

## Matthew 18:21-35

Then Peter came to Jesus and asked, "Lord, how many times shall I forgive my brother or sister who sins against me? Up to seven times?" Jesus answered, "I tell you, not seven times, but seventy-seven times. "Therefore, the kingdom of heaven is like a king who wanted to settle accounts with his servants. As he began the settlement, a man who owed him ten thousand bags of gold was brought to him. Since he was not able to pay, the master ordered that he and his wife and his children and all that he had be sold to repay the debt. "At this the servant fell on his knees before him. 'Be patient with me,' he begged, 'and I will pay back everything.' The servant's master took pity on him, canceled the debt and let him go. "But when that servant went out, he found one of his fellow servants who owed him a hundred silver coins. He grabbed him and began to choke him. 'Pay back what you owe me!' he demanded. "His fellow servant fell to his knees and begged him, 'Be patient with me, and I will pay it back.' "But he refused. Instead, he went off and had the man thrown into prison until he could pay the debt. When the other servants saw what had happened, they were outraged and went and told their master everything that had happened. "Then the master called the servant in. 'You wicked servant,' he said, 'I canceled all that debt of yours because you begged me to. Shouldn't you have had mercy on your fellow servant just as I had on you?' In anger his master handed him over to the jailers to be tortured, until he should pay back all he owed. "This is how my heavenly Father will treat each of you unless you forgive your brother or sister from your heart."

## WELCOME TO ZION'S REFORMED CHURCH

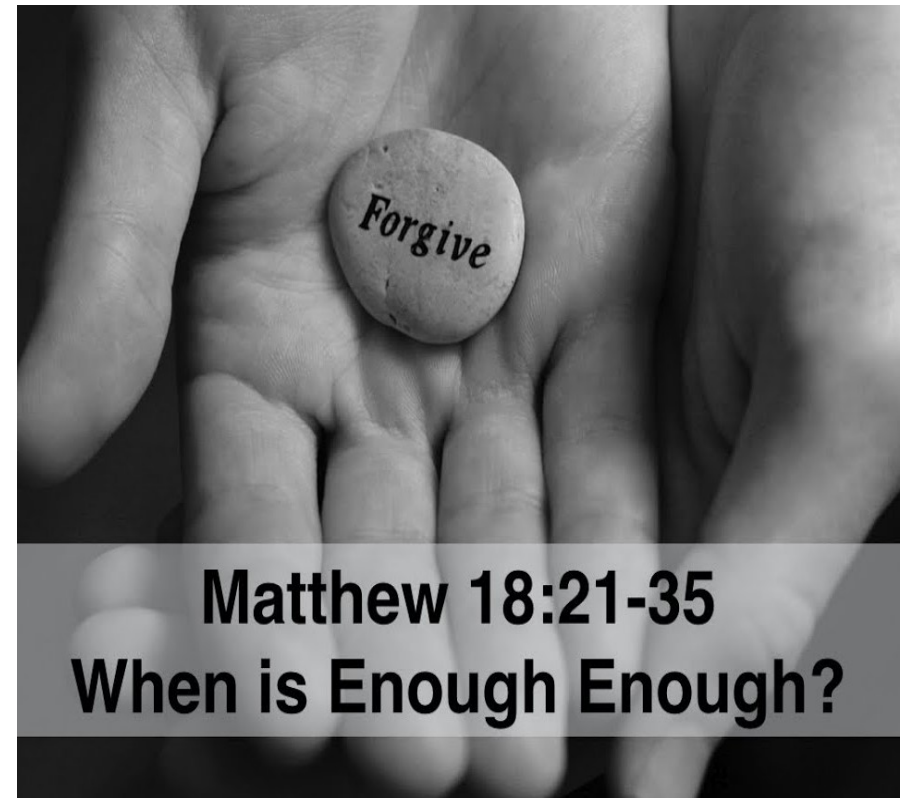
United Church of Christ

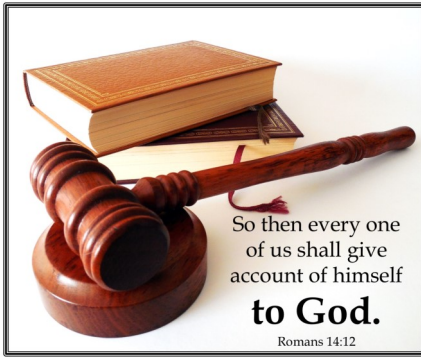
260 Main Street, Greenville, PA 16125

Phone: 724-588-6940

Church e-mail: [info@zionsucc.org](mailto:info@zionsucc.org)

Julie's cell: 724-815-3291





**Good Morning and  
welcome to Zion's  
Reformed Church.  
We're glad you're  
here!**

Rev. Dr. Tim Morrison is leading worship today. Thank you for being here!

The Altar Flowers are in memory of my family, by Dan Douthett.

Ushering in September are Vikki Young, Dan Langietti, Betty Langietti, Carol Saal and Emily Rinella.

Children are welcome to come to the Youth Center after Word for the Family for an activity.

Everyone is welcome to come to the Anderson Lounge for refreshments after the service.

**Large Print Bulletins**, copies of today's sermon, children's activity books, and seat cushions are available in the back of the sanctuary.

#### **Upcoming Meetings and Events**

Monday, Sept. 18: Ministry of Service and Missions at 6:00

Tuesday, Sept. 19: Happy Birthday Lori Seinar-Roknick!

Sunday, Sept. 24: Prayer Chain will meet after the service.

Tuesday, Sept. 26: Good Shepherd Center Full Board Mtg. 7:00.

#### **Romans 14:1-12**

Accept the one whose faith is weak, without quarreling over disputable matters. One person's faith allows them to eat anything, but another, whose faith is weak, eats only vegetables. The one who eats everything must not treat with contempt the one who does not, and the one who does not eat everything must not judge the one who does, for God has accepted them. Who are you to judge someone else's servant? To their own master, servants stand or fall. And they will stand, for the Lord is able to make them stand. One person considers one day more sacred than another; another considers every day alike. Each of them should be fully convinced in their own mind. Whoever regards one day as special does so to the Lord. Whoever eats meat does so to the Lord, for they give thanks to God; and whoever abstains does so to the Lord and gives thanks to God. For none of us lives for ourselves alone, and none of us dies for ourselves alone. If we live, we live for the Lord; and if we die, we die for the Lord. So, whether we live or die, we belong to the Lord. For this very reason, Christ died and returned to life so that he might be the Lord of both the dead and the living. You, then, why do you judge your brother or sister? Or why do you treat them with contempt? For we will all stand before God's judgment seat. It is written: " 'As surely as I live,' says the Lord, 'every knee will bow before me; every tongue will acknowledge God.' " So then, each of us will give an account of ourselves to God.

SCRIPTURES Epistle Reading Romans 14:1-12  
Gospel Reading Matthew 18:21-35

SERMON "How Many Times.....How Many Years.....?"

OFFERING OUR GIFTS

Invitation

Offertory Music "I Need Thee Every Hour/Abide With Me"

\*Doxology No. 780

\*Unison Prayer of Dedication

**Most loving God, receive this offering which we gladly give. May it be used to revive and restore those in need wherever they live in our communities, our nation, and around the world. Amen.**

\*CLOSING HYMN NO. 76 "Sent Forth By God's Blessing"

\*THE BENEDICTION

\*CONGREGATIONAL CHORAL RESPONSE

**Let there be peace on earth, and let it begin with me;  
Let there be peace on earth, the peace that was meant to be.  
With God our creator, children all are we.  
Let us walk with each other in perfect harmony.**

**Let peace begin with me; let this be the moment now.  
With every step I take let this be my solemn vow  
To take each moment and live each moment in peace eternally,  
Let there be peace on earth; and let it begin with me.**

\*TAKING THE LIGHT INTO THE WORLD

\*THE POSTLUDE "Sonata in G Major" Domenico Scarlatti K.431

**ZION'S REFORMED UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**  
**Rev. Dr. Tim Morrison**  
**Lori Seinar-Roknick, Director of Music Ministries**

\*Please rise in body or spirit, as you are able.  
September 17, 2023 10:30 a.m.

*Where the past and the future with Jesus Christ are  
celebrated so the present can be lived abundantly.*

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Danielle Powell, Lector

THE SOLEMN DECLARATION

Leader: And now may we prepare our hearts and minds for  
worship as we are gathered in the name of God the  
Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit. Amen.

THE RINGING OF THE CHIMES

THE ENTRANCE OF LIGHT

Sophie Powell, Acolyte

*~Please use prelude time for thought, reflection and prayer~*  
PRELUDE "Blowin' In the Wind" Bob Dylan (words and music)

\*CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: We gather to worship with expectations:  
**People: God revealed in new and astonishing ways.**  
Leader: God comes to us in real time.  
**People: God comes to us in dreams.**  
Leader: God is present here.  
**People: God is working in our midst.**

\*OPENING HYMN NO. 67 "Let me Enter God's Own Dwelling"  
(verses 1-4)

**\*CALL TO CONFESSION**

**Leader:** Our help is in the name of God who made heaven and earth.

**People:** Let us confess our sins before God and one another.

**\*UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

**O Lord, we seek your mercy.....yet we ourselves look for payback when we are wronged. The forgiveness you offer on our account is larger than we can comprehend, yet we often withhold forgiveness and carry grudges. We are eager to do your judging as we seek your forgiveness, while avoiding honest repentance. Forgive us Lord, for the sins we know in our hearts. Save us Lord, from the sins we hide. Amen.**

**\*ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

**Leader:** The Lord is full of compassion and mercy,

**People:** God is slow to anger and has not dealt with us according to our sins.

**Leader:** God through God's son, Jesus, sets us free from our sins.

**People:** God's gift of forgiveness makes us able to forgive and to live again in right relationship with each other and with our God.

**\*A SONG OF PRAISE "Lord, I Lift Your Name on High"**

**Lord, I lift your name on high; Lord I love to sing your praises, I'm so glad you're in my life; I'm so glad you came to save us.**

**You came from heaven to earth to show the way,  
from the earth to the cross my debt to pay,  
from the cross to the grave, from the grave to the sky,  
Lord I lift your name on high.**

*~before you sit down, please greet someone near you~*

**WORD FOR THE FAMILY "We are the Church"**

*Refrain:*

I am the church! You are the church!

We are the church together!

All who follow Jesus,  
all around the world!

Yes, we're the church together!

1. The church is not a building;  
the church is not a steeple;  
the church is not a resting place;  
the church is a people.

*(Refrain)*

2. We're many kinds of people,  
with many kinds of faces,  
all colors and all ages, too  
from all times and places.

*(Refrain)*

**CHOIR ANTHEM "We Are People of Faith" Besig/Price**

**\*PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH AND 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 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.**

**\*HYMN NO. 457 "Jesus, I Live to You"**