



Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost
Year A
September 13, 2020

Key Scripture - Matthew 18:33

“Should you not have had mercy on your fellow slave, as I had mercy on you?”

Theme - Living Gratitude

You can be anything you want in this world, just don't be ungrateful.

Welcome All

† Newcomers please sign our guestbook



† Special requests may be made through Facebook



[Contact Us](#)

† Trinity is Welcoming, Open, Inclusive and Accessible.

- Trinity is an Affirming Congregation and is inclusive of folk who find themselves a part of what is described as “LGBTQ+”
- Our Congregation is Active in a Ministry of Prayer, Service and Care.

Welcome and Announcements

This week's Phone Tree Message - 9 September 2020

For everything that was written in the past was written to teach us, so that through the endurance taught in the Scriptures and the encouragement they provide we might have hope.

Romans 15:4

This way of living and serving has gone on for a long time and is continuing yet. While there are promises of our world opening up, we remain cautious and careful. Together, we will hope and serve as long as we must and as long as we are able.

Capacity and Support

- The sanctuary can accommodate 30 “Bubbles.”
 - 30 individuals or
 - family units to a maximum of 50 individuals
- The church “lift” is available
- One washroom at the sanctuary level will be available
- Fellowship Hall and other facilities are out of bounds

Suspended Activities

- Communion
- Fellowship Time
- Children's programming
- Congregational singing
- “Passing the Plate” for Collection

Minimizing Exposure

- Risk assessment information will be available prior to worship
- Health screening station will be set up outside

- Entry, Exit and Movement within sanctuary will be managed by Ushers
- Post Service Cleaning and Disinfecting will be completed ASAP

Communication

- Posters will be prominently displayed in all critical areas as reminders regarding physical distancing, mandatory mask wearing and hand washing

**For the love of our Neighbours,
this is how we will gather together as Church:**

C **Come** in the Main Door

O **Observe** Physical Distancing

M **Masks** are Mandatory

M **Move, Hum and Clap** for hymns
(Only soloists will do the singing)

U **Ushers** will direct you to and from
your seat

N **No** Touching (hugs or handshakes)

I **Infants/Children** to stay with families

T **Toilets** (Wash hands, wipe taps)

Y **Your** Stuff stays with you (no coat
racks, etc.)

Thanks to Resurrection Church in Halifax for this poster

Trinity United Church News and Updates -

- **Worship Services are broadcast on COGECO and FaceBook**
- **Sunday's Scripture speaks to Blessing as we have been Blessed -**
 - **Key Scripture - Matthew 18:33**
 - "Should you not have had mercy on your fellow slave, as I had mercy on you?"
 - **Theme - Living Gratitude**
 - It is difficult to be proud and acknowledge your need for mercy at the same time.
 - It is difficult to be merciful, when you forget that you have received mercy.
 - Gratitude is a tonic for this kind of blindness.
- If a lunch would be helpful. Contact the Office.
- **Now that School has begun, our Teachers will no longer be available to volunteer. If you would like to help, let Betty Lou Kempt know - 613 291 0701**
- Please consider Pre-Authorized Payments (PAR) as a consistent way to support the congregation
- Grocery Cards are available for sale - Church Office- 613 283 4444

Care

- Please remember your mask when you leave your home.
- Masks are available at the church Tuesday and Saturday 11:30 am - 12:30 pm and Sunday morning prior to worship.

○



We are grateful for the Town of Smiths Falls and Lanark County. Take Away Meals are subsidized through the generosity of the Community Grant Program and COVID-19 emergency funds.

Two Guys for Lunch are active partners with us in this community service.

Acknowledging Traditional Territory

Smiths Falls is located on the traditional territory of the Algonquin peoples dating back countless generations. We are grateful for our neighbours and recognize the opportunity to exercise the Ministry of Reconciliation

Elements of today's Worship Service are drawn and adapted from the Presbyterian Church in Canada online Worship Planner.

Introit "Where Everybody Knows Your Name" (Portnoy/Angelo)

Call to Worship

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Praise the Lord.

Let us praise the name of the Lord together.

For as the heavens are high above the earth, so great is God's steadfast love;

as far as the east is from the west, so far God removes our transgressions from us.

So let us rejoice in God's presence!

Let us praise the name of the Lord together.

Prayer of Gathering

Holy and loving One,

The heavens and the earth are full of your glory.

Your love transforms our lives.

You take darkness and give light.

You take grief and give healing.

You take fatigue and give strength.

You take fear and give courage.

You take death and give new life.

So we come before you in worship, handing over to you all that weighs us down,
waiting for your refreshing gifts.
Renew us in this time of worship, we pray,
so that we may serve you in Jesus' name.
Amen.

Hymn 262 "A Mighty Fortress is Our God" vs 1,2,4

A mighty fortress is our God, a bulwark never failing;
our helper sure amid the flood of mortal ills prevailing:
for still our ancient foe doth seek to work us woe;
power and malice great, and armed with cruel hate,
on earth he has no equal.

Did we in our strength confide, our striving would be losing,
were not the right man on our side, the man of God's own choosing:
dost ask who that may be? Christ Jesus, it is he;
Lord Sabaoth his name, from age to age the same,
and he must win the battle.

That word above all earthly powers, no thanks to them, abideth;
the Spirit and the gifts are ours through Christ, who with us sideth:
let goods and kindred go, this mortal life also;
the body they may kill: God's truth abideth still,
God's kingdom is forever.

Learning with Children

Childrens' Prayer

Call to Reconciliation

As we stand before God, we think of those times we have not shown mercy and grace to those around us.

Let us bow our hearts and confess our sin to God, as we pray together, saying -

Prayer of Confession

We confess that our lives do not always reflect your transforming power.

You are gracious, but we cling to judgment.

You are kind, but we can be cold.

You are forgiving, but we remember old wounds.

You are filled with joy, but too often we are touched with dissatisfaction.

**Forgive us, O God, and fill us with your Holy Spirit this day,
and make us new through Christ, your Son and our Saviour.**

Assurance of Pardon

The proof of God's amazing love is this: while we were sinners, Christ died for us.

Know that you are forgiven by his grace and be at peace. Amen.

Scripture

Psalm 103 (VU 825)

Refrain -

Come, bless God, O my soul, and never forget all God's blessings.

Bless God, my soul,
and all my being, bless God's holy name.

**Bless God, my soul,
and forget not all God has done for you.**

Bless God, who forgives all your sin,
who heals you in all your infirmities,
who redeems your life from the grave

and crowns you with mercy and love,
who fills your life with good things,
so that your youth is renewed like the eagle's,
who works righteousness
and justice for all who are wronged.

Refrain -

Come, bless God, O my soul, and never forget all God's blessings.

O God, you showed your ways to Moses,
your deeds to the children of Israel.

You are compassionate and merciful,
slow to anger and extravagant in love.

You will not always accuse
nor do you keep your anger forever.

You have not dealt with us according to our sins
nor punished us according to our wickedness.

For as the heavens are high above the earth,
so great is your steadfast love toward those who fear you.

As far as the east is from the west,
so far have you put away our sins from us.

As a father has compassion for his children,
so you have compassion for those who fear you.

As a mother comforts her child,
so you comfort us, O God.

For you know how we were made.

You remember that we are dust.
Bless God, O my soul.

Refrain -

Come, bless God, O my soul, and never forget all God's blessings.

Matthew 18:21-35

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. 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.”

Hymn 288 "Great Is Thy Faithfulness"

Great is thy faithfulness, God our Creator, there is no shadow of turning with thee;

thou changest not, thy compassions, they fail not; as thou has been thou forever wilt be.

Refrain -

***Great is thy faithfulness! Great is thy faithfulness!
Morning by morning new mercies I see;
all I have needed thy hand hath provided --
great is thy faithfulness, ever to me!***

Summer and winter and springtime and harvest, sun, moon, and stars in their courses above

join with all nature in manifold witness to thy great faithfulness, mercy and love.

Refrain -

***Great is thy faithfulness! Great is thy faithfulness!
Morning by morning new mercies I see;
all I have needed thy hand hath provided --
great is thy faithfulness, ever to me!***

Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth, thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide,

strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow -- wondrous the portion thy blessings provide.

Refrain -

***Great is thy faithfulness! Great is thy faithfulness!
Morning by morning new mercies I see;
all I have needed thy hand hath provided --
great is thy faithfulness, ever to me!***

Reflection - Embarrassed, Humbled or Shamed?

Hymn 577 "I've Got Peace Like A River"

I've got peace like a river, I've got peace like a river,
I've got peace like a river in-a my soul,
I've got peace like a river, I've got peace like a river,
I've got peace like a river in-a my soul.

I've got joy like a fountain, I've got joy like a fountain,
I've got joy like a fountain in-a my soul,
I've got joy like a fountain, I've got joy like a fountain,
I've got joy like a fountain in-a my soul.

I've got love like an ocean, I've got love like an ocean,
I've got love like an ocean in-a my soul,
I've got love like an ocean, I've got love like an ocean,
I've got love like an ocean in-a my soul.

**We Respond to God's Word
Offering Ourselves
For The Work And Witness Of The Church**

Invitation to Offering

From generation to generation, God calls us to participate in healing the world by sharing God's redeeming love. Let us offer God our gifts this day as tokens of that love.

Offering Prayer

We give thanks to you because you have blessed us with so much.
Yet we know that others have too little.

May the offerings we share today become a source of healing and justice in the world, for the sake of Jesus Christ, the One who sends us out in love. Amen.

Meditation "Where the River Meets The Sea" (Harbridge)

Prayers of the People

God of light and hope,

we pray for those who face lives filled with darkness:

those who suffer in body, mind, and spirit;

those bent under burdens of sorrow;

those who cannot see the way ahead.

We pray for those who accompany others in dark times and places;

For those who comfort the grieving, and work for healing and new possibilities.

May all these find their darkness transformed by your presence.

God of liberation and justice,

we pray for those who suffer abuse, violence, or injustice

at the hands of powerful people or forces in their lives,

and for those who have been betrayed by people entrusted with their care.

Stir in all people a deep respect for life.

Encourage those who struggle for freedom,

and work for truth to be heard and reconciliation achieved.

God of peace and promise,

we pray for those who work for peace in the world,

for leaders and decision makers,

for those who hold power and can make a difference in their communities,

and for those who make, interpret, and enforce laws.

Awaken a respect for the needs of the most vulnerable, including the earth and its fragile balances.

God of wisdom and understanding,

we pray for those who misunderstand the words and actions of others,

and for those who are misunderstood.

We pray for those who teach, and those who learn,
especially those who struggle and are afraid to ask for help.
In this challenging school year,
guide teachers and students in new patterns of learning
and keep each one safe and healthy.

God of forgiveness and reconciliation;
we pray for those we have hurt or offended
and for those to whom we have been unkind.
We pray for those who have hurt us, or been careless with our
feelings.
Work in our lives to redeem broken relationships.
Shape us into gracious and forgiving people.

In silence we name before you other concerns on our minds today...

We are thankful that we can experience God in a relationship from
which we draw strength, courage and encouragement.

The ways of knowing God - Mother, Father, Friend -

Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer;
may be expressed in the prayer Jesus taught us -

We Depart to Serve with Joy

Hymn 660 "How Firm A Foundation" vs 1,2,3

How firm a foundation, you servants of God,
is laid for your faith in God's excellent word!
What more can be said than to you has been said,
to you who for refuge to Jesus have fled?

'Fear not, I am with you; O be not dismayed!
For I am your God and will still give you aid;
I'll strengthen and help you, and cause you to stand,
upheld by my righteous omnipotent hand.

'When through the deep waters I call you to go,
the rivers of sorrow shall not overflow;
for I will be with you, your troubles to bless,
and sanctify to you your deepest distress.

Benediction

In every person, God is with us.

**We will welcome God in the family we know all too well,
and in the strangers we will meet in the coming days.**

In every choice, Jesus is with us.

**We will welcome the Christ who serves us unexpectedly,
and in those who will offer us forgiveness.**

In every moment, the Spirit is with us.

**We will welcome the Spirit who calls us to live
as well as calling us to give of ourselves without question.**

Choral Amen

Postlude "Ein' Feste Burg" (Young)