

Kintsugi: The Japanese art of repairing that which is broken with gold, rendering the piece even more beautiful.

#### St. Paul United Church of Christ

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New Bremen, Ohio 45869
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Visit our website at <a href="https://stpaulnb.org">https://stpaulnb.org</a>
Rev. Becky Senior Pastor
Pastor Dee Associate Pastor
Jeff Quellhorst-Council President

Welcome to St. Paul UCC today, we are glad you are here!! Welcome, one and all, to this time of worship. We are blessed to have you with us today.

Coronavirus (COVID-19) and the Church-Covid-19 is a respiratory illness that causes flu-like symptoms including fever, vomiting and difficulty breathing. Good hygiene helps prevent the spread not only of coronavirus but also of colds and flu! Stay home if you are sick. Sneeze/cough into the crook of your elbow or a tissue, not your hand. Wash immediately or use hand sanitizer after coughing, sneezing or blowing your nose. Avoid touching your face, mouth, nose and eyes.

#### IN PERSON WORSHIP NOTES:

Masks, Bulletins and Offering Plates are available on round tables.

Please fill out worship cards located in the pews and place in offering plate as you exit. It is very important these cards are filled out by everyone who is here in case we need to contact you. Thank you!!!!

Listening devices are available in the Narthex/front entrance, for those who need them. Please return your device to an Usher following worship. Thank you!

Children's Packets containing children's bulletins and other activities are available on the tables. Please take the whole packet home with you. Thank you!

WIFI Connection-connect via "St Paul - Guest"

The \* indicates all who are able may stand

## July 19, 2020 Seventh Sunday after Pentecost

#### **Worship Leaders**

Ministers
Rev. Becky Erb Strang
Pastor Dee Schroer
Cheyenne Olt

The Congregation
Senior Pastor
Associate Pastor
Accompanist/Vocalist

#### **GATHERING MUSIC**

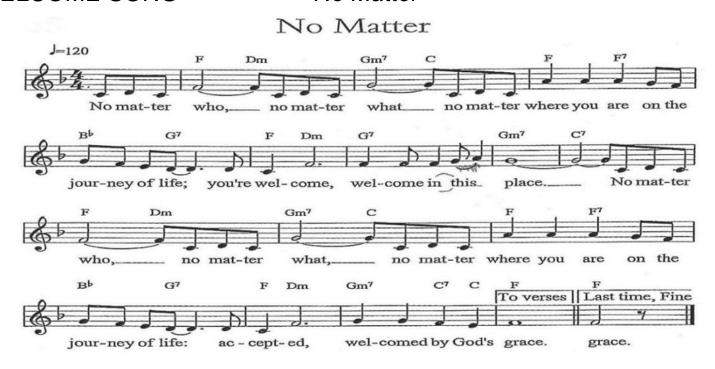
GREETING AND LIGHTING OF CANDLES: As we light the altar and Christ candles, you are invited to light a candle or candles at home in preparation for worship.

RINGING OF THE BELLS

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

WELCOME SONG

No Matter



#### \*CALL TO WORSHIP

(adapted from Chalice Worship; Chalice Press, 1997)

Leader: God anointed Jesus to console the afflicted.

People: Come, let us worship Christ our Comforter!

Leader: God anointed Jesus to emancipate the enslaved.

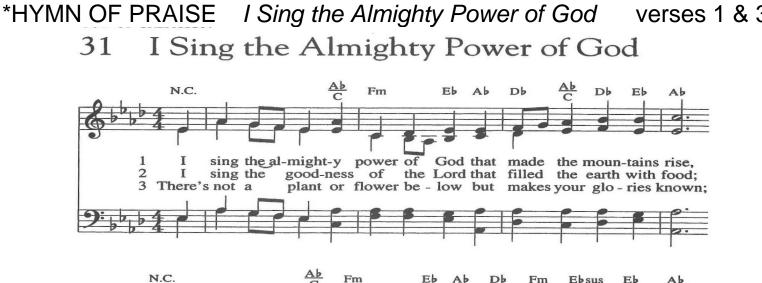
People: Come, let us worship Christ our Liberator!

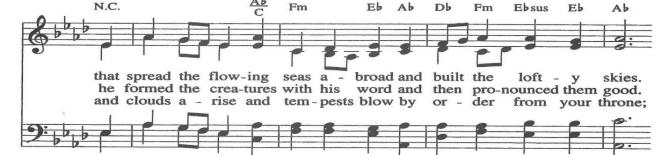
Leader: God anointed Jesus to bind up the wounded.

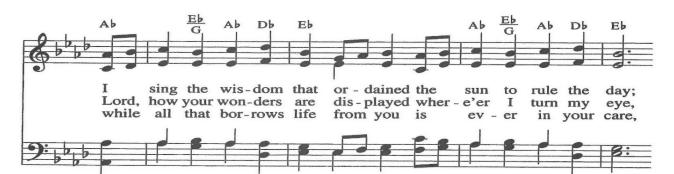
People: Come, let us worship Christ our Healer!

Leader: God anointed Jesus to deliver the troubled. People: Come, let us worship Christ our Savior!

I Sing the Almighty Power of God verses 1 & 3









WORDS: Isaac Watts (1674-1748) MUSIC: Gesangbuch der H. W. K. Hofkapelle, 1784

**ELLACOMBE** 

# \*SERVICE OF CONFESSION CALL TO CONFESSION

Leader: God has come to us in Christ, but often we live as if that makes no difference. Let us confess our sin, our brokenness, before God and one another.

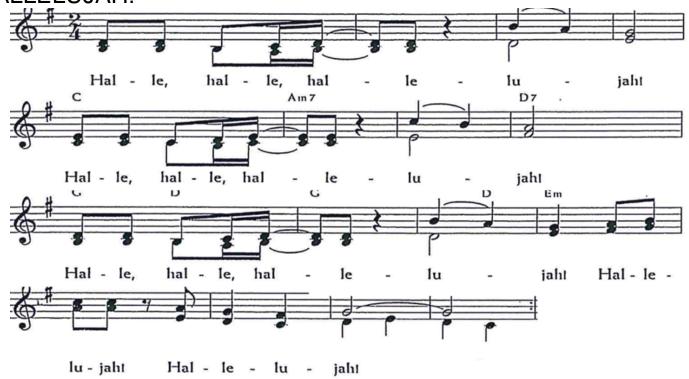
UNISON CONFESSION OF SIN: God, your Son Jesus Christ has taught us that power belongs to you. You have shared your power with us. Yet, we confess we have not accepted the power you have given us. We have allowed others to use power to dominate people and nations, exploiting them, creating wars, and accumulating wealth. Today you offer us your power, so that we can help change the world, announce your kingdom, and acknowledge you, the source of all power. For yours is the kingdom and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

SILENT CONFESSION OF SIN ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Leader: Jesus looked up and said to a sinner, "Where are your accusers? Has no one come to condemn you? Neither do I condemn you; go, and do not sin again.

People: Thanks be to God!

#### \*HALLELUJAH!



#### CHILDREN'S MOMENT:

We are in our third week of seeing how beautiful the world is and everything and everyone in it. Today we are going to look for beauty in something that is broken.

There is a Japanese word *wabi-sabi*. Wabi-sabi is the idea that everything is beautiful, even things that are imperfect, things that have been broken or made in an unusual way. In fact, this Japanese idea says that imperfection or out-of-the-ordinary makes things MORE interesting and special. There is also an ancient Japanese art of repairing broken things with gold. It's called *kintsugi*. Instead of hiding the cracks, gold is put there to show us the beautiful design the crack made. (See bulletin cover for an example)

Your packet includes a kintsugi coloring page. You are invited to color it any way you want because whatever you choose will show its beauty. If you are a little older, you are invited to journal a bit on that coloring page, writing your thoughts about the broken parts of life that you'd like God to help you see those parts as opportunities to be changed and to be seen as beautiful.

Let us pray. God of goodness, thank you for the beauty of life—even when things break. Help us repair broken hearts, offering color and love for the beauty of the earth. Amen.

PRAYER HYMN Come and Find the Quiet Center

# 477 Come and Find the Quiet Center



WORDS: Shirley Erena Murray (1931-)
MUSIC: Attr. B. F. White (1800-1879), The Sacred Harp, 1844; arr. Ronald A. Nelson (1927-)

BEACH SPRING 8.7.8.7.D.

#### PASTORAL JOYS AND CONCERNS OF THE PEOPLE

Joys:

**Concerns:** 

PASTORAL PRAYER, SILENT PRAYER, AND THE LORD'S PRAYER.

Holy and life-giving God, we lift up to you today your church around the world: that its communities of faith may proclaim your good news and bring reconciliation and healing to this earth. May we be instruments of your hope to others. SILENCE

We lift up to you the diversity of the Body of Christ—Christians in our community, Christians in our country and Christians around the world. May each know the power of the living Christ and serve you with faithful discipleship. SILENCE

We lift up to you our country: that our leaders might govern wisely and with compassion. That we, as citizens, may act lovingly toward one another and for the common good. SILENCE

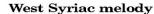
We pray for all families in all its forms. Be with children and their parents, grandparents and loved ones. May the ties that bind us together be strengthened by your grace and tenderness. We pray for the strengthening of our human relationships. SILENCE

We lift up in prayer those who are in trouble or danger: that regardless of circumstance they may find hope and release; that they may know they are not alone, but abide in you. We pray for those weighed down by life's many burdens. SILENCE

We pray today for all who are sick, those who are injured, those who are recuperating. We pray also for all who are mourning the loss of a loved one. Pour your comforting and healing Spirit upon each. SILENCE

O God, you know the deepest yearnings of our hearts. Take these yearnings and use them to work your perfect will in the life of the world. Shape our lives according to our prayers. SILENCE Amen.

ANTHEM The Lord's Prayer (YouTube Search: The Lord's Prayer in Aramaic (Abun d'beschmayo)





#### OLD TESTAMENT LESSON: Psalm 147:1-11

(Eugene Peterson's The Message)

Hallelujah!

It's a good thing to sing praise to our God; praise is beautiful, praise is fitting.

<sup>2-6</sup> God's the one who rebuilds Jerusalem, who regathers Israel's scattered exiles. He heals the heartbroken and bandages their wounds. He counts the stars and assigns each a name. Our Lord is great, with limitless strength; we'll never comprehend what he knows and does. God puts the fallen on their feet again and pushes the wicked into the ditch. 7-11 Sing to God a thanksgiving hymn, play music on your instruments to God, Who fills the sky with clouds, preparing rain for the earth, Then turning the mountains green with grass, feeding both cattle and crows. He's not impressed with horsepower;

He's not impressed with horsepower; the size of our muscles means little to him. Those who fear God get God's attention;

they can depend on his strength.

## NEW TESTAMENT LESSON: 2 Corinthians 2:1-10 (NRSV)

So I made up my mind not to make you another painful visit. <sup>2</sup> For if I cause you pain, who is there to make me glad but the one whom I have pained? <sup>3</sup> And I wrote as I did, so that when I came, I might not suffer pain from those who should have made me rejoice; for I am confident about all of you, that my joy would be the joy of all of you. <sup>4</sup> For I wrote you out of much distress and anguish of heart and with many tears, not to cause you pain, but to let you know the abundant love that I have for you.

<sup>5</sup> But if anyone has caused pain, he has caused it not to me, but to some extent—not to exaggerate it—to all of you. <sup>6</sup> This punishment by the majority is enough for such a person; <sup>7</sup> so now instead you should forgive and console him, so that he may not be overwhelmed by excessive sorrow. <sup>8</sup> So I urge you to reaffirm your love for him. <sup>9</sup> I wrote for this reason: to test you and to know whether you are obedient in

everything. <sup>10</sup> Anyone whom you forgive, I also forgive. What I have forgiven, if I have forgiven anything, has been for your sake in the presence of Christ.

#### RESPONSE

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

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

SERMON Tatum Temple

I think we can all agree that forgiveness is really hard. It's something we all have struggled with doing at one point in our lives. Even in Paul's letter to the Corinthians, you can tell there's a bit of hesitancy, but despite all that, he says we should always reaffirm our love to the person who wronged us.

That's not always easy. I remember back in college having a conversation with someone I had looked up to. Sure, we never truly saw things eye to eye, but we could always respect what the other person had to say. That was until I told him about a view I have about something that made him go into a tangent that I'll spare the details of, but had a strong disagreement with. This tangent included some hurtful things that made me feel bad as a person, and honestly, after talking to him that day, I started to avoid him as much as possible. I started to hold a grudge.

A grudge is the opposite of forgiveness. To hold a grudge against someone is to harbor these awful thoughts about them, never truly forgiving them, as you have been hurt. I was hurt by the words he said to me that every time I would be near him, I'd get uncomfortable. In my mind, this man was a mentor to me, and the words he said to me wounded me, even though he meant nothing by them. What he said wasn't wrong. He was just explaining to me his beliefs. His beliefs just weren't my beliefs.

Now, this man was like a mentor to me because he was one of the leaders of Campus Ministry, a college leadership program I was a part of which helped college students grow deeper in their faith, lead by example with their faith, and help out with religious activities on campus. He wasn't the only leader of campus ministry. There was another leader that I was fairly close with. Whenever I had a question about something, or wanted

to talk about schoolwork, I'd go to this person, and it eventually turned into weekly meetings. This person's name was Sister Ignatia.

For a while, I was quiet when I went to these weekly meetings, and to those who know me pretty well, I'm not exactly a quiet person once I get comfortable around people. Sister caught onto this and asked what was going on, and so, I told her. It wasn't easy as I wasn't sure she'd understand, but she could see both sides and explained things a bit easier since they shared a similar religious background, which was different from mine as a member of the United Church of Christ. It made sense, but at the same time, she could see what went wrong as a third party listener. Sister didn't stand up for his actions, but instead, she challenged me to do something that was probably the toughest challenge yet as it was the only way she felt like she could help.

Sister asked if I had forgiven him, and if I didn't, she asked if I would consider forgiving him.

Now, I'll admit, had Sister not said anything about that, I probably wouldn't have, but here, in 2 Corinthians, Paul states that we should forgive them because that is what we are called to do. Anything otherwise is petty when you think about it. Yes, words and actions can hurt us, but God doesn't want us to dwell over that. He calls on us to be better than that, and to forgive. Yes, it's not going to be easy. Forgiveness takes time, but with His help, we can do it.

We can do so through prayer. When I was going through this, Sister lead me through a mediation process I would like to share with you if you're ever having troubles forgiving someone. Keep in mind, it doesn't always work the first time. Like everything, it takes time and practice to get better at it, but I'd like to lead you all through it as it makes more sense to go through each step than to describe what she did.

To start this meditation, I want you all to close your eyes for a moment. Take some deep breaths, and keep all distracting thoughts away if you can.

I want you to picture Jesus standing beside you, and that there's a river flowing in front of you. Between you and the river, there are some rocks. Now, I want each of these rocks to be a thought of why this person has wronged you. With each thought, I want you to cast it away in the river. Keep the person in mind as you do it. Let Jesus be there to help

you cast away all of these grudges, and have him help you lighten the load. Let him help you forgive the person, as they are children of God too.

Once you're done, I want you to open your eyes and take a couple of breaths. If you're alone at home doing this, you can do this same meditation with prayer, and audibly say the person's name you're trying to forgive. Forgiveness isn't easy, but with His help, with time, and with a bit of work, forgiveness is something we can do to those who have wronged us. This meditation was something Sister taught me early on, and we've done it a few times, as forgiveness doesn't always come easy. It made me feel good knowing I wasn't the only one struggling with this as she told me she used the same meditation to help her forgive others as well.

So, if you're struggling with forgiveness, have God help you. He calls us to forgive. It's just up to us to take that first step. Will you take that first step in forgiving someone?

#### WE RESPOND WITH OUR GIFTS

OFFERING INVITATION: The God of heaven and earth, of all creation, holds each one of us in tender love and care. God is gracious and good, and no one is insignificant in God's eyes. So we respond to everything God is doing in the life of the world by offering a portion of what we have generously received from a loving God. In the ministry of St. Paul United Church of Christ, we reach out to all of God's children in tender love, welcome, and care. Let us gather our gifts together and offer them to God in gratitude and praise.

\*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)

Gracious God, with thanks we offer the gifts of our hands and the fruit of our labors. Accept them as expressions of our response to the life and love you have given us. Amen.

# \*HYMN OF SENDING Lord, Let Your Servant Go in Peace verses 1 & 4 Lord, Let Your Servant Go in Peace

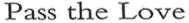


Alternate tune: ST. PETER, United Methodist Hymnal, no. 549

WORDS: Carolyn Winfrey Gillette, 2010 (Luke 2:29-32; Matthew 28:16-20; John 14) AMAZING GRACE MUSIC: 19th cent. USA melody; harm. by Edwin O. Excell, 1900 CM

\*BENEDICTION: May God take your hands and work through them, take your lips and speak through them, take your minds and think through them, take your hearts and set them on fire with love. Go in the peace and power of Christ who goes with you. Amen.

# \*BENEDICTION RESPONSE Pass the Love





#### \*PASSING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

Let us share in the joy of the Lord by passing the Peace of Christ with one another.

As the ushers are dismissing you, let us pass the peace of Christ with each other, while maintaining our 6 ft physical distance. Direct eye contact, loving words, and a warm smile are as meaningful as a traditional handshake or hug.

#### **RECESSIONAL**

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

"Halle Halle" Words and music by Hal H. Hobson ©1998 Hope Publishing Company

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

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#### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Altar Flowers** are given in loving memory of Jim Donnerberg by Mim Donnerberg.

**Attendance-**Online-Daily Devotions Avg.-80, July 5-Sunday Worship Online-311, In Person-47

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 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.

**Ushers Needed-**Myra Hanenkratt, our Senior Deacon, is still seeking ushers for in-person worship. If this is something you are willing to do, please contact her.

**July/August Upper Rooms**-have arrived! They are available at the East entrance to the education building and on Sunday's in the Sanctuary. Or please call the church office if you would like one and we will gladly mail one to you.

#### **Worship Schedule for July**

**Sunday's in July-**we will be worshipping via Facebook Live and in person in our sanctuary at 10:15.

**Meetings-Worship Team** will meet Sunday, July 19 after worship in the Sanctuary.

**Coffee with Pastor Becky**-Due to the heat, Monday July 20 has been moved to NB Coffee Co. from 1:30pm to 3:30pm.

**Thursday Evening Vespers-**Thursday's at 6:30pm, Pastors Dee and Becky will host Thursday Evening Vespers. Vespers are traditionally an evening prayer service. We gather via the online site called Zoom. **Now through August 6,** to join the Zoom meeting, you can click on or log onto this website:

https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89695161435?pwd=NEswVE5tZGhOd3YzS3 ZJV25TeVk1dz09

\*If you would like an email version of this to make logging on easier, simply email Pastor Becky: <a href="mailto:berbstrang@stpaulnb.org">berbstrang@stpaulnb.org</a>

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

Meeting ID: 896 9516 1435 Password: 407351

The plan is for us to check in with one another, hear scripture, and pray together each week. Any questions? Contact Pastor Becky

## July Monthly Mission-Community Backpack + Program

The Community Backpack + Program is a group of community volunteers who come together each year to ensure that all students in our community have the supplies needed to start the school year. In addition, they donate toward school fees for those who cannot afford to, and fund the local "No-Shame Lunch Fund." In 2019 this program supplied backpacks/supplies to 44 students, paid \$769 in school fees as well as fund/facilitate the, "No shame Lunch Fund," in New Bremen, Minster and New Knoxville schools. They are currently preparing for the 2020-21 school year and your donations are greatly appreciated. They believe that, in fact, it does take a village to raise a child, and they are so grateful to live in such a generous community. Thank you for your compassion. The Mission Team.

# 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!

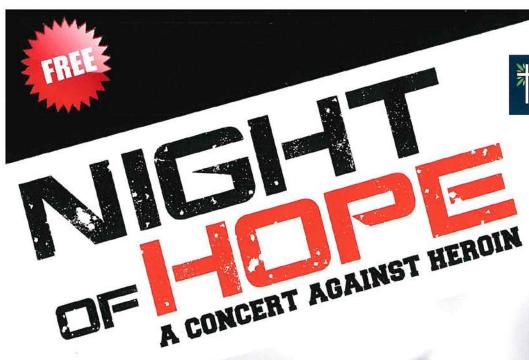
Text – Make a donation to our Number: 833-308-0048 St. Paul New "Text to Give" #(# changed as of 10/9/19) How To Give by Text (Example - my amount for the example is \$25 (minimum amount is \$5.00))

- > 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.







# MC



Author & Pastor Nathan Branim



Mayor Patrick McGowan Sheriff Al Solomon







**Brandon Clavenger** 

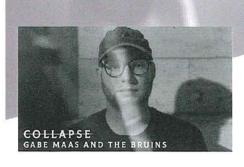


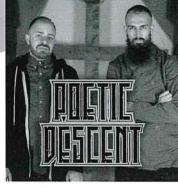
Nichole Meeker



Ben & Missy Budde

# LIVEBANDS







MEMORIAL PARK, St. MARYS, OHIO 228 E. SOUTH ST.



J<sub>ESUS</sub> MAKE ME IINISTRIES

> will be passing out free dinner, to those that are in need!