

FORGIVENESS

Jesus is big on forgiveness. Forgiveness wasn't just a casual sidebar to Christ's teaching. It was central and repeated often. We desperately need forgiveness. We receive it and we're called to give it.

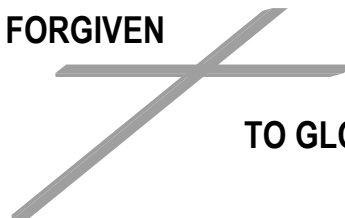
You will remember when Peter (the disciple of Jesus) was frustrated. Evidently he had a friend who needed quite often to be forgiven. Peter wanted to have some boundaries and asked Jesus how often he had to forgive this man. Peter said that he had already forgiven him seven times and that seemed sufficient. Jesus astounded Peter by saying, "I do not say to you seven times, but seventy times seven [i.e. forgiveness without limit]" (Matthew 18:22).

Jesus told Peter a story that is both instructive and radical. It's about a servant who owed his master a whole lot of money. Just before the servant was sent off to jail and his family sold into slavery, the servant fell on his knees before his master and pleaded for mercy. The master forgave the debt.

Then in an astonishing display of disingenuous arrogance, the man—who had just been forgiven a major debt himself—refused to forgive a fellow servant a small debt and not only that, had him thrown in jail. When the master heard about it, he was ticked, called the unforgiving servant back and said, "You wicked servant! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. And should not you have had mercy on your fellow servant, as I had mercy on you?" (vs. 32). Then the master threw his sorry posterior into jail.

Jesus said, "So also my heavenly Father will do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother from your heart" (vs. 35).

FORGIVEN



TO GLORIFY, WITNESS & SERVE



KITCHENER EAST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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Established 03rd May 1987

Minister:

Rev. Dr. Mark S. Richardson

Minister in Association:

Rev. Jeff Smith

Music Director:

Sarah Pottier

Sunday 21st January 2024 10:30 am

*The community of faith Celebrates the Good News
In the Spirit, the Presence, and the Power
Of the risen Lord Jesus
To discover New Dimensions of & New Possibilities for
Living the Christ-Life*

Celebrating the Truth of the Presence of God – Alleluia!

Call to Worship:

Praise: “Shout to the Lord” **SB #54**

Welcome, and announcements:

Celebrating the Truth of Forgiveness – We Receive New Life!

Praise: “Amazing grace” **BP #403**

Prayer, and the Lord’s Prayer:

Celebrating the Truth of God's Word! - We are Listening!

Scripture: St. Matthew 18:21-35 NLT

Message: “Biblical conflict resolutions”

Celebrating the Truth of God’s gifts to us – We Are Accountable

Presentation of our Tithes and Offerings:

+ Offertory

Doxology: “**My tribute**” **SB #45**

Prayer of Dedication

Praise: “Freely, freely” **SB #33**

Celebrating the Truth of our Going Forth – We Leave for Ministry

Benediction:

Interpersonal Benediction: “The blessing”

WORSHIP AND SACRAMENTS TEAM: PRAYER REQUESTS

Warnock Aitken – St. Joseph’s Life-Care Centre, Brantford

Frank De Vries – at home

Pearl Howden – Trinity Village LTC

Bob Kenzie – Sunnyside Home

Mary Master – Conestoga Lodge

Dolly McCormack – Court at Laurelwood Retirement Home

Marg McCorrison – at home

Terry McCorrison – at home

Julie Phoenix – Southbridge London Long Term Care Home

Curt Ryan – AgeCare West Williams LTC

Shirley Steinberg – Highland Place Retirement Residence

Glen Verheye – at home

Sunday School:

We are having bi-weekly Sunday School running in 2024:

January 21; February 4, & 18; March 3, 17, & 31; April 14, & 28; May 12, & 26; June 9, & 23. We have split the group: Grade 5 and under, and Grade 6 and up, to create a more engaging experience for our older children.

We are looking for more Sunday School teachers, helpers, or back-ups to join the team If interested, please contact Cathrine (gcejtaylor@gmail.com), Nicolene (nclemens7@yahoo.ca) or Johnson (srikanthjohnson@gmail.com).

We can’t wait to share and grow with the children this year.

Peace and Joy, Cathrine, Nicolene, & Johnson

KEPC Annual Meeting is scheduled for Sunday 18th February 2024 following the morning worship service, with a soup fundraising luncheon to start the meeting in the Gray Hall.

Annual reports are due in to Barb Cook, email her at: mjblcook@outlook.com by 31st January 2024.

Mission Moment – Sunday 21st January 2024:

We are God's people, called to serve God with our many gifts. We belong to a denomination that is connected by faith, governance, history and mission. Presbyterians Sharing is one of the ways that Presbyterians across Canada work together to proclaim the good news of Jesus Christ, sharing God's love and hope in our communities, in Canada and around the world. Gifts to Presbyterians Sharing help build strong congregations, serve vulnerable people, walk with Indigenous people, seek justice and share God's love. When we work together, we can accomplish so much more than we ever could on our own.

From the Finance Team: Offering Counters:

We'd like to add a few team members and provide full training & support to help new team members become established. We hope you will consider offering your talent for this role at a KEPC and can contact Barb Cook (519-998-2183) or Rob Gloin (519-781-4379) to discuss further.

From the Finance Team: options for financial giving to KEPC:

- 1) **Canada Post:** send your offering envelope in an envelope addressed to the Church: 10 Zeller Dr, Kitchener, ON, N2A 4A8
- 2) **E – transfer:** This involves using your online banking application using the e-transfer option & sending the transaction to the Church email: kepc@golden.net
- 3) **PAR: pre-authorized remittance.** This is set up once and an amount is withdrawn from your bank account monthly until you choose to stop it or change the amount. Contact Chris Clemens clemensc78@yahoo.ca and he can set you up.
- 4) **Tithe.ly** on our website, (click on the menu "Donate Now") and donations can be through your Visa, Mastercard, or Debit.
- 5) The locked, **black box** on the wall of the sanctuary by the main doors for your offerings.

Thank-you for your ongoing and prayerful support of the mission and ministry of KEPC.

Congregational Financial update:

Here in the early days of 2024, we find that we ended the year 2023 with an \$8,500 deficit. Thank-you so much for helping us to bring it down from roughly \$3,000 per month to this new amount of roughly \$700 per month!

We will continue to keep you informed of the financial situation and ask that you join us in praying for guidance and solutions to address the current situation. Thank you.

Offering Envelopes: 2024 Offering Envelopes can be picked up in the Narthex, please let Chris know if any updates are required. If you are interested in having assigned envelopes for 2024 and are not on PAR, please reach out to Chris.

For anyone that changed addresses in 2023, please let Chris and Mark know so that we can check our records and update them as required.

Grocery Cards:

We are participating in the grocery gift card program in our Region. If you would like to purchase grocery gift cards for the PC group of stores, and/or the Metro group of stores, please speak with Barb Cook, Rob Gloin, or Emmie Richardson. They are available every other week. We receive a small amount back from the Community Charity Services, for each card we sell.

EVENTS THIS WEEK: 21 – 28 January 2024

- Sunday: 10:30 am – Sunday Worship Service; Sunday School; Coffee & Conversation
- Monday: 1 pm – Music Therapy
6:30 – 10 pm GRIPS in the Gray Hall
7 – 9 pm Elders meeting in the sanctuary with Dr. Jeff Crawford, our General Presbyter
- Tuesday: 9:30 am – Bible Study via Zoom
11:45 – 1:30 Music Therapy
6:30 pm – Sparks
- Wednesday: 7 – 9 pm – Scouts in Gray Hall
- Thursday: 9 am – Sonshine Corner in the Gray Hall
- Friday: 10:30 am – 12:30 pm Music Therapy
- Sunday: 10:30 am – Sunday Worship Service