

Introit

God in Glory - Chancel Choir

*Call to Worship

*Opening Hymn

UMH # 327 –Crown Him with Many Crowns

Announcements

Congregational Prayer & The Lord's Prayer

Prince of Peace, You are Holy

(Offering)

Goodness of God

UMH # 95 Doxology & Prayer of Dedication

Prayer Anthem

Forgiven - Chancel Choir

*Scripture

Matthew 18:21-35

Message

Forgiveness and the Mandate to Forgive

*Closing Hymn

UMH # 382 –Have Thine Own Way, Lord

*Benediction

*Congregation please stand as able

Liturgist: **Dianne Shaw**

Pastor: Rev. Dr. Arun Paul - arun@decaturgrace.org

(Worship is recorded for T.V. viewing and other social media platforms)

Congregational Prayer

God of forgiveness, we come before Your throne of grace and mercy to praise You for all that You are—our Creator, Redeemer, Sanctifier, and constant companion on the road of our earthly lives. We thank You for the blessing of rain, of the growing crops, of the beautiful changing seasons. But we especially remember the gift of love and mercy You gave us through the death of Your dear Son, Jesus Christ, on the cross.

In the crucifixion, You forgave us and pardoned us from all our sin. We cannot earn that forgiveness; You give it to us through Your boundless love and mercy.

Dear Lord, even though You have forgiven me, I still sometimes choose to sin against others. If I wound any soul today, if I cause one foot to go astray, if I walk in my own willful way, please reveal it to me so I can ask Your forgiveness. Help me to acknowledge my sin and be truly repentant. Give me the grace and humility of spirit to refuse to keep score of the wrongs done to me, and to be quick to forgive and make amends. Rid me of pride and self-righteousness so I am free to forgive others as You have forgiven me.

Thank You, O Father, for the example of Jesus Christ as my model of forgiveness. Help me follow that example daily.

Free us from the imprisonment of our own brokenness. Bring us into harmony with ourselves, our faith, our friends, and our world, but most especially, bring us into harmony with You and Your will. God of mercy, as You have forgiven us, help us to forgive, to live with open hearts, unoffended and unoffensive. Holy Spirit, melt our hearts of stone and give us hearts of love. Help us to forgive without holding anger or resentment. We want to see others in Your image and worthy of Your love.

With thankful hearts, lead us into a freedom of mind and soul through forgiveness. As You washed us clean from guilt, help us absolve others.

Father, be with those who help others come to remorse for what they have done and find forgiveness from their infractions. Guide and protect our police, chaplains, pastors, and social workers who listen to people plagued with guilt and fear. Give them tireless ears to hear and instill in them a mercy of heart and stability of mind to work with those who fear their past and have no hope for their future. Holy Spirit, give them the words they need to assist and reassure the person who has done wrong. As You have unending patience and grace for us, give them patience and grace for others.

Sinful creatures though we are, we know You offer us love and mercy. We pray this and all our unspoken petitions through the name of Your dear Son, Jesus Christ, Who taught us to pray:

Our Father. . .

(The Lord's Prayer follows)