

**Forgiveness
says you are
given another
chance to
make a new
beginning.**

Archbishop Desmond Tutu

New Covenant Presbyterian Church
September 17, 2023 10:00am Service



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The Worship of God

September 17, 2023 Sixteenth Sunday After Pentecost

Welcome and Announcements

Lay Leader

Sharing Our Vision

Preparing Ourselves for Worship During the Musical Prelude ...



In the words of the hymn, "Forgive Our Sins as We Forgive", let us remember its God-felt sentiments about forgiveness:

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, bound to all in bonds of love, our lives will spread your peace.

Preparing to Meet God

Call to Worship

Psalm 114

L: When Israel went out from Egypt, the house of Jacob from a people of strange language,

P: *Judah became God's sanctuary, Israel his dominion.*

L: The sea looked and fled; Jordan turned back.

P: *The mountains skipped like rams, the hills like lambs.*

L: Why is it, O sea that you flee?

P: *O Jordan that you turn back?*

L: O mountains that you skip like rams?

P: *O hills like lambs?*

L: Tremble, O earth, at the presence of the Lord, at the presence of the God of Jacob,

P: *Who turns the rock into a pool of water, the flint into a spring of water.*

L: Let us bow down and tremble as we gather into God's presence for worship this morning.

Hymn # 370

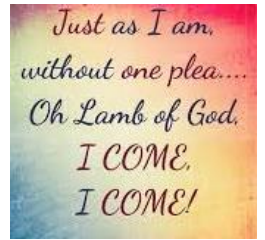
Just As I Am, Without One Plea

1-Just as I am, without one plea but that thy blood was shed for me,
And that thou biddest me come to thee, O Lamb of God, I come, I come!

2-Just as I am, though tossed about with many a conflict, many a doubt,
Fightings and fears within, without, O Lamb of God, I come, I come!

3-Just as I am, thou wilt receive, wilt welcome, pardon, cleanse, relieve;
Because thy promise I believe, O Lamb of God, I come, I come!

4-Just as I am, thy love unknown has broken every barrier down;
Now to be thine, yea, thine alone, O Lamb of God, I come, I come!



Prayer of Confession

God our Father, your love is at work in all that you have made. Son of God, in your likeness we are made anew. Holy Spirit, you touch our lives with hope. Holy God pour out your love upon us afresh, remake us again in the image of your Son, give us new hope through the power of your Spirit by forgiving our sins again. We confess that we have sinned once more as we have done before. We have sinned through ignorance, weakness, and intention against people and creation. We have exchanged your Glory for our own glory and made a complete mess of things. Hear us as we confess to you in silence our individual sins.....Lord, we know that we have betrayed your trust repetitively and have yet to learn from our errors. We are sorry. We are ashamed. We repent. For the sake of your Son Jesus the Christ, who died for us, forgive us all that is past, and lead us from darkness into light. It is in His name we pray. Amen.



Assurance of Pardon

- L:** Hear the Good News: Your heavenly Father grants you pardon and remission of all your sins through the blood of His Son on the cross.
- P:** *In humble gratitude we commit to amend our lives and use them for God's glory and not our own. Amen.*

Meeting God in the Word

Children's Message

First Lesson *Romans 14: 1-12* **Do Not Judge One Another** **Lay Leader**



Welcome those who are weak in faith, but not for the purpose of quarrelling over opinions. Some believe in eating anything, while the weak eat only vegetables. Those who eat must not despise those who abstain, and those who abstain must not pass judgement on those who eat; for God has welcomed them. Who are you to pass judgement on servants of another? It is before their own lord that they stand or fall. And they will be upheld,

for the Lord is able to make them stand.

Some judge one day to be better than another, while others judge all days to be alike. Let all be fully convinced in their own minds. Those who observe the day, observe it in honor of the Lord. Also those who eat, eat in honor of the Lord, since they give thanks to God; while those who abstain, abstain in honor of the Lord and give thanks to God.

We do not live to ourselves, and we do not die to ourselves. If we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord; so then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's. For to this end Christ died and lived again, so that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living.

Why do you pass judgement on your brother or sister? Or you, why do you despise your brother or sister? For we will all stand before the judgement seat of God. For it is written, 'As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall give praise to God.' So then, each of us will be accountable to God.

L: This is the Word of the Lord. **P:** **Thanks be to God.**

Second Lesson *Mt. 18: 21-35* **Forgiveness/Parable of the Unforgiving Servant**



Then 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?' 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, his lord ordered him to be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions, and payment to be made. ⁶So 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 should 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 should 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 the Lord. **P: Thanks be to God.**

Sermon

From the Heart

Responding to the Word

Hymn # 184

How Blest Are Those

*1-How blest are those whose great sin has freely been forgiven,
Whose guilt is wholly covered before the sight of heaven.
Blest those to whom our Lord God will not impute their sin,
Whose guilt has been forgiven, whose heart is true again.*

*2-While I kept guilty silence, my strength was spent with grief,
Your hand was heavy on me; my life found no relief.
But when I made confession and hid no sin from you,
When I revealed my own guilt, you gave me life anew.*

*3-So let the godly seek you, when troubling times are near,
No storm or flood shall reach them, nor cause their hearts to fear.
In you, O Lord, I hide me, you save me from all ill,
And songs of your salvation my heart with rapture fill.*

*4-"I graciously will teach you the way that you should go,
And with my eye upon you, my counsel you shall know.
But be not then unruly, or slow to understand;
Be not perverse, but willing to heed my wise command."*

*5-The sorrows of the wicked in number shall abound,
But those who trust our own God, great mercy shall surround.
Then in the Lord be joyful, in song lift up your voice;
Be glad in God, you righteous; rejoice, O saints, rejoice.*



Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer

The Celebration of Our Gifts

L: *In glad thanksgiving for your goodness, we offer you our gifts; and pray for the power to offer and present our very selves to you, a living sacrifice, dedicated and fit for your acceptance, through Jesus Christ our Lord.*

P: **Amen.**

Going Out to Serve

Hymn # 372

Lord, I Want to be a Christian

1-Lord, I want to be a Christian in-a my heart, in-a my heart,
 Lord, I want to be a Christian in-a my heart.
 In-a my heart, in-a my heart,
 Lord, I want to be a Christian in-a my heart.

2-Lord, I want to be more loving in-a my heart, in-a my heart,
 Lord, I want to be more loving in-a my heart.
 In-a my heart, in-a my heart,
 Lord, I want to be more loving in-a my heart.

3-Lord, I want to be more holy in-a my heart, in-a my heart,
 Lord, I want to be more holy in-a my heart.
 In-a my heart, in-a my heart,
 Lord, I want to be more holy in-a my heart.

4-Lord, I want to be like Jesus in-a my heart, in-a my heart,
 Lord, I want to be like Jesus in-a my heart.
 In-a my heart, in-a my heart,
 Lord, I want to be like Jesus in-a my heart.



Charge & Blessing



Response *He is Lord – He is Lord. He has risen from the dead, and he is Lord.
 Every knee shall bow, every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord.*