Westminster Presbyterian Church

LITURGY FOR SEPTEMBER 13, 2020
15TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Gathering Words **Candy and Ferenc Relle**

Into your presence we come,
Lord of freedom,
Remembering those who fled captivity
And found freedom in your sanctuary.

Into your presence we come,
Lord of forgiveness,
Remembering your gift of reconciliation
Graciously given in Christ.

Into your presence we come,
Lord of grace,
We know your generosity to us is beyond our understanding.
May we lift our praise to you!

Opening Prayer **Candy and Ferenc Relle**

Gracious God,
You give us so much more than we deserve,
and you ask only that we love you in return.
You give us free will to choose
to say yes or no to your love.

Merciful God, forgive us,
for those times we chose to say no,
help us desire to say yes.

You promise to forgive us.
You invite us into a relationship
and desire us to play our full part in it.

You also ask us to treat the rest of creation as you do,
with love and mercy.
You have given us a great responsibility.
Too often we have failed to act wisely;
we have been greedy and selfish,
and have forgotten to care and share all that creation gives us.

Merciful God, forgive us.
Help us to seek to be better co-creators.
Help us change our ways
so that our world can flourish as it should.

Your son, Jesus, has shown us the example to follow.
Give us courage to choose his path.
In his name, we pray. Amen.

Opening Hymn No. 619 Praise, My Soul, The God of Heaven LAUDA ANIMA

Scripture Reading Matthew 18:21-35 Dr. Enikő Ferenczy

21 Then Peter came and said to him, "Lord, if another member of the church sins against me, how often should I
forgive? As many as seven times?" 22 Jesus said to him, "Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times.

23 "For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his
slaves. 24 When he began the reckoning, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him; 25 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. 26 So the slave fell on his knees before him, saying, 'Have patience with me, and I will
pay you everything.' 27 And out of pity for him, the lord of that slave released him and forgave him the
debt. 28 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.' 29 Then his fellow slave fell down and
pleaded with him, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you.' 30 But he refused; then he went and threw him
into prison until he would pay the debt. 31 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. 32 Then his lord summoned him and
said to him, 'You wicked slave! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. 33 Should you not have
had mercy on your fellow slave, as I had mercy on you?' 34 And in anger his lord handed him over to be tortured
until he would pay his entire debt. 35 So my heavenly Father will also do to every one of you, if you do not
forgive your brother or sister from your heart."

Sermon Forgiveness: Impossible and Holy Dr. Enikő Ferenczy

Invitation to Offering

Hymn No. 753 Make Me A Channel of Your Peace PRAYER OF ST. FRANCIS

Prayer of the People Dr. Enikő Ferenczy

Closing Hymn No. 547 Go, My Children, With My Blessing AR HYDY NOS

Benediction Dr. Enikő Ferenczy

*Note: Opening Prayer was adapted from *Spill the Beans* issue no. 36.