



## HOW AND WHY DO I FORGIVE?

March 26, 2023  
Fifth Sunday of Lent

### GATHERING AND PRAISE

#### Welcome

#### Prelude

*Savior, Like A Shepherd Lead Us*

Bradbury

*The prelude signals the beginning of our sacred time together. During the prelude, you are invited to prepare your heart for worship by focusing your attention upon God.*

#### Call to Worship

Carolyn Masters

God tells us to forgive others.

**We wonder- why should we forgive?**

**Forgiveness is hard to give when we are hurting.**

Teach us, O God, how to forgive and to trust again.

**May we be open to the lessons of giving and receiving forgiveness.**

#### Opening Prayer

All Praying

Carolyn Masters

**Lord, things are broken. Again. The remnants of our shattered trust and fractured hope lie in our path. Bring us to the place of forgiveness by your great mercy of healing. Give us back our lives, we pray. Amen.**

#### Hymn

*Freely, Freely*

UMH 389

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#### Passing the Peace of Christ

Carolyn Masters

#### Prayer of Confession

Pastor Debra

## **Words of Assurance**

**Pastor:** Hear the good news: Christ died for us while we were yet sinners; that is proof of God's love toward us. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

**People:** **In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven.**

**All:** **Glory to God. Amen**

## **Ministry of Music**

*River in Judea*

Choir

## **PROCLAMATION AND RESPONSE**

### **Prayer for Understanding**

*All Praying*

Carolyn Masters

**Guide us, O Lord, by your Word and Holy Spirit, that in your light we may see light, in your truth find freedom, and in your will discover peace through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

### **First Lesson**

*Matthew 6:9-15*

Carolyn Masters

<sup>9</sup> “This, then, is how you should pray:

“Our Father in heaven,  
hallowed be your name,

<sup>10</sup> your kingdom come,  
your will be done,

on earth as it is in heaven.

<sup>11</sup> Give us today our daily bread.

<sup>12</sup> And forgive us our debts,  
as we also have forgiven our debtors.

<sup>13</sup> And lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from the evil one.

<sup>14</sup> For if you forgive other people when they sin against you, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. <sup>15</sup> But if you do not forgive others their sins, your Father will not forgive your sins.

### **Second Lesson**

*Matthew 18:21-22*

Carolyn Masters

<sup>21</sup> Then Peter came to Jesus and asked, “Lord, how many times shall I forgive my brother or sister who sins against me? Up to seven times?” <sup>22</sup> Jesus answered, “I tell you, not seven times, but seventy-seven times.

### **Sermon**

*How and Why Do I Forgive?*

Pastor Debra

### **Preparation for Prayer**

*In the Lord I'll Be Ever Thankful*

FWS 2195

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## Morning Prayer

Pastor Debra

### The Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass 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.

### Offertory Invitation

Carolyn Masters

### Worship with Our Tithes and Offerings

*Offertory*

*Behold the Man*

Richolson

*\*Doxology*

*Praise God From Whom All Blessings Flow*

***Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;***

***Praise God, all creatures here below:***

***Alleluia! Alleluia! Praise God, the source of all our gifts!***

***Praise Jesus Christ, whose power uplifts!***

***Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!***

*\*Prayer of Dedication*

Carolyn Masters

## **GOING FORTH TO SERVE**

### Hymn

*We Are Called*

FWS 2172

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### Benediction

Pastor Debra

As you have been forgiven,

now go into a world that needs your forgiving, your healing touch.

Bring peace and hope to others, sharing God's love with them. Go in peace. AMEN.

### Choral Benediction

*The Spirit Sends Us Forth to Serve*

*We go to be the hands of Christ,*

*to scatter joy like seed and,*

*all our days, to cherish life,*

*to do the loving deed.*

### Postlude

*His Name is Wonderful*

Mieir

## ***FREELY, FREELY***

*God forgave my sin in Jesus' name,  
I've been born again in Jesus' name,  
And in Jesus' name I come to you,  
To share his love as he told me to.*

***Refrain:*** *He said, "Freely, freely you have received,  
Freely, freely give.  
Go in my name, and because you believe,  
Others will know that I live."*

*All power is given in Jesus' name,  
In earth and heaven in Jesus' name,  
And in Jesus' name I come to you,  
To share his power as he told me to.*

***Refrain:*** *He said, "Freely, freely you have received,  
Freely, freely give.  
Go in my name, and because you believe,  
Others will know that I live."*

## ***In the Lord I'll Be Ever Thankful***

*In the Lord I'll be ever thankful,  
In the Lord I will rejoice!  
Look to God, do not be afraid.  
Lift up your voices, the Lord is near,  
Lift up your voices, the Lord is near.*

## ***We Are Called***

*Come! Live in the light!  
Shine with the joy and the love of the Lord!  
We are called to be light for the kingdom,  
To live in the freedom of the city of God!*

***Refrain:*** *We are called to act with justice,*

*We are called to love tenderly,  
We are called to serve one another,  
To walk humbly with God!*

*Come! Open your heart!  
Show your mercy to all those in fear!  
We are called to be hope for the hopeless  
So all hatred and blindness will be no more!*

***Refrain:*** *We are called to act with justice,  
We are called to love tenderly,  
We are called to serve one another,  
To walk humbly with God!*

*Sing! Sing a new song!  
Sing of that great day when all will be one!  
God will reign,  
and we'll walk with each other  
as sisters and brothers  
united in love!*

***Refrain:*** *We are called to act with justice,  
We are called to love tenderly,  
We are called to serve one another,  
To walk humbly with God!*