

For Sunday, September 13, 2020:

This Sunday marks an important milestone in our church's journey through 2020. With faith and safety we re-enter our Sanctuary for worship. Our sanctuary was thoroughly sanitized by a professional company and steps have been taken to adapt to a "new normal" for our congregation. The worship format we have been following outside for the past 3 months will be the same format for inside worship. There will be organ music but no singing or responsive readings-yet! There will be no bulletins and we are invited to use the pews that are open with no seat cushions. The service will last 30-40 minutes. We ask that you continue to use your mask.

God has blessed our outdoor worship in that we did not have any rain for each Sunday morning that we met outside. We have been blessed indeed.

This Sunday we will consider Matthew 18:21-35 where Jesus tells the story of the Unmerciful Servant. God takes the act of mercy very seriously and He expects us to be diligent about showing mercy to others whenever we get the chance. The Genesis reading talks about Joseph showing mercy to his brothers after his father Jacob died. Joseph didn't have to show mercy, but he knew in his heart how merciful God was to him.

Finally, Romans 14 calls us to show mercy to those who are different from us and to value all faith whether it is weak or strong. Paul reminds us that God is the only true and fair judge, not us.

Please join us this Sunday on this special day in the house of the Lord.

Scripture for your consideration:

Old Testament: Genesis 50:15-21

New Testament: Romans 14:1-12

Gospel: Matthew 18:21-35

Hymn for reflection: "O, How I Love Jesus"

1 There is a name I love to hear,
I love to sing its worth;
It sounds like music in my ear,
The sweetest Name on earth.

Refrain:

O, how I love Jesus,
O, how I love Jesus,
O, how I love Jesus -
Because He first loved me!

2 It tells me of a Savior's love,
Who died to set me free;
It tells me of His precious blood,
The sinner's perfect plea. [Refrain]

3 It tells me what my Father hath
In store for ev'ry day,
And, tho' I tread a darksome path,
Yields sunshine all the way. [Refrain]

4 It tells of One whose loving heart
Can feel my deepest woe,
Who in each sorrow bears a part
That none can bear below. [Refrain]