

# GREENSBURG FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

16th Sunday after Pentecost    September 20, 2020

Rev. Wally Wilson

765-278-3749

revwwilson@gmail.com

## Welcome and Peace

**Introit**                    "What Wondrous Love Is This?"                    violin

## Call to Worship

God in Christ acted to create a new world where lion and lamb will lie down together, and where even enemies become friends.

**We gather to give thanks and to deepen our ties with the household of God.**

Celebrating our community together, let us treasure what God has given us.

**The Hymn**                    "We Grieve in Isolation"

(Tune: "Lead On, O King Eternal")

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## Confession

## Scripture

Prayer for Illumination

Responsive Reading    Psalm 103:1-4, 8-12                    (See next page)

Old Testament                    Genesis 50:15-21

New Testament                    Matthew 18:21-35

**Sermon**                    "Forgiveness and Power"

## Prayer

## Stewardship Reminder and Prayer of Dedication

**Hymn**                    "A King Once Told His Servants"

(Tune: "Lead On, O King Eternal")

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## Benediction

**Postlude**                    "Go with Us, Lord"

No. 535



## Serving This Sunday

Pastor: Wally Wilson

Musician: Carolyn McIntosh

Lay Liturgists: Jeff & Cathy Lincourt

Technician & Videographer: Jeff Lincourt

## Psalm 103:1-4, 8-12

Bless the Lord, O my soul;

**And all that is within me, bless His holy name!**

Bless the Lord, O my soul,

**And forget not all His benefits,**

Who forgives all your iniquity,

**who heals all your diseases,**

Who redeems your life from the Pit,

**who crowns you with steadfast love and mercy.**

The Lord is merciful and gracious,

**slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.**

He will not always chide,

**nor will He keep His anger for ever.**

He does not deal with us according to our sins,

**nor requite us according to our iniquities.**

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

**as far as the east is from the west, so far does he remove our transgressions from us.**

## Genesis 50:15-21

When Joseph's brothers saw that their father was dead, they said, "What if Joseph holds a grudge against us and pays us back for all the wrongs we did to him?" So they sent word to Joseph, saying, "Your father left these instructions before he died: 'This is what you are to say to Joseph: I ask you to forgive your brothers the sins and the wrongs they committed in treating you so badly.' Now please forgive the sins of the servants of the God of your father." When their message came to him, Joseph wept.

His brothers then came and threw themselves down before him. "We are your slaves," they said. But Joseph said to them, "Don't be afraid. Am I in the place of God? You intended to harm me, but God intended it for good to accomplish what is now being done, the saving of many lives. So then, don't be afraid. I will provide for you and your children." And he reassured them and spoke kindly to them.

## Matthew 18:21-35

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

"For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves. When he began the reckoning, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him; and, 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. So the slave fell on his knees before him, saying, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.' And out of pity for him, the lord of that slave released him and forgave him the debt.

But 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.' Then his fellow slave fell down and pleaded with him, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you.' But he refused; then he went and threw him into prison until he would pay the debt.

When his fellow slaves saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their lord all that had taken place. Then his lord summoned him and said to him, 'You wicked slave! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. Should you not have had mercy on your fellow slave, as I had mercy on you?'

And in anger his lord handed him over to be tortured until he would pay his entire debt. So my heavenly Father will also do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother or sister from your heart."

## Hymns

### **We Grieve in Isolation**

(Tune: "Lead On, O King Eternal")

We grieve in isolation, we weep from far away.  
We wonder at the suffering we hear about this day.  
An enemy comes near us like none we've ever known.  
O God, we trust you love us, yet we feel so alone.

O Christ, this world is changing and we are changing, too.  
We cry out with a longing that you will make us new.  
We see the ways the nations have tried to live before  
and offer our confession: it won't work anymore.

Can life rise from these ashes? Can hope rise from our fear?  
O Spirit, work among us, that we may change things here.  
May we be dead to sinning — to all that would destroy.  
Bring in your new creation; give life and health and joy.

May we seek love and kindness that build community.  
May we seek truth and justice that heal society.  
We grieve in isolation; we cry, O Lord, to you.  
O God of our salvation, we pray you'll make us new.

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"We Grieve in Isolation" is a new hymn/lament for use by churches during the pandemic.

### **A King Once Told His Servants**

(Tune: "Lead On, O King Eternal")

A king once told his servants, "Now pay me what is mine!"  
One came to him and begged him, "I'll pay! Just give me time!"  
And so the king forgave him, though that man's debt was great.  
What joy to be unburdened! What cause to celebrate!

Though he had been forgiven, that man was not so kind.  
He threatened one who owed him, "Now pay me what is mine!"  
He would not show compassion toward one whose debt was small.  
What judgment came upon him! How bitter was his fall!

O God, in Christ you freed us; now may we not forget.  
Our sin was overwhelming but you once paid the debt.  
May we live lives of mercy, forgiving, blessing, too;  
And may our grace toward others reflect our thanks to you.

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