

10:00 a.m.

Family Service

February 22, 2026

Matthew 18:21-35

Welcome, Greeting, and Reconnecting!

Expressing Our Expectation of Joy

Leader: Who are you?

People: I am a child of God.

Leader: Who are we?

People: We are children of God, the family of faith.

Leader: What does it mean to be children of God?

People: We belong to God who loves us and calls us God's own.

Leader: May the Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Leader: Let us pray. (You may be seated.)

Prayer of Trust and Confidence

Asking God's Forgiveness (*responsive*)

Leader: In prayer together, let us ask for God's forgiveness: God, we have not acted the way you expect. We have mean, angry thoughts about friends and strangers.

Lord, I'm sorry.

People: Forgive us, Lord.

Leader: God, we have not acted the way you expect. We pick fights with people we love, especially when we know it's wrong. Lord, I'm sorry.

People: Forgive us, Lord.

Leader: God, we have not acted the way you expect. We snap back at other people, always wanting to have the last word. Lord, I'm sorry.

People: Forgive us, Lord.

Leader: God, we have not acted the way you expect. We waste time on all the wrong things, forgetting what is most important. Lord, I'm sorry.

People: Forgive us, Lord.

Leader: God, change our hearts so that we might love the way you love us. Amen.

Time of Silence and Personal Confession

Reassurance of God's Forgiveness

²¹ Then Peter came and said to him, "Lord, if my brother or sister sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?" ²² Jesus 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. ²⁴ When he began the reckoning, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him, ²⁵ and, as he could not pay, the lord ordered him to be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions and payment to be made. ²⁶ So the slave fell on his knees before him, saying, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.' ²⁷ And out of pity for him, the lord of that slave released him and forgave him the debt.

²⁸ 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.'

²⁹ Then his fellow slave fell down and pleaded with him, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you.' ³⁰ But he refused; then he went and threw him into prison until he would pay the debt. ³¹ 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. ³² Then his lord summoned him and said to him, 'You wicked slave! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. ³³ Should you not have had mercy on your fellow slave, as I had mercy on you?' ³⁴ And in anger his lord handed him over to be tortured until he would pay his entire debt. ³⁵ So my heavenly Father will also do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother or sister from your heart."

Message

Forgiving Others

Neila Cary

Offering

Prayer of Dedication, concluding with *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.

Blessing and Sung Response

This Little Light of Mine