

On Forgiveness

Do you find it hard to exercise a forgiving spirit when you feel that you have been wronged? Then bear in mind that your Lord has given you a special word on this matter. Immediately following what is known as the Lord's Prayer, Jesus added this warning: "If you do not forgive men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses." Do you ever try to pray while holding a grudge? Good will, generated by God's grace, is one of the conditions for prayer that will penetrate the heavenly throne room.

Think what God has done for each of his people. "If you, O Lord, should mark iniquities, O Lord, who could stand?" a burdened David asked. And well he might. After his dreadful sin with Bathsheba, he was a most miserable man until he confessed his wickedness. He had lost not only his self-respect but also his health: "There is no soundness in my flesh because of your indignation; there is no health in my bones because of my sin." Only after he had deeply and thoroughly repented and pled for remission was his sin put away. So with us. Daily we must confess our faults, shortcomings and guilt to our God, and claim forgiveness through Christ's merit. Like David, we appeal to our covenant God for pardon, restoration and renewed fellowship.

Our gracious God has freely forgiven us. Should we not ask him to work in us a forgiving spirit? Remember, in calling on us to forgive those who trespass against us, God is not asking us to do something he hasn't done. Through the cross, all our transgressions have been blotted out. On the strength of this, Paul writes to the Ephesians, "Be kind...tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake has forgiven you." Since the Lord has done so much for us, should we not imitate his example?

Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children.

*...forgiving one
another, as God in
Christ forgave
you.*

Ephesians 4:32

Covenant Presbyterian Church
1623 University Avenue, Berkeley, California 94703
www.berkeleyopc.org

MORNING WORSHIP – 11:00 A.M.

THE LORD CALLS US TO HIMSELF

Salutation and Call to Worship

*Hymn of Praise # 297

“All Hail the Power of Jesus’ Name!”

*Invocation

*Hymn of Praise # 547

“With Harps and with Viols”

CONFESSION OF SIN AND THE LORD’S ASSURANCE

The Law of God

Matthew 22:37-40

Confession of Sin (Congregation in Unison)

O most great, most just and gracious God; thou are of purer eyes than to behold iniquity; but thou has promised mercy through Jesus Christ to all that repent and believe in him. We confess that we have all sinned and come short of the glory of God. We have neglected and abused thy holy worship. We have dealt unjustly and uncharitably with our neighbors. We have not sought first thy kingdom. We have run into temptation; and the sin that we should have hated, we have committed. Have mercy on us, most merciful Father! In thy Son is our salvation, in thy promises our hope.

Assurance of Forgiveness

Isaiah 1:18 “Come now, let us reason together, says the LORD: though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they are red like crimson, they shall become like wool.

OFFERING OURSELVES IN THANKSGIVING AND PRAYER

Worship in Giving

Hymn of Thanksgiving # 599

“Savior, like a Shepherd Lead Us”

Worship in Prayer

Interlude

*Congregation Standing

We extend a cordial welcome to each visitor!

Wayne K. Forkner, Minister

510-928-8024

THE LORD FEEDS US FROM HIS WORD

*Hymn of Preparation # 140

“O Word of God Incarnate”

Sermon Text

Luke 22:21-23

Sermon

DETERMINED AND DELIVERED

*Hymn of Response # 94

“How Firm a Foundation”

THE LORD DISMISSES US WITH HIS BLESSING

*Gloria Patri (Praising our Gracious Lord)

734

*The Lord’s Benediction

Announcements

Today, 12:30pm. A potluck luncheon will be held in the church following the morning worship service. All are welcome.

Tuesday, 7:30pm. Weekly Bible Study at the church or via Zoom. Our Bible study at the church begins with dinner at 7:00pm, followed by a time of study at 7:30pm. For information on attending the study via Zoom, please send an email to Pastor Wayne at wforkner86@mac.com.

Sunday, October 27. Reformation Service 2024, sponsored by Sovereign Grace Community Church (SBC) and Trinity Presbyterian Church (OPC). The speaker is Dr. Alan Strange, Interim President and Professor of Church History at Mid-America Reformed Seminary and a Minister in the Orthodox Presbyterian Church.

4:00pm: Preservice Lecture: “Christian Nationalism: An Uncomfortable Disjunct”

5:30pm: Reformation Service: “Psalm 15: The Genius of the Reformation”

Location: Trinity Presbyterian Church, 1445 Technology Lane, A1, Petaluma, CA

For more information: <https://www.trinitynorthbay.org/reformation/>