

Calvon Jones:

Good morning.

Parishioners:

Good morning.

Calvon Jones:

And welcome to morning prayers. All who are able, please rise for our responsive reading, psalm 93 in your black psalter. The Lord is king. He is robed and grandeur. The Lord is robed. He's is girded with strength. The world stands firm. It cannot be shaken. Your throne stands firm from of old. From eternity you have existed. The ocean sounds the Lord. The ocean sounds its thunder. The ocean sounds its pounding. Above the thunder of the mighty waters, more majestic than the breakers of the sea is the Lord, majestic on high. Your decrees are indeed enduring. Holiness befits your house, oh Lord for all times.

You may be seated.

[Singing 00:03:49]

Kevin Bryant:

Good morning, sinners.

Parishioners:

Good morning.

Kevin Bryant:

What a blessing it is to see all of your smiling faces. I love you all so much.

Let's speak about forgiveness. Forgiveness turns out to be much more about you than about the one who hurt you. I have to forgive others if I want wish to feel forgiven and free. Who started it? The more urgent and more useful question is, who can end it? The first question is about the past. We cannot change the past. The second question is about the present and the future. Forgiveness is not saying, "Oh, that's okay. It didn't matter." Forgiveness says, "It wasn't okay. It did matter, and what you did hurt me deeply, but I choose to forgive you anyway."

Forgiveness does not live in denial. It faces the reality of the deed done. We often hear people say, "Forgive and forget." When you truly forgive you remember everything and still choose to forgive. The memory of the event or situation is still there, but the bitterness is what is forgotten and left behind. True forgiveness remembers and feels the force of the pain and still extends the forgiveness to the defendant. Without this kind of forgiveness, we are locked in a prison of bitterness and anger. It is such a relief to forgive someone, because when you do you realize that you were the one being held prisoner by your own unforgiveness, not them.

An essential part of obeying God is being nice to people. Being negative, critical faultfinding, rude and gossiping is not the will of God. Let me put it to you like this because I don't think you heard me. Just because you are a Christian, just because you can recite the Bible, just because you go to church on Sundays, just because you go to morning prayer does not give you a license to be nasty and rude. Just because you believe in God and the Bible does not give you license to be mean-spirited to people. You

can still disagree with other people, but you do it in an agreeable way. It is important to maintain the bond of love.

Forgiveness, this means that we do not repay evil with evil. We do not try to get even. Forgiveness, it's not always about you and it's not always about being right. Forgiveness, it means blessing instead of cursing. It means giving without a thought of being repaid. It means being generous and open-hearted to others. True forgiveness is what it means to live like Jesus. Amen?

Parishioners:

Amen. Amen.

Calvon Jones:

All who are able, please stand for prayer.

Let us pray. Loving God, help us to live like you. Give us your love. Help us to forgive as we journey in this life. We can do it with your help. Amen.

Parishioners:

Amen.

Calvon Jones:

Let us pray the prayer that Jesus taught his disciples, saying, Our Father who art heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom of come. Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our bread and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not in temptation, but deliver us from evil, for thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

Now let us sing together hymn number 247. Breathe On Me Breath of God.

[Singing 00:11:53]

As we leave this place. May God breathe upon us and help us to forgive. And may the road rise to meet you. May the wind always be upon your back, and may God's sunlight for grace your cheek, and may the rain so gently fall upon your field. Until we meet again, go in peace.

Parishioners:

Amen.