

Stoke Poges Church

St Giles' and St Andrew's

Sunday 13th September 2020
Led by Natasha Brady



Welcome to this Family service

“Worship God with gladness. Come into his presence and sing his praises.”

**** Please join in using the words in bold.**

Welcome & Notices

Opening Prayer

Our desire, our need, our yearning draws us together to worship God.
Unexplainable, unimaginable, unbelievable, incomprehensible love,
pulls at our heart strings, tugs at our emotions, turns our eyes beyond the seeing.
All-encompassing God, just as we are, we come.

Amen.

Songs

How Deep the Father's Love for Us

How deep the Father's love for us,
How vast beyond all measure,
That He should give His only Son
To make a wretch His treasure.
How great the pain of searing loss –

The Father turns His face away,
As wounds which mar the Chosen One
Bring many sons to glory.

Behold the man upon a cross,
My sin upon His shoulders;
Ashamed, I hear my mocking voice
Call out among the scoffers.
It was my sin that held Him there
Until it was accomplished;
His dying breath has brought me life –
I know that it is finished.

I will not boast in anything,
No gifts, no power, no wisdom;
But I will boast in Jesus Christ,
His death and resurrection.
Why should I gain from His reward?
I cannot give an answer;
But this I know with all my heart –
His wounds have paid my ransom.

Broken Vessels (Amazing Grace)

All these pieces
Broken and scattered
In mercy gathered
Mended and whole
Empty-handed
But not forsaken
I've been set free
I've been set free

Chorus

*Amazing grace
How sweet the sound
That saved a wretch like me, oh
I once was lost
But now I'm found
Was blind but now I see*

*Oh, I can see it now
Oh, I can see the love in Your eyes*

Laying yourself down
Raising up the broken to life

You take our failure
You take our weakness
You set Your treasure
In jars of clay
So take this heart, Lord
I'll be Your vessel
The world to see
Your life in me, oh

Chorus

Source: [LyricFind](#)
Songwriters: Joel Houston / Jonas Myrin

Introducing the theme for today ... Over and Over and Over again!

Have a go at saying this well known tongue
twister ...

“She sells seashells on the sea shore.
The shells she sells are seashells, I'm sure.
And if she sells seashells on the sea shore,
Then I'm sure she sells seashore shells.”



How many times did it take to say it perfectly?

Confession

After a period of reflection

Forgiving God, more willing to forgive than often we are to confess,
help us to see our failings, to see where we fall short,
to see where we deceive ourselves,
where we close our eyes and ears to the ripples of our wrongdoing.

May we breathe in the reality of our actions,
the need to change, the depth of our unworthiness.
We come before you, seeking forgiveness. **(keep silence)**

Now let us breathe in the power of your forgiveness,
and breathe out the need to live and love
in the shadow of your forgiveness of us,
that we may forgive as you have forgiven us.
Amen.

Reading Matthew 18.21-35 read to us by Judy Giles

²¹ Then Peter came to Jesus and asked, 'Lord, how many times shall I forgive my brother or sister who sins against me? Up to seven times?'²² Jesus answered, 'I tell you, not seven times, but seventy-seven times.

²³ 'Therefore, the kingdom of heaven is like a king who wanted to settle accounts with his servants. ²⁴ As he began the settlement, a man who owed him ten thousand bags of gold was brought to him. ²⁵ Since he was not able to pay, the master ordered that he and his wife and his children and all that he had be sold to repay the debt. ²⁶ 'At this the servant fell on his knees before him. "Be patient with me," he begged, "and I will pay back everything." ²⁷ The servant's master took pity on him, cancelled the debt and let him go. ²⁸ 'But when that servant went out, he found one of his fellow servants who owed him a hundred silver coins. He grabbed him and began to choke him. "Pay back what you owe me!" he demanded. ²⁹ 'His fellow servant fell to his knees and begged him, "Be patient with me, and I will pay it back." ³⁰ 'But he refused. Instead, he went off and had the man thrown into prison until he could pay the debt. ³¹ When the other servants saw what had happened, they were outraged and went and told their master everything that had happened.

³² 'Then the master called the servant in. "You wicked servant," he said, "I cancelled all that debt of yours because you begged me to. ³³ Shouldn't you have had mercy on your fellow servant just as I had on you?" ³⁴ In anger his master handed him over to the jailers to be tortured, until he should pay back all he owed.

³⁵ 'This is how my heavenly Father will treat each of you unless you forgive your brother or sister from your heart.'

Sermon Nigel Lowe is opening God's Word for us today

Song

I'm accepted, I'm forgiven

I'm Accepted, I'm Forgiven

I Am Fathered By The True And Living God

I'm Accepted, No Condemnation

I Am Loved By The True And Living God

There's No Guilt Or Fear As I Draw Near
To The Saviour And Creator Of The World
There Is Joy And Peace
As I Release My Worship To You, Oh Lord

Creed

Let us declare our faith in God.

We believe in God the Father,

from whom every family

in heaven and on earth is named.

We believe in God the Son,
who lives in our hearts through faith,
and fills us with his love.
We believe in God the Holy Spirit,
who strengthens us
with power from on high.
We believe in one God;
Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
Amen.

cf Ephesians 3

Intercession prepared and read to us by Richard Beckingsale

Response: In you O Lord ~ **do we put our trust.**

Lord's Prayer

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven.

Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil.

For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and for ever. Amen.

Collect

Almighty God, whose only Son has opened for us a new and living way into your presence: give us pure hearts and steadfast wills to worship you in spirit and in truth; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen

Song

Where the Spirit of the Lord is

For we know the truth
Your truth has set us free
In Your Name alone
We have been released
You are here with us
You are here with us

We are slaves no more
Freedom is our hope
Never looking back
Jesus, You are Lord
We give all to You
We give all to You

Chorus

*Where the Spirit of the Lord is
There is freedom
Where the Spirit of the Lord is
Chains are broken
Eyes are open
Christ is with us
Christ is with us*

Who the Son has freed
He is free indeed
All our sin is gone
We have been redeemed
Jesus paid it all
Jesus paid it all

Chorus x 2

Open wide the gates of heaven
Fill our hearts as we surrender
Lord let Your presence fall
Lord let Your presence fall
x4
Open wide the gates of heaven
We will worship you forever
Lord let Your presence fall
Lord let Your presence fall

Chorus

Christ is with us
Christ is with us

Source: [Musixmatch](#)

Songwriters: Fielding Benjamin David

Where the Spirit of the Lord Is lyrics © Hillsong Music Publishing Australia

Final Prayer -

**Into a world of noise and confusion;
into a world that bewilders and even bemuses us at times;
into a world of delight and regret;
into a world of hope and fear;
into a world that is ever changing,
we go with the message of an unchanging God
who gave his all that we might live life to the best of our ability.**

God of all, go with us and within us,
this and every day.
Amen.

Thank you for joining us today. Keep safe and God Bless.

Note

To contact the church please email office@stokepogeschurch.org or phone 01753 642331. Please do not come to the office in person; we are all working remotely.



Going Deeper

This week's reading: **Matthew 18.21-35**

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Bible Notes

- Peter asks Jesus how many times someone should be forgiven, then offers his own suggested answer of seven times – more than double what was suggested by traditional Jewish teaching at the time. Jesus blows Peter's suggestion out of the water by saying not seven, but 77 times. This is not a suggestion that we should keep a strict tally, rather that we should forgive countless times.
- Jesus illustrates his point using a parable about a king forgiving one of his servant's debts, but the servant in turn not forgiving the much smaller debt of a fellow servant. To get a picture of the contrast here: if the 100 denarii debt was represented in 5p coins, it could be carried in one pocket. But the 10,000 talent debt would require about 8,500 people each carrying a bag of 5ps weighing 30kg. Jesus uses this contrast to show how great the forgiveness offered to us by God is.
- How might your life and your community be transformed if you lived with this attitude of forgiveness?

Questions for Reflection



- How many sweets do you think are in the jar?
- Is your 'jar' of forgiveness always full, like this one?
- What things can we do to nurture a forgiving attitude?

Live your faith

If anyone does something that annoys, angers or upsets you this week, try not to react immediately. Stop, count to seven – or even seventy-seven! – and make a decision to forgive them.

A personal prayer

I am not worthy, yet you love me, God.

I do not deserve so much and yet I have it.

I have many needs and before you I acknowledge them;

fill my life with your presence,

that others too may come to know your healing balm.

Amen

Name

Matthew 18.21-35

Jesus teaches that we should always forgive.



Family time

Talk Is it easy to forgive someone, if they do something wrong to you more than once?

Do If someone annoys or upsets you this week, stop, count to seven and forgive them.

Pray At the end of each line, everyone could join in saying, 'help us to forgive.'

When someone upsets us:

help us to forgive.

When someone ignores us:

help us to forgive.

When someone gets on our nerves:

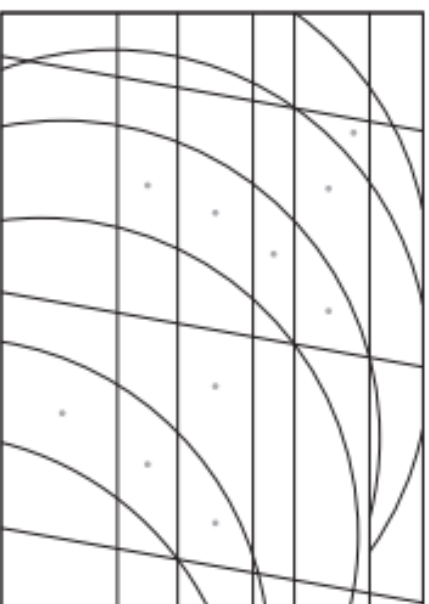
help us to forgive,

as you forgive us, Lord. **Amen.**

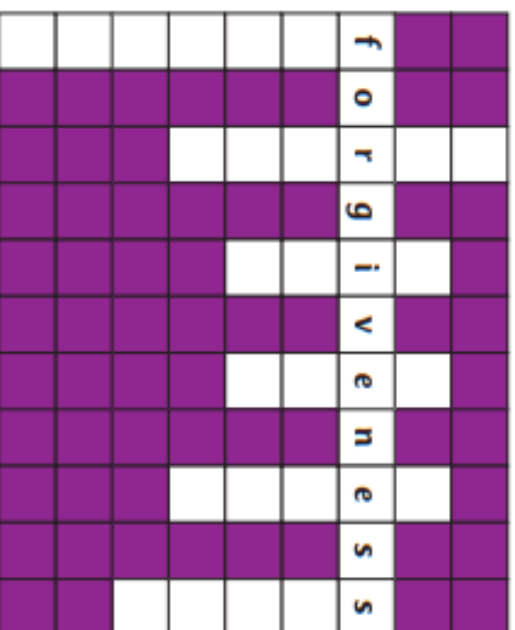
Activity time



Colour the dotted sections to reveal the number of times Jesus told Peter to forgive someone.



Can you fit these forgiveness words into the grid?
sorry, debt, forgive, mercy, pardon, pity



Can you think of something or someone that you could forgive beginning with each letter of 'forgive'?

F
O
R

g

i

v

e

