

# Fourth Sunday after Pentecost; Outdoor Worship

June 26, 2022



## Welcoming Words from St. Paul's United Church of Christ

### Gathered in Response to God's Invitation

*As people of faith and followers of Jesus Christ, we embrace and celebrate the beautiful and amazing diversity of God's children. We believe that all people are created in the image of God and all are worthy of God's love and grace. Remembering that Jesus calls us to love one another as he loves us, we welcome all people to St. Paul's UCC regardless of race, age, gender, sexual orientation, gender identities and expressions, ability, culture, economic status, ethnicity, or family composition.*

*We recognize that there are differences among us, but believe that we can love alike even though we may not think alike. We proclaim this covenant of welcome to all who have known the pain of exclusion or discrimination in church and society. We invite all people to join us in our faith journey toward greater love, understanding, and mutual respect.*

WORDS OF WELCOME      DAVE MARTIN, PASTOR

#### PRAYER OF THE DAY

You have claimed us as your children and proclaimed that you desire us for your own. Teach us to honor and obey you, our one and only God, for the sake of your son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.  
Amen

#### BREATHING IN GOD'S GIFTS

Let us breathe in the gift of God's peace.

*(pause and breathe)*

Let us breathe in the gift of God's hope.

*(pause and breathe)*

Let us breathe in the gift of God's love.

*(pause and breathe)*

#### \*CALL TO WORSHIP (RESPONSIVE)

God is waiting to speak with all of us; do not fear to listen for God's word.

**We are waiting and listening for wisdom from God; the law of God is not a threat, but a guide.**

God is here to embrace and enlist us; do not be afraid to respond to God's love.

**Our hearts rejoice in God's acceptance of us; God's mercy inspires us to be merciful.**

God is welcoming us into the realm of heaven; do not hesitate to enter this time of praise.

**We are here to be enlightened and empowered; may our thoughts and words honor the Christ.**

#### \*OPENING PRAYER

Faithful God, you have shown your steadfast love even when we betray it. You have been our rock and our redeemer. Yet you also judge us and allow us to reap the consequences of our broken covenants and relationships. Make your presence and purposes known to us here, that we may delight in your law and experience your grace, through Christ. Amen.

#### \*SINGING TOGETHER

"Love, Love, Love"

**Love, love, love. That's what it's all about.**

**'Cause God loves us we love each other - mother, father, sister, brother. Everybody sing and shout, 'cause that's what it's all about.**

**It's about love, love, love. It's about love, love, love.**

**Hope, hope, hope...**

**Peace, peace, peace...**

### We Admit our Shortcomings

#### INTRODUCTION (BASED ON PSALM 19:7-9)

The law of God is perfect, reviving the soul; the testimony of God is sure, making wise the simple; the precepts of God are right, rejoicing the heart;

the commandment of God is pure, enlightening the eyes; the fear of God is clear, enduring forever; the ordinances of God are true, and righteous altogether. Have we not doubted and denied the ways of God?

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (*TOGETHER*)

**O God, whose ways are not our ways, we confess that we have discounted or ignored your commandments. We have chosen our own standards instead of seeking ultimate good. We have substituted our illusion for your truth. Our words and actions have hurt others and diminished us. We have become so comfortable with our own sin that we find it hard to recognize. We have been so unforgiving of others' sin that they can discern the Christ in us. Please, God, will you forgive us again? Amen.**

REASSURANCE THAT GOD LOVES US (*RESPONSIVE*)

If you forgive others from your heart, you are open to receive God's forgiveness of you. If you cannot forgive those from whom you are estranged, even God cannot mend all the brokenness. Let us rejoice that the worst we have done does not cut us off from God's love. God's forgiveness is real to us when we forgive. Let us live as a forgiven and forgiving people.

**Thanks be to God! Amen.**

SUNG RESPONSE:

"Glory to the Creator"                      BLACK #759  
**Glory to the Creator, the Christ, the Holy Spirit, Three in One;  
as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen. Amen.**

\*PASSING THE PEACE

So if you are about to offer your gift to God at the altar and there remember that your sister or brother has something against you, leave your gift in front of the altar, go at once and make peace with your brother or sister, and then come back and offer your gift.

**In response to Christ's command, we reach out to each other in love.**

*("The peace of Christ be with you.")*

*"And also with you.")*

## **We Hear God's Word**

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

O God, your Word is a lamp to our feet and a light to our path. Give us grace to receive your truth in faith and love, and strength to follow on the path you set before us; through Jesus Christ. Amen.

GOD'S PATTERN FOR LIFE...WITH GOD

*The First Commandment*

*Reader 1:* You shall have no other gods before me.

*Reader 2:* Jesus said: "Worship the Lord your God, and serve God only."

**For from God and through God and to God are all things. To God be the glory forever!**

*The Second Commandment*

*Reader 1:* You shall not make for yourself an idol.

*Reader 2:* Jesus said: "God is spirit, and his worshipers must worship in spirit and in truth."

**In Christ we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.**

**He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation.**

*The Third Commandment*

*Reader 1:* You shall not misuse the name of the Lord your God.

*Reader 2:* Jesus said: "Do not swear at all: either by heaven, for it is God's throne; or by the earth, for it is God's footstool. ... Let your 'yes' be 'yes,' and your 'no' be 'no'; anything beyond this comes from the evil one."

**We will use the holy name of God with reverence,**

**praising him in everything we do and say.**

*The Fourth Commandment*

*Reader 1:* Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy.

*Reader 2:* Jesus said: "The Sabbath was made for humankind, and not humankind for the Sabbath. So the Son of Man is Lord even of the Sabbath."

**Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom, and as you sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs with gratitude in your hearts to God.**

*The Summary*

*Reader 2:* The first part of the law is this great commandment:

**That we love the Lord our God with all our heart, with all our mind, and with all our strength.**

#### GOD'S PATTERN FOR LIFE ... IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD

##### *The Fifth Commandment*

*Reader 1:* Honor your father and your mother and you shall live long on the land.

**Even though our parents make mistakes, we will listen to our parents, help them when we can and teach them what we know.**

*Parents:* **We will love our children and guide them in God's ways of caring, healing, forgiving, and justice-doing.**

##### *The Sixth Commandment*

*Reader 1:* You shall not murder.

*Reader 2:* Jesus said: "Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, that you may be children of your Father in heaven."

**Knowing that each human life is priceless in God's eyes, we will be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave us.**

##### *The Seventh Commandment*

*Reader 1:* You shall not commit adultery.

*Reader 2:* Anyone who looks at another lustfully has already committed adultery with their heart.

**Just as God's love for us is steadfast, we will be faithful to our marriage partners so that we can grow in God's ways of love and trust.**

##### *The Eighth Commandment*

*Reader 1:* You shall not steal.

*Reader 2:* Jesus said: "For out of the heart come evil thoughts, murder, adultery... theft... These are what make a person 'unclean'."

**We will do what we can for our neighbor's good, and work faithfully so that we may share with those who are poor.**

##### *The Ninth Commandment*

*Reader 1:* You shall not give false testimony against your neighbor.

*Reader 2:* Jesus said: "For out of the overflow of the heart the mouth speaks... For by your words you will be acquitted, and by your words you will be condemned."

**We will speak the truth with our neighbor in love, render judgments that are true and make for peace, and not devise in our hearts any evil against anyone.**

##### *The Tenth Commandment*

*Reader 1:* You shall not covet.

*Reader 2:* Jesus said: "Watch out! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed; for one's life does not consist in the abundance of possessions."

**We will be content whatever our circumstances through the strength of Christ within us.**

##### *The Summary*

*Reader 1:* The second part of the law is similar to the first:

**We must love our neighbor as ourselves.**

#### MEDITATION

"Your Neighbor's Best Life Now"

Pastor Dave

### **We Respond to God's Word**

#### 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

"Sweet, Sweet Spirit"

BLACK #293, vs 1

**There's a sweet, sweet Spirit in this place,  
and I know that it's the Spirit of the Lord;  
there are sweet expressions on each face,  
and I know they feel the presence of the Lord.**

*CCLI Song # 18204 Doris Akers © 1962. Renewed 1990 Manna Music, Inc. (Admin. by Gaither Copyright Management)*

##### PRAYERS ON BEHALF OF THE CHURCH

##### 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.**

#### 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*

May our offerings this morning reflect our commitment to love God with all that we are, and to love our neighbors as ourselves.

#### DEDICATING OUR OFFERING

O God of our ancestors in faith, whose laws are timeless and whose ways empower your church, we bring to you the results of our labors. We would recognize all our moments and days as precious gifts from you. We dedicate ourselves anew to fulfilling your purposes through all you entrust to us, not just through the portion we here return. Bless all that the church seeks to accomplish in Christ's name. Amen.

### **We Go Out to Serve**

ENGAGING THE GOSPEL LIFE (announcements)

\*GOOD WORDS FOR GOING FORTH (BASED ON JOSHUA 22:5 AND NUMBERS 6:24-26)

Take good care to observe the commandment and instruction that Moses the servant of the Lord commanded you, to love the Lord your God, to walk in all God's ways, to keep God's commandments, and to hold fast to God, and to serve God with all your heart and with all your soul. And may God bless you and watch over you, may God make her face shine upon you and be gracious to you, may God look kindly on you and give you peace. And the blessing of God almighty, Creator, Christ, and Paraclete, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always. Amen.

\*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.*

**"You are God's treasured possession."**

**OR "You are God's beloved child."**

\*SINGING TOGETHER

"This is My Commandment"

**This is my commandment, that you love one another; that your joy may be full.**

**This is my commandment, that you love one another that your joy may be full.**

**That your joy may be full, that your joy may be full.**

**This is my commandment, that you love one another, that your joy may be full.**

**This is my commandment, that you *trust* one another... This is my commandment, that you *serve* one another...**

TAKE WITH YOU GOD'S GIFT OF MUSIC

GOING DEEPER AT HOME

☀ Behavior that honors parents—what does it look like? Sound like? Who then is blessed?

☀ How does murder vary from killing? How does Jesus interpret this (see Matthew 5:21-22)?

☀ What happens to a couple when one commits adultery? How does Jesus interpret this (see Matthew 5:28)?

☀ What passes for stealing? What forms of stealing are worse than others?

☀ Is lying okay if it doesn't injury another, as false witness does? How about little white lies?

Monday Deuteronomy 5:16-21 Laws about neighbors

Tuesday Exodus 22:7-13 Laws of restitution

Wednesday Matthew 5:27-30 Concerning adultery

Thursday Matthew 5:33-37 Concerning oaths

Friday Matthew 5:38-42 Concerning retaliation

Saturday Matthew 5:43-48 Love for enemies