ROSLYN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
140 EAST BROADWAY
ROSLYN, NEW YORK

SERVICE OF WORSHIP
SIXTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

SEPTEMBER 13, 2026 10:00 AM

***Listen to Jesus' remark that we should forgive not seven times, but "seventy-seven times" is an allusion to Lamech, Cain's great-great-great grandson, and an heir to Cain's violent, self-centered ways. Lamech boasts that he takes draconian revenge on anyone who hurts him: "If Cain is avenged sevenfold, truly Lamach seventy-sevenfold"* (Gen 4:24).**

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GATHERING IN COMMUNITY BEFORE GOD

PRELUDE/WELCOME/ANNOUNCEMENTS

WE PRAISE OUR GOD

* CALL TO WORSHIP (Responsive)

One: We come to our Lord today as we are called to remember never to forget, as we think of this weekend of the 25th anniversary of 9-11

Many: We thank God for healing and for the paradigm of love.

One: For as the heavens are high above the earth, so great is God's steadfast love in the midst of evil;

Many: As far as the east is from the west, God extends His mercy and righteousness

One: So let us rejoice in God's gracious mercy of forgiveness by God's Holy presence.

All: Let us praise the God of mercy and The God of justice who calls us to walk with Him with lives of reconciliation.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

God of power and mercy, the heavens and the earth are full of your glory. Your love transforms our lives. You enter our pain and confusion and give insight. You bear our grief and bring healing. You see our fatigue and renew strength. You sense our fear and spark courage. You know death and raise up new life. So we come before you in worship, handing over to you all that weighs us down. Renew us in this time of worship. Amen.

("*" invites all who are able to stand. **Bold** indicates reading or *singing* in unison.)

* HYMN: 655 (Red Hymnal) *Sanctuary*

CALL TO CONFESSION/PRAYER OF CONFESSION

All: O God, our lives do not always reflect your transforming power. You are gracious, but we cling to judgment. You are kind, but we can be cruel. You are forgiving, but we nurse grudges and old wounds. Forgive us, O God. Fill us with your Holy Spirit, and make us new through Christ, your Son and our Savior.
(Please take a moment for silent reflection.)

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

* PASSING OF THE PEACE

* GLORIA PATRI 579 (Blue Hymnal) *Glory Be to the Father*
Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost. As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end Amen, Amen.

WE LISTEN FOR GOD'S WORD

PRAYER FOR UNDERSTANDING

All: God of wisdom, prepare our hearts and minds to receive your Word. Where it challenges us, lead us by your Spirit to respond in faithfulness for the sake of Christ who gives us both courage and compassion. Amen.

FIRST SCRIPTURE READING: Romans 14:1-12 (NRSV)
Welcome those who are weak in faith but not for the purpose of
quarreling over opinions. [2] Some believe in eating anything, while the
weak eat only vegetables. [3] Those who eat must not despise those who
abstain, and those who abstain must not pass judgment on those who
eat, for God has welcomed them. [4] Who are you to pass judgment on
slaves of another? It is before their own lord that they stand or fall.
And they will be upheld, for the Lord is able to make them stand.

[5] Some judge one day to be better than another, while others judge all days to be alike. Let all be fully convinced in their own minds. [6] Those who observe the day, observe it for the Lord. Also those who eat, eat for the Lord, since they give thanks to God, while those who abstain, abstain for the Lord and give thanks to God. [7] For we do not live to ourselves, and we do not die to ourselves. [8] If we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord; so then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's. [9] For to this end Christ died and lived again, so that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living. [10] Why do you pass judgment on your brother or sister? Or you, why do you despise your brother or sister? For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God. [11] For it is written, "As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall give praise to God." [12] So then, each one of us will be held accountable.

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord

People: Thanks be to God

* HYMN: 408 (Red Hymnal) *How Firm a Foundation*

THE GOSPEL READING: Matthew 18:21-35 (NRSV)

[21] Then Peter came and said to him, "Lord, if my brother or sister sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?" [22] Jesus said to him, "Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times. [23] "For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves. [24] When he began the reckoning, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him, [25] and, as he could not pay, the lord ordered him to be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions and payment to be made. [26] So the slave fell on his knees before him, saying, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.' [27] And out of pity for him, the lord of that slave released him and forgave him the debt. [28] But that same slave, as he went out, came upon one of his fellow slaves who owed him a hundred denarii, and seizing him by the throat he said, 'Pay what you owe.' [29] Then his fellow slave fell down and pleaded with him, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you.' [30] But he refused; then he went and threw him into prison until he would pay the debt. [31] When his fellow slaves saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their lord all that had taken place. [32] Then his lord summoned him and said to him, 'You wicked slave! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. [33] Should you not have had mercy on your fellow slave, as I had mercy on you?' [34] And in anger his lord handed him over to be tortured until he would pay his entire debt. [35] So my heavenly Father will also do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother or sister from your heart."

Pastor: The Gospel of the Lord

People: Glory to You, O God

MESSAGE. *Forgiveness is at the HEART of our Faith*

The Rev. Dr. James Barnum

WE RESPOND IN WORD AND DEED

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

On this weekend of the 25th Anniversary of 9-11, let's share what we have learned after a quarter of a century from The Lord and today's sacred readings.

SHARING OF JOYS AND CONCERNS FOR PRAYER

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND OUR 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 OFFERTORY

* DOXOLOGY

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise him, all creatures here below; Praise him above, ye heavenly host; Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

* PRAYER OF DEDICATION

We give thanks to you, O God, because you have blessed us with so much. Yet we know that others have too little. Bless our gifts so they touch lives in need and become roots of justice in the world, for the sake of Jesus Christ, who sends us out in love. Amen.

* HYMN: 343 (Blue Hymnal) *Called As Partners in Christ's Service*

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

THE WORSHIP IS OVER, LET THE SERVICE BEGIN

Rev. Dr. James Barnum	Pastor
Dr. Gary de Sesa	Director, Ministry of Music
Dr. Natalie Naylor	Clerk of Session
Dr. Robert Gilmore	Treasurer

We welcome Grace Huang as pianist, filling in for Dr. Gary de Sesa.

Assisting in today's service is Mary Matos.

Luncheon Hosts today are Katie Zarghami and Maya Leibfreid.

Next Sunday's scriptures:
Philippians 1:21-30; Matthew 20:1-16

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Important Dates

Sun, Sept. 13	11:15 AM	Lunch following Service

PLEASE PRAY FOR

Helen Lockman	Cynthia Randall
Steve Kirschman	Dawn and John de Sesa
Gary B. de Sesa	Sam Rizzo
Emmie Shoch	Regina Maria
Ray Peres	Gerry Catalanello
Sylvia McAdams	Stefania Cecchini
Family of Steven Panzella	Family of Janine Francolini
Chet Scire	William Cornell
Lawrence Topel	Willy Geddish
Jasmina & Jaiden Allen	Paula Liscio
Dr. Klaus Dittmar	

We pray for PEACE in the world and especially the Middle East and a just resolution between Iran and our country; Ukraine and Russia; along with all victims and their families from the Gaza/Lebanon-Israeli conflict and all nations that are at war. We pray for all families who are in need, and those who are grieving their loved ones.