

# ***Mulberry Street United Methodist Church***

*Macon, Georgia*

*September 13, 2020*

*Recorded Online Sanctuary Worship*

## ***Gathering***

**Welcome**

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Rev. Dr. Nita Crump

**Call to Worship**

from Exodus 15:2 and Matthew 18:35

Give praise to God!

Praise the Lord, for it is God who saves. . . .

It is God who forgives. . . .

It is God who delivers. . . .

Give thanks and praise to the Lord!

**Hymn**

*There's a Wideness in God's Mercy*

IN BABILONE

There's a wideness in God's mercy, like the wideness of the sea.

There's a kindness in God's justice, which is more than liberty.

There is no place where earth's sorrows are more felt than up in heaven.

There is no place where earth's failings have such kindly judgment given.

**Call to Confession**

**Prayer of Confession**

from Romans 14:7-9 and Matthew 18:28-30

Gracious and loving God,

you lived for us – we have not lived for you.

You have forgiven us – we have not forgiven others.

You have loved us – we have not loved ourselves nor have we loved one another.

Take pity on us and forgive us, God.

Help us to forgive.

Help us to live for you.

Help us to love through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

**Declaration of Forgiveness** from Romans 14:7-9 and Matthew 18:27, 33

**Response**

*There's a Wideness in God's Mercy*

IN BABILONE

For the love of God is broader than the measures of the mind.

And the heart of the Eternal is most wonderfully kind.

If our love were but more faithful, we would gladly trust God's Word,

and our lives reflect thanksgiving for the goodness of our Lord.

## ***Proclaiming***

**Prayer for Illumination**

Lord, by the power of your Holy Spirit

open our understanding

that we may receive the Word of life. **Amen.**

**Scripture**

Matthew 18:21-35

This is the Word of God for the people of God. **Thanks be to God.**

Sermon

*No Fair!*

Rev. Dr. Nita Crump

*2. The Math of Forgiveness*

*Today's sermon is the second in a three-part series from Matthew how God's idea of fairness is fortunately very different from ours. How many times should we forgive? Grace means losing count of wrongs. Forgiveness doesn't mean something didn't happen. It means that reconciliation has restored a relationship that was damaged. Forgiveness may not always be attainable, but as much as it is up to you, it should be your goal.*

***Responding***

Hymn 560

*Help Us Accept Each Other*

John Ness Beck

Help us accept each other as Christ accepted us,  
teach us as sister, brother, each person to embrace.  
Be present, Lord, among us, and bring us to believe  
we are ourselves accepted and meant to love and live.

Teach us, O Lord, your lessons, as in our daily life  
we struggle to be human and search for hope and faith.  
Teach us to care for people, for all, not just for some,  
to love them as we find them, or as they may become.

Let your acceptance change us, so that we may be moved  
in living situations to do the truth in love;  
to practice your acceptance, until we know by heart  
the table of forgiveness and laughter's healing art.

Lord, for today's encounters with all who are in need,  
who hunger for acceptance, for righteousness and bread,  
we need new eyes for seeing, new hands for holding on;  
renew us with your Spirit; Lord, free us, make us one!

Affirmation of Faith

*The Apostles' Creed*

**I believe in God the Father Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth.**

**And in Jesus Christ his only son our Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the Virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, dead, and buried;  
the third day he rose from the dead;  
he ascended into heaven,  
and sitteth at the right hand of God the Father Almighty;  
from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

Response

*Ubi caritas*

UBI CARITAS

Ubi caritas et amor, ubi caritas Deus ibi est.  
*Where there is charity and love, there is God also.*

. . . Your love, O Jesus Christ, has gathered us together.  
. . . May your love, O Jesus Christ, be foremost in our lives.  
. . . Let us love one another as God has loved us.

## Pastoral Prayer and 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.**

## *Sending*

### Hymn 390

#### *Forgive Our Sins as We Forgive*

DETROIT

“Forgive our sins as we forgive,” you taught us, Lord, to pray;  
but you alone can grant us grace to live the words we say.

How can your pardon reach and bless the unforgiving heart  
that broods on wrongs and will not let old bitterness depart?

In blazing light your cross reveals the truth we dimly knew;  
what trivial debts are owed to us, how great our debt to you!

Lord, cleanse the depths within our souls, and bid resentment cease;  
then, bound to all in bonds of love, our lives will spread your peace.

### Benediction

#### **Worship Leadership:**

The Reverend Dr. Nita Crump, Senior Pastor  
Katie Trotter, Mary Kathryn Borland, Luke Baker,  
Caleb Esmond, Sam McDaniel, & Greg Elliott, ensemble  
Sam McDaniel, organ  
Caleb Esmond, piano  
Tom Granum, Director of Music Ministries and Organist  
Steve Moretti and Davis Perkins, Production and Editing

#### **Credits:**

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*There's a Wideness in God's Mercy*

*Text: Frederick W. Faber, 1854 Public Domain*

*Music: IN BABILONE Trad. Dutch melody; arr. By Julius Roentgen, 1906 Public Domain*

*Help Us Accept Each Other*

*Text: Fred Kaan © 1975 in "Break Not the Circle," Agape (A Division of Hope Publishing), Carol Stream, Illinois*

*Music: John Ness Beck ©1977, Agape (A Division of Hope Publishing), Carol Stream, Illinois*

*Ubi caritas*

*Text: Latin, 8<sup>th</sup> century*

*Music: Jacques Berthier © 1979 Les presses de Taizé (admin. GIA publications, Inc.)*

*Text and Music Arrangement: © 1987 WGRG, Iona Community (admin. GIA Publications, Inc.)*

*Forgive Our Sins as We Forgive*

*Text: Rosamond E. Herklots © 1969, 1983 Rosamond Herklots, by permission of Oxford University Press*

*Music: DETROIT Supplement to Kentucky Harmony, 1820 Public Domain*

*Liturgy (Call to Worship, Prayer of Confession, Declaration of Forgiveness, Prayer for Illumination:*

*Text: Feasting on the Word: Worship Companion, Liturgies for Year A, Volume 2, Westminster John Knox Press*

#### **Giving, Contact Information, and Prayer Requests**

You can give in one of the following ways: online, auto-draft, or online bill-pay.

We are thankful for your continued support of the calling and mission of our church as we strive to shine the light of Christ across our community and to help those in need.

To give online go to [mulberrymethodist.org/give](http://mulberrymethodist.org/give).

You may contact the church: 478-745-8601

P. O. Box 149, Macon, GA 31202

Staff email addresses are [here](#). [Follow Mulberry Street UMC on Facebook](#).