

**Gaithersburg Presbyterian Church – September 13, 2020**  
**Join us on YouTube!**

**Greeting**

**Call to Worship** [responsive]

Jesus says: ask and you will receive, seek and you will find,  
Knock and the door will be opened.

**We believe; help our unbelief.**

Jesus says: Come to me all you who labor and are heavy laden.  
And I will give you rest.

**We believe; help our unbelief.**

Jesus says: heal, the sick.

Feed the hungry.

Free the oppressed.

Watch and pray.

**We believe; help our unbelief.**

Let us worship God in Spirit and in truth.

**Opening Prayer**

**Call to Confession**

Our God is merciful and compassionate,  
slow to get angry and filled with unfailing love.

God is close to all who call out,  
listening to their cries for help,  
and offering them salvation.

Let us bring our confession to God.

**Prayer of Confession** [*together*]

**Most holy God,**  
**we admit to you and each other**  
**that we are so dazzled by the false gods of this age,**  
**that we find it hard to recognise who we are,**  
**where we came from,**  
**or where we are going.**

**We are caught up in selfishness,**  
**seduced by cynicism,**  
**and waylaid by consumerism.**

**Forgive us, God, and set us on the right path again,  
we pray in Jesus' name. Amen.**

*[Silence for Personal Prayer]*

**Assurance of Pardon** *[responsive]*

Friends, always remember that there is much more forgiveness in God than we could ever exhaust.

Receive from God, through the grace of Christ,  
the blessing of sins forgiven and a right relationship restored.

**In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. Thanks be to God. Alleluia! Amen.**

**Music for Reflection**

**We Listen to God's Word**

**Children's Message**

**Scripture**

**Matthew 18:21-27**

21 Then Peter came and said to [Jesus] 'Lord, if another member of the church sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?' 22Jesus said to him, 'Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times.

23 'For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves. 24When he began the reckoning, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him; 25and, as he could not pay, his lord ordered him to be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions, and payment to be made. 26So the slave fell on his knees before him, saying, "Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything." 27And out of pity for him, the lord of that slave released him and forgave him the debt.

**Matthew 18:28-33**

28But that same slave, as he went out, came upon one of his fellow-slaves who owed him a hundred denarii; and seizing him by the throat, he said, "Pay what you owe." 29Then his fellow-slave fell down and pleaded with him, "Have patience with me, and I will pay you." 30But he refused; then he went and threw him into prison until he should pay the debt. 31When his fellow-slaves saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their lord all that had taken place. 32Then his lord summoned him and said to him, "You wicked slave! I forgave you all that debt

because you pleaded with me. <sup>33</sup>Should you not have had mercy on your fellow-slave, as I had mercy on you?"

Leader: This is the Witness to God's Word. **People: Thanks be to God.**

**Sermon**

**Sometimes Jesus Says Hard Things**

Rev. Mary Austin

**We Respond to God's Grace**

**Invitation to Generosity**

**Prayers of the People and 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 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.

**We Depart for Service**

**\*Announcements and Passing the Peace**

Greeting: "The peace of Christ be with you."

Response: "And also with you."

**\*Commission & Benediction**

**Participating in the service:**

Ms. Allison Howlett, Worship Leader

Mr. Wade Meyers, Director of Music and Worship Arts

Ms. Carolyn Hayes, Director of Children and Young Families, Children's Message

Rev. Mary Beth Lawrence, Associate Pastor

Rev. Mary Austin, Pastor

The Call to Worship is adapted from the worship resources of the Iona Community.