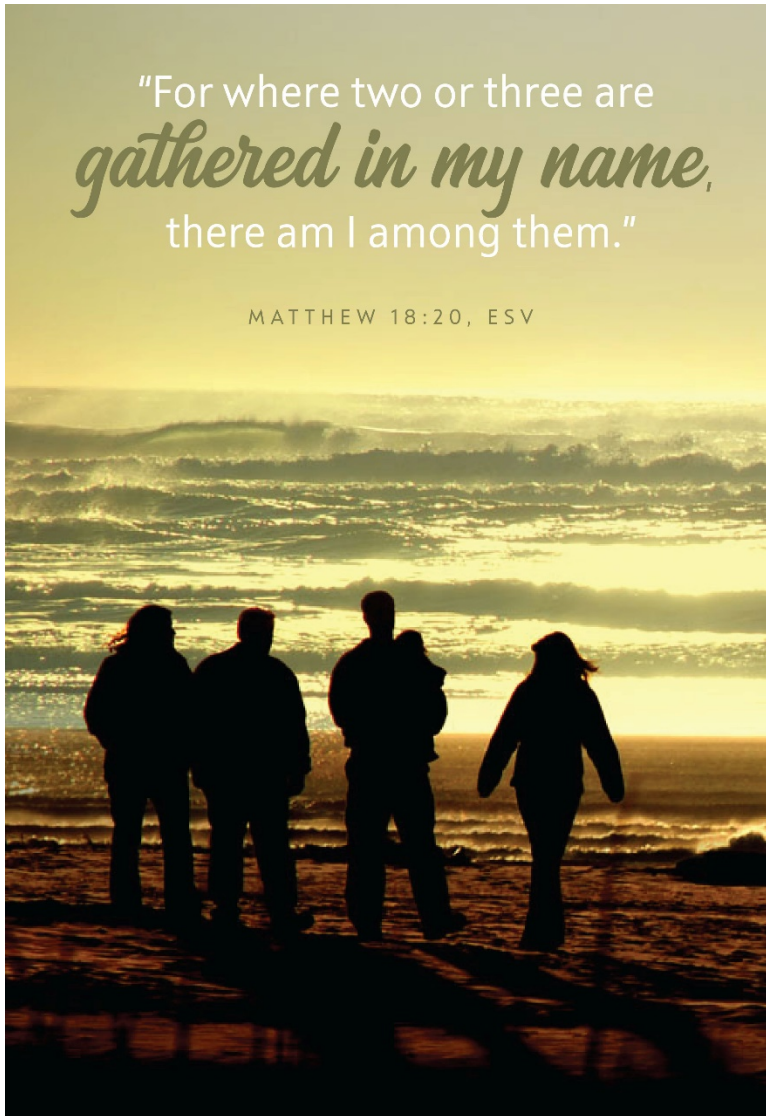


**September 6, 2020**  
**Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost**

"For where two or three are  
*gathered in my name,*  
there am I among them."

MATTHEW 18:20, ESV



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## **Introduction**

Conflict is a part of relationships and life in community. Jesus' words in today's gospel are often used in situations having to do with church discipline. The prophet Ezekiel tells of warning the wicked to turn from their ways, and Paul reminds us that love is the fulfilling of the law. We gather in the name of Christ, assured that he is present among us with gifts of peace and reconciliation.

## **WELCOME**

### **Confession and Forgiveness**

Gracious God,

**have mercy on us. We confess that we have turned from you and given ourselves into the power of sin. We are truly sorry and humbly repent. In your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things we have done and things we have failed to do. Turn us again to you, and uphold us by your Spirit, so that we may live and serve you in newness of life through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.  
Amen.**

God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together with Christ. By grace you have been saved. In the name of † Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. Almighty God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit, that Christ may live in your hearts through faith. **Amen.**

**GATHERING HYMN    Close**

**In the arms of the Father  
There is love like no other  
He who formed all things  
Offers love to me**

**Where You go we will follow  
Through the dark through the  
    narrow  
And in all we do  
We are bound to You**

**I want to be close to You  
I want to be close to You  
There's nothing in this world  
That compares to all You are**

**We are found in Your presence  
Seeking You in Your fullness  
Give us eyes to see  
You are all we need**

**I want to be close to You  
I want to be close to You  
There's nothing in this world  
That compares to all You are**

**I want to be close to You  
I want to be close to You  
There's nothing in this world  
That compares to all You are**

**My sole devotion my only focus  
    to worship You  
My life surrendered my heart  
    abandoned  
For more of You *(Repeat)***

**I want to be close to You  
I want to be close to You  
There's nothing in this world  
That compares to all You are**

**I want to be close to You  
I want to be close to You  
There's nothing in this world  
That compares to all You are**

**My sole devotion my only focus  
    to worship You  
My life surrendered my heart  
    abandoned  
For more of You *(Repeat)***

**GREETING**

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **And also with you.**

## **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Let us pray. O Lord God, enliven and preserve your church with your perpetual mercy. Without your help, we mortals will fail; remove far from us everything that is harmful, and lead us toward all that gives life and salvation, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

## **FIRST READING: EZEKIEL 33:7-11**

<sup>7</sup>So you, mortal, I have made a sentinel for the house of Israel; whenever you hear a word from my mouth, you shall give them warning from me. <sup>8</sup>If I say to the wicked, “O wicked ones, you shall surely die,” and you do not speak to warn the wicked to turn from their ways, the wicked shall die in their iniquity, but their blood I will require at your hand. <sup>9</sup>But if you warn the wicked to turn from their ways, and they do not turn from their ways, the wicked shall die in their iniquity, but you will have saved your life.

<sup>10</sup>Now you, mortal, say to the house of Israel, Thus you have said: “Our transgressions and our sins weigh upon us, and we waste away because of them; how then can we live?” <sup>11</sup>Say to them, As I live, says the Lord God, I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but that the wicked turn from their ways and live; turn back, turn back from your evil ways; for why will you die, O house of Israel?

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

## **PSALM 119:33-40**

<sup>33</sup>Teach me, O LORD, the way of your statutes,  
and I shall keep it to the end.

<sup>34</sup>Give me understanding, and I shall keep your teaching;  
I shall keep it with all my heart.

<sup>35</sup>Lead me in the path of your commandments,  
for that is my desire.

<sup>36</sup>Incline my heart to your decrees  
and not to unjust gain.

<sup>37</sup>Turn my eyes from beholding falsehood;  
give me life in your way.

<sup>38</sup>Fulfill your promise to your servant,  
which is for those who fear you.

<sup>39</sup>Turn away the reproach that I dread,  
because your judgments are good.

<sup>40</sup>Behold, I long for your commandments;  
by your righteousness enliven me.

## **SECOND READING: ROMANS 13:8-14**

<sup>8</sup>Owe no one anything, except to love one another; for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law. <sup>9</sup>The commandments, “You shall not commit adultery; You shall not murder; You shall not steal; You shall not covet”; and any other commandment, are summed up in this word, “Love your neighbor as yourself.” <sup>10</sup>Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore, love is the fulfilling of the law.

<sup>11</sup>Besides this, you know what time it is, how it is now the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; <sup>12</sup>the night is far gone, the day is near. Let us then lay aside the works of darkness and put on the armor of light; <sup>13</sup>let us live honorably as in the day, not in reveling and drunkenness, not in debauchery and licentiousness, not in quarreling and jealousy. <sup>14</sup>Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

## **GOSPEL: MATTHEW 18:15-20**

The holy gospel according Matthew. **Glory to You, O Lord!**

Jesus said to the disciples: <sup>15</sup>“If another member of the church sins against you, go and point out the fault when the two of you are alone. If the member listens to you, you have regained that one. <sup>16</sup>But if you are not listened to, take one or two others along with you, so that every word may be confirmed by the evidence of two or three witnesses. <sup>17</sup>If the member refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church; and if the offender refuses to listen even to the church, let such a one be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector. <sup>18</sup>Truly I tell you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven. <sup>19</sup>Again, truly I tell you, if two of you agree on earth about anything you ask, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven. <sup>20</sup>For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them.”

The gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

## **HOMILY**

## **HYMN OF THE DAY      Leaning on the Everlasting Arms**

**What a fellowship, what a joy divine,  
Leaning on the everlasting arms;  
What a blessedness, what a peace is mine,  
Leaning on the everlasting arms.**

**Leaning, leaning,  
Safe and secure from all alarms;  
Leaning, leaning,  
Leaning on the everlasting arms.**

**What have I to dread, what have I to fear,  
Leaning on the everlasting arms;  
I have blessed peace with my Lord so near,  
Leaning on the everlasting arms.**

**Leaning, leaning,  
Safe and secure from all alarms;  
Leaning, leaning,  
Leaning on the everlasting arms.**

**Leaning, leaning,  
Safe and secure from all alarms;  
Leaning, leaning,  
Leaning on the everlasting arms.**

### **PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

*Each prayer petition ends*

**O God, in your mercy,  
hear us and help us.**

### **SHARING OF THE PEACE**

The peace of Christ be with you always. **And also with you.**

### **OFFERING**

*The gifts we use and share matter! Thank you for sharing your gifts for the sake of the world. Use the green Give button on our church's website to support our mission of nurturing lives for following Christ.*

## **THANKSGIVING FOR THE BODY OF CHRIST**

Let us pray.

Praise and thanks to you, holy God, for by your Word you made all things: you spoke light into darkness, called forth beauty from chaos, and brought life into being.

By your Word you called your people Israel to tell of your wonderful gifts: freedom from captivity, water on the desert journey, a pathway home from exile, wisdom for life with you.

Through Jesus, your Word made flesh, you speak to us and call us to witness: forgiveness through the cross, life to those entombed by death, the way of your self-giving love.

For your Word of life, O God, we give you thanks and praise.

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took a towel and wrapped it around his waist, and washed the disciples' feet, saying: if I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet.

And after supper, when he had gone out, Jesus said to the disciples: I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another.

For where two or three are gathered in the name of Jesus, the body of Christ is present, with us always, to the end of the age.

Send your Spirit of truth, O God; rekindle your gifts within us: renew our faith, increase our hope, and deepen our love, for the sake of a world in need. Faithful to your Word, O God, draw near to all who call on you; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory forever. **Amen.**

## **LORD'S PRAYER**

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit let us pray as Jesus taught us:

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven.**

**Give us today our daily bread.**

**Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.**

**Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.**

**For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever.  
Amen.**

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **BLESSING**

Neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus. God, the creator, † Jesus, the Christ, and the Holy Spirit, the comforter, bless you and keep you in eternal love. **Amen.**

### **SENDING HYMN      Jesus The Same**

**Jesus the same, yesterday, today and forevermore  
No other name, that can save, deliver and restore (Oh-ohoh!)  
Jesus the same, yesterday, today and forevermore  
There is no other name that's greater than Jesus**

**Faithful, powerful, wonderful  
Jesus is, beautiful, merciful, supernatural  
Jesus is, He's highly, mighty, worthy  
Jesus is, Gracious, patient, generous  
And there is no other name that is greater than Jesus**

**Jesus the same, yesterday, today and forevermore  
No other name, that can save, deliver and restore (Oh-OhOh)  
Jesus the same, yesterday, today and forevermore  
There is no other name that's greater than Jesus**

**Excellent, magnificent, omnipotent  
Jesus is, living, giving, loving  
And there is no other name that is greater than  
No other name that is greater than Jesus**

**Jesus the same, yesterday, today and forevermore  
No other name, that can save, deliver and restore (Oh-OhOh)  
Jesus the same, yesterday, today and forevermore  
There is no other name that's greater than  
Jesus.....**

*Instrumental Break*

**Nothing can separate us  
No weapon formed against us  
Can stand up to the name of Jesus, Jesus  
No other name**

**No other name that is greater than Jesus ----- the same  
yesterday, today and forevermore.  
No other name, that can save, deliver and restore (Oh-ohoh)  
Jesus the same, yesterday, today and forevermore  
There is no other name that's greater than Jesus**

## **DISMISSAL**

Go in peace, nurturing lives for following Christ.  
**Thanks be to God.**

## **POSTLUDE**

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*"Close" words by Aodhan King | Dean Ussher*

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