

## **WEEKLY GREETING**

Sunday, September 13, 2020 (15 Pentecost)

Dear siblings in Christ Jesus, grace to you, and peace!

Below you will find a short devotion, based on this coming Sunday's text. The butterfly posed just long enough for me to take this pic. The fall colours of the butterfly are beautiful, but won't stay long either. Let's delight in them while we can.

Pastor Elina



## **DEVOTION**

### **Introduction**

None of us likes needing to be forgiven, but it is a lot easier to accept forgiveness than to give it. That is the crux of the challenge Jesus acknowledges today.

### **Prayer**

Forgiving Lord,

If I am honest  
I cannot keep track of the times  
when I fail to love as I am loved by you.  
Yet the count of those who have hurt me  
is always updated.  
Help me to let go of hurts.  
Old and new.  
May my daily offering of the prayer  
you taught us  
reflect a forgiveness  
I am able to extend to others.  
Help me to see yet again  
that it is in giving  
that I receive.  
Amen.

### **Gospel Reading - Matthew 18:21-35**

Then Peter came and said to Jesus, ‘Lord, if another member of the church sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?’ Jesus said to him, ‘Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times.’

‘For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves. When he began the reckoning, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him; and, as he could not pay, his lord ordered him to be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions, and payment to be made. So the slave fell on his knees before him, saying, “Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.” And out of pity for him, the lord of that slave released him and forgave him the debt.

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.” Then his fellow-slave fell down and pleaded with him, “Have patience with me, and I will pay you.” But he

refused; then he went and threw him into prison until he should pay the debt. 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.

Then his lord summoned him and said to him, "You wicked slave! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. Should you not have had mercy on your fellow-slave, as I had mercy on you?" And in anger his lord handed him over to be tortured until he should pay his entire debt.

So my heavenly Father will also do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother or sister from your heart.'

### **Devotion**

One of the hardest places to let go of hurts is in our churches. I know that makes no sense. Forgiveness, you would expect, to flow graciously here.

But it is in our churches that we often struggle the most as reflected by Peter's question today.

Perhaps we struggle so with forgiving others in churches because we expected better here and we expected better of followers of Jesus. Our disappointment and hurt is deep. Maybe that is why it is so hard to forgive those close to us. It is easier to say to ourselves that the teller in the store meant no harm really.

By this parable Jesus reminds us that we are given a great treasure of forgiveness by God. When someone is forgiven, they receive some of that treasure. Jesus encourages us to see that we can afford to forgive, even those close to us whose hurt cut us deeply.

"Count your blessings ..." the old song went. They are there for us all as sure as God's love is.

Join the work of reconciling all people to God and to each other. Raise the song of harvest home!

Peace be with you this week.

### **Special Music**

Trillium's own Laura Saunderson sings for us 10000 reasons - Bless the Lord Oh My Soul [written by Matt Redmond<sup>1</sup>]. This song is based on Psalm 103 and expresses heartfelt gratitude. "The point behind the song is this," explained Redman to Worship Leader Magazine. "If you wake up one morning and you cannot think of a reason to bring God some kind of offering of thanks or praise, then you can be sure there's something wrong at your end of the pipeline, and

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<sup>1</sup>CCLI #528990

not his. We live beneath an unceasing flow of goodness, kindness, greatness, and holiness, and every day we're given reason after reason why Jesus is so completely and utterly worthy of our highest and best devotion."<sup>2</sup>



### **Blessing<sup>3</sup>**

Walk in the strength and confidence that  
God guides your feet.  
Therefore live for God—show mercy and  
love one another.  
In the name of the Father, the Son +,  
and the Holy Spirit. Amen.

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

#### **Office Hours**

Trillium's Office Administrator, Caitlin Fitzpatrick, will be in the office Monday, Wednesday, and Friday 9:00 a.m. till 12:00 noon. We encourage visits to the church only be made if of an essential nature. Please sign-in and sign-out for Covid 19 contact tracing purposes and wear a mask when you are in the church.

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<sup>2</sup><https://www.songfacts.com/facts/matt-redman/10000-reasons-bless-the-lord>

<sup>3</sup>Westminster John Knox Press *Feasting on the Word® Worship Companion*. Copyright 2014.

If you need to reach Pastor Elina or Pastor Ed, please contact the church office. You will find Pastor Elina's cell phone number on the announcement for emergency use.

### **Sunday Worship through Zoom**

Please join us for worship on Sunday at 10am. Click on the link below:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/6370231759?pwd=QXg0RG12a1NdeHB4VHppM3RFQkQ4dz09>

Meeting ID: **637 023 1759**

Password: **8T1w97**

To join by phone (long distance rates may apply) call +1 647 558 0588 or +1 647 374 4685 and follow the prompts. You will need to enter the Meeting ID number using the numbers on your telephone. If one number has static, then try the other number.

Readings for this Sunday: Romans 14:1-12 and Matthew 18:21-35

We are looking for persons willing to assist us in our zoom worship services by reading the lessons and the prayers. If you have read before in worship or would be willing to start, please contact Pastor Elina. Would that all the Lord's people were readers, proclaiming God's Word!

### **Opportunities to Start your School Year with Blessings**

- **On Sunday September 13th at 11:15am at 22 Willow** on the green space beside the Trillium Good Earth - an in-person blessing for the school year on picnic blankets with a puppet show, craft, blessing of the backpacks, and family communion. Please know that the organizers are very strict about social distancing.
- **On Sunday September 13th at 1pm-2pm at 22 Willow** - A drive thru blessing where families and individuals are invited to drive up – have a short prayer and blessing and receive a bag of resources and treats for back to school.

### **A Greeting from the National Bishop as We Prepare for the Re-Entry to our Building**

Bishop Susan reminds us of the love behind the changes each congregation takes as we re-enter our sanctuaries for worship. We make changes that enable us to care and protect our neighbours.



### **Do You Have Photos of Events at Trillium?**

If you have any photos of events, activities, etc. at Trillium the photo directory committee is interested in obtaining them. While we do have photos of activities at Trillium, we would like to have as big a selection as possible to choose from for inclusion in the directory. This includes photos of the November 4, 2018 service attended by Bishop Pryse, the 2019 Women's Brunch, the Epiphany Dinners, Easter Morning Breakfast, and various groups and committees of the church. You can email your photos to Anne Marie Michels at [caseyamm@golden.net](mailto:caseyamm@golden.net). If you have too many to send, please email Anne Marie so that arrangements can be made to receive the photos by other means.

### **Installation Worship through Zoom on Sun Sept 27th at 2pm**

Please join us to ask God's blessings on our ministry together with Pastor Elina and Pastor Ed. We welcome Rev Dean David Malina to install Pastor Elina as our Lead Pastor on Zoom Worship on Sunday Sept 27th at 2pm. That Sunday we will not have 10am service. Click on the link below:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/6370231759?pwd=QXg0RG12a1NdeHB4VHhqM3RFQkQ4dz09>

Meeting ID: 637 023 1759

Password: 8T1w97

## **National Book Club**

Bishop Susan Johnson invites us to form a book club and read the whole Bible, beginning in September with Genesis. Here are some questions<sup>4</sup> she offers us to bring meaning, light and joy to our reading!

- Genesis is made up of a lot of stories. Which story did you like best? Why?
- Which story did you like least? Why?
- What surprised you in reading this book, and why did it surprise you?
- What questions might you have after reading Genesis?
- What other books did this remind you of? (Doesn't have to be a book from the Bible)
- Which character in the book did you like best? Why?
- Which character did you like least? Why?
- Share a favourite quote from the book. Why did this quote stand out?

What does it mean for your faith?

- What feelings did this book evoke for you? Why?
- If you got the chance to ask God one question related to this book, what would it be? Why?

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<sup>4</sup>[https://elcic.ca/livingourfaith/documents/LivingourFaith-BibleBookClub\\_Questions-Genesis.pdf](https://elcic.ca/livingourfaith/documents/LivingourFaith-BibleBookClub_Questions-Genesis.pdf)