**Sunday Evening Prayer Service**

**REPENTANCE:**

“The Bible places a significant emphasis on repentance as a central theme in the relationship between humanity and God. Repentance is portrayed as a crucial step towards reconciliation and restoration. In [Acts 3:19](https://www.biblestudytools.com/acts/3-19.html), the apostle Peter exhorts, "Repent, then, and turn to God, so that your sins may be wiped out, that times of refreshing may come from the Lord." This verse encapsulates the biblical message of repentance, linking it to forgiveness and the experience of spiritual renewal”.

What is Repentance?

To repent is to:

* + go beyond a feeling, guilt, regret or being sorry.
  + to make a decision or choice that leads to action or behavior change.
  + choose a higher or godly thought that causes one to obey God.
  + adjust and turn back around - physically, emotionally, spiritually.
  + rearrange your entire way of thinking, feeling and being.
  + forsake that which is wrong.
  + return to what is right and pure and innocent - the original plan of God.
  + recognize one’s own wrongdoing - humbly denying oneself.

When:

* + Always a good time to repent, never too late.
  + Forgiveness is always on the table - up to us to receive it.
  + God is always ready to take you back, like the father of the prodigal son.
  + Ready to sin no more.

How:

* + Courage, conviction and faith.
  + Believe that you belong to God - that’s where you need to return to.
  + Trust God wants you back.
  + Jesus opened the doors for us to return to the Father - a beautiful truth.
* Joel 2:12 - “Even now,” declares the Lord, “return to me with all your heart, with fasting and weeping and mourning.”
* Psalm 51:17 - My sacrifice, O God, is[b] a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart you, God, will not despise.
* [Matthew 4:17](https://www.biblestudytools.com/matthew/4-17.html) - From that time (Jesus baptism by John and testing by Satan) Jesus began to preach, saying, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.”
* [Acts 2:38](https://www.biblestudytools.com/acts/2-38.html) - And Peter said to them, “Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.
* [2 Chronicles 7:14](https://www.biblestudytools.com/2-chronicles/7-14.html) - If my people who are called by my name will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and heal their land.
* [Matthew 3:8](https://www.biblestudytools.com/matthew/3-8.html) - Bear fruit in keeping with repentance.
* [1 John 1:9](https://www.biblestudytools.com/1-john/1-9.html) - If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.
* [Proverbs 28:13](https://www.biblestudytools.com/proverbs/28-13.html) - Whoever conceals his transgressions will not prosper, but he who confesses and forsakes them will obtain mercy.
* [Matthew 3:2](https://www.biblestudytools.com/matthew/3-2.html) - “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.”
* Rom. 2:4 - Or do you show contempt for the riches of his kindness, forbearance and patience, not realizing that God’s kindness is intended to lead you to repentance?
* Prayer for Repentance: *“Dear Lord, thank you for your forgiveness. Thank you for not abandoning us to our mistakes, but for reaching out instead to bring us home. Help convict me of sin and help me accept your mercy without shame. Thank you for the love you have poured out for me and all of your children. Help me live out of that love today. In Jesus' Name, Amen*”.

**FORGIVENESS:**

The definition of forgiveness is essentially the act of pardoning an offender. In the Bible, the Greek word translated “forgiveness” literally means “to let go”, as when a person does not demand payment for a debt. Forgiveness looks a lot like reconciliation. It means you become willing to see the trueness of both another's depravity, but also their goodness. It means spending time in God's word, in prayer, in community, growing in your faith, and understanding just how deeply you yourself have been forgiven.

2 Cor. 2:10-11 - Anyone you forgive, I also forgive. And what I have forgiven—if there was anything to forgive—I have forgiven in the sight of Christ for your sake, in order that Satan might not outwit us. For we are not unaware of his schemes.

Eph. 4:30-32 - And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, with whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. Get rid of all bitterness, rage and anger, brawling and slander, along with every form of malice. Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.

2 Cor. 5:21 - God made him who had no sin to be sin[b] for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

Luke 23:34 - Jesus said, “Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing.”

Matt. 6:12-15 - And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from the evil one’. For if you forgive other people when they sin against you, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. But if you do not forgive others for their sins, your Father will not forgive your sins.

Heb. 10:30-31 - For we know him who said, “It is mine to avenge; I will repay and again, “The Lord will judge his people.” It is a dreadful thing to fall into the hands of the living God.

Heb. 12:15 - See to it that no one falls short of the grace of God and that no bitter root grows up to cause trouble and defile many.

*Lord, I choose to forgive \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_(name the person), for \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (name what they did or didn’t do that was hurtful), even though I felt \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_(name emotional pain word(s)).*

*Lord, I choose not to hold on to my resentment. I relinquish my right to revenge and ask you to heal my damaged emotions. I thank you for setting me free from the bondage of my bitterness. I now ask you to bless those who have hurt me. In Jesus name, I pray. Amen.*

**REBELLION:**

In the Bible, rebellion is defined as disobedience to God, or opposition to God's authority, Word, or God-ordained authorities. It can be violent or unexpressed, but it always begins in the heart. A biblical example describes sin as rebellion against God and says that rebellion against God's authority was humanity's first sin.

1 Thess. 5:12-13 - Dear brothers and sisters, honor those who are your leaders in the Lord’s work. They work hard among you and give you spiritual guidance.  Show them great respect and wholehearted love because of their work. And live peacefully with each other.

Heb. 13:17 - Obey your spiritual leaders and do what they say. Their work is to watch over your souls, and they are accountable to God. Give them reason to do this with joy and not with sorrow. That would certainly not be for your benefit.

1 Peter 2:17 - Respect everyone and love the family of believers. Fear God and respect the king.

1 Tim. 2:1-4 - I urge you, first of all, to pray for all people. Ask God to help them; intercede on their behalf and give thanks for them.  Pray this way for kings and all who are in authority so that we can live peaceful and quiet lives marked by godliness and dignity. This is good and pleases God our Savior, who wants everyone to be saved and to understand the truth.

Eph. 5:21 - And further, submit to one another out of reverence for Christ.

*Lord, I confess I have been rebellious by (check all that apply);*

* + *Believing it is my right to criticize those in authority over me.*
  + *Making critical statements about authority figures.*
  + *Quickly finding fault with a person, group or organization.*
  + *Reading a negative bias into things that those in authority say or do.*
  + *Passing along negative information to others who are not part of the problem or solution.*
  + *Withdrawing from communicating with others.*
  + *Speaking disrespectfully to another person or about another person.*

*Lord, I renounce my sinful attitude of rebellion and thank you for your forgiveness. I choose to treat others with kindness and respect and be submissive and obedient to Your Word. In Jesus’ name. Amen.*