

**CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN  
Hagerstown, Maryland**

**MORNING WORSHIP**

**10:00 AM**

**September 13, 2020**

**WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**PRELUDE** "A Hymn for the Nation" (Martin)

**\*CALL TO WORSHIP** Amy Clipp, Worship Leader

One: Sing praise to God who rescues us when we fall!

**All: Sing praise to God who walks with  
us on all our journeys!**

One: Even though we fall, God lifts us and  
places us on paths of peace.

**All: Even though we stray, God finds us and brings  
us back to lives of hope.**

One: Thanks be to God, whose love is  
continually with us.

**All: Praise be to God, whose mercy is over us all.**

**\*HYMN #86** "Now thank we all our God"

[Verse 1]

*Now thank we all our God with heart and hands and voices,  
who wondrous things has done, in whom this world rejoices;  
who, from our mothers' arms, has blessed us on our way  
with countless gifts of love, and still is ours today.*

[Verse 2]

*Oh, may this bounteous God through all our life be near us,  
with ever joyful hearts and blessed peace to cheer us,  
and keep us safe in grace, and guide us when perplexed,  
and free us from all ills in this world in the next.*

[Verse 3]

*All praise and thanks to God the Father now be given,  
the Son, and him who reigns with them in highest heaven,  
the one eternal God, whom earth and heav'n adore,  
for thus it was, is now, and shall be evermore*

**\*OPENING PRAYER**

We sing and speak your praise, O God, grateful for the many ways in which you have healed us. Keep our hearts, our minds, and our spirits open to learn ways in which we can offer healing love for others. For we ask this in Jesus' Name. AMEN.

**A MOMENT TO BECOME LIKE CHILDREN**

**LEADERSHIP & MINISTRY TEAMS COMMISSIONING  
Congregational Affirmation**

*We, as brothers and sisters in Christ, affirm you as leaders called to serve in this congregation. We offer to you our cooperation and confidence, our prayers and support, so that both the knowledge and love of God revealed in Jesus Christ may increase among us and in all of God's creation.*

**SERVICE OF GIVING**

**Invitation to the Offering**

In Jesus' parable, the king forgave a debt that could never be repaid. The slave responded by withholding mercy to his own debtor. How fortunate we are that our God is like the king and not the slave! As we give today, may we do so out of the generosity we have been shown by a God who forgives and loves us beyond measure.

*(continued)*

So, as we come together to give as one body, both gathered in his house of worship and gathered through virtual technology, may we do so with generous hearts. We give by placing our offerings in the plate, mailing to the church, or using Paypal. Together, as we give, we declare our dedication to Jesus and our obedience to serve him.

**Offertory** "Forgive Our Sins as We Forgive" (Birchwood)

**\*Response #119**

*"Doxology"*\*

**\*Prayer of Thanksgiving**

Giving God, all we are and all we have come from you. We offer back to you what has always been yours. As you have entrusted your gifts to us, so we return these gifts to you, trusting that you will multiply them to the great glory of your kingdom on earth. We pray through Jesus who gave the totality of his life for us. Amen.

## SHARING OUR JOYS AND CONCERNS

### PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

*Please remember our worship is also on Facebook Live and our website.  
Please do not share any personal information you do not want public.*

### SPECIAL MUSIC

*"What Is this Place"*

*"My Life Flows On"*

The Back Row Singers

### CONGREGATIONAL READING

**One:** 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."

**All:** You've got to be kidding! Seventy-seven times? You're nuts!

**One:** **That's what He said.**

**All:** Listen! I'm no push-over. I'm willing to let bygones be bygones and all that other stuff, but I won't be forgiving anyone seventy-seven times, I can tell you that!

**One:** **Then you aren't really forgiving them, are you?**

**All:** Well, sure I am. But I won't be a doormat. What difference will it make if I do forgive seventy-seven times or even more?

**One:** **Maybe then you will truly let go of the hurt and step out of the pain. That's what forgiveness is all about, not just speaking the words, but actually letting go of the situation. It doesn't mean that you will have to let the hurt happen to you over and over again; it means that you will lay it down. You will have learned something about yourself as well as the one who hurt you.**

**All:** You mean, I'm supposed to learn something from all of this?

**One:** **Absolutely. Do you think God retains God's disappointment over you when you fail and fall short? God forgives, wipes the slate clean, gives another chance, time and time again. That's what God wants us to do: to live lives of forgiving love.**

**All:** But it's not that easy, you know.

*(continued)*

**One: God is with you. You will always have help with this.**

All: You're sure of that? Really sure?

**One: Without a doubt!**

## SCRIPTURE READING

### 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?' 22 Jesus said to him, 'Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times. 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, his 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 should 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 should 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.'

**MESSAGE** "Get on Board with THE Forgiveness Trainer"  
Pastor Twyla Rowe

**\*HYMN #145** "There's a wideness in God's mercy"

[Verse 1]

*There's a wideness in God's mercy, like the wideness of the sea.*

*There's a kindness in God's justice, which is more than liberty.*

[Verse 2]

*There is a welcome for the sinner, and more graces for the good.*

*There is a mercy with the Savior, there is a healing in his blood.*

[Verse 3]

*But we make God's love too narrow by false limits of our own,*

*and we magnify the strictness with a zeal God will not own.*

[Verse 4]

*For the love of God is broader than the measures of the mind,*

*and the heart of the Eternal is most wonderfully kind.*

[Verse 5]

*If our love were but more simple we should rest upon God's word,*

*and our lives would be illumined by the presence of our Lord.*

## BENEDICTION

*After the Benediction, you may be seated. Please continue in a spirit of worship as we listen to the Postlude music.*

**POSTLUDE** “Lord, I Want to Be a Christian” (Binckes)

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\*Please rise — in body or spirit — as an act of worship  
Thank you for joining us in worship today.

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