

# STAYING ON MESSAGE

*LOVE YOUR ENEMIES*

*MATTHEW 5:43-48; ROMANS 12:14-21*



TRINITY  
Presbyterian Church

## ORDER OF WORSHIP | Sunday, July 25, 2021

*Listening devices are available for the hearing impaired.*

*Please speak with a greeter or visit the sound booth upstairs for a listening device.*

### SONG OF GATHERING & PREPARATION

The people of God always sang as they ascended the hill in Jerusalem up to the temple to worship (see Psalms 120-134). We, as well, prepare our hearts, minds, and bodies for worship by singing about the God we serve.

Worthy Of Your Name

### CALL TO WORSHIP | Jeremiah 29:4-7 (ESV)

We read God's Word, the Bible, together. It reveals to us who God is and what He expects of us.

"Thus says the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel, to all the exiles whom I have sent into exile from Jerusalem to Babylon: Build houses and live in them; plant gardens and eat their produce. ... multiply there, and do not decrease. But seek the welfare of the city where I have sent you into exile, and pray to the LORD on its behalf, for in its welfare you will find your welfare."

### PRAYER OF ADORATION & CONFESSION

We pray together praising God for who He really is (Adoration) and admitting our inability to live up to what He expects of us (Confession).

### ASSURANCE OF PARDON | Colossians 1:13-14, 21-22 (ESV)

We read God's Word together and are reminded that mercy and grace are freely given to all who have faith in Jesus Christ.

He has delivered us from the domain of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved Son, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins. ... And you, who once were alienated and hostile in mind, doing evil deeds, he has now reconciled in his body of flesh by his death, in order to present you holy and blameless and above reproach before him.

### WORSHIP THROUGH GIVING

We respond to the good news of God's mercy and grace for us in Jesus by giving generously to the work of His church and the kingdom of God.

Yet Not I But Through Christ In Me

### PRAISE & CELEBRATION

Our response to God's free grace is celebratory worship. We express our praise to God for who He is and what He has done for us.

Abide

Graves Into Gardens

## CONFESSION OF FAITH

As an expression of our faith in Jesus Christ in solidarity with his people, we declare the substance of what we believe.

From the New City Catechism:

Q. 30. What is faith in Jesus Christ?

A. Faith in Jesus Christ is acknowledging the truth of everything that God has revealed in his Word, trusting in him, and also receiving and resting on him alone for salvation as he is offered to us in the gospel.

## KIDS' WORSHIP & COMMUNITY KIDS DISMISSAL (Infants - 5th Grade)

*Please see your child's check-in name tag for class assignment.*

## PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING & INTERCESSION

We express in prayer our gratitude to God for what He has done and ask Him to continue to act for our good and the good of others in our community and world.

## PROCLAMATION OF GOD'S WORD | Tim Rice, Lead Pastor & Director of Church Planting

A small portion of God's Word is explained to us and applied to our lives and circumstances.

## SONG OF RESPONSE

We respond to the good news of God's mercy and grace by singing again of His goodness and greatness.

How Great Is Your Love

## WORSHIP THROUGH GIVING | Mercy Fund Offering

## BENEDICTION

Because the hand of God's wrath was raised against Jesus, we now receive the hand of God's blessing as we are sent out to live our lives to the glory of God.

May the LORD bless you and keep you;  
the LORD make His face to shine upon you and be gracious to you;  
the LORD turn His face toward you and give you His peace,  
both now and forevermore. Amen.

# SCRIPTURE PASSAGE & SERMON OUTLINE

## Proclamation of God's Word

**Text:** Matthew 5:43-48, Romans 12:14-21 (ESV)

**Title:** Staying On Message: Love Your Enemies

**Teacher:** Tim Rice

Matthew 5:43 "You have heard that it was said, 'You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.'<sup>44</sup> But I say to you, Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you,<sup>45</sup> so that you may be sons of your Father who is in heaven. For he makes his sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust.<sup>46</sup> For if you love those who love you, what reward do you have? Do not even the tax collectors do the same?<sup>47</sup> And if you greet only your brothers, what more are you doing than others? Do not even the Gentiles do the same?<sup>48</sup> You therefore must be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect." ... Romans 12:14 Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them.<sup>15</sup> Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep.<sup>16</sup> Live in harmony with one another. Do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly. Never be wise in your own sight.<sup>17</sup> Repay no one evil for evil, but give thought to do what is honorable in the sight of all.<sup>18</sup> If possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all.<sup>19</sup> Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave it to the wrath of God, for it is written, "Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord."<sup>20</sup> To the contrary, "if your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink; for by so doing you will heap burning coals on his head."<sup>21</sup> Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

**Intro:** Who do you know that loves their enemies ... *well*?

## OUR SELFISH NATURE

How does the world's penchant for retribution make sense?

## THE MIRACLE OF JESUS' LOVE

How has Jesus treated us compared with how we deserve to be treated?

## AN UNEARTHLY CALL

Why is God's call for us to love contrary to the world's standards?

## YOU CAN PRAY WITH US ...

1. Worship the LORD for His gracious love and mercy. Praise Him, Father, Son and Holy Spirit for His immeasurable love towards people like us, especially when we have been so selfish and vile!
2. How have you lived with pride and a lack of mercy for those who have opposed you? Confess your sin to Jesus – *to think more highly of yourself than you should* – asking Him to cleanse you and change you.
3. Give thanks to Jesus for loving us when we were His enemies. Thank Him for the miracle of His free choice *to go down into the depths of our sin, guilt, death and even hell* – in order to save us and raise us up.
4. Who has (or most often has) offended you? Pray for them, asking the Father to pour out His richest blessings upon them, just as He blessed you in Christ even while you were His enemy.
5. Ask the Holy Spirit to work into you a truly merciful heart. Pray that He would help you to live securely in Jesus' mercy, and that you would show that to others as they sin against you.

