# WHIEN PEACE LIKE A RIVER

-ATTENDETH MY WAY -

WHEN SORROWS LIKE SEA BILLOWS ROLL

- WHATEVER MY LOT -

THOU HAST TAUGHT ME TO SAY

# IS WELL WITH MY SOUL

Randy

# St. Paul United Church of Christ

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Like and follow our page St. Paul United Church of Christ – New Bremen, Ohio on Facebook
Rev. Becky Senior Pastor
Pastor Dee Associate Pastor
Jeff Quellhorst-Council President

Welcome to St. Paul UCC today, we are glad you are here!! This is the house of the Lord, and all are welcome to enter and praise our loving Creator. May God's love fill you with kindness, mercy and joy.

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. On July 23 Governor DeWine mandated mask wearing in public, including houses of worship. Masks are essential to halting the spread of the virus. Thank You for cooperating.

# 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

# August 9, 2020 Tenth Sunday after Pentecost

# **Worship Leaders**

Ministers
Rev. Becky Erb Strang
Pastor Dee Schroer
Katie Paulus
Cheyenne Olt
Dick Hudson

The Congregation
Senior Pastor
Associate Pastor
Guest Preacher
Accompanist/Vocalist
Organist

### **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.

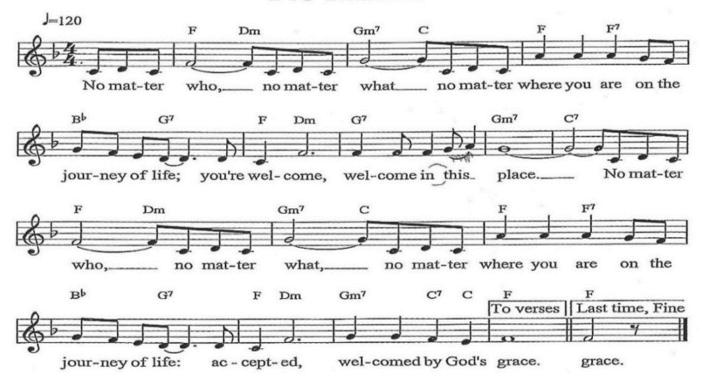
RINGING OF THE BELLS

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

\*WELCOME SONG

No Matter

### No Matter



# \*CALL TO WORSHIP

(adapted from Chalice Worship; Chalice Press, 1997)

Leader: Whether we are gathered or scattered, this faith community sets aside this moment of time for worship of God through Jesus Christ.

People: Whether we are gathered or scattered, in numbers great or small, we show forth life of the church universal.

Leader: As the redeemed of God, let us go into this worship with thankful and joyful hearts.

People: We offer our lives to God, forgetting ourselves in the company of those who trust in God.

Leader: Let us worship God!

# \*HYMN OF PRAISE Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise verses 1 & 4

# 48 Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise



# \*PRAYER OF INVOCATION (unison)

Most holy God, your majesty is exceeded only by your love; grant us, in our worship of you, penitence in the presence of your holiness, reverence at the thought of your majesty, and confidence in the knowledge of your love; through Jesus Christ our Savior and Friend. Amen.

# \*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:

This is our last week in our search for beauty in the world around us. We've searched for beauty on earth, in the sky and in ourselves and others.

In our Old Testament lesson for today, we will read from the prophet Isaiah. In Isaiah's time, the people were waiting for good news. (Just like we wait for good news today). The people in Isaiah's time saw a messanger coming over the mountains with good news: peace has come! No more tears!

I don't know about you, but when I get good news, I jump up and down with joy. I do a happy dance. I get so happy to hear good news that I want to share that good news with others.

To share the good news, I brought a megaphone. I'll use it now: God loves you! You are always forgiven! You are a beautiful creation of God! You are never alone!!

In your bulletin packet for this week, we've printed a megaphone for you to color and cut out. Or, if you'd like, to write on the megaphone the good news of God's love you would like to share with others.

The world is so beautiful. The sky is so beautiful. YOU are so beautiful. This week, I challenge you to share this good news with family, with friends, with neighbors.

Let us pray. God of goodness, thank you for beauty. Thank you for good news. Help us bring beauty and joy to someone else and be a messenger of good news this coming week. Amen.

FAITH & HOPE

# My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less 405



# PASTORAL JOYS AND CONCERNS OF THE PEOPLE

Joys: Worshipping together!

**Concerns:** 

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

Gracious God, the story of your love makes us realize that there are many others as well as ourselves who need your help and your grace; so we bring our prayers to you.

We pray for those who suffer pain and for those whose loneliness is soul-destroying. SILENCE

We lift up to you those whose minds are disturbed, and for those who live lives of quiet despair. SILENCE

We pray for those who have not had the opportunities to realize their potentialities. SILENCE

We lift up to you those who are satisfied with something less than the life for which they were made. SILENCE

We pray for those who know their guilt, their shallowness, their need, but who do not know the love of Jesus. SILENCE

We lift up to you those who know they must die shortly and for those who cannot wait to die. SILENCE

Gracious God, your Son has taken all our sufferings upon himself and has transformed them. Help us, who offer these prayers, to take the sufferings of others upon ourselves, and so, by your grace, become agents of your transforming love. We pray this 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.

When peace like a river, attendeth my way, When sorrows like sea billows roll Whatever my lot, thou hast taught me to say It is well, it is well, with my soul

It is well With my soul It is well, it is well with my soul

Though Satan should buffet, though trials should come, Let this blest assurance control, That Christ has regarded my helpless estate, And hath shed His own blood for my soul

It is well (it is well)
With my soul (with my soul)
It is well, it is well with my soul

My sin, oh, the bliss of this glorious thought My sin, not in part but the whole, Is nailed to the cross, and I bear it no more, Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, O my soul

It is well (it is well)
With my soul (with my soul)
It is well, it is well with my soul
It is well (it is well)
With my soul (with my soul)
It is well, it is well with my soul

### OLD TESTAMENT LESSON: Isaiah 52:7-10

(from Eugene Peterson's The Message)

How beautiful on the mountains are the feet of the messenger bringing good news,

Breaking the news that all's well, proclaiming good times, announcing salvation, telling Zion, "Your God reigns!"

Voices! Listen! Your scouts are shouting, thunderclap shouts, shouting in joyful unison.

They see with their own eyes God coming back to Zion.

Break into song! Boom it out, ruins of Jerusalem:

"God has comforted his people! He's redeemed Jerusalem!"

God has rolled up his sleeves.

All the nations can see his holy, muscled arm.

Everyone, from one end of the earth to the other, sees him at work, doing his salvation work.

# NEW TESTAMENT LESSON: 2 Corinthians 8:1-15 (NRSV)

We want you to know, brothers and sisters, about the grace of God that has been granted to the churches of Macedonia; <sup>2</sup> for during a severe ordeal of affliction, their abundant joy and their extreme poverty have overflowed in a wealth of generosity on their part. <sup>3</sup> For, as I can testify, they voluntarily gave according to their means, and even beyond their means, <sup>4</sup> begging us earnestly for the privilege of sharing in this ministry to the saints— <sup>5</sup> and this, not merely as we expected; they gave themselves first to the Lord and, by the will of God, to us, <sup>6</sup> so that we might urge Titus that, as he had already made a beginning, so he should also complete this generous undertaking among you. <sup>7</sup> Now as you excel in everything—in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in utmost eagerness, and in our love for you—so we want you to excel also in this generous undertaking.

<sup>8</sup> I do not say this as a command, but I am testing the genuineness of your love against the earnestness of others. <sup>9</sup> For you know the generous act of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for

your sakes he became poor, so that by his poverty you might become rich. <sup>10</sup> And in this matter I am giving my advice: it is appropriate for you who began last year not only to do something but even to desire to do something— <sup>11</sup> now finish doing it, so that your eagerness may be matched by completing it according to your means. <sup>12</sup> For if the eagerness is there, the gift is acceptable according to what one has—not according to what one does not have. <sup>13</sup> I do not mean that there should be relief for others and pressure on you, but it is a question of a fair balance between <sup>14</sup> your present abundance and their need, so that their abundance may be for your need, in order that there may be a fair balance. <sup>15</sup> As it is written,

"The one who had much did not have too much, and the one who had little did not have too little."

### RESPONSE

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

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

**SERMON** Katie Paulus Good morning! Today our topic is generosity, which I think is really fitting right now. If we think about how this year is going, we sure have had a lot of opportunities to be generous. Maybe too many opportunities to be generous. The thing is, there are so many people that need help right now that it's actually become difficult to be generous. How are we supposed to help everyone, when many of us are also financially struggling from the global pandemic? Well, when it comes to speaking on generosity, I think we all get too hung up on the literal sense of the word. Most of the time, when we think about generosity, the first thing we think of is money. But if we look at our 2 Corinthians verses from today, we can see that generosity actually has very little to do with how much money we have. The people of the churches of Macedonia were poor, yet they gathered everything they had and were honored to have the privilege to help in any way they could. In the New International Version of this passage, verse 5 says "And they exceeded our expectations: they gave themselves first of all to the Lord, and then by the will of God also to us."

They gave *themselves*. Generosity is not just giving money, it's giving yourself- your time, your attention, your love, your devotion.

I know that in a church like this, there are a lot of opportunities to be generous with your time. I don't know if all of you know me, but I was an intern here last summer, and let me tell you - there is absolutely NO shortage of things that we can do for our community. Any of the previous SALT interns can tell you that every summer at St. Paul is jam packed with ministry. There are hospital visits, home visits, gingersnap baking and delivery, senior luncheons, youth ministry, children's ministry, and of course the blessing pantry, which has had to turn into the blessing gymnasium due to the current state of the world. There are an abundance of ways to donate your time, and that's just in this building. That's the other thing we get hung up on - we often confine our ministry to the walls of a church building. Ministry goes beyond a church, and even goes beyond Christianity. God wants us to be generous to all of his peopleand that includes people who don't go to our church, and even people who don't go to a church at all, even people who reject Christianity entirely.

Another way we can give ourselves to people is to be generous with our attention. I think a lot of times we get so bummed out by the news and the noise of everything happening that we just want to tune it out. But people are suffering, and the least we can do is listen. Even listening and acknowledging people's problems can make a world of difference to them. I love when Maya Angelou said "When people show you who they are, believe them the first time." There have been a lot of people in our country, let alone the world, telling us their struggles, yet those of us who don't experience those struggles ourselves like to brush them off and pretend they're not happening, or even flat out deny they're happening. Why is that? Is it because we don't want to add another problem to the list of all the ones we already have? Is it because acknowledging there is a problem also acknowledges that there is work to be done, and we're scared of how difficult it might be? Now I'm no expert, but I'm pretty sure dying on a cross isn't easy, especially when there are people that take it for granted. Jesus committed the ultimate act of generosity for each and every one of us, even the ones who deny Christianity. So we really have

no excuse to shy away from the difficulties of being generous. In fact, we have one of the easiest methods at our disposal to be generous *right now*. We don't even have to die on a cross. We don't have to die at all. We just need to listen, and acknowledge, and understand the suffering of others. We just need to start there, and then we can work on a solution. When someone shows you what their life is like, *believe them the first time*. When people of color have been telling us of their struggles for decades, centuries now, why did it take a man named George Floyd dying in front of our very eyes for us to believe them? And there are still some people who don't believe that their struggles are as bad as they say. But when someone is in pain, we don't get to determine that they're not. THAT is generosity.

Have you ever noticed that love is a pretty big deal in the Bible? It is said multiple times that the most important thing is love. Now why is that? Because love guides everything else. All those other rules and virtues in the Bible start with love. Now, if you've ever been to a Christian wedding in your life, you've probably heard that one verse about love. You know, THAT verse. "Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres." What does this have to do with generosity? Well did you hear all those things love is and isn't, all the things it can do? Love is the basis for everything. God loves us unconditionally, and he wants us to love everyone unconditionally, and not just everyone else, by the way - yourself too! We need to remember the importance of mental health during this time as well! So many people are going through a mental decline right now, and no one wants to talk about it! God does not want us to hate anyone, and that includes yourself. He wants us to be kind to everyone, and that includes yourself. He wants us to be generous to everyone, and that includes yourself. If we love everyone, being generous becomes a whole lot easier to us. And when we're generous, we are showing our love. All of these virtues are connected like that - you work on one, and the rest will follow. And the one that is both the hardest and easiest thing to start with, the one that leads to all other virtues, the "most of these"...is love. I want you all to leave this place with an arsenal

of ways to show generosity. You don't have to have money. You just have to have love.

### WE RESPOND WITH OUR GIFTS

OFFERING INVITATION: There is hardly a more beautiful way to speak about the hidden promise of even the smallest gift than the image of the mustard seed, so tiny yet holding so much possibility. We are gifts of God: perhaps we feel small, but we hold the promise of God's awesome power at work within us. The future may surprise us as much as it will surprise those who are watching us. We share our gifts, now, so we can continue to build up God's kingdom of radical hospitality and welcome for all. Let us give as we are able: generously and joyfully!

\*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)

Eternal God, we bring you these gifts because we know that our life and all human life rightly belong to you and that everything we have we hold in trust from you. We praise you for everything you have done for the world in Jesus Christ. Help us, through him, to make our own offering complete by living in obedience to you. Amen.

\*HYMN OF SENDING You Made Us in Your Image verses 1 & 4

# You Made Us in Your Image

AURELIA 7.6.7.6 D ("The Church's One Foundation")



Biblical References: Genesis 1-2; Exodus 5:1-20; Nehemiah 5:1-13; Psalm 82:1-4; Proverbs 4:1-27; Isaiah 58:1-12; 65:17-25; Amos 5:21-24; Micah 4:1-5; 6:6-8; Matthew 25:31-46; Mark 12:28-34; John 3:16-17; Acts 10:34-36; Galatians 3:26-29; Hebrews 13:1-9a.

Tune: Samuel Sebastian Wesley, 1864.

Copyright © 2012 by Carolyn Winfrey Gillette. All rights reserved. Email: bcgillette@comcast.net Web site: www.carolynshymns.com \*BENEDICTION: God be in our head and in our understanding. God be in our eyes and in our looking. God be in our mouth and in our speaking. God be in our heart and in our thinking. God be with us in our end and in our departing as we go in peace. Amen.

# \*BENEDICTION RESPONSE Pass the Love



God.

with

F/C

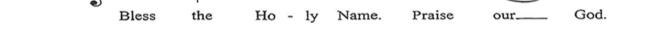
Pray

Gm7

hope each

F

day.



Ho - ly

Dm7

# \*PASSING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

our

Love

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

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### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Altar Flowers** are given in loving memory of Lawrence and Thelma Broerman by Ginny and John Voress.

**Thank You!** We wish to sincerely thank the St. Paul family for all of your cards, prayers and visitations in memory of Lance. It meant much more than you'll ever know. Thank you. Deb, Kayla and Kohneita Lear

**Meetings-**Mission Team-Sunday, August 9, 11:15am, Sanctuary. Church Council-Tuesday, August 11, 7:00pm, Assembly Room. Confirmation-Sunday, August 30, 11:15am, Sanctuary.

Camp Washington-August Mission Camp Washington council member Laurel Hume informed the mission team by email that the summer program at Camp Washington was cancelled this year due to the pandemic. Because of this, our mission of providing gifts of school clothes will not take place due to the inability to get sizes for the children. The Mission Team has chosen instead to make a financial contribution that will be used by Camp Washington for back-to-school needs for the students. Please help us support this worthy cause and enable these students to return to school with the necessary supplies that contribute to a successful school year. Your continued support of the Monthly Missions is greatly appreciated. Thank you! The Mission Team

Agape Ministries School Supply Drive-Some suggested supplies are:

Spiral Notebooks (wide ruled) Bottles (4 oz.) of Washable Glue

24 Count box of Crayons Binders 1", 1-1/2" & 2" (No Trapper Keepers)

Glue Sticks Black, Blue, & Red Pens

Wide Ruled Loose Leaf Paper Playdoh

Scissors 5 Fiskars(pointed) Expo Dry Erase Markers(other brands stain)

5 pack color tab dividers Colored Hi-lighters

3 Ring Zipper Pencil Pouch 12 Count Colored Pencils

Washable Markers #2 Yellow Pencils(no mechanical pencils please)

Boxes of Tissues Ticonderoga Pencils

Gallon Size Ziploc Bags Sandwich Size Ziploc Bags

Mr. Clean Magic Erasers

School supplies can be dropped off at Agape Ministries Client Services Building, 1220 E. Spring Street, St. Marys. We will be accepting donations Monday through Friday during the hours of 9 am to 4:30 pm.

\*\* If you drop off at Agape Thrift Store, be sure to tell them it is for the School Supplies Drive. All school supplies collected will be distributed to schools prior to school starting. If you are uncomfortable going out to shop, another option would be to place an order at one of your favorite stores and have the items delivered to Agape Ministries. Our address is 1220 E. Spring Street, St. Marys, OH 45885 Thank you for your continued support. Together, we can make a difference!

**Attendance-**Online-Daily Devotions Avg.-109, July 26-Sunday Worship Online-310, In Person-46

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

**Coffee with Pastor Becky**-Monday's from 1:30pm to 3:00pm. at NB Coffee Co. All are Welcome!!!!

**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 or the church office.

**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 August**

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

**Thursday Evening Vespers** concluded on August 6. **Bible study** will begin Thursday, September 17 at 6:30. More information to come.

**August Book Club** is August 23 at 4:00 p.m. via Zoom. We will discuss Kate DiCamillo's amazing children's novel The Magician's Elephant. Copies of the book can be picked up at the church office or you can contact the church office if you need a copy sent or delivered to you. All are welcome. Join Zoom Meeting by clicking on or logging onto: <a href="https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81502752298?pwd=MIVqR3oxNmQ4NC9Zaj">https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81502752298?pwd=MIVqR3oxNmQ4NC9Zaj</a>

14cXRKUWpldz09 Once you are logged on, you will need the following:

Meeting ID: 815 0275 2298 Password: 359234

\*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>

Disaster Relief Buckets-Northwest Ohio Association collects and stores Disaster Relief Buckets that are ready to go when disaster strikes a community. The Mission Team encourages you to pick up an empty bucket following worship or during weekday office hours. If you would like to have an empty bucket delivered to your house, please contact John Gilberg. Filled buckets need to be returned to church by mid-August.

# 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.