



## *Raquette Lake Chapel Sunday Blast*

*May 5, 2024*

*“The Good News of Forgiveness and Redemption”*

*“For he has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son he loves, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.” (Colossians 1:13-14)*

*“In him [Jesus Christ] we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God’s grace.” (Ephesians 1:7)*

**Forgiveness and Redemption:** In last week’s “Sunday Blast” we talked about how God’s love for us is so far beyond our understanding that it can be a mystery! We also talked about how that love is not just an emotion, but an action resulting in God’s grace, God’s incomparable, divine gifts to humanity motivated purely by God’s love. It is through and because of God’s infinite capacity to love us that we receive God’s inexhaustible forgiveness.

Receiving God’s forgiveness and being redeemed – restored, reclaimed – by God is a profound and transformative experience. Col. 1:13-14 vividly presents the image of our being rescued from a state of spiritual captivity and transferred into the realm of God’s kingdom, where forgiveness and redemption abound. Ephesians 1:7 tells us that the sacrificial death of Jesus Christ is the means through which redemption is achieved, emphasizing the lavishness of God’s grace poured out for the forgiveness of sins.

**The Human Experience of Forgiveness and Redemption:** In our everyday world forgiveness is sometimes hard to find and even harder to extend. “Forgive, but don’t forget” may be the best response an offender might hear. Imagine a person who has faced adversity, made poor choices, harmed another, and felt trapped by their past. In our everyday world, that person must create a new life by breaking free from those patterns, finding healing, and creating a new life story. In the best circumstances we hear of redemption in stories of recovery, second chances, and personal growth. People can and do overcome addiction, rebuild relationships, and find purpose—all everyday examples of God’s redemption.

**The Good News is ...** the liberating power of forgiveness is a foundational truth of the Christian faith, offering us assurance of forgiveness and redemption through God’s love and grace and freedom from guilt and shame, and empowerment to extend forgiveness to others. This is an important teaching we learned from Jesus. Consider this for a moment: *while God’s infinite capacity to forgive benefits the offender, it is also an admonition for us to show the same capacity to forgive others!* May we experience the fullness of God’s love and grace, and may we be instruments of His peace and reconciliation in a broken and hurting world. Let us go forth, forgiving as we have been forgiven, and shining the light of Christ’s love to all we encounter. May it be so. Amen

God Wants  
Us to Forgive  
Others

- God’s peace, Vance

**Prayer Box:** pray for healing for Barbara, Keith, Mia, Elizabeth, MaryBeth, Jazmine, Patti, Joyce, Joe, Florence, Debbie, and John; pray for all who grieve; pray for those harmed extreme weather; pray for peace in Ukraine and the Middle East; give thanks for a new baby Tali and parents Dan and Jocelyn; pray for those who are traveling, especially Maggie, Vance, and Bill; pray for all struggling families; pray for those suffering from depression. *Lord, hear our prayers!*