



Via Egnatia: Second Century Roman Road
Paul Traveled

St. Paul United Church of Christ

119 North Franklin Street

New Bremen, Ohio 45869

Phone (419-629-2502), Fax (419-629-3207)

Email stpaulnb@nktelco.net or stpaulnb@gmail.com

Visit our website at <https://stpaulnb.org>

Rev. Becky Senior Pastor

Pastor Dee Associate Pastor

Jeff Quellhorst-Council President

May 3, 2020

Fourth Sunday of Easter

Sacrament of Holy Communion

LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES (please light a candle(s) at home in preparation of worship)

WELCOME

This is the day that the Lord has made. Let us rejoice and be glad in it.

MOMENT FOR MISSION: United Church of Christ Disaster Relief

Throughout the month of May, our designated monthly mission will go toward disaster relief efforts within our denomination.

In 2005, immediately following Hurricane Katrina, the UCC Disaster Relief Team sent Pastor Becky to Houston, Texas to coordinate relief efforts among the area UCC churches as busloads of folk from New Orleans were arriving daily. After three weeks in Houston, Becky wrote a rough draft job description for the person who would ultimately be hired fulltime to coordinate relief efforts in Houston and New Orleans.

Wherever natural disaster strikes, the United Church of Christ is present—offering immediate assistance as well as the long term work of rebuilding.

Your generous giving to May's monthly mission will ensure that those whose lives are impacted by disasters will have shelter, food, and hope.

WELCOME SONG

No Matter

No Matter

$\text{♩} = 120$

The musical score is written in 4/4 time with a tempo of 120. It consists of four staves of music. The first staff has a treble clef and a key signature of one flat (Bb). The melody is simple, with lyrics: "No mat-ter who, no mat-ter what no mat-ter where you are on the". Chords above the staff are F, Dm, Gm7, C, F, and F7. The second staff continues the melody with lyrics: "jour-ney of life; you're wel-come, wel-come in this place. No mat-ter". Chords are Bb, G7, F, Dm, G7, Gm7, and C7. The third staff has lyrics: "who, no mat-ter what, no mat-ter where you are on the". Chords are F, Dm, Gm7, C, F, and F7. The fourth staff has lyrics: "jour-ney of life: ac-cept-ed, wel-comed by God's grace. grace." Chords are Bb, G7, F, Dm, Gm7, C7, C, F, and F. The score ends with a double bar line and the words "To verses" and "Last time, Fine" in separate boxes.

No mat-ter who, no mat-ter what no mat-ter where you are on the
jour-ney of life; you're wel-come, wel-come in this place. No mat-ter
who, no mat-ter what, no mat-ter where you are on the
jour-ney of life: ac-cept-ed, wel-comed by God's grace. grace.

CALL TO WORSHIP (adapted from Psalm 67)

Leader: Let the people praise you, O God; let all the peoples praise you.

People: Let the nations be glad and shout for joy!

Leader: Let the people praise you, O God; let all the peoples praise you.

People: May God continue to bless us; let all the ends of the earth worship God!

HYMN OF PRAISE

Alleluia, Alleluia! Hearts to Heaven

Alleluia, Alleluia! Hearts to Heaven 289

G G₂ G $\frac{G}{D}$ D7 $\frac{G}{D}$ $\frac{D}{C}$ $\frac{G}{B}$ $\frac{D}{A}$ G $\frac{G}{D}$ D

1 Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Hearts to heaven and voic - es raise:
 2 Al - le - lu - ia, Christ is ris - en! Death at last has met de - feat:
 3 Christ is ris - en, we are ris - en! Set your hearts on things a - bove;
 4 Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Glo - ry be to God on high:

G $\frac{C}{G}$ G7 $\frac{G7}{C}$ C Cmaj7 $\frac{Am}{C}$ $\frac{G}{D}$ D7 $\frac{G}{D}$ D7 G

sing to God a hymn of glad-ness, sing to God a hymn of praise;
 see the an - cient powers of e - vil in con - fu - sion and re - treat;
 there in all the Fa - ther's glo - ry lives and reigns our King of love;
 Al - le - lu - ia to the Sav - ior who has gained the vic - to - ry;

D $\frac{G}{D}$ D $\frac{G}{D}$ D $\frac{B}{D\#}$ B7 Em A D

he who on the cross a vic - tim for the world's sal - va - tion bled—
 once he died, and once was bur - ied: now he lives for - ev - er - more,
 hear the word of peace he brings us, see his wound - ed hands and side!
 Al - le - lu - ia to the Spir - it, fount of love and sanc - ti - ty!

G $\frac{C}{G}$ G7 $\frac{G7}{C}$ C Cmaj7 $\frac{Am}{C}$ $\frac{G}{D}$ D7 $\frac{G}{D}$ D7 G

Je - sus Christ, the King of Glo - ry, now is ris - en from the dead.
 Je - sus Christ, the world's Re - deem - er, whom we wor - ship and a - dore.
 Now let ev - ery wrong be end - ed, ev - ery sin be cru - ci - fied.
 Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia to the Tri - une Maj - es - ty!

WORDS: Christopher Wordsworth (1807-1885); rev. vss. 2 & 3 Jubilate Hymns, 1982
 MUSIC: Ludwig van Beethoven (1770-1827); adapt. Edward Hodges (1796-1867)

HYMN TO JOY
 8.7.8.7.D

CALL TO CONFESSION

Leader: God has provided for us in ways that amaze us. How awesome is all God's creation! God rightfully expects our grateful response to all this bounty. Yet we seldom pause to give thanks or to ponder the wonderful deeds by which life is sustained. Let us confess our sin before God and one another.

UNISON CONFESSION OF SIN

God of vine and branches, our Source of power and love: we confess that we would rather talk about you than walk with you, for we do not know where you might lead or what you might require of us. We confess our failure to trust and love you, to be open to you, and to be dependent upon you, so that we may be followers and coworkers in the building of your realm on earth as it is in heaven. Forgive us, we pray. Amen.

SILENT CONFESSION OF SIN

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Leader: Stand up on your feet and walk. God has healed your broken spirits. God satisfies you with food and gladness, so you can pass on the mercies of your Creator to others. God is your Alpha and Omega, the Source and the Ending of all things. Dwell in God's love as forgiven sinners.

People: Thanks be to God!

GLORIA PATRI

Glory Be to the Father

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost; as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen, Amen.

CHILDREN'S MOMENT

A bag full of Jelly Beans, Colorful and Sweet,
Is a prayer, Is a promise, Is a special treat
May the joy of Christ's Resurrection
Fill your heart and Bless your life.

A
J
E
L
L
Y
B
E
A
N
E
A
S
T
E
R



is for the Blood He gave



is for the palms they waved



is for the sun so bright



is for the edge of night



is for the sins we made



is for the grace He gave



is for His hour of sorrow



is for our new tomorrow

Now the Green Blade Rises

311

Unison

Em $\frac{A}{E}$ Em Am $\frac{Em}{B}$ B Em $\frac{A}{E}$

1 Now the green blade ris - es from the bur - ied grain, wheat that in
 2 In the grave they laid him, love by ha - tred slain, think - ing that
 3 Forth he came at Eas - ter, like the ris - en grain, he that for
 4 When our hearts are win - tery, griev - ing, or in pain, your touch can

Em Am $\frac{Em}{B}$ B Em $\frac{B}{D\#}$

dark earth man - y days has lain; love lives a - gain that
 he would nev - er wake a - gain, laid in the earth like
 three days in the grave had lain; raised from the dead, my
 call us back to life a - gain, fields of our hearts that

Em B Em $\frac{A}{E}$ Em Am $\frac{Em}{B}$ B Em

with the dead has been;
 grain that sleeps un - seen;
 liv - ing Lord is seen; love is come a - gain like wheat a - ris - ing green.
 dead and bare have been;

WORDS: J.M.C. Crum (1872-1958)

MUSIC: French carol, 15th c.

Words © 1928 Oxford University Press

NOËL NOUVELET

11.10.10.11.

PASTORAL JOYS AND CONCERNS OF THE PEOPLE

PASTORAL PRAYER, SILENT PRAYER, AND THE LORD'S PRAYER. (A Prayer from the Lutheran World Federation)

O God our Healer, show your compassion for the whole human family that is in turmoil and burdened with illness and with fear. Hear our cry, O God. Listen to our prayer.

Come to our aid as the coronavirus spreads globally, heal those who are sick, support and protect their families and friends from being infected. Hear our cry, O God. Listen to our prayer.

Grant us your spirit of love and self-discipline so that we may come together, working to control and eliminate the coronavirus. Hear our cry, O God. Listen to our prayer.

Make us vigilant, attentive, and proactive in the eradication of all diseases, malaria, dengue, HIV & AIDS, and others that create suffering and often result in death for many people. Hear our cry, O God. Listen to our prayer.

Heal our self-centeredness and indifference that makes us worry only when the virus threatens us personally. Open ways in our lives beyond our timidity and fear that we might hear the cries of our neighbors. Hear our cry, O God. Listen to our prayer.

Strengthen and encourage those in public health services and in the medical profession: care-givers, nurses, attendants, doctors, all who commit themselves to caring for the sick and their families. Hear our cry, O God. Listen to our prayer.

Inspire, give insight and hope to all researchers focused on developing a vaccine. Hear our cry, O God. Listen to our prayer.

Sustain all workers and business owners who suffer loss of livelihood due to shut-downs, quarantines, closed borders, and other restrictions. Protect and guard all those who must travel. Hear our cry, O God. Listen to our prayer.

Guide the leaders of the nations that they speak the truth, halt the spread of misinformation and act with justice so that all your creation may know healing. Hear our cry, O God. Listen to our prayer.

Heal our world, heal our bodies, strengthen our hearts and our minds, and in the midst of turmoil, give us hope and peace. Hear our cry, O God. Listen to our prayer.

Hold in your gentle embrace all who have died and who will die this day. Comfort their loved ones in their despair. Hear our cry, O God. Listen to our prayer.

We humbly ask that you hear us now as we lift up to you the burdens that are upon our hearts: burdens we carry for our families, our neighbors, our nation, and our world. SILENCE

In this season of joyful resurrection promises, spark us with your Holy Spirit, surround us with your grace.

All of this we pray in the name of Jesus who taught us to pray:

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 debts as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

ANTHEM *The Beautiful Not Yet* by Carrie Newcomer & Chloe Grace
(YouTube.com; search *The Beautiful Not Yet* by Carrie Newcomer)

*Spring is humming
Bits of something
A melody the simple part
A song that I once knew by heart*

*Juniper, wild indigo
Foxglove, lupine, Queen Anne's lace
Will be coming any day*

*The restlessness
The quickening
The almost but
Not yet
Muddy boots, last year's leaves
Every spring that came before
All they were and something more*

The restlessness

The quickening

The almost but

Not yet

Do you see, do you see, do you see it

Take a breath

Oh, the restlessness

The beautiful not yet

There's a stirring

There's sweetness

At the edge of in between

I feel it nearly trembling

The restlessness

The quickening

The almost but

Not yet

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON: Acts 17:1-15

(from New Revised Standard Version)

After Paul and Silas had passed through Amphipolis and Apollonia, they came to Thessalonica, where there was a synagogue of the Jews. ² And Paul went in, as was his custom, and on three sabbath days argued with them from the scriptures, ³ explaining and proving that it was necessary for the Messiah to suffer and to rise from the dead, and saying, "This is the Messiah, Jesus whom I am proclaiming to you." ⁴ Some of them were persuaded and joined Paul and Silas, as did a great many of the devout Greeks and not a few of the leading women. ⁵ But the Jews became jealous, and with the help of some ruffians in the marketplaces they formed a mob and set the city in an uproar. While they were searching for Paul and Silas to bring them out to the assembly, they attacked Jason's house. ⁶ When they could not find them, they dragged Jason and some believers before the city authorities, shouting, "These people who have been turning the world upside down have come here also, ⁷ and Jason has entertained them as guests. They are all acting contrary to the decrees of the emperor, saying that there is another king

named Jesus.”⁸ The people and the city officials were disturbed when they heard this,⁹ and after they had taken bail from Jason and the others, they let them go.

That very night the believers sent Paul and Silas off to Berea; and when they arrived, they went to the Jewish synagogue.¹¹ These Jews were more receptive than those in Thessalonica, for they welcomed the message very eagerly and examined the scriptures every day to see whether these things were so.¹² Many of them therefore believed, including not a few Greek women and men of high standing.¹³ But when the Jews of Thessalonica learned that the word of God had been proclaimed by Paul in Berea as well, they came there too, to stir up and incite the crowds.¹⁴ Then the believers immediately sent Paul away to the coast, but Silas and Timothy remained behind.¹⁵ Those who conducted Paul brought him as far as Athens; and after receiving instructions to have Silas and Timothy join him as soon as possible, they left him.

QUESTIONS FOR THE NEW TESTAMENT LESSON:

- 1. What words or phrases caught your attention in this text?**
- 2. What might God be saying to you in this passage?**
- 3. What might God be saying to our community in this passage?**
- 4. What is the good news of Acts 17:1-15?**

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON: 1 Thessalonians 1:1-10 (from New Revised Standard Version)

Paul, Silvanus, and Timothy,

To the church of the Thessalonians in God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ:

Grace to you and peace.

²We always give thanks to God for all of you and mention you in our prayers, constantly³ remembering before our God and Father your work of faith and labor of love and steadfastness of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ.⁴ For we know, brothers and sisters beloved by God, that he has chosen you,⁵ because our message of the gospel came to you not in word only, but also in power and in the Holy Spirit and with full conviction; just as you know what kind of persons we proved to be

among you for your sake. ⁶ And you became imitators of us and of the Lord, for in spite of persecution you received the word with joy inspired by the Holy Spirit, ⁷ so that you became an example to all the believers in Macedonia and in Achaia. ⁸ For the word of the Lord has sounded forth from you not only in Macedonia and Achaia, but in every place your faith in God has become known, so that we have no need to speak about it. ⁹ For the people of those regions report about us what kind of welcome we had among you, and how you turned to God from idols, to serve a living and true God, ¹⁰ and to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead—Jesus, who rescues us from the wrath that is coming.

RESPONSE:

Leader: The word of God for the people of God.

People: God is still speaking. Thanks be to God!

QUESTIONS FOR THE EPISTLE READING:

- 1. What words or phrases captured your imagination in this text?**
- 2. What might God be saying to you in this passage?**
- 3. What might God be saying to our community in this passage?**
- 4. What is the good news 1 Thessalonians 1:1-10?**

SERMON

Rev. Becky Erb Strang

As we move ever-deeper into the Easter season, our narrative lectionary scriptures have us moving at an even greater break-neck speed. On Easter Sunday we heard the resurrection story from the Gospel of Mark—which isn't much of a story, if we are honest: We only HEAR that Jesus has been raised from the dead, but we do not see him. The next week we read from the beginning of Acts of the Apostles, bypassing each and every Easter story in our gospels of Jesus walking among the people. Acts begins with Jesus ascending into heaven to join his Abba—his Daddy—God. The following week we skipped Pentecost—the coming of the Holy Spirit and tuned in to Peter and John (two disciples who were part of Jesus' inner circle) healing a man born lame in the name of the risen Christ. By today's scripture lessons, the baton has been

passed from Peter and John to Paul and Paul's mission to bring the message of the risen Christ and the new age Christ ushers in.

So what do we know about Paul? He called himself an apostle not merely a disciple. (Remember: Jesus' apostles were considered to be the original twelve disciples—those closest to Jesus. Before Paul was a believer and missionary, he was known as Saul who was a devout Jew who did not believe that Jesus was the Jewish messiah. Saul not only didn't believe in Jesus, he was an active part in the persecution of these Jesus believers.) Paul claimed apostleship because he had a vision of the risen Christ on the road to Damascus. Jesus spoke directly to him, striking him temporarily blind demanding to know why he was so hateful. Saul, came to believe in Jesus. It was Paul's missionary zeal that shaped the Christian church into what it is today: something no longer associated exclusively with the Jewish Temple and local synagogues. And why is that? Paul was called by God to reach out to Gentiles, to Roman citizens.

So Paul packed up his leatherworking tools and hit the road (Roman paved roads to be exact) to start Christian communities throughout the Roman empire. And you need to know this, the term "Christian" was very new. Our scriptures tell us that the term "Christian" wasn't even coined until Barnabas took Saul (now Paul) to Antioch where they stayed for a year growing that community, that church. (See Acts 11).

Which brings us to our readings today. Biblical scholars are fairly certain that Paul traveled on what was called the Via Egnatia—a Roman road constructed that ran through what is now Albania, North Macedonia, Greece and Turkey. We also know this from today's Act's reading: Paul had with him two traveling companions: Silas and Timothy. And what do we know about these men?

I'll start with Silas. Scholars typically assume that Silas spoken of in today's reading from Acts is Silvanus mentioned in today's reading from Thessalonians and in four other letters attributed to Paul. But here is the interesting part that scholars can't work out. Silvanus is a Roman name meaning "of the forest" used by Paul and 1 Peter (except in the New International Version that calls him Silas leaning on tradition rather than scholarship). But here is the conundrum: Is Silas his original name and Silvanus his Romanized name OR is Silas a nickname for the original name Silvanus? We'll never know.

But what about the man himself? We don't have a lot of information on Silas, but he was first mentioned in Acts 15 when he and another believer named Judas (NOT Judas Iscariot—remember, he was dead by then) were chosen by the Jerusalem leaders as the official delegates to accompany Paul on his travels. Most likely a Jew by birth, scholars get the sense that he was well respected among the Gentiles (the Romans), Paul saw as his primary audience. So I guess the best description we could use for Silas is “missionary.”

The same can be said for Timothy—he served primarily as a missionary to the Romans. Scriptures tell us that Timothy was born to a Jewish woman and a Greek father. And because Jews trace their lineage along their mother's line, Timothy would have been considered a Jew. In 2 Timothy, we hear him naming his mother as Eunice and his grandmother as Lois—both of whom had become Christian believers, but Jewish by birth.

Timothy's name appears as the co-author on 2 Corinthians, Philippians, Colossians, 1 Thessalonians, 2 Thessalonians, and Philemon. Paul wrote to the Philippians about Timothy, "I have no one like him" (Philippians 2:19–23). When Paul was in prison and awaiting martyrdom, he summoned his faithful friend Timothy for a last farewell. In other words, a lifelong friend and traveling companion.

So the scene is set for our readings today. Paul, Silas and Timothy traveling ever-further into Roman/Gentile areas, but always stopping at the synagogues first of any towns or cities they entered. Paul would teach and preach to the Jews in the synagogue, but his message always spilled out onto the Roman streets. And this is what we learn: Paul was a persuasive preacher: some Jews converted to Christianity along with Roman/Gentile women and men (and scriptures report prominent Romans at that!)

We also hear in today's reading from Acts that the people of Thessaloniki took to Paul's gospel preaching less well than the more receptive Beroans. In fact, Paul's message was so disturbing to the Jews in particular that they formed a mob and set the city in an uproar over the gospel. They accused Paul and his companions of “turning the world upside down” and for looking to King Jesus rather than the Roman king.

So why is this story so important to us in the Easter Season of 2020 in the midst of quarantines, illness and death that looms large around us in this pandemic? This I believe: The message of Jesus' extravagant love, his grace-filled forgiveness, and the new life we can have through him IS meant to turn our world upside down. Being a follower of Jesus does not fit well with our western culture. In fact, being a Christian is counter-cultural at its very core.

As we see from the very beginning, the people who took the teachings of Jesus to heart were a mixed bag: Jews and Gentiles, women and men, wealthy and poor. From the moment of Pentecost—the coming of the Holy Spirit—when the believers went to the highways and bi-ways of the empire to preach, there has been tension and discord. From the very beginning, these earliest of believers had to figure out how to live together, work together and worship together when, up until their conversions to Christianity, they would have had nothing to do with each other.

In other words, because of Jesus, their world was turned upside down.

It should be the same for us. Because of what Jesus has done for us: loving us, forgiving us, offering us second chances and abounding grace, we cannot go back to business as usual. Being a Christian can and should impact the whole of our lives: how we spend our time, how we spend our money, how we see the world around us.

One of the gifts this terrible coronavirus has given us is this: a literal “time out” as a nation and a world to figure out what is of value and what is not of value. Cities that have been shrouded by smog now have clean air for the first time in generations. Rival gangs in South Africa are now working together to distribute food and medicines using the same networks they used prior to the virus to traffic drugs and kill one another. Neighbors and friends are pooling their resources to get by. Parents and their children are experiencing a renaissance of quality time. And this community, this beloved wider community, has made feeding our neighbors the priority in the midst of job losses and catastrophic illness.

Our world HAS been turned upside down. Now listen up: I do not believe for one moment that God is smiting us with a coronavirus in order to teach us a lesson. Not at all. But if Christ's message of new life is still

our Easter anthem, it is up to US to figure out how we want to live—not only in quarantine but after the restrictions are lifted and we can go back to “life as usual.” Do we want to return to smog-filled cities, gang violence, distrust of neighbors and the culture of “me, me, me”?

As Christians, it is our sacred calling during this pandemic and after this pandemic to be Jesus’ arms and eyes, feet and heart in our communities. As Christians, it is our sacred calling to work together to create a world in which Jew and Gentile, women and men, rich and poor work together for the betterment of EVERYONE. We can do this. The moment is ours to dream dreams of extravagant welcome and the elimination of hunger and violence. And then, when this pandemic ends, to work for the rest of our lives to make it happen.

We can do this. Let the dreaming begin. Amen.

WE RESPOND WITH OUR GIFTS

OFFERING INVITATION: Whenever we offer our best to God: be it our time, our tithes, our treasure, we pray that these offerings might be used to bring hope to the hopeless, healing to the hurting, food to the hungry: all for the building up of God’s kingdom in this community and beyond. When you give to God through St. Paul Church, your ministry dollars do much to bring God’s kingdom on earth as it is in heaven. You are invited to give joyfully and generously.

DOXOLOGY

Praise God from whom all blessings flow; praise him, all creatures here below; praise him above, ye heavenly host: praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.

PRAYER OF DEDICATION (unison)

Blessed are you, O God, from whom all good things come. With thankful hearts we return to you a portion of what you have given us, dedicating both gifts and givers to your service. Receive them for the sake of Jesus, who offered himself for us, and in whom we live and would bear faithful fruit. Amen.

SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION

(Service of Communion written by Maren Tirabassi)

INVITATION:

For Holy Communion this morning, I invite you to lend Christ your table. Every time we share this meal, we remember on Easter's afternoon, Jesus was invited into a house in Emmaus and used the bread of that hospitality to break and bless. Friends: lend Christ your table, your bread, your cup and your heart as we gather, scattered yet as one, for this meal.

PRAYER OF CONSECRATION

Leader: We are one bread, one body, one cup of blessing. Though we are many throughout the earth and this church community is scattered, we are one in Christ. In your many kitchens, and living rooms, rest your hands lightly on these elements which we set aside today to be a sacrament. Let us ask God's blessing upon them.

Unison Prayer: Gentle Redeemer, there is no lockdown on your blessing and no quarantine on your grace. Send your Spirit of life and love, power and blessing, upon every table where your children shelter in place, that this Bread may be broken and gathered in love and this Cup poured out to give hope to all. Risen Christ, live in us, that we may live in you. Breathe in us, that we may breathe in you.

WORDS OF REMEMBERING

Leader: We remember that Paul the apostle wrote letters to congregations throughout places we now call Greece, Turkey and Macedonia, and they were the first "remote" worship resources. Our online service has a long heritage. The Communion words sent to the church at Corinth were these: *For I received from the Lord what I also handed on to you, that the Lord Jesus on the night when he was betrayed took a loaf of bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, "This is my body that is for you. Do this in remembrance of me" In the same way he took the cup also, after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me." For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.*

SHARING THE ELEMENTS

Leader: Let us in our many places receive the gift of God, the Bread of Heaven.

People: We are one in Christ in the bread we share.

Leader: Let us in our many places receive the gift of God, the Cup of Blessing.

People: We are one in Christ in the cup we share.

Leader: Let us pray in thanksgiving for this meal of grace, rejoicing that, by the very method of our worship, we have embodied the truth that Christ's love is not limited by buildings made by human hands, nor contained in human ceremonies, but blows as free as the Spirit in all places.

People: Spirit of Christ, you have blessed our tables and our lives. May the eating of this Bread give us courage to speak faith and act love, not only in church sanctuaries and chapels, but in your precious world, and may the drinking of this Cup renew our hope even in the midst of pandemic. Wrap your hopeful presence around all whose bodies, spirits, and hearts need healing, and let us become your compassion and safe refuge. Amen.

Leader: The Bread of Heaven! Take and eat!

Leader: The Cup of Blessing! Take and drink!

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING (in unison)

O God, we thank you for uniting us by baptism in the body of Christ and by this meal filling us with joy and hope. Grant that in the days ahead our lips which have sung your praises may speak the truth; our eyes which have seen your love may look with compassion on the needs of the world; our hands which have held this loaf and cup may be active in your service. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

HYMN OF SENDING

Lift High the Cross

Lift High the Cross

Refrain (Unison)

C C/E Dm7 G7 F/A G/B C C/G D7/F# Gsus G G7/B

Lift high the cross, the love of Christ pro - claim till

C G7/D C/E Dm7/F Em/G F/A G/B F/A Em/G Dm/F Dm7 G7 Csus C

all the world a - dore his sa - cred name.

Verse (parts)

Em F#dim/A Am D G/B Bm C B Em Am/C B

1 Come, Chris - tians, fol - low where our Sav - ior trod,
 2 All new - born ser - vants of the Cru - ci - fied
 3 O Lord, once lift - ed on the glo - rious tree,
 4 So shall our song of tri - umph ev - er be:

to Refrain

Em Am Bm/D D/C G/B Bm C Dsus D G F/Dm Em/G G G G

our King vic - to - rious, Christ, the Son of God.
 bear on their brow the seal of Christ who died.
 your death has brought us life e - ter - nal - ly.
 praise to the Cru - ci - fied for vic - to - ry.

WORDS: George W. Kitchin (1827-1912); rev. Michael R. Newbolt (1874-1956), alt.
 MUSIC: Sydney H. Nicholson (1875-1947)

Words and Music © 1974 Hope Publishing Company

CRUCIFER
 10.10.10.10.

BENEDICTION (adapted from 2 Corinthians 13:11)

And now, my brothers and sisters, rejoice. Aim for healing and reconciliation; comfort one another; live in peace; and may the God of love and peace be with you today and always. Amen.

***BENEDICTION RESPONSE** *Pass the Love*

Pass the Love

♩=95

Love our God, ev - 'ry day, praise with joy go - ing on your way.

Pass it on, t'all you meet, ev - 'ry day in — ev - 'ry way.

Love our Ho - ly God. Pray with hope each day.

Bless the Ho - ly Name. Praise our — God.

PASSING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

Leader: In Christ, we are a new creation. Let us joyfully pass the peace of Christ with one another.

"No Matter" Words and music by Roger P. Miller ©2007 All rights reserved.

"Pass the Love" Words and Music by Doris Ketner Copyright ©2000. All rights reserved.

This arrangement by Rodney Milton, Copyright ©2000. All rights reserved.

Used by Permission. CCLI License #3095528

ANNOUNCEMENTS

May 3rd Communion-Pick up is Saturday, May 2nd, 11:00am-Noon, Herman St. We will also be handing out goodies for the May 3rd Children's Moment. If you are unable to get out, but would still like communion, please contact the church office (419-629-2502) and we'll do our best to arrange delivery to your home.

Blessing Pantry-is open 10am-noon and 1pm-3pm Monday-Friday and 5:30pm-7:30pm Tuesday's. All Donations Welcome-Thank you!

We have placed a metal can outside the East Educational Building door for donations.

Building Entrance-St. Paul is accessible by the East Educational Building door, Monday-Friday 10:00am-Noon and 1:00pm-3:00pm. Please ring the doorbell, wait outside the doors so staff may assist you. We are currently taking everyone's temperature asking you to sanitize hands and remove shoes. Thank you!

Mailbox-We have installed a mailbox outside of the East Educational Building door for any correspondence you may have for the church and would like to drop off. Please lift the flap and drop through the slot on the top. The box is locked and will be checked often. Thank you!

Daily Devotions-Please join Rev Becky or Pastor Dee Monday-Friday at 11:30am, online via Facebook Live. These will be airing on our Facebook page St. Paul United Church of Christ-New Bremen, OH.

May/June Upper Rooms-have arrived! Please call the church office if you would like one and we will gladly mail one to you.

Flat Jesus Adventures- During Holy Humor Worship on April 19, Pastor Becky introduced Flat Jesus during the Children's Moment.

Taking a page from the Flat Stanley childhood book, you should have received in your worship packet that week, Flat Jesus—who needs to be colored and decorated and ready for adventures in your home.

Then, each weekday during our 11:30am Facebook Live devotions, your family will receive new instructions on what you and Jesus can do together that day. We encourage you to take pictures and put them on Facebook or text pictures to Pastors Becky or Dee.

Upcoming Flat Jesus Adventures:

- May 4 - Take a picture of Flat Jesus going on a walk with you.
- May 5 - Take a picture of Flat Jesus playing a game with you.
- May 6 - Take a picture of Flat Jesus dancing with you.

- May 7 - Take a picture of you and Flat Jesus writing a letter to a friend.
- May 8 - Take a picture of you and Flat Jesus praying at bedtime.
- May 11 - Take a picture of you and Flat Jesus doing an art project.
- May 12 - Take a picture of Flat Jesus helping you clean the house.
- May 13 - Take a picture of Flat Jesus helping you plant your garden.
- May 14 - Take a picture of Flat Jesus saying grace with you at a meal.
- May 15 - Take a silly picture of you and Flat Jesus.

If you need more copies of Flat Jesus, contact Pastors Dee or Becky at the church office.

Thursday Evening Vespers-One of the most difficult parts of the Covid19 pandemic is our inability to gather as a congregation. Yes, many of us log onto Facebook for weekly worship and daily devotions, but the interactions with each other is limited. Starting Thursday, May 7 at 6:30pm, Pastors Dee and Becky will host Thursday Evening Vespers. Vespers are traditionally an evening prayer service. We plan to gather via the online site called Zoom. To join the Zoom meeting, you can click on or log onto this website:

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/78283243697?pwd=cTFzYVIPWjZRZ0dEQUFDT015TlljUT09> *If you would like an email version of this to make logging on easier, simply email Pastor Becky: berbstrang@stpaulnb.org
Once you are logged on, you will need the following:

Meeting ID: 782 8324 3697

Password: 2mSAg1

Currently, Pastor Becky has this time slot reserved on Zoom through Thursday, June 18. The plan is for us to check in with one another, hear scripture, and pray together each week. Any questions? Contact Pastor Becky

New Member Class-Pandemics aside, St. Paul Church is growing. We have a good-sized group of people who have expressed interest in becoming members of St. Paul United Church of Christ. We will have a New Member Orientation session via Zoom on Saturday, May 16 at

10:00am. You can join the New Member Orientation by clicking/logging on to:

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/74474515189?pwd=UmNwMlh2S3lvdS95T0hJcFhhc2dmZz09> *Please email Pastor Becky if you would like an email version of this invitation: berbstrang@stpaulnb.org

Once you are logged on, you will need the following:

Meeting ID: 744 7451 5189 Password: 9h8uAx

If St. Paul has become your spiritual home, you are invited to join this Zoom session to learn more about us. All are welcome!

Jigsaw Puzzle Swap-At home doing jigsaw puzzles? Wanting some new puzzles for the coming weeks? Pastors Dee and Becky are willing to coordinate a jigsaw puzzle swap. If you have used puzzles you'd like to loan out OR if you would like to borrow a puzzle, please contact Pastor Becky: Phone:419-629-2502 Email:berbstrang@stpaulnb.org

E-Giving @ St. Paul **3 Different Ways to Give**

Online – Make a donation on our website: stpaulnb.org

Give+ App – Search “Give Plus Church” in your App store and find St. Paul to Get Started!

Text – Make a donation to our Number: 833-308-0048
St. Paul New “Text to Give” #(# changed as of 10/9/19)

How To Give by Text (Example - my amount for the example is \$25 (minimum amount is \$5.00))

- For general fund giving: Send 25 space gl (hit send)
- For building & property fund giving: Send 25 space bp (hit send)
- For project of the year giving: Send 25 space poy (hit send)

Once a text amount is sent:

Registration Link- Sent via text the first time a donation is made.

Thank you! Please visit (link) to register.

Donation Confirm- Sent via text each time a donation is made.

Thank you for donating \$ (amount)! Text repeat to make this recurring or refund to cancel this donation.



Timothy and his grandmother, 1648
-Rembrandt