



Seventh Sunday of Easter

May 21, 2023



Rev. Lura Kidner-Miesen, Pastor
Eric McKirdy, Organist & Music Director

Centering Thoughts

Forgive others not because they deserve forgiveness, but because you deserve peace.
—Buddha

Always forgive your enemies; nothing annoys them so much.
—Oscar Wilde

Forgiveness is an act of the will, and the will can function regardless of the temperature of the heart.
—Corrie Ten Boom

If you forgive others for the wrongs they do to you, your Father in heaven will forgive you.
—Jesus (Matthew 6:14)

And you know, when you've experienced grace and you feel like you've been forgiven, you're a lot more forgiving of other people. You're a lot more gracious to others.
—Rick Warren

Forgiveness is not an occasional act, it is a constant attitude.
—Martin Luther King Jr.



Worship Notes: Unison responses are in bold type. An asterisk (*) shows where you may stand if you wish.

Welcome!

Prelude

Invitation to Worship

Debbie Maddy

Merciful God, we come to your river of love and forgiveness.

Wash away all sin, pain, and resentment.

Refresh and renew us, as water refreshes those who are weary.

Send us out as channels of your love and forgiveness. Amen.

***Hymn:** *Amazing Grace*

UMH #378 vv. 1-3, 6

Scripture:

Matthew 18:21-35

Sermon: "The River of Forgiveness"

Pastor Lura

Minute of Silent Prayer and Meditation

***Hymn:** *What a Friend We Have in Jesus*

UMH #526

Prayer

Pastor Lura

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

***Hymn:** *Freely, Freely*

UMH #389

Closing Blessing

Pastor Lura

May the healing, forgiving love of God free you from the past, fill your heart with peace, and flow through you to others.

Postlude

Announcements:

- Welcome! If you are new to our congregation, please fill out the visitor form in the pew rack and place it in the offering plate as you leave.
- Copies of the sermon are on the entryway table for those who would like one.
- Our May special offering is for Family Tree Relief Nursery. Family Tree Relief Nursery nurtures children and their parents, building a strong foundation for healthy, thriving families, and working to end child abuse and neglect. You may help children by noting on your check that it is for “Relief Nursery” or by giving through our website at albanymethodist.org.
- Following the worship service you are invited to the Fellowship Hall for refreshments and fellowship.
- The church Board will meet today at 11:45 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall.
- The Bookworms book club meets today at 3:00 p.m. in the chapel.
- Articles for the church newsletter, the Tower Notes, are due Monday, May 22.
- Next Sunday is Pentecost and the birthday of the Christian Church. You are invited to wear red, the color symbolizing the Holy Spirit.



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~ The church office is open Tue, Wed, Thur: 11 a.m. - 2 p.m. ~