



CHRIST MEMORIAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Seventeenth Sunday after
Pentecost
September 20, 2026

GATHERING

Prelude

"Where Two or Three are Gathered"

Neill A. Burgess and Howard J. Prior
Three Legged Music Limited, 2001

Welcome and Announcements

Passing of the Peace (L: Leader; P: People)

L: The peace of Christ be with you.

P: And also with you

****Call to Worship**

Liturgist Nathan Board

L: God's grace is beyond our capacity

P: and so we come to give thanks for forgiveness we can never earn.

L: God's grace demands our response

P: and so we come to learn the ways of faithful living.

L: God's grace is meant to be shared

P: and so we come to encounter love and be equipped for loving.

****Hymn - # 439, v. 1-4**

"O My Soul, Bless Your Redeemer"

Call to Confession, with Silence for Reflection and Prayer

Prayer of Confession

L: God of endless love,

P: We confess that we do not love as you do.

L: You call us to community made in your image, vulnerable and real, choosing the way of accountability and reconciliation.

P: We confess that we do not.

L: We admit that we avoid, delay and pretend;

**P: We talk about people instead of to people,
We are afraid to deal with upsetting situations.**

L: You promise that the forgiveness we experience is the forgiveness we offer, that the peace we seek can only be found only when we practice.

All: Have patience with us, O God, for we are a work in progress.

Help us grow into the people you intend:

Forgiven, loved, and free to forgive and love.

We ask in Jesus' name. Amen.

Declaration of Forgiveness

L: Hear this Good News: Jesus himself bore our sins in his body on the cross, so that free from sin, we might live for righteousness. We are healed by Christ's wounds.

All: Trusting in the peace Christ offers, we go forward into new life. Thanks be to God!

****Response - # 434, v.1 and 4**

"Restore in Us, O God"

**1 Restore in us, O God,
the splendor of your love;
renew your image in our hearts,
and all our sins remove.**

**4 Three-personed God, fulfill
the promise of your grace,
that we, when all our searching ends,
may see you face to face.**

GROWING IN GOD'S WORD

Word in Music

"Esto Les Digo"

Kinley Lange
Alliance Music Publications, Inc., 2005

This I tell you:
if two of you agree
here on earth,
to ask/request
for something in prayer,
my Father who is in heaven,
I will give it to you.

Because where two or three
Reunite in My Name
there I Am
in the middle of them.

This I tell you
I Am there amongst you.

This I tell you.

Time for All God's Children

Chad Board

**Please note that any children who come forward to the chancel will likely be seen on the worship livestream.*

Children ages preschool—third grade are dismissed to Sunday Experience.

Prayer for Illumination

Liturgist Nathan Board

Psalm for the Day

Psalm 103:6-12

Liturgist Nathan Board

L: The Word of the Lord.

P: Thanks be to God

Gospel Text for the Day

Matthew 18:15-35

Pastor Janna VanderWoude

Sermon

Saving each Other

Pastor Janna VanderWoude

Hymn of Response: #753

Make Me a Channel of Your Peace

Prayers of the People (ending with the Lord's Prayer, Hymnal p.35)

EUCCHARIST—OUR GRATITUDE AND TRUST IN GOD’S PROMISES

Invitation to the Offering

Liturgist Nathan Board

Offertory

“There’s a Quiet Understanding”

Words and Music by Ted Smith
Choral Setting by John F. Wilson
Hope Publishing Company, 1973

We invite you to use the time of the Offertory to reflect and to pray silently, offering thanks for God’s goodness,
and commitment of ourselves for declaring that the God who creates also re-creates. making all things new.

**Doxology- #608

“Praise God from Whom all Blessings Flow”

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
praise Christ, all people here below;
praise Holy Spirit evermore;
praise Triune God, whom we adore.

**Prayer of Dedication and Discipleship

Liturgist Nathan Board

SENDING

Hymn – #754

“Help Us Accept Each Other”

Blessing and Charge

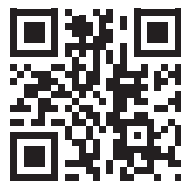
Postlude

“Lord, Speak to Me That I May Speak”

Music by Robert Schumann
words by Frances R. Havergal
arranged by Lyndell Leatherman
Leatherman Music Services, 2023

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Parable of the unforgiving debtor, by Jorge Cocco. Used with permission.



There are numerous ways to give to the work of CMPC. Offering plates will be passed through the pews during the offertory for checks or cash to be left today. Cards with a QR code that will direct you to our online giving page are located in the pew racks. Donations can always be mailed to the church at any time using the address on the back page of the bulletin.

Thank you for your support!

Thank you to Neil Danzig for providing audio support this week!

Thank you to Kevin Wilson for operating the sanctuary cameras this week!

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Psalm 103:6-14

- ⁶ The LORD works righteousness; does justice for all who are oppressed.
⁷ God made his ways known to Moses; made his deeds known to the Israelites.
⁸ The LORD is compassionate and merciful, very patient, and full of faithful love.
⁹ God won't always play the judge; he won't be angry forever.
¹⁰ He doesn't deal with us according to our sin or repay us according to our wrongdoing,
¹¹ because as high as heaven is above the earth,
that's how large God's faithful love is for those who honor him.
¹² As far as east is from west---that's how far God has removed our sin from us.
¹³ Like a parent feels compassion for their children—
that's how the LORD feels compassion for those who honor him.
¹⁴ Because God knows how we're made, God remembers we're just dust.

Matthew 18:15-35

¹⁵ "If your brother or sister sins against you, go and correct them when you are alone together. If they listen to you, then you've won over your brother or sister. ¹⁶ But if they won't listen, take with you one or two others so that *every word may be established by the mouth of two or three witnesses*. ¹⁷ But if they still won't pay attention, report it to the church. If they won't pay attention even to the church, treat them as you would a Gentile and tax collector. ¹⁸ I assure you that whatever you fasten on earth will be fastened in heaven. And whatever you loosen on earth will be loosened in heaven. ¹⁹ Again I assure you that if two of you agree on earth about anything you ask, then my Father who is in heaven will do it for you. ²⁰ For where two or three are gathered in my name, I'm there with them."

²¹ Then Peter said to Jesus, "Lord, how many times should I forgive my brother or sister who sins against me? Should I forgive as many as seven times?"

²² Jesus said, "Not just seven times, but rather as many as seventy-seven times. ²³ Therefore, the kingdom of heaven is like a king who wanted to settle accounts with his servants. ²⁴ When he began to settle accounts, they brought to him a servant who owed him ten thousand bags of gold. ²⁵ Because the servant didn't have enough to pay it back, the master ordered that he should be sold, along with his wife and children and everything he had, and that the proceeds should be used as payment. ²⁶ But the servant fell down, kneeled before him, and said, 'Please, be patient with me, and I'll pay you back.' ²⁷ The master had compassion on that servant, released him, and forgave the loan.

²⁸ "When that servant went out, he found one of his fellow servants who owed him one hundred coins. He grabbed him around the throat and said, 'Pay me back what you owe me.'

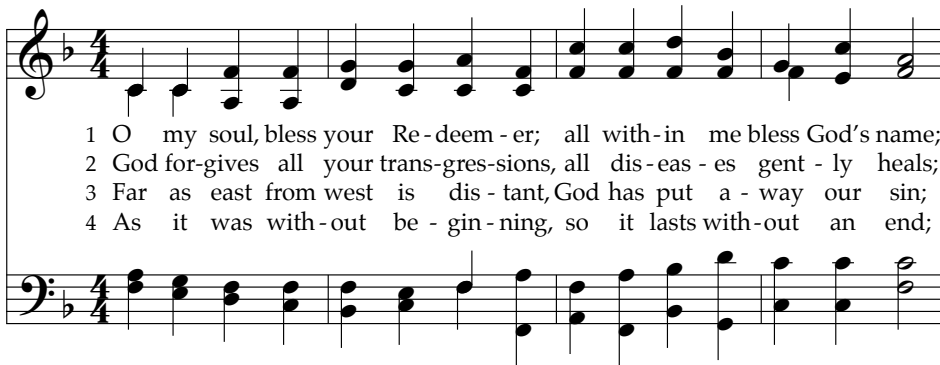
²⁹ "Then his fellow servant fell down and begged him, 'Be patient with me, and I'll pay you back.' ³⁰ But he refused. Instead, he threw him into prison until he paid back his debt.

³¹ "When his fellow servants saw what happened, they were deeply offended. They came and told their master all that happened. ³² His master called the first servant and said, 'You wicked servant! I forgave you all that debt because you appealed to me. ³³ Shouldn't you also have mercy on your fellow servant, just as I had mercy on you?' ³⁴ His master was furious and handed him over to the guard responsible for punishing prisoners, until he had paid the whole debt.

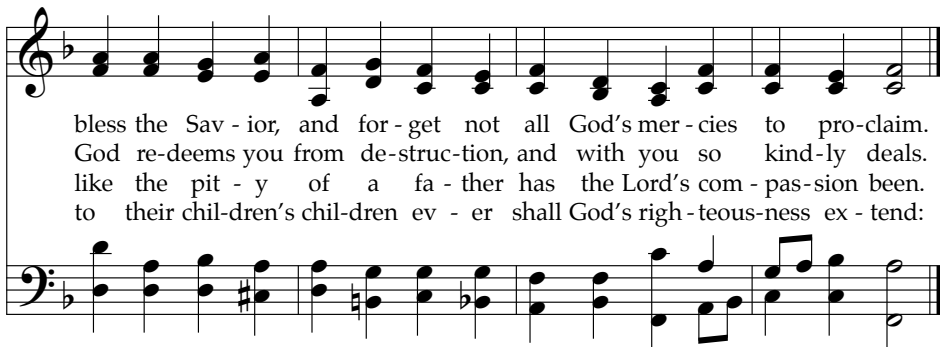
³⁵ "My heavenly Father will also do the same to you if you don't forgive your brother or sister from your heart."

O My Soul, Bless Your Redeemer 439

(Psalm 103)



1 O my soul, bless your Re-deem-er; all with-in me bless God's name;
2 God for-gives all your trans-gres-sions, all dis-eas-es gent-ly heals;
3 Far as east from west is dis-tant, God has put a-way our sin;
4 As it was with-out be-gin-ning, so it lasts with-out an end;



bless the Sav-ior, and for-get not all God's mer-cies to pro-claim.
God re-deems you from de-struc-tion, and with you so kind-ly deals.
like the pit-y of a fa-ther has the Lord's com-pas-sion been.
to their chil-dren's chil-dren ev-er shall God's righ-teous-ness ex-tend:

5 Unto such as keep God's cov'nant
and are steadfast in God's way;
unto those who still remember
the commandments and obey.

6 Bless your Maker, all you creatures,
ever under God's control,
all throughout God's vast dominion;
bless the Lord of all, my soul!

These stanzas are selected from sixteen that originally made up this paraphrase of Psalm 103, the second of two versions in the volume where they were first published. The tune used here was probably created as a German psalm tune but later came to be used with hymn texts.

753 Make Me a Channel of Your Peace

Prayer of St. Francis



1 Make me a chan-nel of your peace. Where
 2 Make me a chan-nel of your peace. Where
 4 Make me a chan-nel of your peace. It



there is ha-tred, let me bring your love. Where
 there's de-spair in life, let me bring hope. Where
 is in par-don-ing that we are par-doned, in



there is in-ju-ry, your par-don, Lord, and
 there is dark-ness, on-ly light, and
 giv-ing of our-selves that we re-ceive, and in



where there's doubt, true faith in you.
 where there's sad-ness, ev-er joy.
 dy-ing that we're born to e-ter-nal life.



3 O, Mas-ter, grant that I may nev-er seek so



much to be con-soled as to con-sole, to be

Guitar chords do not correspond with keyboard harmony.

Though popular opinion credits this prayer to Francis of Assisi, the earliest known printing was in a French religious magazine in 1912. Yet that gentle saint's spirit seems evident in these words, a quality that has spurred many paraphrases and musical settings such as this one.

JUSTICE AND RECONCILIATION

un - der-stood as to un - der - stand, to be

The first line of music is written on a single staff in G major (one sharp). It consists of four measures. The first measure has a G chord and the lyrics 'un - der-stood'. The second measure has an Em chord and the lyrics 'as to'. The third measure has an F#m chord and the lyrics 'un - der - stand,'. The fourth measure has a Bm chord and the lyrics 'to be'. The melody starts on G4, moves to A4, B4, and then has a half rest in the first measure. In the second measure, it goes G4, A4, B4, C5. In the third measure, it has a whole note F#4. In the fourth measure, it has a whole note B4.

loved as to love with all my soul.

The second line of music is written on a single staff in G major. It consists of six measures. The first measure has an E chord and the lyrics 'loved'. The second measure has an E7 chord and the lyrics 'as to'. The third measure has an A chord and the lyrics 'love with'. The fourth measure has an E chord and the lyrics 'all my'. The fifth measure has an A chord and the lyrics 'soul.'. The sixth measure has an A7 chord and no lyrics. The melody starts on G4, moves to A4, B4, and then has a half rest in the first measure. In the second measure, it goes G4, A4, B4, C5. In the third measure, it has a whole note A4. In the fourth measure, it has a whole note G4. In the fifth measure, it has a whole note F#4. In the sixth measure, it has a whole note E4.

to Stanza 4

Help Us Accept Each Other 754



1 Help us ac - cept each oth - er as Christ ac - cept - ed us;
 2 Teach us, O Lord, your les - sons, as in our dai - ly life
 3 Let your ac - cep - tance change us, so that we may be moved
 4 Lord, for to - day's en - coun - ters with all who are in need,



teach us as sis - ter, broth - er, each per - son to em - brace.
 we strug - gle to be hu - man and search for hope and faith.
 in liv - ing sit - u - a - tions to do the truth in love;
 who hun - ger for ac - cep - tance, for jus - tice and for bread,



Be pres - ent, Lord, a - mong us and bring us to be - lieve
 Teach us to care for peo - ple, for all, not just for some,
 to prac - tice your ac - cep - tance un - til we know by heart
 we need new eyes for see - ing, new hands for hold - ing on:



we are our - selves ac - cept - ed, and meant to love and live.
 to love them as we find them, or as they may be - come.
 the ta - ble of for - give - ness, and laugh - ter's heal - ing art.
 re - new us with your Spir - it; Lord, free us; make us one!

Guitar chords do not correspond with keyboard harmony.

The scriptural basis of this text is Romans 15:7, recast as a prayer in the opening two lines of the first stanza. The many implications of living as people who have been accepted by Christ fill the remaining stanzas. This tune was composed for the first publication of this text.