

First Presbyterian Church

Service for the Lord's Day
24th Sunday in Ordinary Time

September 14, 2014

10:00 a.m.

ASSEMBLE IN GOD'S NAME

Gathering Music (466) “Come and Fill Our Hearts”
Concerns of the Church
Prelude “We Walk By Faith” Setting, Cherwien

Call to Worship

Praise the Lord, for it is God who saves.

It is God who forgives.

It is God who delivers.

Give thanks and praise to the Lord!

* Hymn 442 “Just as I Am, without One Plea”
Ushers will collect prayer request cards from the center aisle.

* Call to Confession

* Prayer of Confession

***Gracious and loving God,
you lived for us—we have not lived for you.
You have forgiven us—we have not forgiven others.
You have loved us—we have not loved ourselves
nor have we loved one another.
Take pity on us and forgive us, God.
Help us to forgive.
Help us to live for you.
Help us to love through Christ our Lord.***

* Silent Confession

* Assurance of Pardon

* Passing of the Peace

* Gloria Patri (581)

PROCLAIM GOD'S WORD

Prayer for Illumination

First Lesson: Exodus 14:19-31 (OT, p. 61)

Psalter: Psalm 114 (Hymnal 58)

A Time with Children

Anthem

“Ave verum corpus”

William Byrd

Wilkes University Chamber Singers

Dr. Steven Thomas, Director

Our young children are invited to attend “Joyful Noise” in room 103.

Introduction to the Text

Gospel Lesson: Matthew 18:21-35 (NT, p. 20)

Sermon: “The Tedious Business of Forgiving People Over and Over Again”

Theme: Community Life of the Faithful and Unfaithful Rev. Carter

RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

* Hymn 445 “God, How Can We Forgive”

* Affirmation of Faith: Apostles’ Creed (Hymnal, p. 35)

Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer

Response (466) “Come and Fill Our Hearts”

Offering

Offertory

* Doxology (606)

* Prayer of Dedication

GO IN GOD'S NAME

* Hymn 300 “We Are One in the Spirit”

Joyful Noise! participants will return to the sanctuary.

* Charge and Benediction

* Response "The Lord Bless You and Keep You" Peter C. Lutkin
* Postlude "Fugue in G Major" Buxtehude

* All who are able shall stand.

The flowers this morning have been given by Nancy Owens to the glory of God and in honor of the 1st wedding anniversary of T.C and Julianne Owens.

PARTICIPANTS IN TODAY'S SERVICE

Pastor Rev. William G. Carter
Director of Educational Ministries / Liturgist Tina Ide
Substitute Organist Nancy Post
Joyful Noise leaders Frank Garnecki, Elaine Lavelle
Ushers Vi Dygert
Welcomer Carol Shamonsky



We are a Stephen Ministry congregation.

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*"...how often should
I forgive?
"Not SEVEN times,
but, I tell you,
SEVENTY-
SEVEN
times."*

Matthew 18:21-22, NRSV

Exodus 14:19-31

The angel of God who was going before the Israelite army moved and went behind them; and the pillar of cloud moved from in front of them and took its place behind them. It came between the army of Egypt and the army of Israel. And so the cloud was there with the darkness, and it lit up the night; one did not come near the other all night.

Then Moses stretched out his hand over the sea. The LORD drove the sea back by a strong east wind all night, and turned the sea into dry land; and the waters were divided. The Israelites went into the sea on dry ground, the waters forming a wall for them on their right and on their left. The Egyptians pursued, and went into the sea after them, all of Pharaoh's horses, chariots, and chariot drivers. At the morning watch the LORD in the pillar of fire and cloud looked down upon the Egyptian army, and threw the Egyptian army into panic. He clogged their chariot wheels so that they turned with difficulty. The Egyptians said, "Let us flee from the Israelites, for the LORD is fighting for them against Egypt." Then the LORD said to Moses, "Stretch out your hand over the sea, so that the water may come back upon the Egyptians, upon their chariots and chariot drivers." So Moses stretched out his hand over the sea, and at dawn the sea returned to its normal depth. As the Egyptians fled before it, the LORD tossed the Egyptians into the sea. The waters returned and covered the chariots and the chariot drivers, the entire army of Pharaoh that had followed them into the sea; not one of them remained. But the Israelites walked on dry ground through the sea, the waters forming a wall for them on their right and on their left. Thus the LORD saved Israel that day from the Egyptians; and Israel saw the Egyptians dead on the seashore. Israel saw the great

work that the LORD did against the Egyptians. So the people feared the LORD and believed in the LORD and in his servant Moses.

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?" Jesus said to him, "Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times. "For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves. When he began the reckoning, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him; 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. So the slave fell on his knees before him, saying, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.' And out of pity for him, the lord of that slave released him and forgave him the debt. 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.' Then his fellow slave fell down and pleaded with him, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you.' But he refused; then he went and threw him into prison until he would pay the debt. 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. Then his lord summoned him and said to him, 'You wicked slave! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. Should you not have had mercy on your fellow slave, as I had mercy on you?' And in anger his lord handed him over to be tortured until he would pay his entire debt. So my heavenly Father will also do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother or sister from your heart."