

FIFTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

SUNDAY, September 13, 2020 – 10:00 AM

Congregational responses are in **bold** type.

WE PREPARE FOR WORSHIP

The Prelude

Announcements

Joys and Concerns

PRAISE

Call to Worship (Psalm 149:1-4a, adapted)

Leader: Praise the Lord!

People: Sing to the Lord a new song, his praise in the assembly of the faithful.

Leader: Let Israel – and Columbia! – be glad in its Maker;

People: Let the children of Zion – and Columbia! – rejoice in their King.

Leader: Let us praise his name with dancing, making melody to him with tambourine and lyre.

People: For the Lord takes pleasure in his people. Praise the Lord!

Confession

O God, each of us this morning brings the scars of hurt inflicted on us by other people by what they said to us or by what we thought they meant. We also bring the scars of self-infliction. There are places in our lives where we have disappointed ourselves by a betrayal or indiscretion that has shamed us. We often hurt those

we love most and disappoint those who trust us most. Forgive us, Lord, and moreover, give us the grace to forgive ourselves. For in our ability to forgive ourselves, perhaps, we will find the strength and courage to forgive others. In you and your forgiveness there is the divine possibility of wholeness. In your grace make us whole. In forgiveness is a path to the eternal life of which Jesus often spoke. Put us on this path, in his name we pray. Amen.

Words of Assurance

Jesus assured us that when we forgive others who sin against us, God will also forgive us. And we who have confessed our sin, and by God's grace have sincerely forgiven those who have wounded us, may rejoice in the certainty of our own sin forgiven. Thanks and praise be to God!

Hymn: *Lord, I Want to Be a Christian* (#454)

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.*

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.*

WE LISTEN FOR GOD'S WORD

Gospel Reading: Matthew 18.21-35

²¹ 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 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.”

Message

Pastor Don Francois

“Burying the Hatchet”

Silent Prayer

Pastoral Prayer

The Lord’s Prayer (sins)

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done, on earth as it is heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

WE PREPARE TO GO TO THE WORLD

Closing Hymn: *Lord, Dismiss Us with Your Blessing* (#77)

1. Lord, dismiss us with your blessing;
fill our hearts with joy and peace;
let us each your love possessing,
triumph in redeeming grace;
Oh, refresh us, oh, refresh us,
traveling through this wilderness.

2. We give thanks and adoration
for your gospel's joyful sound;
May the fruits of your salvation
in our hearts and lives abound:
Ever faithful, ever faithful
to the truth may we be found.

Benediction

Postlude