

Order of Worship, September 13, 2020

Prelude	The Gift to be Simple	Dale Wood
---------	-----------------------	-----------

Welcome

Meditation	The Way of Peace	Anthony Giamanco
------------	------------------	------------------

Introit (335 GTG)	We Gather Together
-------------------	--------------------

Call to Worship	Psalm 103:8-13
-----------------	----------------

⁸The LORD is merciful and gracious,
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.

⁹**He will not always accuse,
nor will he keep his anger forever.**

¹⁰He does not deal with us according to our sins,
nor repay us according to our iniquities.

¹¹**For as the heavens are high above the earth,
so great is his steadfast love toward those who fear him;**

¹²as far as the east is from the west,
so far he removes our transgressions from us.

¹³**As a father has compassion for his children,
so the LORD has compassion for those who fear him.**

Prayer of the Day

Loving God, we come before you today weak in faith. We fear that we will not be worthy of worshipping you. Yet still we come, seeking your abundant grace. We thank you for the blessings you rain down upon your people, in all nations and through all time. Strengthen us, we pray, and welcome us into your family, as our one perfect parent who cares for us and provides for us. Amen.

Hymn (435 GTG)	There's a Wideness in God's Mercy	v. 1&2
----------------	-----------------------------------	--------

Call to Confession

Remember that our Lord Jesus can sympathize with us in our weaknesses, since in every respect he was tempted as we are, yet without sin.

Let us then with boldness approach the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

Prayer of Confession

Merciful God, you pardon all who truly repent and turn to you. We humbly confess our sins and ask your mercy. We have not loved you with a pure heart, nor have we loved our neighbor as ourselves. We have not done justice, loved kindness, or walked humbly with you, our God. Have mercy on us, O God, in your loving-kindness. In your great compassion, cleanse us from our sin. Create in us a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within us. Do not cast us from your presence, or take your Holy Spirit from us. Restore to us the joy of your salvation and sustain us with your bountiful Spirit. (Pause for a time of silent confession.). All God's children say, **Amen.**

Assurance of Pardon

The mercy of the Lord is from everlasting to everlasting. I declare to you, in the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven. May the God of mercy, who forgives you all your sins, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life.

Sharing Christ's Peace

Special Music

When We Are Living

v. 1, 2, 4

Prayers of the People and the Traditional 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 debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

Epistle Lesson

Romans 14:1-12

Gospel Lesson

Matthew 18:21-35

Sermon

One More Time

Affirmation of Faith (from Brief Statement of Faith, 10.3)

We trust in God, whom Jesus called Abba, Father. In sovereign love God created the world good and makes everyone equally in God's image, male and female, of every race and people, to live as one community.

But we rebel against God; we hide from our Creator. Ignoring God's commandments, we violate the image of God in others and ourselves, accept lies as truth, exploit neighbor and nature, and threaten death to the planet entrusted to our care. We deserve God's condemnation.

Yet God acts with justice and mercy to redeem creation. In everlasting love, the God of Abraham and Sarah chose a covenant people to bless all families of the earth. Hearing their cry, God delivered the children of Israel from the house of bondage.

Loving us still, God makes us heirs with Christ of the covenant. Like a mother who will not forsake her nursing child, like a father who runs to welcome the prodigal home, God is faithful still.

Hymn (444 GTG)

Forgive Our Sins as We Forgive

v. 1&4

Benediction

Postlude

Joy in the Morning

Tom Birchwood