

SUNDAY, AUGUST 1, 2021
REVEREND EDWARD DUNN

We look at the next petition of the Lord's Prayer this week - "forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors." There are three "R's" of forgiveness: Release, or the liberation from a burden; Restoration, or a return to a former state; and Redemption, or the payment of a price for another's freedom.

The parable of the unforgiving servant (Matthew 18:21-35) is occasioned by a conversation between Peter and Jesus about forgiveness. The question, "How many times am I to forgive others?" leads to a story about a servant who receives forgiveness but is unwilling to extend forgiveness to others. Isn't the answer to the question really "As many times as you would wish to be forgiven"?

We are a forgiven people. You are reminded of that fact each time we gather for worship we need that reminder and we need to be reminded to forgive others.

Blessings,
Edward