

## *There Is A Redeemer*

See print copy for words.

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We celebrate the Lord's Supper weekly — and in a circle, at the end of worship. A word of direction is given, and with this everyone stands and moves to the walls. The cup is passed in two forms: in a chalice and then in small individual cups. You are free to chose.

And as this is the Supper of the Lord Christ, please listen to the instructions we give as to what qualifies a visitor to participate. **But whether you intend to take communion or not, please join us in the circle.**

*The Angel's Announcement...*

*Jesus told them,  
"This is what is written: The Christ will  
suffer and rise from the dead on the third  
day, and repentance and forgiveness of sins  
will be preached in his name to all nations,  
beginning at Jerusalem."*

*Luke 24:46-47*



**Old Orchard Church**  
**Second Sunday of Easter**  
**April 15, 2012 – 10:15-11:50 a.m.**

## The Resurrection Community of Forgiveness

And the Admission to the Lord's Supper of  
Stephen John Helton, Virginia McKeon, and Emma Mohler

Though our sins be as scarlet,  
They are washed as white as snow.  
The vassals given favor,  
Despite their filthy hands;

Should we not then love our brother?  
Whose pain and sin we know;  
Forgive them from His mercy,  
That spring that fed your land;

What then was broken, angered, scorned,  
Was once sharp sting, vicious thorn;  
Forgive and bury, arm in arm,  
Splash in His mercy, water-warmed.



“He that cannot forgive others, breaks the bridge over which he himself must pass.”

— Poet George Herbert (1593-1633)



### Scripture Readings

**Old Testament Lesson:** Isaiah 42:1-7

**New Testament Lesson:** John 20:19-23

### Sermon

“The Two ‘Adams’ and the Crisis of Our Identity”

Romans 5:12-21

*Ron Lutjens, senior pastor, preaching*

## The Power of Forgiveness

John R.W. Stott, in his book *Confess Your Sins*, quotes the head of a large British mental home as saying: “I could dismiss half my patients tomorrow if they could be assured of forgiveness.” Deliverance from guilt by real forgiveness is humanity’s deepest spiritual need. Apart from it, we cannot experience a relationship with God that produces peace and hope. That is why our Lord makes it a primary topic in His pattern for prayer: “**And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors**” (Matt. 6:12)....

We received God’s judicial forgiveness the moment we were enabled of the Holy Spirit to trust Christ as our Savior from sin. Our forgiveness is complete because of our justification in Christ, by which God declared us righteous in His Son. Therefore it is proper to say that God has completely forgiven all our sin — past, present and even the future sins we have not yet committed. As a result, we are not under wrath and judgment, condemned to die, nor from the point of our salvation destined for hell. Paul says, “**There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.**” (Romans 8:1). The Righteous Judge has declared us pardoned, justified, and righteous. No one — human (including ourselves) or demonic — can condemn us or lay any charge against us (vv.33-34).

The breadth, length, depth, and height of this forgiveness is astounding. David wrote, “**As far as the east is from the west, so far has He removed our transgressions from us**” (Ps. 103:12). And Isaiah gives the reason: “**The Lord has caused the iniquity of us all to fall on him [Christ]**” (Isa. 53:6)

The God of Justice could not pass over our sin unless He first placed the full punishment for every single sin we would ever commit on someone else, and that someone was His Son, Jesus. God has forgiven us our sins based on the one-time sacrifice of Christ on the cross. It was there that He bore our punishment in his body on the tree (I Peter 2:24), thereby taking our guilt in our place, and paying the penalty for our sin. The moment we were enabled of the Spirit to place our faith in Christ, the reality of Christ’s righteousness was placed on us (Rom. 3:24-26). By God’s act of judicial forgiveness, all our sins — past, present and future — were completely forgiven.

Jeremiah 31:34 tells us, “**For I will forgive their wickedness and will remember their sins no more.**” This is what God wants us to know about the forgiveness He freely provides us in Christ. When our sins are forgiven, they are forgotten by God forevermore.

— Dr. Phil Douglass, *Covenant Magazine*, February-March, 1999