us as we pray for all you create

You have created us in your image, one race, one blood,

Let us remember this in love.

You tell us to love one another.

Let us love neighbor as friend and enemy as neighbor.

Fill our hearts with your love,

For healing and forgiveness are born of love.

Help us be Your Church,

Overflowing with love for all of your creation,

With confidence that you hear our prayers,

We offer ourselves to you. Here I am, Lord.

And now with the words Jesus taught us to say when we pray:

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 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, forever. Amen.

BLESSING AND CHARGE

Ephesians 3:14-21

Paul's Prayer for the Ephesians

For this reason I kneel before the Father, ¹⁵from whom every family in heaven and on earth derives its name. ¹⁶I pray that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being, ¹⁷so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith. And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, ¹⁸may have power, together with all the Lord's holy people, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, ¹⁹and to know this love that surpasses knowledge—that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God.

²⁰Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, ²¹to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen.

POSTLUDE

*We Are One in the Spirit
They'll Know We Are Christians by Our Love*

GTG 300