



Mountain
Reformed Church

September 17, 2023
16th Sunday After Pentecost



Your Church for Worship and the Arts!
WORD | CONNECTION | MUSIC

Welcome to Mountain Reformed Church!

We are so grateful that you have chosen to worship with us today! The vision of our church is to provide an open door to relationship with God for all through worship, teaching God's Word, and by celebrating with music and the arts. Our mission is simple: All Glory to God! Our church is independent and non-denominational, with a theology based in the reformed way of being Christian. Please see our website at www.mountainreformed.org for more information about our church.

Prayer of Meditation

Lord Jesus Christ, like the sun that fills the morning sky, you are the light that banishes the darkness of the world. Sun of Righteousness, arise in my heart, fill me with the radiance of your love, and display the light of your saving grace until I shine with the joy of life everlasting. Amen.

Operation Christmas Child Begins Today!

Empty shoeboxes are available today and next Sunday. Help bring the Good News of the love of Jesus to children all over the world! Please return the shoeboxes, filled with blessings and fun, on or before Sunday October 8. Thank you, and Merry Christmas!

MRC Cantata Craft Sale

To raise funds for our Advent Cantata, the crafty creative folks of MRC will be selling their handmade goods on all 4 Sundays in November! Tables will be set out during coffee time to display items for purchase. If you would like to donate items for sale, please contact Amy Greenland 818-259-4597 saphirblu@gmail.com.

Update: Flip Flop Slippahs for Maui

Nancy Smith mailed off 185 pairs of slippahs to Maui for us! Thank you, MRC Ohana, for your love to Maui's Ohana in their time of need! May these items be a blessing to those who have lost so much. Thank you, Nancy, for organizing this donation!

Update: September Benevolence Offering

Thank you, MRC family, for your donations! Prescott's Community Cupboard will be receiving a much-needed \$160 in funds gathered through our Benevolence Offering for the month of September. May our donations be blessed in helping those in need within our community!

Pastor on Call

The Rev. Dr. Gene Grimm is the Pastor on Call. If you would like to get in touch, feel free to email eugenegrimm@me.com or call 928-925-6057.

ORDER OF WORSHIP
September 17, 2023 - 10:30 AM
16th Sunday After Pentecost

Gathering

Words of Greeting and Life of the Church

L: Blessings to you, servants of God.

P: We lift up our hands and bless the Lord!

L: This is the day that the Lord has made;

P: Let us rejoice and be glad in it!

Prayer of the Day

Prelude

Dr. Craig Ralston

(Please stand as you are able)

Call to Worship

L: People of God, bless the Lord,

Ps. 103:1

C: bless God's holy name.

L: For as the heavens are high above the earth,

Ps. 103:11

C: so great is God's steadfast love for us.

(Please remain standing)

Opening Hymn #141

When Morning Gilds the Skies

LAUDES DOMINI

(Please be seated)

Call to Confession

Unison Prayer of Confession

**Gracious and loving God,
you lived for us—we have not lived for you.
You have forgiven us—we have not
forgiven others.**

*Rom. 14:7-9
Matt. 18:28-30*

**You have loved us—we have not loved ourselves
nor have we loved one another.
Take pity on us and forgive us, God.**

**Help us to forgive.
Help us to live for you.
Help us to love through Christ our Lord.**

(Silent Confession)

L: Amen.

(Please stand as you are able)

Gloria Patri, Hymn #670

GLORIA PATRI (GRETOREX)

Declaration of Pardon

Passing of the Peace

(Please be seated)

Anthem

“There’s a Wideness in God’s Mercy”

Faber/McDonald

Call to Offering

Offertory

O Divine Redeemer
Coril Prochnow, soprano

Charles Gounod

Ah! do not reject my sinful soul!
Hear my cries and see my repentance!
To my help, Lord, hasten to run
and take pity on my distress!
Of vengeful justice,
turn away the blows, my Savior!

(refrain)

O divine Redeemer!
Forgive my weakness.

In the secret of the nights,
I will cry out my tears.
I will bruise my flesh
under the weight of the hair shirt;
and my heart, altered by the bloody sacrifice,
will bless the lenient discipline from your hand.

(Please stand as you are able)

Doxology, Hymn #668

OLD HUNDREDTH

Prayer of Thanksgiving/Dedication

(Please be seated)

The Word

Reading of Scripture

Romans 14:1-12 (ESV)

As for the one who is weak in faith, welcome him, but not to quarrel over opinions. 2 One person believes he may eat anything, while the weak person eats only vegetables. 3 Let not the one who eats despise the one who abstains, and let not the one who abstains pass judgment on the one who eats, for God has welcomed him. 4 Who are you to pass judgment on the servant of another? It is before his own master that he stands or falls. And he will be upheld, for the Lord is able to make him stand.

5 One person esteems one day as better than another, while another esteems all days alike. Each one should be fully convinced in his own mind. 6 The one who observes the day, observes it in honor of the Lord. The one who eats, eats in honor of the Lord, since he gives thanks to God, while the one who abstains, abstains in honor of the Lord and gives thanks to God. 7 For none of us lives to himself, and none of us dies to himself. 8 For if we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord. So then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's. 9 For to this end Christ died and lived again, that he might be Lord both of the dead and of the living.

10 Why do you pass judgment on your brother? Or you, why do you despise your brother? For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God; 11 for it is written,

“As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me,
and every tongue shall confess to God.”

12 So then each of us will give an account of himself to God.

L: The Word of our Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God!**

(Please remain seated)

Response Hymn #277

He Is Lord

HE IS LORD

Prayer for Illumination

21 Then Peter came up and said to him, “Lord, how often will my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? As many as seven times?” 22 Jesus said to him, “I do not say to you seven times, but seventy-seven times.

23 “Therefore the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his servants. 24 When he began to settle, one was brought to him who owed him ten thousand talents. 25 And since he could not pay, his master ordered him to be sold, with his wife and children and all that he had, and payment to be made. 26 So the servant fell on his knees, imploring him, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.’ 27 And out of pity for him, the master of that servant released him and forgave him the debt. 28 But when that same servant went out, he found one of his fellow servants who owed him a hundred denarii, and seizing him, he began to choke him, saying, ‘Pay what you owe.’ 29 So his fellow servant fell down and pleaded with him, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you.’ 30 He refused and went and put him in prison until he should pay the debt. 31 When his fellow servants saw what had taken place, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their master all that had taken place. 32 Then his master summoned him and said to him, ‘You wicked servant! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. 33 And should not you have had mercy on your fellow servant, as I had mercy on you?’ 34 And in anger his master delivered him to the jailers, until he should pay all his debt. 35 So also my heavenly Father will do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother from your heart.”

P: The Gospel of our Lord.

C: **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Sermon

“When Counting Doesn’t Count:
How To Forgive”

Pastor Dan Storvick

(sermon outline follows order of worship)

(Please stand as you are able)

Hymn of the Day #101

How Deep the Father’s Love for Us

TOWNEND

(Please remain standing)

Affirmation of Faith

The Apostles’ Creed

L: Christians, what do you believe?

**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 Ghost,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, dead, and buried;
He descended into hell;
the third day He rose again from the dead;
He ascended into heaven,
and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty;
from thence He shall come to judge the quick and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Ghost;
the holy catholic Church;
the communion of saints;
the forgiveness of sins;
the resurrection of the body;
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

(Please be seated)

Prayers for the People, concluded with The Lord's Prayer in unison:

(words of prayer, each petition followed by)

**P: ... Loving God,
C: hear our 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.**

**Sending
Charge**

Benediction

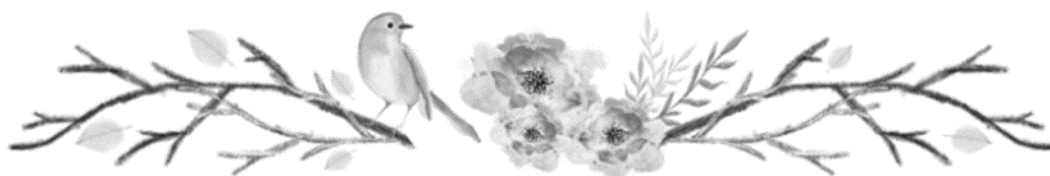
Response

Threefold Amen

TRADITIONAL (DUTCH)

Postlude

Dr. Craig Ralston



Flowers today are in gratitude for the MRC prayer ministry.

Assisting in Worship:

Pianist: Dr. Craig Ralston

Liturgist: Beth Wingate

Acolyte: Rahab Gastonguay

Ushers: Mike Vest & Joe Stratford

Greeter and Coffee Fellowship Coordinator: Karen Thorstad

Mountain Reformed Church

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When Counting Doesn't Count: How To Forgive

Matthew 18:21-35

Pastor Dan Storvick

What does unforgiveness do? To marriages, nations, politics, human relations, economics . . .the list goes on and on. Unforgiveness is like drinking poison and expecting someone else to get sick

Peter came to him and asked, "Lord, how often should I forgive someone who sins against me? Seven times?" "No!" Jesus replied, "seventy times seven!" (Matthew 18:21-22).

HOW TO FORGIVE

First, how NOT to forgive:

- Revenge Redress Retribution Rejection Correction
- Complaining Gossiping Instructing Hinting Whining Bitterness

1. RELY On God.

Apart from me you can do nothing (John 15:5).

I can do all things through him who strengthens me (Philippians 4:13).

2. Recognize the Humanity of the Other Person . . . A Sinner Like You.

For I do not do the good I want, but the evil I do not want is what I do (Romans 7:19).

"O my God, I am utterly ashamed . . . For our sins are piled higher than our heads, and our guilt has reached to the heavens (Ezra 9:6).

Our sins are piled up before God and testify against us. Yes, we know what sinners we are (Isaiah 59:12).

3. REALIZE That Forgiveness is Risky—You Surrender Your “Right” to Get Even.

One of his debtors was brought in who owed him millions of dollars (Matthew 18:24).

Then Jesus said, "Father, forgive them; for they do not know what they are doing." And they cast lots to divide his clothing (Luke 23:24).

4. RELEASE –Actually Cancel the Debt.

Forgive your brothers and sisters in your heart (Matthew 18:35).

“Forgive” comes from two Greek words--“to send off or away; to send forth, lay aside, leave, omit, put (send) away, remit, yield up.”

5. RESPOND Graciously When Old Feelings Come Back.

Actions, not feelings. Feelings may or may not be there.

See Peter Matthew 18:21-22.

Joseph's brothers: *"Now Joseph will pay us back for all the evil we did to him," they said. . . . But Joseph told them, "Don't be afraid of me. Am I God, to judge and punish you? (Genesis 50:15, 19).*

6. REPORT–ANNOUNCE , VERBALIZE Forgiveness.

Joseph asked, Am I God, to judge and punish you? God turned into good what you meant for evil (Genesis 50:19-20).

Do not repay anyone evil for evil, but take thought for what is noble in the sight of all. . . . "Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord." No, "if your enemies are hungry, feed them; if they are thirsty, give them something to drink; for by doing this you will heap burning coals on their heads." Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good (Romans 12:17, 19-21).

Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ has forgiven you (Ephesians 4:32).

7. REMEMBER if You Must, But Don't RELIVE the Hurt.

God says, I, I am He who blots out your transgressions for my own sake, and I will not remember your sins (Isaiah 43:25).

Repeat As Needed (Matthew 18:22).

Forgiveness frees more than the “debtor” . . . it frees YOU!

MRC Bulletin and Weekly Email

Would you like to place an announcement in the Sunday bulletin or “This Week at Mountain Reformed Church” email? Please send your info to Ryan Gastonguay at ryan@mountainreformed.org. The deadline is Monday evening of each week for the coming weekend, but we always appreciate as much notice as possible.

Helping the People of Maui

During the month of September, there will be a basket at the entrance where our ohana may leave donations for Maui's ohana. Funds will be sent to places designated by a current Maui pastor and other community leaders which will ensure the funds will be distributed where they will do the most good for the greatest need.

MRC Name Badges

If you would like an MRC name badge, please send your name as it should appear to Mary Bricker: marybricker18@gmail.com and she will have one made. **New name badges with our MRC logo COMING SOON!**

Flowers

Sheri Simpson coordinates our Flower Ministry. If you would like to commemorate a special occasion by providing flowers, please ask an usher to guide you to the flower sign-up chart.

Prayer Ministry and Prayer Chain

If you would like to be a part of our prayer ministry and prayer chain, please indicate this on your welcome card. Lyndi Peacock coordinates this ministry, and she will send prayer requests to you by email: lyndi@milehighlending.com. You can also call or text Lyndi at 928-899-2085. If you are seeking prayer please email Lyndi your request directly or fill out a prayer request card (available at the usher's table) and place in the offering plate.

Prayer Shawl Ministry

Prayer shawls serve as a tangible reminder of God's love for those who are walking through difficult times. A prayer shawl can bring great comfort! Shawls can also be given in celebration of milestones such as graduations, weddings, and new babies. Our shawls are lovingly created by Sharon Tom, Barbara Poland, Sheri Simpson, and Debra Ochoa. Please let us know if you have someone who needs a prayer shawl! Recipients do not have to be local. Anyone with a love for knitting or crochet is welcome to participate in this ministry as well. Please email Sharon: sharonctom@yahoo.com.

Card Ministry

Cards for encouragement, celebration, sympathy, get well, birthdays, and more can be mailed out via our Card Ministry. Sheri Simpson, Carolyn Peterson, Lyndi Peacock, Pam Rineholt, Amy Greenland, and Beth Wingate are coordinating this ministry and can always use donations of cards and stamps. Please let us know if you have someone whose day would be brightened by receiving a card from Mountain Reformed Church! Please email Sheri: charlieandsheri@gmail.com.

Volunteers Needed

We need volunteers in several areas to help facilitate worship. If you would like to help, please let us know! We need Ushers, Liturgists, Coffee Fellowship Helpers, Setup Assistants, Sound Technicians, and Camera Operators.

***A LARGE PRINT VERSION OF THIS BULLETIN IS AVAILABLE AT THE USHER'S TABLE.**

9/10/2023 Worship Attendance: 74

