

**CONTEMPORARY WORSHIP SERVICE
FIFTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
SEPTEMBER 17 – 10:30 A.M.
“THE GRACIOUS GIFT OF FORGIVENESS”**

WE ENTER TO WORSHIP

***PRESERVICE MUSIC* “God You Reign”**

**You paint the night
You count the stars and You call them by name
The skies proclaim God You reign**

**Your glory shines
You teach the sun when to bring a new day
Creation sings God You reign**

**God You reign God You reign
Forever and ever God You reign**

**You part the seas
You move the mountains with the words that You say
My song remains God You reign**

**You hold my life
You know my heart and You call me by name
I live to say God You reign**

**God You reign God You reign
Forever and ever God You reign**

**God You reign God You reign
Forever and ever God You reign**

**Hallelujah, hallelu, Hallelujah, hallelu
Hallelujah, hallelu, Hallelujah, hallelu**

God You reign God You reign, Forever and ever God You reign

God You reign God You reign, Forever and ever God You reign

*“God You Reign” written by Lincoln Brewster, Mia Fieldes 2008 SHOUT! Music Publishing Scripture Reference: Psalm 19:1
CCLI Song: 5200838 CCLI License: 51072*

"Open the Eyes of my Heart Lord"

**Open the eyes of my heart, Lord
Open the eyes of my heart
I want to see You
I want to see You**

**Open the eyes of my heart, Lord
Open the eyes of my heart
I want to see You
I want to see You**

**To see You high and lifted up
Shining in the light of Your glory
Pour out Your power and love
As we sing holy, holy, holy**

**Open the eyes of my heart, Lord
Open the eyes of my heart
I want to see You
I want to see You**

**Open the eyes of my heart, Lord
Open the eyes of my heart
I want to see You
I want to see You**

**To see You high and lifted up
Shining in the light of Your glory
Pour out Your power and love
As we sing holy, holy, holy**

**Holy, holy, holy
Holy, holy, holy
Holy, holy, holy
I want to see You**

**Holy, holy, holy
Holy, holy, holy
Holy, holy, holy
I want to see You**

*"Open The Eyes Of My Heart Lord" written by Paul Baloche 1997 Integrity's Hosanna! Music Scripture Reference: Ephesians 1:18
CCLI Song: 2298355 CCLI License: 51072*

The ability to forgive is one of the most important Christian attributes one can possess. It is not optional nor is it contingent. A woman was having a conversation with her pastor following the worship service one Sunday. She said to him, “I cannot forgive him for what he has done until he comes to me and repents and says he is sorry for what he has done.” She was putting conditions on the forgiveness and could not find it in her heart to forgive. It is clear that God’s forgiveness is a gift of grace that has no limitations and is not bound by conditions. Forgiveness certainly does not mean acceptance of sin, abuse, and violence against us. It does not give people license to hurt us or exercise strength and power over us. God’s unconditional love displayed in the person of Jesus Christ gives us a blueprint to live by. Forgiveness is a gracious gift. As Christ has forgiven us, we, too, are called to forgive one another

+ We Lift Our Hearts in Worship +

OPENING SONG..... “Song Of Love”

**Jesus, King of my heart
Father, my peace and my light
Spirit, the joy of my soul You are**

**Jesus, to You none compare
Father, I rest in Your care
Spirit, the hope of my heart You are**

**The heavens declare You are God
And the mountains rejoice
The oceans cry "Allelujah"
As we worship You Lord
For this is a song of love**

**Jesus, You save my soul
I'll thank You forever more
Jesus, the love of my life You are**

**The heavens declare You are God
And the mountains rejoice
The oceans cry "Allelujah"
As we worship You Lord
For this is a song of love**

**Jesus, I am in awe
Of the love that You have shown
Jesus, how precious You are
To me, To me**

**The heavens declare You are God
And the mountains rejoice
The oceans cry "Allelujah"
As we worship You Lord**

**The heavens declare You are God
And the mountains rejoice
The oceans cry "Allelujah"
As we worship You Lord
As we worship You Lord
For this is a song of Love**

*"Song Of Love" written by Jeremy Ash, Matt Bronleewe, Rebecca St. James © 2002 Up In The Mix Music
Scripture Reference: Psalms 42:8 CCLI Song: 3607983 CCLI License: 51072*

INVOCATION

Pastor: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.

Pastor: We are here to give praise and honor to God for His mighty deeds and His amazing grace. As we worship, we have this time together to give ourselves to God in word, song, and prayer. We celebrate in the name of the Father and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit!

People: Amen!

OPENING PRAYER

Pastor: God of Grace and Love, You provide for us a message of mercy and forgiveness that reveals the essence of Who You are and the compassion and love You have for Your children. The magnitude of grace and acceptance You have for us is beyond comprehension. You do not set limits on Your love and forgiveness and You have instructed us to have that same Godliness within our hearts and minds. It is only through a relationship with Jesus Christ that we can live this out in our relationship with others.. As we sing, pray, and hear Your Word today, may the Holy Spirit draw us closer to You and to our brothers and sisters in Christ.

People: In the name of our Lord. Amen.

TIME OF CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Pastor: We confess our sins:

All: **Merciful and Loving God, You and Your disciples were often in the middle of large crowds. Many of them were confused and restless, broken and wounded, and some were filled with curiosity and questions. In the midst of all the people, You demonstrated compassion and love as well as forgiveness and humility.**

We confess before You today that much of the time we are just like the people surrounding Jesus. We often hurt each other with our words and actions. We carry wounds and experiences from the past that prevent us from growing in the present. At times, we do not demonstrate love and forgiveness toward one another as Christ displayed to all.

Loving and grace-filled Lord, forgive us and renew our commitment to You—that we will not put limitations on love and forgiveness. Give us the strength to make changes in our lives so that we will live in conformity to Your will and display Christlikeness among the people in our lives.

Pastor: Know that your sins are washed away in the waters of baptism and removed through the blood of Jesus Christ. We give thanks to God who restores us and renews us daily.

People: **Amen!**

+ We Hear God’s Word +

Genesis 50:15-21(ESV)(page 5 in bulletin)..... (on page 85 in NIV pew Bible)

Romans 14:1-12(ESV) (page 5 in bulletin) (on page 1765 in NIV pew Bible)

Matthew 18:21-35(ESV)(page 6 in bulletin) (on page 1527 in NIV pew Bible)

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.

Amen

SERMON SONG **“Oh How Good It Is”**

Oh how good it is
When the family of God
Dwells together in spirit
In faith and unity.
Where the bonds of peace,
Of acceptance and love
Are the fruit of His presence
Here among us.

CHORUS

So with one voice we'll sing to the Lord
And with one heart we'll live out His word
Till the whole earth sees
The Redeemer has come
For He dwells in the presence of His people.

Oh how good it is
On this journey we share
To rejoice with the happy
And weep with those who mourn.
For the weak find strength
The afflicted find grace
When we offer the blessing
Of belonging. **CHORUS**

Oh how good it is
To embrace His command
To prefer one another
Forgive as He forgives.
When we live as one
We all share in the love
Of the Son with the Father
And the Spirit. **CHORUS**

*"Oh How Good It Is" written by Keith Getty, Kristyn Getty, Ross Holmes, and Stuart Townend
© 2012 Gettymusic and Parakeet Boots Music Scripture Reference: Psalm 133:1 CCLI Song #: 6399212 CCLI License: 51072*

MESSAGE..... **“Seventy-Seven Times?”** **Matthew 18:21-35**

OFFERING SONG..... **“Give Thanks”**

Give thanks, With a grateful heart, Give thanks, To the holy one
Give thanks, For He's given, Jesus Christ, His Son
(repeat)

**And now let the weak say, I am strong, Let the poor say, I am rich
Because of what, The Lord has done, For us, (repeat)**

Give thanks...

*"Give Thanks" written by Henry Smith © 1978 Integrity's Hosanna! Music Scripture Reference: Psalm 107:1 CCLI Song: 20285
CCLI License: 51072*

+ We Pray +

PRAYERS

LORD'S PRAYER

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

+ We Depart in Peace +

BENEDICTION

Pastor: May God's perfect peace be with you now as you go out into the world and
share the love and grace of God.

People: Amen!

CLOSING SONG..... "Jesus Loves Me"

**Jesus loves me! This I know, For the Bible tells me so;
Little ones to Him belong; They are weak, but He is strong.**

**Yes, Jesus loves me! Yes, Jesus loves me!
Yes, Jesus loves me! The Bible tells me so.**

**Jesus loves me! Still today, Walking with me on my way
Wanting as a friend to give, Light and love to all who live**

**Jesus loves me! He will stay, Close beside me all the way
Thou has bled and died for me, I will henceforth live for thee**

**Jesus loves me! He who died, Heaven's gate to open wide;
He will wash away my sin, Let His little child come in.**

*"Jesus Loves Me" written by Anna B. Warner Public Domain Scripture Reference: John 3:16; Ephesians 3:17-18
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We Exit to Serve!

***If this service has moved you spiritually and you have questions regarding your
spiritual life, please feel free to visit with one of the Pastors after the service.***

**BAPTISM FOLLOWING SERVICE CLAIRE ADELIN NIEMERG
BORN: August 10, 2017
PARENTS: Bobby & Kristin Niemerg
WITNESSES: Caleb Niemerg & Nichole Mechling**