

Becoming Peacemakers

1. Conflict: An Opportunity to Honor God

2. True Confessions

3. Loving Confrontation

4. **Go and Be Reconciled**

March 26, 2023 – 11:00 AM Fifth Sunday in Lent

AS WE GATHER

Beyond an acknowledgement of our wrongs toward one another, reconciliation calls for a readiness in our hearts to forgive. Forgiveness is much more than a feeling that “everything is okay.” Forgiveness is a decision. Forgiveness is a commitment to set aside my “right to get even” with the person who has wronged me. This forgiveness flows from our Heavenly Father through our Savior, Jesus Christ.

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

WE SING

“Graves Into Gardens”

Lake/Brown/Furick/Hudson

CALL TO WORSHIP – from Colossians 2:13; 2 Corinthians 5:17-20

P: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **C: Amen.**

P: When you were dead in Your sins...God made you alive with Christ.

C: He forgave us all our sins.

P: If anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!

C: All this is from God, who reconciled us to Himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation: that God was reconciling the world to Himself in Christ, not counting people’s sins against them.

P: And He has committed to us the message of reconciliation. We are therefore, Christ’s ambassadors!

WE SING

“Chain Breaker”

Rend Collective

WE PRAY

FIRST READING

Acts 7:59-60

Stephen expresses a forgiving spirit toward the people who were putting him to death.

⁵⁹While they [the people who heard Stephen’s message] were stoning him, Stephen prayed, “Lord Jesus, receive my spirit.” ⁶⁰Then he fell on his knees and cried out, “Lord, do not hold this sin against them.” When he had said this, he fell asleep. (NIV)

SECOND READING

Colossians 3:12-17

Forgiving as the Lord has forgiven us is the key to reconciling relationships.

¹²Therefore, as God’s chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. ¹³Bear with each other and forgive whatever grievances you may have against one another. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. ¹⁴And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity.

¹⁵Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful. ¹⁶Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom, and as you sing psalms, hymns and spiritual songs with gratitude in your hearts to God. ¹⁷And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him. (NIV)

GOSPEL READING

Matthew 18:21-35

Jesus teaches about forgiving – releasing another's "debt."

²¹Then Peter came to Jesus and asked, "Lord, how many times shall I forgive my brother when he sins against me? Up to seven times?"

²²Jesus 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. ²⁴As he began the settlement, a man who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him. ²⁵Since 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"The servant fell on his knees before him. 'Be patient with me,' he begged, 'and I will pay back everything.' ²⁷The 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 denarii. 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 you back.'

³⁰But 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 greatly distressed 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 turned 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 from your heart."

KIDS' TIME

DCE Liz Peters

MESSAGE

"A Decision To Forgive"
(Today's Readings)

Pastor Aaron Asmus

CONFESSION OF SINS

P: Let us confess our sins to our Heavenly Father:

C: Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.

Silent time for personal reflection

THROUGH JESUS, GOD DECLARES OUR SINS TO BE FORGIVEN

WE CONFESS OUR FAITH – APOSTLES' CREED

WE SHARE IN OUR LORD'S SUPPER

PREPARATION & WORDS OF INSTITUTION

DISTRIBUTION OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

WE SING

"At The Cross (Love Ran Red)"

Chris Tomlin

"By His Wounds"

Mac Powell/David Nasser

COMMUNION BLESSING

PRAYERS

LORD'S PRAYER

WE SING

"God so Loved"

Andrew Bergthold/Ed, Franni, Martin, Scott Cash

CLOSING BLESSING

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Note – Our offerings are received in the offering boxes
located near our entrances.

*Entrusted with wonderful gifts from our Lord's hand,
we live and give, understanding our purpose as God's children.*