

The Order for the Worship of God

The 14th Sunday after Pentecost

September 10, 2017

Ten o'clock a.m.

The Service of Preparation

Silent Preparation

Holy God, how do I worship you without getting killed? How do I live with you and not be undone? Keep me from a paralyzing fear of your holiness and justice, as well as from a breezy chumminess. To you, mercy-filled and mighty, just and gentle God, I offer everything I think, say, or do as a pleasing sacrifice to your glory and honor. Amen.

Philip Reinders

Welcome, Announcements, and Greeting

The Prelude

✦ The Call to Worship (from Psalm 149)

Leader: Praise the Lord! Sing to the Lord a new song; sing his praise in the assembly of the faithful.

People: Let God's people be glad in their Maker; let the children of the kingdom rejoice in their King. Let them praise His name with dancing, making melody to Him with tambourine and lyre.

Leader: For the Lord takes pleasure in His people: He adorns the humble with victory. Let the faithful exult in glory; let them sing for joy; let the high praises of God be in their throats. Come, let us worship our God!

✦ The Hymn of Adoration No. 106

Praise Him! Praise Him! (vv. 1, 3)

The Prayers of Adoration and Thanksgiving

The Prayer of Silent Confession and Repentance

The Prayer of Confession (a prayer of Richard Foster)

Leader: Clean out, O God, the inner stream of our lives.

People: All the duplicity; all the avarice; all the falsity.

Leader: Search out, O Lord, the hidden motives of our lives

People: All the conceit; all the anger; all the fear.

Leader: Root out, divine Master, the destructive actions of our lives.

People: All the manipulation; all the scheming; all the guile.

All: May the qualities of faith, hope, and love increase in everything we are and in everything we do. Amen.

The Assurance of Forgiveness

✦ The Gloria Patri No. 622

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost. As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen. Amen.

The Response to God's Work in Our Lives

The Presentation of our Tithes and Offerings

The Offertory

✦ Doxology No. 625

Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise Him, all creatures here below; Praise Him above, ye heavenly host; Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

✦ The Prayer of Dedication

The Hymn of Meditation see insert
Cares Chorus

The Prayers of the People and The Lord's Prayer

The Ministry of the Word

The Scripture Reading Matthew 18:15-20

(p. 823 in pew bible)

Special Music

The Sermon "Regaining Relationships" Rev. King

✦ The Hymn of Dedication No. 42

Seek Ye First

✦ The Benediction

✦ The Congregational Response (chorus) *On Eagle's Wings*
And he will raise you up on eagle's wings, bear you
on the breath of dawn, make you to shine like the sun and hold you
in the palm of his hand.

Postlude

✦ Please stand if you are able

Elder/Reader - Allen Gage
Acolyte - Lindsey Zieger

PLEASE PRAY FOR: (CONTINUES)

Bill Wilkinson, Receiving treatment for spinal tumor.

(Friend of the Kings)

Caroline Hickman, Prayers during cancer treatment.

(16 year old daughter of a co-worker of Keith Campbell)

Dawn Kimble, Prayers for health issues.

Terry Zieger, Prayers for health concerns.

Robert Pollack, Continued prayers. *(Steve Pollack's brother)*

Donna Bacon, Continued prayers for health issues.

Bob & Maureen McCook, Chronic health issues.

(John King's sister & brother-in-law)

Carol Lee, Diagnosed with cancer. *(Friend of Sharon Eastlack)*

Amy Ricketts, Continued prayers for health issues.

Galen & Sara Lenhart, Continued prayers. *(Beth Davenport's parents)*

Biba Kavass, Continued prayers. *(Friend of Beth Davenport)*

The flowers at the pulpit today are presented to the glory of God by the Deacons in memory of loved ones.

THIS WEEK AT A GLANCE

- Sun. 09/10** Worship Service, 10:00 a.m.
Fellowship Hour, 11:00 a.m.
- Tues. 09/12** Women's Services, 5:45-7:30 p.m.
- Wed. 09/13** Prayer Group, 9:30 a.m.
Choir Practice, 6:30 p.m.
Young Adult Group, 7:00 p.m.

UPCOMING EVENTS WITH YOUNG ADULT GROUP

September 13th at 7:00 p.m.: Watching "A Case for Christ" movie together with popcorn and snacky snacks! Excellent movie!!

September 27th at 7:00 p.m.: Beginning a new DVD series together by Matt Chandler called Rediscovering Redemption.

Hope to see you there! It's a great time to invite a friend to join our group!!

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

9/11 Alicia Porter

9/13 Justin Pickar



HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

9/13/2008 Ian & Shannon Pickar



Flower Sponsor Needed September 24th

If anyone is interested, please see Betty Simpkins or call the church office at 935-2148. The cost is \$15.00. Clearly mark your check "Flowers" and place in with the regular offering.

SERMONS FOR THE SUNDAYS OF FALL

September 17, "Don't Let Your Forgiver Get Broken",

Matthew 18:21-35

September 24, "Is This Any Way to Run a Business?",

Matthew 20:1-16

PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR MISSIONARIES:

Ellie Hall - Wycliffe Bible Translator in Thailand

Revs. Dwayne & Janet Doyle - Living in Haddon Heights NJ, and seeking a new call.

Trinity Preparatory School - Matt & Chanda Williams

PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR BROTHERS & SISTERS IN CHRIST

St. John's Episcopal Church Salem NJ

PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR COUNTRY'S LEADERS & THOSE IN THE MILITARY:

Mark Lindle...U.S. Navy

James Morrison...U.S. Air Force

Jamie Spears...U.S. Navy

Andrew Spears...Delaware Air National Guard

Matthew Kemm, M.D...U.S. Army Medical Corps

Austin Brown...U.S. Air Force



PLEASE PRAY FOR:

Chelsea Slaughter & Baby Amelia, Salem resident (daughter of Chris Davenport's co-worker, Gail Slaughter) is in ICU at Christiana Hospital due to pregnancy difficulties. Baby Amelia is in ICU too.

Elvena Eastlack, Recovering from second major back surgery. (Sister-in-law of David & Sharon Eastlack)

Charis and Ana Williams, Undergoing treatment for Lyme Disease and related complications.

Peg Ingram, Recovering from Lyme Disease.

First Presbyterian Church of Salem, Continue to pray for the work of the Pastoral Nominating Committee. We are still sorting through resumes presented to us. Please pray that God's

PLEASE PRAY FOR: (CONTINUES)

candidate will surface in a timely manner and that we will be able to make the call with the assurance that the Lord is directing our choice. Pray for each one of us (Reid, Earl, Chris, Kym, Erin and Wendy) that we will continue to do this work faithfully, committed to the task that you, the congregation, has given us. Pray for John also, giving thanks for his ability to joyfully shepherd this flock while he waits for this interim season to come to a close.

Colton Colican, Recovering from extensive injuries resulting from an auto accident. (Friend of Lindsey Zieger)

Ann Eber, 94 years old; prayers for chronic health concerns. (Mike Eber's mother)

Mike Smith, Prayers for serious health issues. (Friend of Keith & Shirley Campbell)

Harry Springer, Prayers for severe health issues. (Friend of David Eastlack)

Connie DiArchangelo, Prayers for recent diagnosis of serious health issues. (Mother of a friend of Reid Willis)

Linda Stokes, Prayers for serious health issues. (Friend of Erin Owens.)

Terry Zieger's sister, Serious health problems.

Robert Parker, Health concerns. (Friend of David Eastlack)

Brandon Bush, (Friend of Reid Willis)

Bob Hyatt, (Friend of Reid Willis)

Elizabeth Colucci, Prayers for health concerns. (Carol Ives' niece)

Rev. Jack & Martha Schilthuis, Prayers for health issues.

Alexander Fiorillo, Diagnosed with a spinal tumor. (Joe's piano coach)

Sarah Doyle, Continued prayers. (Rev. Dwayne & Janet Doyle's daughter)

Linda Grant, Prayers for serious health concerns and treatment. (Friend of the Warren/Owens Families)

Sam Elliot, Continued prayers during cancer treatment. (Mother works at the Oak Diner in Salem)

Steve Silagi, Prayers for health concerns and surgery. (Friend of Betty Simpkins)

Gene Zieger's father, Prayers for chronic health issues.

Bernie Weber, Prayers for serious health concerns. (Friend of David & Sharon Eastlack)

Sermon Notes

I. Regaining Relationships

Matthew 18:15-20

A. Context is crucial.

1. Jesus has been teaching about the importance of not losing people who are precious to him.
2. Matthew, the gospel writer, was a tax collector. He knows what it is like to be deemed precious by Jesus when he was rightly regarded as a notorious sinner by his people and his community.
3. Jesus will follow these remarks with further teaching on forgiveness.

B. When another believer sins against you.

1. "Against you" (v. 15) does not appear in all manuscripts.
2. This is a matter of "believer" sin ("brother" or "sister" indicates a fellow believer as opposed to "neighbor").
3. There is a danger here that must be respected. When overt sin is destroying the life of a believer and/or the fellowship of believers, we need to regain the relationship (15b).
4. Unfortunately, because we are sinful, instead of regaining the relationship, the reconciler(s) often is more concerned with proving one's own position than he/she is with reconciling with the person trapped in sin.
 - a. This often degenerates into a "witch hunt" full of gossip and innuendo.
5. Verses 16-17 – More people get involved only when there is a failure to repent. They serve to protect both the accused and the accuser(s).

C. Verse 17 – Are we talking about shunning here?

1. Maybe in extreme cases.
 - a. This is not the norm in the early church, but an exception.
2. Quite clearly, we are to relate to the person as though he/she was an unbeliever and a sinner (i.e. "a Gentile and a tax collector").
3. But how did Jesus treat Gentiles and tax collectors?
 - a. The custom among the Jews was to shun them, but Jesus loved them into the kingdom. Matthew, who records this teaching for us, was embraced by Jesus while he and his friends were sinners.

D. Verses 18-20 must be understood in the context of what is being taught.

1. In verse 18, Jesus gives the same authority to all the disciples which he had given in response to Peter's confession at Caesarea Philippi (16:19). This indicates that the believers have the responsibility and the authority to carry out what Jesus has been teaching and which has been passed on by the authority of the prophets and apostles. It is part of their commission.
2. Verses 19 and 20 ("where two or three are gathered") are not referring to a prayer meeting. It is referring to the reconciliation process. We are not to conduct ourselves as though we are on our own and this is merely our business. Jesus is in our midst and we must regain each other in a way that reflects his holiness which includes his perfect love.