



**CHURCH OF THE REDEEMER**  
United Church of Christ



## Reflections from Pastor Brooke for September 18, 2020

*The Lord is gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.*  
~ Psalm 145:8

Well if this isn't a bit of good news from the psalmist, I don't know what is! Our humanness could get us in a lot of trouble; in fact our humanness **does** get us in a lot of trouble. But the psalmist reassures us that God is gracious and merciful AND slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love. There is good news throughout that verse.

In fact, the sermon title this week is "Grace and Mercy." God offers us grace and mercy every minute of every day and yet sometimes it is so difficult for us to offer it to others. I suppose you could say, "God doesn't need my help, so I don't have to do that." You could also throw back to me my favorite saying, "God is God, and I am not." But neither of those responses help us to work to bring God's realm to our world; and that is what we are called to do as Christians.

So let's all try to be more like God: gracious, merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love. We will quickly fail at achieving those things, but let's try, nonetheless. Even if each of us does it for a moment each day, imagine what a difference that would make. And when we do fail, we can give thanks that we worship a God who is gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.

Thanks be to God!

*Blessings,*

*(We are holding a **Blessing of the Animals Oct. 3**. Information is on the back of this page!)*

Bring your creatures, great and small, to the

Blessing of the



## **Announcement: Blessing of the Animals October 3**

All of God's creatures are beloved — including our four-legged (or amphibian) pets. St. Francis of Assisi was known as the patron saint of animals and his feast day is October 4. Although we do not celebrate saints, we are holding a blessing of the animals on **Saturday, October 3, in front of the church (or in Fellowship Hall in case of rain) at 10 AM.**

You are invited to bring your pets in cages, on leashes (if they are well behaved), in bowls, or aquariums. Pastor Brooke will offer a short blessing for each animal present.

“All things bright and beautiful, all creatures great and small. The Lord God made them all.”