

Celebration of Worship

September 17, 2017

9:30 A.M.

We welcome you to worship. We are glad that you are here! Nursery and Preschool care is available if you need it. The Young and Young at Heart are welcomed to the front early on for a special time in the service. Please sign the Friendship Pads so that we can get to know you better, and join us for coffee in the Narthex after the service.

Thought for Reflection

“Forgiveness is not saying, ‘Forget it.’ Forgiveness is not saying, ‘I forget.’ Forgiveness is not saying, ‘It’s okay.’ Rather, forgiveness is saying, ‘I’m okay and I’m willing to let God deal with whether you are okay, and I am also willing to let go of my need to be the tool of correction and rebuke in your life.’”

Timothy Merrill

PRELUDE	<i>Sonatina</i>	Cundick
CALL TO WORSHIP	<i>Psalm 113</i>	p. 491
INTROIT	<i>Invocation</i>	Cooman
	Sally Turner - Flute	

PRAYER FOR THE DAY

* Please stand, if you are able.

* HYMN *Forgive Our Sins as We Forgive* # 347

ANNOUNCEMENTS

FOR THE YOUNG AND THE YOUNG AT HEART

Message *The Value of Teamwork*
Prayer

(Children in PreK through 5th Grade are excused for Sunday School.)

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON	<i>Romans 13:8-14</i>	p. 923
GOSPEL LESSON	<i>Matthew 18:21-35</i>	p. 800
SERMON	<i>Choosing to Forgive</i>	
	Rev. Dr. Lawrence J. De Vuyst	

LITANY OF FORGIVENESS (responsively)

Leader: O God, why do you forgive us?

People: We sing praises to you in our worship, but with the same tongue we disparage others who are made in your image the same as we are.

Leader: Why do you forgive us?

People: We say that we love you, yet we continue in our disobedience.

Leader: Why do you forgive us?

People: We thank you for your blessings to us and those we love, yet too often refuse to bless others.

Leader: Why do you forgive us?

People: We might find a little time to read our Bibles, but we seem to have much more time to read trash.

Leader: Why do you forgive us?

People: We are thankful for what Jesus’ death accomplished on the cross, and yet by our behavior we seem to nail him on the cross again and again.

Leader: Yes, why do you forgive us, O God? Is it because of your endless supply of grace and mercy? Is it because you see our weakness and neediness and have compassion? Is it because you know that we confess these faults in utter sincerity and repent of those things we have done that we should not have done, and we repent of our inaction in not doing what we should? We praise you and bless you, O God of all creation, for your unfathomable grace that restores us to fellowship with you.

People: You are worthy to be praised!

Everyone: Amen!

* HYMN *O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing* # 466

MORNING OFFERING

OFFERTORY *Sing and Be Not Silent* McDonald
Chancel Choir

DOXOLOGY (# 592) AND PRAYER OF DEDICATION

SHARING OF JOYS AND CONCERNS

MORNING PRAYER AND THE LORD’S PRAYER (Debts/Debtors)

* HYMN *Just as I Am, Without One Plea* # 370

* BENEDICTION

* POSTLUDE *Allegretto* Cundick