BEULAH PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
August 23, 2026 ~ 13th Sunday After Pentecost
"Forgiveness is a Daily Practice"

PRELUDE "Pathetique" Peter I. Tchaikovsky

GREETING & WELCOME Pastor Rev. Jose Luis Casal

Good morning! Dear friends, the topic of our worship today is "forgiveness." And we need to define what this is. According to the Dictionary, "forgiveness is a conscious and voluntary decision to let go of resentment, anger, or the desire for revenge toward someone who has caused harm to us, without necessarily excusing or forgetting the offense." According to the American Psychologists Association, forgiveness is more than an action, "it is a process of emotional transformation, where one person moves from anger or bitterness toward a state of peace, empathy, or compassion, without obligating reconciliation or condoning the harmful act." For some people, forgiveness is something we just receive and many times we demand and claim. Usually those who think in this way are not inclined to give forgiveness to others. The main question we will discuss today is: Are we willing to forgive others? The Bible recommends us to forgive if we want to be forgiven, let us repeat:

For if you forgive other people when they sin against you, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. But if you do not forgive others their sins, your Father will not forgive your sins.

That is the secret God is revealing for all of us! With this in mind let us sing the following hymn.

***HYMN** "God, How Can We Forgive" #445

ANNOUNCEMENTS ~ Liturgist Aly Mohn

***CALL TO WORSHIP** ~ Liturgist Aly Mohn

We come together today, drawn by the love of God, who forgives our sins and calls us to forgive others.

We gather in humility, seeking healing and reconciliation.

As we worship, let us remember the words of Jesus: "Forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us."

May our hearts be open to the grace that transforms us and empowers us to forgive.

Let us worship the God of mercy and grace, who invites us to live in harmony with one another.

All: Amen.

***OPENING PRAYER ~** Liturgist Aly Mohn

Dear Lord, as we gather here, we acknowledge our need for Your forgiveness and the forgiveness of others. We recognize that we are all imperfect and have fallen short of Your glory. Help us to release any bitterness or resentment we may hold in our hearts. Teach us to forgive as You have forgiven us, with compassion and love. We ask for Your strength to let go of past hurts and to embrace the healing that comes from forgiveness. May we find peace in our hearts and restore our relationships through Your grace. As we move forward, guide us to be instruments of Your peace, spreading love and understanding to those around us. In the words of Ephesians

4:32, "Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you." Let this truth resonate in our hearts as we strive to live out Your teachings. Thank You for the gift of forgiveness and the opportunity to start anew each day. In Jesus' name, we pray. **Amen.**

RESPONSE/HYMN "We Are Forgiven" #447 (seated)

CALL TO CONFESSION ~ I John 2:1,2 ~ Liturgist Aly Mohn
Dear brothers and sisters, if anyone sins, we have someone who pleads with the Father on our behalf—Jesus Christ, the righteous one and the symbol of forgiveness. In Christ, our sins are forgiven, and not our sins only, but also the sins of the entire world. Let us confess our sins through the Prayer of Confession in our bulletin…

ALTERNATE PRAYER OF CONFESSION ~ Liturgist Aly Mohn
Loving God, we live fractured lives, and God seeks not to punish us for those faults and fault lines, but to reconcile and restore us. Trusting in God's grace and mercy, let us then make our confession together, first in silent prayer.
Silent Prayer

Merciful God, forgive us when we have run away, when we have turned our backs on love, when we have sought immediate satisfaction and not long-term healing, forgive us. When we have been selfish, when we have been mean, when we have closed our ears to the cries of others, forgive us. When we are so broken we cannot move, when we do not know how to stem the bleeding of our wounds, when we are too ashamed to seek community, heal us. Give us the courage, the strength, and the hope to accept your grace and hear your call in Christ. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON Pastor Rev. Jose Luis Casal
The Bible says, "Who is a God like you, who pardons sin and forgives the transgression of the remnant of his inheritance?" You do not stay angry forever but delight to show mercy and You will again have compassion on us… Dear friends, be sure: In Jesus Christ we are forgiven!

Amen.

***PASSING THE PEACE** (*Please stand in body or in spirit*) Pastor Rev. Jose Luis Casal
The peace of God be with you.

And also, with you.

Let us share that peace with one another while we sing *Glory to God*.

Glory to God, whose goodness shines on me,
and to the son, whose grace has pardoned me,
and to the spirit, whose love has set me free.
As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be. Amen.
World without end, without end. Amen.
World without end, without end. Amen.
World without end, without end. Amen.
As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be. Amen.

SPECIAL MUSIC "Gospel Medley" arr. Brant Adams
(*Steve Clements, trombone*)

THE WORD IS PROCLAIMED

A TIME WITH ALL GOD'S CHILDREN
Children's message ~ Dana Gardner
Children are invited to come to the front to hear the message.
They are also invited to participate in activities at the Prayground in the back of the sanctuary.

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION ~ Liturgist Aly Mohn
Almighty and gracious God, you are the God of mercy, whose love was so great that you gave your only Son for a world in rebellion. On this day of forgiveness, we come before you with humble hearts, seeking not only to be pardoned but also to be transformed by your grace. Open our eyes to see the truth of your Word and open our hearts to receive your forgiveness. Let the Holy Spirit guide our minds, soften our hearts, and set us free from the weight of past offenses and the bondage of unforgiveness. Teach us the way of your love, that we may live in the freedom and peace you have given us. May we be willing to forgive as you have forgiven us, and may our lives reflect the light of your mercy to all we meet. Calm us now, O Lord, into a quietness that heals. Open our wounded hearts to the balm of your Word and speak to us in clear tones so that we might feel our spirits leap with hope as your resurrection witnesses. We pray in the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior, **Amen.**

SCRIPTURE – Matthew 18:21-35 ~ Liturgist Aly Mohn
The word of God for the People of God.
Thanks be to God.

SERMON "The Real Forgiveness" Pastor Rev. Jose Luis Casal

***RESPONSE** "Forgive Our Sins as We Forgive" #444

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

***APOSTLE'S CREED BASED ON FORGIVENESS** ~ Liturgist Aly Mohn
I believe in one God, the Father, almighty, maker of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, who suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and buried, and rose again on the third day, and who, by His death and resurrection, has made possible the forgiveness of sins.
I believe that through faith in Him, I am cleansed from all sin, that God's mercy is shown freely, and that I am reconciled to Him.
I believe in the Holy Spirit, who convicts the world of sin, and in the Church, the communion of saints, and in the resurrection of the body, and in life everlasting. Amen.

ALTERNATE PRAYER FOR THE PEOPLE & LORD'S PRAYER IN FORGIVENESS SUNDAY Pastor Rev. Jose Luis Casal

Presentation of the names we are praying for…

Dear friends, in everything he said and did, Jesus showed God's boundless compassion. Blessed by his mercy, let us pray with generous love for neighbors and strangers alike.

We pray for the family of nations that a new generation of leaders may leave behind personal ambitions, historic confrontations, and empire-building dreams to work together for a world of peace where forgiveness is the rule to interact among people.

Let us pray to the Lord.

We pray for all who have been harmed by others' hatred and violence, that by the grace of God they will be freed from the dark desire for revenge and show mercy and forgiveness.

Let us pray to the Lord.

We pray for communities traumatized by brutal warfare, especially the peoples of the Middle East, Ukraine, the Congo, and Sudan, that their cries of pain and grief will compel leaders to end hostilities and negotiate for peace.

Let us pray to the Lord.

We pray for an end to the world-wide criminal drug trade, that the countless people caught in the remorseless grip of addiction may have the opportunity to reclaim their lives.

Let us pray to the Lord.

We pray for the families of those who have died recently, for those who are sick or have a sick relative, for the names we mentioned at the beginning of our prayer; heal them and give all of them the peace they need.

Let us pray to the Lord.

All-loving God, the well of your mercy never runs dry. Help us bring peace and forgiveness to your children, wherever they may be. We ask this through Christ, our Lord, who taught us to pray… **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 debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.**

OFFERING

INVITATION TO COLLECT THE OFFERINGS ~ Liturgist Aly Mohn

Dear friends, God is the giver of all good things, the one who fashioned each of us with unique gifts that together make the Body of Christ whole. In gratitude for all we have received, and for the pardon and forgiveness we receive from you, let us offer our lives back to you, sharing our time, skills, and money to join God's Kingdom here on Earth. With this in mind, let us collect our offerings…

Collection of the Offerings

***Doxology** "*Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow*" #606

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise him, all creatures here below;
Praise him above, ye heavenly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION** ~ Liturgist Aly Mohn
Today we learned that forgiveness is not just a spiritual act but a call to new beginnings. Our offerings today are an act of love, a way to say "forgive me" not only to God but also to the world. May your gifts today be a seed of forgiveness, growing into justice, peace, and the fullness of God's Kingdom. **Amen.**

***HYMN** "What a Friend We Have in Jesus" #465

***CHARGE AND BLESSING** Pastor Rev. Jose Luis Casal

***POSTLUDE** "Sing the Glad Song" Franklin Ritter

CCLI#20544224 & 20544

Go in Peace
A special word of thanks to all those who helped make this worship service possible.
It is good to be together!

Remember in Prayer
Susan Rock, Sue Kyle, Evelyn Vaughn, Cecelia Casal, Bill Anderson, Edie McCaulley, Marlene & Bob LeBlond, Beverly Clark, Peggy Oliver, Mary Hockenberry, Verna Williams, Melanie Magruder, and all Service Personnel and their families.
All those who are Care Givers, and all those affected by tragic world events.

Welcome! We warmly greet all who have come to worship God.

We are so glad that you are here. We hope that joining us for worship today will nurture your heart and transform your mind. Here at Beulah our mission is transforming lives through the love of Jesus Christ – that simple and that challenging. We realize we need each other and commit to pray for each other. We reach out in love and compassion to a world in need, and we know we are a work in progress. If you are new to Beulah, we hope you will join us again and consider attending any of our mission, fellowship, and education opportunities. God's peace to you today.

Membership ~ If you are interested in becoming a member or have any questions about membership, please speak with Pastor Casal on Sunday mornings or Wednesday afternoons from 1:00 – 6:30 p.m.

Learn more by visiting us on our website at www.beulahpres.org, and on our Facebook page at Beulah Presbyterian Church

.

Assisting in worship ~ Pastor Rev. Jose Luis Casal; Music Director/Accompanist Kim Karchenes; Liturgist Aly Mohn; Special Music Steve Clements; Children's Message Dana Gardner; and Sound Crew, Brent Dellacoletta and Jim Harris.

Virtual Ministry ~ Please follow us on our Website www.beulahpres.org, Facebook, Instagram@beulah_pres, and YouTube to stay up to date on upcoming events, view previous worship services, live stream services, and see what's happening in the life and ministry of Beulah!

Listening Devices ~ The Sanctuary is equipped with Listening Devices for people with hearing difficulties. Please ask an usher for assistance.

Electronic Devices ~ In the hustle and bustle of getting ourselves ready for church it is easy to forget to turn off our cell phones. We offer this gentle reminder to please power off cell phones and other electronic devices so that the worship service is not disrupted by them.

Large Print Worship Bulletin ~ If you or someone you know needs a large print bulletin of today's service, please ask one of the ushers and they will assist you.

Beulah PRESBYTERIAN Church
6704 Bardstown Road
P.O. Box 91072
Louisville, KY 40291
www.beulahpres.org 502.239.3231