





# ***Meilin English Worship***

***September 11, 2016***

***The Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost***

## **THEME FOR THE WEEK**

### **Lift High the Cross: In Your Friendships!**

The life and mission of the Church is found in Christ and His cross. It is the cross that has transformed our lives with forgiveness. And it is the cross that can transform the lives of those around us. As God's people we do not lift up ourselves nor our own wisdom or morality. We lift high the cross and proclaim the love of God in Christ -- the love that sacrifices and suffers to save poor sinners like you and me. We do this through our words and our actions, as individuals and as the whole church together, by living lives that are focused and centered on the cross each day. This week we will focus on Lifting High the Cross: In Your Friendships!

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## **INVOCATION & SHARING OF PEACE**

P: In the name of the Father and the Son + and of the Holy Spirit.

C: **Amen**

P: The Peace of the Lord be with you all.

C: **And also with you.**

P: Please greet those around you, shaking their hands and saying,

C: **"Peace be with you!"**

## **HYMN 19 – Praise to the Lord, the Almighty**

### **RESPONSIVE PSALM** (Psalm 119:169-170,176)

P: May my cry come before you, O LORD;

C: **give me understanding according to your word.**

P: May my supplication come before you;

C: **deliver me according to your promise.**

P: I have strayed like a lost sheep.

C: **Seek your servant, for I have not forgotten your commands.**

## **KYRIE**

P: Lord, have mercy upon us!

C: **Christ, have mercy upon us!**

P: Lord, have mercy upon us!

C: **Amen!**

## CONFESSION

P: As the Psalmist says, we all have gone astray like lost sheep. Although we know God's Word, His Law and Commands, we have not followed them. We have not lived the perfect and holy lives that God's Law demands. And so we come to Him today and ask for His mercy. We ask Him to deliver us from our sin and to seek us and find us, so that we will no longer be lost. So let us now confess our sins to God in a moment of quite prayer.

*(silence for personal confession)*

P: Let us now confess our sins together:

**C: Almighty God, you know us. You know our temptations, our struggles, our failures, our sins. We have sinned against you with our thoughts, our words and our actions. We have not loved you with all of our heart. And we have not loved our neighbors as we love ourselves. O God, by our sin we have gone astray and become like lost sheep, wandering away from our Good Shepherd. Help us. Restore us. Show us your mercy and forgive us for the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ. Amen.**

P: God is merciful. And in His mercy, He has sent Jesus, His Son, to die for you. On the cross, Jesus endured all the punishment for your sins and for mine. And for His sake, God has forgiven us. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, I therefore announce the grace of God to you all. And upon this, your confession, I declare that all of your sins are forgiven in the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C: Amen.**

## APOSTLES' CREED

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 Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried.

He descended into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From there He will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

**CHOIR – Rejoice, Ye Pure in Heart**

**BIBLE READINGS**

***Romans 13:8-10***

***Luke 10:25-37***

<sup>25</sup>On one occasion an expert in the law stood up to test Jesus. "Teacher," he asked, "what must I do to inherit eternal life?"

<sup>26</sup>"What is written in the Law?" he replied. "How do you read it?"

<sup>27</sup>He answered: " 'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind'; and, 'Love your neighbor as yourself.'"

<sup>28</sup>"You have answered correctly," Jesus replied. "Do this and you will live."

<sup>29</sup>But he wanted to justify himself, so he asked Jesus, "And who is my neighbor?"

<sup>30</sup>In reply Jesus said: "A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, when he fell into the hands of robbers. They stripped him of his clothes, beat him and went away, leaving him half dead. <sup>31</sup>A priest happened to be going down the same road, and when he saw the man, he passed by on the other side. <sup>32</sup>So too, a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. <sup>33</sup>But a Samaritan, as he travelled, came where the man was; and when he saw him, he took pity on him. <sup>34</sup>He went to him and bandaged his wounds, pouring on oil and wine. Then he put the man on his own donkey, took him to an inn and took care of him. <sup>35</sup>The next day he took out two silver coins and gave them to the innkeeper. 'Look after him,' he said, 'and when I return, I will reimburse you for any extra expense you may have.' <sup>36</sup>"Which of these three do you think was a neighbor to the man who fell into the hands of robbers?"

<sup>37</sup>The expert in the law replied, "The one who had mercy on him." Jesus told him, "Go and do likewise."

**SERMON**

**13, Luke 10)**

**Lift High the Cross: In Your Friendships (Romans**

Pastor Scott Rische

**HYMN – "Lift High The Cross"**

**RESPONSIVE PSALM** (Psalm 119:171,173,175)

P: May my lips overflow with praise,

**C: for you teach me your decrees.**

P: May your hand be ready to help me,

**C: for I have chosen your precepts.**

P: Let me live, that I may praise you,

**C: and may your laws sustain me.**

**GLORIA PATRI**

P: Glory be to the Father and to the Son and the Holy Spirit;

**C: as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

**PRAYERS of the CHURCH**

P: Let us pray that God would help us to be good and faithful friends.  
(Each person may pray aloud or quietly at this time.)

P: Gracious and Merciful God, you have put many people into our lives to be our friends. For this gift of friendship and support in our life, we are grateful. Our friends have been such a blessing to us and we ask that you would help us to also be a blessing to them. Teach us how to not only receive the love and kindness of our friends, but to also be kind and loving toward them. Show us how to sacrifice and care for our friends, especially in their time of greatest need. Help us to be loyal encouragers when they are struggling, and to celebrate with them in their times of great joy. And help us to also provide wisdom and counsel when their path is uncertain. O God, through these acts of friendship, we pray that you would encourage us and encourage our friends, that together we would see what true love and true friendship really is.

P: Lord, in your Mercy.

**C: Hear our prayers.**

P: Let us pray that God would open the hearts of our unbelieving friends to hear His Word and be saved.

(Each person may pray aloud or quietly at this time.)

P: O God, we pray today for all of our unbelieving friends. We ask that You would prepare their hearts to hear Your Word. By the power of your Holy Spirit, convict them of their sin and show them their

great need for forgiveness and redemption. And send, also, a messenger of the Gospel to them that they would hear the message of the Cross. Help us, O God, to be open to be that messenger ourselves and to speak your Word of forgiveness and Your promise of eternal life to our friends. But send others also to share your Word with them. Let it be clear to our unbelieving friends that you are seeking them in order to save them. And help them, O Lord, to believe. Until that Day, we ask that You would help us to faithfully and relentlessly pray for our friends and seek opportunities to share Your love with them through our words and deeds.

P: Lord, in your Mercy.

C: **Hear our prayers.**

P: Let us pray for all those people and needs that are in our thoughts at this time.

(Each person may pray aloud or quietly at this time.)

P: We pray today especially for ...

P: Lord, in your Mercy.

C: **Hear our prayers.**

### **The LORD's PRAYER**

P: Into your hands we entrust all for whom we pray, and we pray together the prayer that Jesus taught us, saying,

C: **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.**

**Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.**

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

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

*Following the worship service, please greet those around you.*

*The pastor will be available to talk or pray with you in the lobby area.*

### **BENEDICTION**

P: The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look upon you with favor and give you His + peace.

C: **Amen.**



## **HYMN 302 – What a Friend we Have in Jesus**

### **DISMISSAL**

**A:** Go in Peace. Serve the Lord!

**C:** Thanks be to God!

### **ONGOING PRAYERS:**

- BLESSINGS for all new small group Bible Studies beginning soon!
- PEACE and COMFORT for all those who are new to Shenzhen; That God would bless them with FRIENDSHIP, JOY in their work and a good experience here in this city.
- GUIDANCE for all those who are seeking success in business, work and life.
- SAFETY and SUCCESS for a brother during his upcoming business trip.
- WISDOM, BLESSING and GUIDANCE for a brother who desires his business to be a blessing and ministry to others.
- PEACE, SAFETY and STRONGER FAITH for a sister who is traveling to her hometown.
- SAFE TRAVEL for a member who is traveling to the northwest of China. Use her to share Your Word and show Your love to people she meets on her journey.
- FAITH and PEACE for a couple who are seeking God's WILL and PROVISION in their life. For the husband to trust in God's provision for a new job and not worry. For the wife to be strong and healthy during her pregnancy and available to serve God.
- FAITH and PROVISION for a sister who needs a place to live and a roommate. Help her to continue trusting in God's mercy and love.
- WISDOM for a brother who wants to help a friend find purpose in life and come to know God's love. Give him courage to share Your Word and understanding to know when and how to encourage his friend.
- PROVISION for a sister who desires a good result from her health check and a healthy pregnancy.
- PEACE and GUIDANCE for a sister's friend who is traveling to another city to study.

- PRAISE for God's provision of a visa to a sister who will now be able to join her husband who is working overseas.

### **NEW PRAYERS:**

- HEALTH for a member's father.
- PEACE and GUIDANCE for a sister who desires a CLOSER RELATIONSHIP with GOD.
- WISDOM and DIRECTION for a sister's career.
- HEALTH for a sister and her mother.
- HEALTH and GUIDANCE for a member who is planning to attend college overseas.
- PEACE for a member's parents.
- WISDOM, GUIDANCE & PEACE for a brother who is seeking a relationship. Help him to know God's will and how to pursue the relationship.
- THANKSGIVING for a member who has accepted a job overseas. SAFE TRAVEL for the member and family. PROVISION of a new church to attend.
- RENEWAL of FAITH, FORGIVENESS and COMMITMENT for a sister and her husband. Help them be one in Christ, turning away from sin and following Jesus together.
- SAFE TRAVEL for a brother who is returning to his home country to renew his visa. QUICK PROVISION of the new visa and a SAFE TRIP back to China.
- For a sister's friend to hear the GOSPEL and BELIEVE in JESUS. God have mercy on him and save him!
- COURAGE and WISDOM for all those who desire to share their faith with friends, family, neighbors and coworkers.
- GROWTH in FAITH for the members of Christian fellowship groups.
- PROVISION of a place to worship for nearby church.
- HEALTH for a sister's mother and aunt.
- HEALTH for a sister and PROVISION as she seeks your plan for her future.
- PATIENCE and PROVISION for all those who are seeking to be married and have children. God be with them and show them your love. As You provide, help them to honor Christ in their families.
- HEALING for a brother's father who has a leg injury.
- For God to GROW the CHURCH in number and in FAITH.

### **CONTACT:**

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### **GIVE:**

To give an **offering**, please find an offering envelope at the back of the sanctuary, put your offering in the envelope, and mark "English Worship" on the envelope before dropping it into the offering box.

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

- **Connect!**  
Please take time before or after worship to greet those around you. Please introduce yourself to the pastor or other volunteers so that we can help you connect. We are looking for **SMALL GROUP LEADERS** who would be willing to start new groups around the city. Are you interested in helping people connect in this way?
- **Grow!**  
JOIN The JOURNEY and grow in God's Word –  
\* Pick up a Bible Reading plan and follow along as we read God's Word together!  
\* *Join us before worship each week at 6:30pm in the front of the chapel to discuss last week's readings.*
- **Go!** Invite  
a friend, family member, neighbor, classmate or coworker to English Worship next Sunday.

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## **SERMON OUTLINE:**

### **How Can We Lift High the Cross in Our Friendships?**

1. \_\_\_\_\_ our lives \_\_\_\_\_ Christ.  
John 15:4 | Matthew 5:16 | Philippians 2:14-16
2. \_\_\_\_\_ our friends \_\_\_\_\_ Christ.  
Romans 13:8 | Romans 12:9-16 | John 15:12-13  
John 10:25ff | Matthew 11:19
3. \_\_\_\_\_ our friends \_\_\_\_\_ Christ.  
John 1:40-42 | 1 Peter 3:15 | Acts 16:31

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### **Next Sunday (Sept 18)**

Amos 8:4-7 | 1 Timothy 2:1-7 | Luke 16:1-15