



The Fruit
of Love:

Forgiveness



West Richmond Church of the Brethren

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August 11 2024

12th Sunday after Pentecost

“Taste and see that the Lord is good!” (Psalm 34:8)

Welcome to worship, where all are invited to the
feast by the Bread of Life himself.

Welcome

Prelude

Total Praise

Richard Smallwood

Total Praise by Richard Smallwood

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GIVE PRAISE TO GOD

* Call to Worship

Matthew 18:21-22 CEB

Then Peter said to Jesus, “Lord, how many times should I forgive my brother or sister who sins against me? Should I forgive as many as seven times?” Jesus said, “Not just seven times, but rather as many as seventy-seven times.

* Opening Prayer

Meredith Houston Carr

Dear Loving God, our hearts struggle to forgive wholly and fully. We thank You for demonstrating such forgiveness by graciously extending it to us. Help us forgive freely and let go of bitterness, and grant us the strength to trust Your way is best. In Jesus’ Name, Amen.

* **Opening Song**

My Hope Is Built

621 ^{VT}

Verse 1: My hope is built on nothing less
than Jesus' blood and righteousness.
I dare not trust the sweetest frame
but wholly lean on Jesus' name.

*Refrain: On Christ, the solid rock, I stand;
all other ground is sinking sand,
all other ground is sinking sand.*

Verse 2: In ev'ry rough and stormy gale,
my anchor holds within the vale.
When all around my soul gives way,
he then is all my hope and stay.

Refrain

Verse 3: Not earth, nor hell, my soul can move;
I rest upon unchanging love.
I trust his righteous character,
his counsel, promise, and his pow'r.

Refrain

Verse 4: When he shall come with trumpet sound,
oh, may I then in him be found,
dressed in his righteousness alone,
faultless to stand before the throne.

Refrain

CELEBRATE GOD'S FAMILY

Children's Time

New Testament Reading

Matthew 18:23-35 NRSVUE

The Parable of the Unforgiving Servant

²³ "For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves. ²⁴ When he began the reckoning, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him, ²⁵ and, as he could not pay, the lord ordered him to be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions and payment to be made. ²⁶ So the slave fell on his

knees before him, saying, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.'²⁷ And out of pity for him, the lord of that slave released him and forgave him the debt.²⁸ 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.'²⁹ Then his fellow slave fell down and pleaded with him, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you.'³⁰ But he refused; then he went and threw him into prison until he would pay the debt.³¹ 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.³² Then his lord summoned him and said to him, 'You wicked slave! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me.³³ Should you not have had mercy on your fellow slave, as I had mercy on you?'³⁴ And in anger his lord handed him over to be tortured until he would pay his entire debt.³⁵ So my heavenly Father will also do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother or sister from your heart."

Song

There Is in Every Person

75 | ^{VT}

Verse 1: There is in ev'ry person capacity for love.

If not to give, then to receive.

If not to grasp, then to believe.

God's image marks each one of us,
and God is love.

Verse 2: There is in ev'ry person capacity for grace.

If not to give, then to receive.

If not to grasp, then to believe.

God's mercy seeks each one of us
and offers grace.

Verse 3: There is in ev'ry person capacity for trust.

If not to give, then to receive.

If not to grasp, then to believe.

God's story shapes each one of us
and teaches trust.

Verse 4: There is in ev'ry person capacity for hope.
If not to give, then to receive.
If not to grasp, then to believe.
God's vision calls each one of us
and leads to hope.

Congregational Prayer

WORSHIP IN GIVING

Offertory Thoughts

Matthew 5:23-24 CEV

So if you are about to place your gift on the altar and remember that someone is angry with you, leave your gift there in front of the altar. Make peace with that person, then come back and offer your gift to God.

Special Music

Goodness of God

Cash, Fielding, Ingram, Johnson, Johnson

Goodness of God by Ed Cash, Ben Fielding, Jason Ingram, Brian Johnson, Jenn Johnson
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LISTEN FOR GOD'S WORD PROCLAIMED

Scripture Lesson

Matthew 6:14-15 NRSVUE

¹⁴“For if you forgive others their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you, ¹⁵but if you do not forgive others, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.

* Song

All Praise to Thee, My God

505 ^{VT}

Verse 1: All praise to thee, my God, this night,
for all the blessings of the light.
Keep me, kind maker of all things,
beneath thine own almighty wings.

Verse 2: Forgive me, God, for this I pray,
the wrong that I have done this day.
May peace with God and neighbor be
before I sleep, restored to me.

Verse 3: Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
in heav'n above and earth below;
one God, three persons we adore.
To God be praise forever more.

Sermon

“The Fruit of Love: Forgiveness”

GO IN GOD'S NAME

* Song

Lord, I Want to Be a Christian

558 ^{VT}

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

Verse 2: Lord, I want to be more loving
in my heart, in my heart.
Lord, I want to be more loving in my heart.
In my heart, in my heart,
Lord, I want to be more loving in my heart.

Verse 3: Lord, I want to be more holy
in my heart, in my heart.
Lord, I want to be more holy in my heart.
In my heart, in my heart,
Lord, I want to be more holy in my heart.

Verse 4: Lord, I want to be like Jesus
in my heart, in my heart.
Lord, I want to be like Jesus in my heart.
In my heart, in my heart,
Lord, I want to be like Jesus in my heart.

* **Benediction**

* **Postlude**

It Is Well with My Soul

Horatio G. Spafford

** Please stand as able and led*



Ministers..... All Members
Pastor David Whitten
Worship Leader..... David Brunk
Minister of Music..... Vanessa Morton
Special Music.....David Whitten & Vanessa Morton
FlautistSarah Hartman
Guitarist David Whitten
Media & Tech Director.....Kevin Beers