

Romans

Chapter 14:1-12

United Presbyterian Church
1701 E. Second Street
Bloomington, IN 47401

Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost
September 17, 2023

The Reverend Cheryl Montgomery

812-332-1850

www.upcbloomington.org

United Presbyterian Church
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WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS Reverend Cheryl Montgomery



Today's Sanctuary Flowers are placed by Jim Haverstock
 in loving memory of his wife Susanne.

PRELUDE

We Walk by Faith and Not By Sight

Benjamin Watkins, piano

CALL TO WORSHIP

Jim Haverstock, liturgist

Liturgist: Call to Worship (from Psalm 103)

People: Bless the Lord, O my soul, and all that is within me,

Liturgist: Bless God's holy name.

People: God forgives. God heals. God transforms with steadfast love.

Liturgist: Bless the Lord, O my soul.

***Opening Hymn**

O My Soul, Bless Your Redeemer

#223



PASSING OF THE PEACE (liturgist & congregation)

Liturgist: The peace of Christ be with you.

People: And also with you.

Liturgist: Let us share the peace with one another.

MUSIC for MEDITATION

What Wondrous Love is This

Members of the UPC Quartet

Call to Confession

Before we can hear God's truth spoken in love, we must free ourselves from all that obstructs us from honestly acknowledging our wrongdoing. Let us examine our hearts and confess our sins to God.

PRAYER of CONFESSION

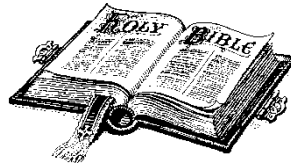
Nurturing God, like a hen gathers her brood under her wings, you desire to gather your children. But division and disagreement plague us. We cling to rigid certainties, approach each other in arrogance, and fail to listen. We walk away from conflict, rather than working through it. Forgive us, Holy God. Help us grow in faith, mature in relationship, and be transformed through your steadfast love. Amen.

ASSURANCE of PARDON (Psalm 103:8-12)

Liturgist: Hear the good news: "The Lord is merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding

in steadfast love. He will not always accuse, nor will he keep his anger forever. He does not deal with us according to our sins, nor repay us according to our iniquities. 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.”
Friends, believe the good news of the gospel:

People: **In Jesus Christ we are forgiven. Amen.**



First Reading *Genesis 50: 15– 21* (Pew Bible p. 41; large print p. 83) – Liturgist
Second Reading *Romans 14: 1-12* (Pew Bible p. 866; large print p. 1749) – Liturgist
Gospel Reading *Matthew 18: 21– 35* (Pew Bible p. 752; large print p. 1516) – Pastor
The word of the Lord
Thanks be to God

SERMON *Forgiveness and Tolerance* Reverend Cheryl Montgomery

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH— The Apostle’s Creed (traditional) led by Rev. Montgomery
I Believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic Church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

**Gloria Patri.*

#579

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE 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.



CALL TO OFFERING

Offertory *God of the Sparrow* Members of the UPC Quartet
 **Doxology* #592
Prayer of Dedication – Rev. Cheryl Montgomery

***Closing Hymn** *There's a Wideness in God's Mercy* #298

CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

Reverend Cheryl Montgomery

POSTLUDE *My Hope is Built on Nothing Less*

Dr. Benjamin Watkins, piano

*Please stand if you are able

UPC Prayer List - Email requests to: upcbloomington@gmail.com.

Shea Henry Olivia McKenzie Kathleen Olds Rev. David Rosen Patti Spir Anita Steverson

His Eyes Mission in Honduras led by the Colby's

Nyaka AIDS Orphans Project in Uganda led by Jackson Kaguri

Our military men and women around the world

Student's returning to elementary, middle and high school, university and grad school

The people of Ukraine The people of Maui

Our military men and women stationed around the world

Trinity Parish, which consists of the Presbyterian churches of Clinton, Montezuma and



United Presbyterian Church Staff

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