

April 14, 2024

**Forgiveness says you  
are given another  
chance to make a new  
beginning.  
- Desmond Tutu**



## RISING FROM DENIAL

WELCOME

PRELUDE *Prelude in F* Handel

CALL TO WORSHIP

In God's love, we are made new,  
**and filled with hope.**

In Christ, we belong to a new community,  
**discovering we are friends, sisters and brothers  
in Christ.**

In the power of the Holy Spirit, the old ways have lost  
their glitter and appeal,

**for we have turned toward the new light.**

Receive a new name and a new call.

**We are God's beloved, and we carry on the ministry  
of reconciliation.**

HYMN *Hope of the World* no.178

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Resurrected Christ, you come to us when we least  
expect it, offering to us lives of a different kind of  
abundance. Yet we often fail to sense your presence  
with us and misuse your generous gifts. Joyful Spirit,  
you long to turn our mourning into dancing,  
to change our funeral clothes into garments of  
exuberance. Forgive us. Renew us. Heal us as we  
offer our broken hearts before you...**

SILENT CONFESSION

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

Christ forgives the most impossible sins, overcomes the  
greatest fears, comforts the loudest cries, and breaks  
down the strongest barriers to love and peace.

Brothers and sisters, know that we are forgiven  
and be at peace. **Amen.**

SIGNS OF PEACE AND UNITY IN CHRIST

MUSIC *An Irish Melody* Arr. Margaret Tucker  
Carillon Choir

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE Isaiah 1:12-20 (RSV)

"When you come to appear before me, who requires  
of you this trampling of my courts? Bring no more  
vain offerings; incense is an abomination to me.

New moon and sabbath and the calling of  
assemblies—I cannot endure iniquity and solemn  
assembly. Your new moons and your appointed feasts  
my soul hates; they have become a burden  
to me, I am weary of bearing them. When you spread  
forth your hands, I will hide my eyes from you;  
even though you make many prayers, I will not listen;  
your hands are full of blood. Wash yourselves;  
make yourselves clean; remove the evil of your  
doings from before my eyes; cease to do evil,  
learn to do good; seek justice, correct oppression;  
defend the fatherless, plead for the widow.  
"Come now, let us reason together, says the LORD:  
though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white  
as snow; though they are red like crimson, they shall  
become like wool. If you are willing and obedient, you  
shall eat the good of the land; but if you refuse and  
rebel, you shall be devoured by the sword;  
for the mouth of the LORD has spoken."

PASSING OF THE FRIENDSHIP FOLDERS

MESSAGE FOR GROWING CHRISTIANS

MUSIC *Be Still My Soul* arr. Harlan

*Be still, my soul, the Lord is on thy side;  
Bear patiently the cross of grief or pain;  
Leave to thy God to order and provide;  
In ev'ry change He faithful will remain.  
Be still, my soul, thy best, thy heav'nly Friend  
Through thorny ways leads to a joyful end.*

*Be still, my soul, thy God doth undertake  
To guide the future as he has the past.  
Thy hope, thy confidence let nothing shake;  
All now mysterious shall be bright at last.  
Be still, my soul, the waves and winds still know  
His voice who ruled them while He dwelt below.*

*Be still, my soul, the hour is hastening on  
When we shall be forever with the lord.  
When disappointment, grief, and fear are gone,  
Sorrow forgot, love's purest joys restored.  
Be still, my soul, when change and tears are past,  
All safe and blessed we shall meet at last.*

SCRIPTURE John 21:15-19 (NRSV)

When they had finished breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, "Simon son of John, do you love me more than these?" He said to him, "Yes, Lord; you know that I love you." Jesus said to him, "Feed my lambs." A second time he said to him, "Simon son of John, do you love me?" He said to him, "Yes, Lord; you know that I love you." Jesus said to him, "Tend my sheep." He said to him the third time, "Simon son of John, do you love me?" Peter felt hurt because he said to him the third time, "Do you love me?" And he said to him, "Lord, you know everything; you know that I love you." Jesus said to him, "Feed my sheep. Very truly, I tell you, when you were younger, you used to fasten your own belt and to go wherever you wished. But when you grow old, you will stretch out your hands, and someone else will fasten a belt around you and take you where you do not wish to go." (He said this to indicate the kind of death by which he would glorify God.) After this he said to him, "Follow me."

HYMN *Jesus Calls Us* no. 398

MESSAGE *Rising from Denial*

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

O God, with faces touched by the light of a new day, and hearts warmed by our prayers and praises, we come before you to pray for the needs of our world.

Into the light of Easter morning we raise those who are struggling with illness, with despair over their lives, or with the breakdown of relationships.

*(silent prayer)*

May the light of Christ shine upon them.

**May the light of Christ shine upon them.**

Into the light of Easter morning, we bring those places in our world where war, violence, poverty and need are the experiences of everyday life.

*(silent prayer)*

May the light of Christ shine upon them.

**May the light of Christ shine upon them.**

Into the light of Easter morning, we bring the headline news of this weekend. We hold in our hearts the pain of those that are suffering.

*(silent prayer)*

May the light of Christ shine upon them.

**May the light of Christ shine upon them.**

And into the light of Easter morning we bring ourselves, the private struggles, the heart's yearnings, the hidden dreams, the unfulfilled potential.

*(silent prayer)*

May the light of Christ shine upon us.

**May the light of Christ shine upon us.**

We pray as a family the prayer that unites our hearts and directs our steps...

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 trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.**

OFFERING

You may give your offering by text- Text UMCWC \$50 to 73256, by using the QR code on your screen, at [umcwc.org](http://umcwc.org), through the mail, by automated giving through Realm, or by dropping it off at our office.

OFFERING VIDEO

*Guilt and Forgiveness: Jan. 4 2020 Colloquy*

OFFERING RESPONSE

TFWS no. 2018, vs. 1

**Righteous and holy in all of your ways;  
we come before you with honor and praise.  
Here to adore you for all of our days,  
we come before you with honor and praise.  
Lord of the heavens, how faithful you are.  
Shine down upon us, O bright Morning Star.  
Righteous and holy in all of your ways;  
we come before you with honor and praise.**

OFFERING PRAYER

Holy One, just as the disciples found many fish when they cast nets on the right side, so do we find surprising abundance when we listen to you.

**As we dedicate ourselves to your work, may our overflowing nets be used for your good purposes, proclaiming your love for all. Amen.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

HYMN *The Summons* TFWS no. 2130

BENEDICTION

May God bless the world in which you move, and bless your home and bless your friends.

**May God bless the eyes with which we see, and bless the ears with which we listen.**

May God bless the way you use your hands, bless the way you employ your tongues.

Through Jesus Christ our Lord, who was the Way, the Truth, and the Life. **Amen.**

*(From a Celtic prayer)*

POSTLUDE *Praise and Exultation* Smith

**Bold text indicates congregational response.**

The flowers on the Lord's Table are presented to the glory of God in loving memory of J. Paul and Alice Mosteller and Lynea Mosteller by Sharon and Nicole Burke,

**WORSHIP PARTICIPANTS**

Message: Rev. Dr. Truman Brooks  
Liturgists: Rev. Mercedes Case, Rev. Allen Keller  
Reader: Martina Keogan  
Organist: Steve Campitelli  
Chancel Choir Director: Tom Sabatino  
Carillon Choir Director: Dan Rotz  
Children's Message: Jacqui Rothera  
Live Stream Team: Tim Case, Holly Grimm, Todd Grimm, Jake Joslin, Heidi Krug, Brad Rush, Zeke Shappell Smith, Cory Smith (leader)



### 8 Steps to True Forgiveness

- Acknowledge the pain.
  - Think through things.
  - Imagine being on the other side.
  - Remember God's forgiveness.
  - Reflect on our Biblical command.
  - Let go of the hurt.
  - Continue to forgive.
  - Pray for the person who hurt you.
- Forgiving someone doesn't mean you forget what has happened and it doesn't mean you have to be in an on-going relationship with the other person. It means your soul doesn't have to be burdened with anger any longer.

### Quotes about Forgiveness

"Every time God forgives us, God is saying that God's own rules do not matter as much as the relationship that God wants to create with us."  
- Richard Rohr

"The weak can never forgive. Forgiveness is the attribute of the strong." - Mahatma Gandhi

"When you forgive, you in no way change the past - but you sure do change the future."  
- Bernard Meltzer

"Forgiveness is a virtue of the brave." -Indira Gandhi

"Our errors are grains of sand beside the great mountain of God's mercy." – St. John Vianney

"It's one of the greatest gifts you can give yourself, to forgive. Forgive everybody."  
- Maya Angelou

"Forgiveness is God's command." - Martin Luther

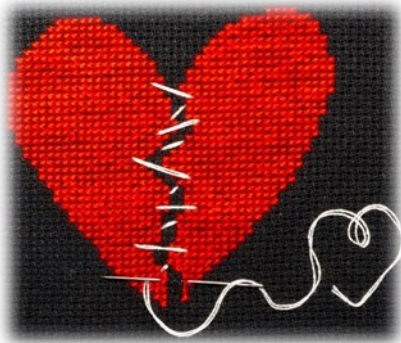
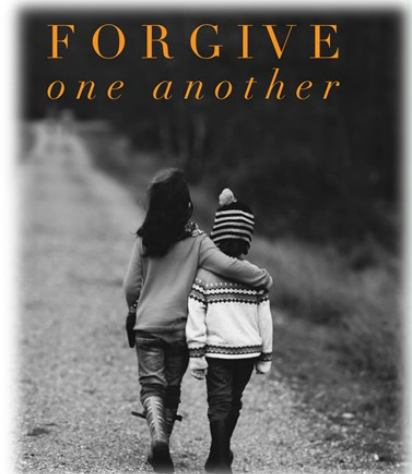
"When you hold resentment toward another, you are to that person or condition by an emotional link that is stronger than steel.

Forgiveness is the only way to dissolve the link and get free."  
- Catherine Ponder

"Forgiveness is a reflection of loving yourself enough to move on."

- Dr. Steve Maraboli

"To be a Christian means to forgive the inexcusable because God has forgiven the inexcusable in you." - C.S. Lewis



### Four Steps to Relationship Repair With the H-E-A-L Technique

These steps are especially designed for a marital relationship, but are helpful in all relationships.

- **Hear—Stay Present and Listen** When your partner speaks, make an effort to stay mentally present and to listen. Open your heart and take down your defenses.

- **Empathize—Allow Your Partner's Experience to Deeply Affect You** Once you think you understand what your partner feels and have checked it out with him, pay attention to what feelings YOU have when you observe him feeling this way. It is especially important to search beneath the surface for the softer, tender feelings.

- **Act—Take Action to Address Concerns and Show Willingness to Change** The next step is to commit to intentional action to address your partner's needs and concerns.

- **Love—Feel and Express Unconditional Love** Make space in your life to deliberately reconnect with the loving feelings you have for your partner, even if recent interactions have made you feel distant or angry.

Technique developed by Melanie Greenberg, Ph.D.