



Seventh Sunday of Easter

May 29, 2022

St. Paul's United Church of Christ

Proud to be an Open & Affirming Congregation

We Gather in Response to God's Invitation

The Gift of Music to Gather Us

Words of Welcome

Dave Martin, Pastor

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Loving God, you are both humble and highly exalted. Hold before us your ultimate example of servitude and sacrifice, who showed us the standard for love that knows no boundaries. Amen.

*CALL TO WORSHIP (RESPONSIVE)

An asterisk indicates when the people stand in body or spirit. **Bolded text indicates when the people speak.*

One: Come, let us bow before the holy One.

All: **Come, let us confess God's might.**

Come, let us feel God's mercy.

Come, let us live in God's light.

As God's people, we lift our voices in praise.

Glory to you, gracious and loving God!

*OPENING PRAYER (TOGETHER)

Gracious and loving God, how shall we do your will today? Will it be in acts of praise, in gifts shared, in prayers lifted? Who will you lead us to serve? Help us trust you. Help us listen. Bless this community as we come together in worship. Encourage us, comfort us, unite us, make our joy complete. Amen.

*SINGING TOGETHER

"All Hail the Power of Jesus Name"

BROWN #325

All hail the power of Jesus' name! Let angels prostrate fall.

Bring forth the royal diadem, and crown him Lord of all;

Bring forth the royal diadem, and crown him Lord of all!

Ye chosen seed of Israel's race, Ye ransomed from the fall,

hail him who saves you by his grace, and crown him Lord of all.

Hail him who saves you by his grace, and crown him Lord of all!

Let every kindred, every tribe, on this terrestrial ball,

to him all majesty ascribe, and crown him Lord of all.

To him all majesty ascribe, and crown him Lord of all!

Oh, that with yonder sacred throng we at his feet may fall!

We'll join the everlasting song, and crown him Lord of all;

We'll join the everlasting song, and crown him Lord of all!

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We Admit our Shortcomings

INTRODUCTION

All too often, we tell our loving God we will do better, and be better, and then just go on living the same way we always have. Let this be the moment when we tell our God of our failures and faithlessness, so we can go forth to work in that kingdom of grace and hope. Join me as we pray.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (TOGETHER)

**God of patience, your people grow weary.
We complain and question. We put you to
the test. Our mouths say yes, but our deeds
say no. When we wander off your path,
when we fail to follow through on our good
intentions, when we give our attention to
trivial things; gently call us back to you.
Empty our hearts of anger and pride.
Empty our souls of greed and selfishness.
Empty our minds of envy, doubt, and
mistrust. As you poured out your very self
through your beloved Son, pour your Spirit
into our hearts today. Forgive us our
wrongdoing. Reclaim us with your love.**

REASSURANCE THAT GOD LOVES US (*RESPONSIVE*)

Friends in Christ, our God is patient, steadfast, and understanding. Christ hears our cries of repentance. The Lord knows our hearts, inside and out. The One who created us promises to care for us, even when we turn away. Hear these words of forgiveness. Be strengthened to walk as disciples. Trust in God's mercy. Amen.

SUNG RESPONSE

"What A Friend We Have in Jesus"

BROWN #466 v. 1

**What a friend we have in Jesus, all our sins
and griefs to bear!
What a privilege to carry everything to God
in prayer!
O what peace we often forfeit, O what
needless pain we bear,
all because we do not carry everything to
God in prayer.**

*PASSING THE PEACE

The risen Christ offered the breath of peace as he greeted his beloved disciples saying, "Peace be with you." Let us share the peace of Christ with one another.

("The peace of Christ be with you." "And also with you.")

*REGATHERING SONG

"Halleluja"

BLACK #236

**Halle, halle, halleluja. Halle, halle,
halleluja.
Halle, halle, halleluja. Halleluja, halleluja.**

Hearing God's Word

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Gracious God, give us humble, teachable, and obedient hearts, that we may receive what you have revealed, and do what you have commanded. Amen.

LETTER READING

PHILIPPIANS 2:1-13

Writing to the house churches he had started in Philippi, Paul urges them to resolve their differences by letting go of their egos and looking to Christ who humbled himself to the point of death for the sake of our salvation.

If then there is any encouragement in Christ, any consolation from love, any sharing in the Spirit, any compassion and sympathy,² make my joy complete: be of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind.³ Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves.⁴ Let each of you look not to your own interests, but to the interests of others.⁵ Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus,

⁶ who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited,

⁷ but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness.

And being found in human form,

⁸ he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death—even death on a cross.

⁹ Therefore God also highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name,

¹⁰ so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth,

¹¹ and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

¹² Therefore, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed me, not only in my presence, but much more now in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling;¹³ for it is God who is at work in you, enabling you both to will and to work for his good pleasure.

The word of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL READING: Luke 6:43-45
Listen to the Gospel of Jesus Christ according to Luke.

Glory to you, O Christ.

“No good tree bears bad fruit, nor again does a bad tree bear good fruit; for each tree is known by its own fruit. Figs are not gathered from thorns, nor are grapes picked from a bramble bush. The good person out of the good treasure of the heart produces good, and the evil person out of evil treasure produces evil; for it is out of the abundance of the heart that the mouth speaks.”

This is the good news.

Praise to you, O Christ.

MEDITATION

“Running on Empty”

Pastor Dave

We Respond to God’s Word

A STATEMENT OF FAITH (*TOGETHER*)

We are the people of God.

We are a sign of the New World.

We are the sisters and brothers of Jesus.

We believe in God. We believe in the goodness of God, the presence of God in human history, and the nearness of God’s love.

We believe in Christ. We believe that God was and is revealed in human life, that out of human suffering may come rescue and healing, that out of death comes new life.

We believe in the Eternal Spirit, who moves among God’s people and invited the world into God’s reign. We believe that the world can change, that peace and wholeness can come, that the New World can arrive.

We are the people of God.

We are the sign of the New World.

We are the brothers and sisters of Jesus.

*(David Beebe, *Flames of the Spirit*, edited by Ruth Duck, Pilgrim Press)*

A TIME FOR PRAYER

SHARING OUR JOYS AND CONCERNS

Let us remember to God the people who need our gratitude, love, and care.

ENTERING INTO PRAYER

“Breathe on Me, Breath of God”

BLACK #292 v. 1

**Breathe on me, Breath of God, fill me with life anew,
that I may love the way you love and do what you would do.**

PRAYERS ON BEHALF OF THE CHURCH

THE PRAYER OF OUR SAVIOR

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 sins as we forgive those who sin against us. And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

HONORING OUR GRADUATES

BLESSING (*BASED ON PHILIPPIANS 1: 9-11, TOGETHER*)

May your love flourish. May you not only love much but well. May you learn to love appropriately, using your head and testing your feelings so that your love is sincere and intelligent, not sentimental gush. Live a lover’s life, circumspect and exemplary, a life in which others see God’s love: a life bountiful in fruits from the soul, a life that reveals the Spirit of Christ at work, a life that invites everyone to glorify and praise God. The God who calls you is faithful, and she will do it. Live in the wholeness, healing, and peace that God offers.

PRAYER OF DEDICATION FOR OUR LITTLE FREE LIBRARY (*TOGETHER*)

A little free library has been built and installed on the south side of our parking lot.

God of love and wisdom, we pray that our Little Free Library will be a blessing to our neighbors, an expression of our hospitality and our Open and Affirming Covenant, and our mission of “teaching and preaching the Good News” and “caring for the needs of ... our community.” Whether our neighbors are reading stories about your love, the diverse life experiences of your children, the precious gift of your creation, or just

having fun, we trust that through this library you will bless our neighbors with fresh epiphanies about your wonderful world and who and whose they are. We thank you for the funds and materials used to create this library, for the many adults and youth who helped build it, and for the willingness to give as you give, freely, without user fees or overdue fines. Through this library, may your life-giving Spirit birth faith, hope, and love over and over again. Amen.

ENCOURAGEMENT TO SHARING OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

You are invited to place your gifts in the offering basket as you arrive or depart from our worship together.

As we imitate the one who did not let status get in the way of giving his love and his life away for our sakes, may the loving gifts we offer this day become a fountain of blessings for others, bringing them hope, healing, joy, and peace.

DEDICATING OUR OFFERING (TOGETHER)

No offering can equal your own, O Christ, when you gave yourself completely on our behalf. But still we bring these gifts out of the gratitude of our hearts, seeking always to know you more and pattern our lives after yours. Bless what we offer and sanctify our service in your name, Amen.

We Go Out to Serve

ENGAGING THE GOSPEL LIFE

(announcements)

*GOOD WORDS FOR GOING FORTH (RESPONSIVE)

May you go forth with humble hearts, ready to serve your neighbor and a world in need.

Amen. Lead us, O God!

*BLESSING

You are invited to turn to the people near you in body or spirit and repeat one of these simple blessings. If you are alone, remember that this blessing is for you too. Since we are blessed to be a blessing, our 'practice' here may prepare us to bless others in the week ahead, even people we don't get along with.

"May you know Christ's love and follow Christ's example."

OR "You are God's beloved child."

*SINGING TOGETHER

"Let There Be Peace on Earth"

BROWN #681

Let there be peace on earth, and let it begin with me.

Let there be peace on earth, the peace that was meant to be.

With God as our Father, brothers all are we. Let me walk with my brother in perfect harmony.

Let peace begin with me; let this be the moment now.

With every step I take, let this be my solemn vow:

To take each moment, and live each moment in peace eternally!

Let there be peace on earth, and let it begin with me.

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TAKE WITH YOU GOD'S GIFT OF MUSIC

GOING DEEPER THIS WEEK

☉ Practice being of the same mind and share what God is doing in your life or pray with a brother or sister in Christ.

☉ Look for an example of someone who is humble and thank them.

Monday Exodus 17:1-7 God's people thirsted

Tuesday John 1:1-18 Christ takes on humanity

Wednesday John 10:1-18 Jesus describes how he will lay down his life

Thursday John 13:1-17 Jesus humbles himself by washing his disciples' feet

Friday John 19:23-30 Jesus is obedient to the point of death

Saturday 1 Corinthians 1:10-16 Mutual unity and care in the church