

Opening Song (all)

Welcome and Passing of the Peace

Leader: May the peace of Christ be with you.

People: And also with you.

All: Let us offer one another signs of peace, reconciliation, and love.

2. HEARING GOD'S WORD

"Never forget the three powerful resources you always have available to you: love, prayer, and forgiveness." — H. Jackson Brown, Jr.

Scriptures (Katie)

Matthew 18:21-35

21 Then Peter came up and said to him, "Lord, how often will my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? As many as seven times?"

22 Jesus said to him, "I do not say to you seven times, but seventy-seven times.

23 "Therefore the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his servants.

24 When he began to settle, one was brought to him who owed him ten thousand talents.

25 And since he could not pay, his master ordered him to be sold, with his wife and children and all that he had, and payment to be made.

26 So the servant fell on his knees, imploring him, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.'

27 And out of pity for him, the master of that servant released him and forgave him the debt.

28 But when that same servant went out, he found one of his fellow servants who owed him a

hundred denarii, and seizing him, he began to choke him, saying, 'Pay what you owe.'

29 So his fellow servant fell down and pleaded with him, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you.'

30 He refused and went and put him in prison until he should pay the debt.

31 When his fellow servants saw what had taken place, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their master all that had taken place.

32 Then his master summoned him and said to him, 'You wicked servant! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me.

33 And should not you have had mercy on your fellow servant, as I had mercy on you?'

34 And in anger his master delivered him to the jailers, until he should pay all his debt.

35 So also my heavenly Father will do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother from your heart.



Sermon: "The Act of Forgiveness" (Susie)

When evil acts hurt our souls, there is only one way out of our pain - forgiveness. But forgiveness is one of the most difficult acts we can manage to do. Today we will talk about what forgiveness is, what it is not, and why it is so difficult.

"To forgive is to set a prisoner free and discover that the prisoner was you."
— Lewis B. Smedes

"Forgiveness is the fragrance that the violet sheds on the heel that has crushed it." — Mark Twain

3. RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

Congregational Singing (all)

Response (everyone)

Joys and Concerns (everyone)

Offering

Sending (Susie)