

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

Call to worship – Psalm 103

Leader: Bless the Lord, O my soul, and all that is within me, bless his holy name.

People: Bless the Lord, O my soul, and do not forget all his benefits — who forgives all your iniquity, who heals all your diseases, who redeems your life from the Pit, who crowns you with steadfast love and mercy, who satisfies you with good as long as you live so that your youth is renewed like the eagle’s.

Leader: The Lord is merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love. He does not deal with us according to our sins, nor repay us according to our iniquities.

People: For as the heavens are high above the earth, so great is his steadfast love toward those who fear him; as far as the east is from the west, so far he removes our transgressions from us. As a father has compassion for his children, so the Lord has compassion for those who fear him.

*Song of Praise “How Great Thou Art” Celebration Hymnal No. 147

*PRAYER OF INVOCATION

Father in heaven, we serve You gladly, knowing that Your steadfast love is from everlasting to everlasting. We will keep our covenant with You and remain obedient to Your spoken word, for You are faithful to us. Now hear us this day as we pray, sing, and praise your name in our worship. Amen

First Lesson

Romans 14:1-12

Second Lesson

Matthew 18:21-35

*Gloria Patri

*Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost.
As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be.
World without end. Amen, Amen.*

Sermon

"A Parable of Forgiveness"

Rev. Dr. Eugene A. Blair

Hymn of Reflection

"Amazing Grace"

Celebration Hymnal No. 343

Pastoral Prayer

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 of Going Forth

"They’ll Know We Are Christians"

Celebration Hymnal No. 429

*Benediction

*Benediction Response

"Make Us One"

Make us one Lord, make us one
Holy Spirit, make us one
Let our love flow, so the world will know
We are one in you; we are one in you.

*Postlude

*We invite you to stand if you are able.

First Lesson

Romans 14:1-12

14 Welcome those who are weak in faith, but not for the purpose of quarreling over opinions. ²Some believe in eating anything, while the weak eat only vegetables. ³Those who eat must not despise those who abstain, and those who abstain must not pass judgment on those who eat; for God has welcomed them. ⁴Who are you to pass judgment on servants of another? It is before their own lord that they stand or fall. And they will be upheld, for the Lord is able to make them stand. ⁵Some judge one day to be better than another, while others judge all days to be alike. Let all be fully convinced in their own minds. ⁶Those who observe the day, observe it in honor of the Lord. Also those who eat, eat in honor of the Lord, since they give thanks to God; while those who abstain, abstain in honor of the Lord and give thanks to God. ⁷We do not live to ourselves, and we do not die to ourselves. ⁸If we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord; so then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's. ⁹For to this end Christ died and lived again, so that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living. ¹⁰Why do you pass judgment on your brother or sister? Or you, why do you despise your brother or sister? For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God. ¹¹For it is written, "As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall give praise to God." ¹²So then, each of us will be accountable to God.

Second Lesson

Matthew 18:21-35

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?" ²²Jesus 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. ²⁴When he began the reckoning, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him; ²⁵and, 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. ²⁶So the slave fell on his knees before him, saying, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.' ²⁷And out of pity for him, the lord of that slave released him and forgave him the debt. ²⁸But 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.' ²⁹Then his fellow slave fell down and pleaded with him, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you.' ³⁰But he refused; then he went and threw him into prison until he would pay the debt. ³¹When his fellow slaves saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their lord all that had taken place. ³²Then his lord summoned him and said to him, 'You wicked slave! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. ³³Should you not have had mercy on your fellow slave, as I had mercy on you?' ³⁴And in anger his lord handed him over to be tortured until he would pay his entire debt. ³⁵So my heavenly Father will also do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother or sister from your heart."

The Word of God for the people of God.

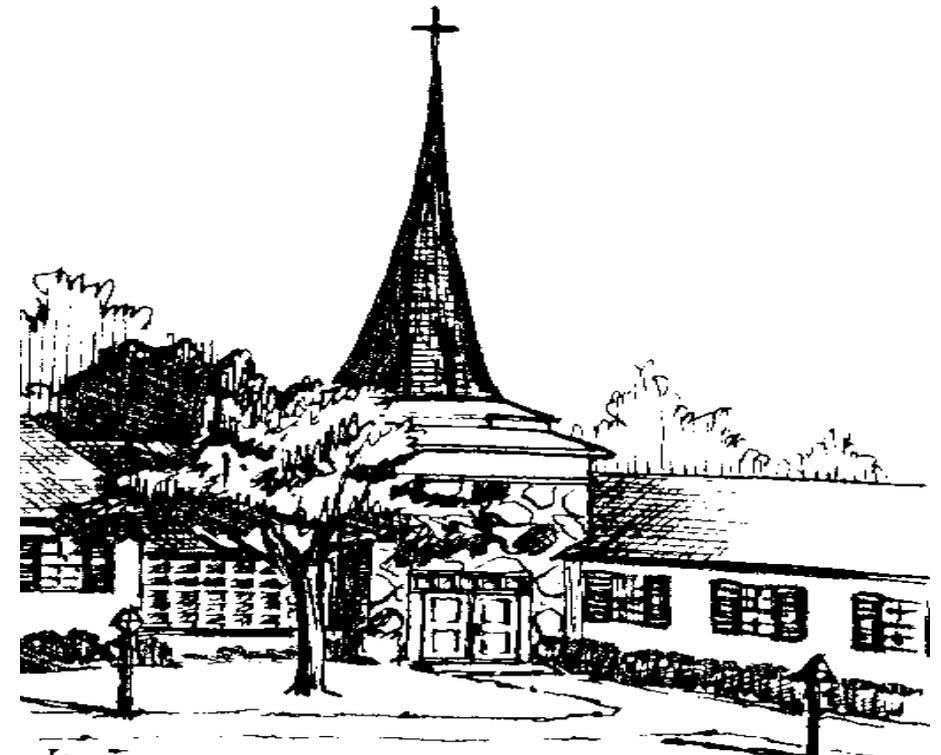
All: Thanks be to God.

WELCOME!

Church Covenant

We are banded together as a Christian Church to maintain the worship of God the Creator, Redeemer and Sustainer; to proclaim the gospel of Christ, to develop in ourselves and others a consciousness of our relationship and duties to God and each other; to create a spirit of love for truth, a passion for righteousness and enthusiasm for service; to respect and protect all of God's creation. To this end we pledge our loyalty to Christ and covenant with God and with each other to strive to express God's spirit in our individual and corporate life; to live together as Christians and to submit ourselves to the government of this church, working, giving, praying for its increase, purity and peace, seeking in every way to make it a power for the building up of the Kingdom of God.

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DEARBORN CONGREGATIONAL

16350 Rotunda Drive

Dearborn, MI 48120

313/271-8552 (Office)

Church e-mail: dccucc@gmail.com

Website : <http://www.dccdearborn.org>

Brian Sampson, Music Director

To reach Rev. Blair, please us his cell phone number; 1-734-748-6039.

Please use his gmail for email messages at Jabulaney3@gmail.com.

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