lord, teach us to **PRAY**

St. Paul United Church of Christ

119 North Franklin Street New Bremen, Ohio 45869 Phone (419-629-2502), Fax (419-629-3207) Email <u>stpaulnb@nktelco.net</u> or <u>stpaulnb@gmail.com</u> Visit our website at <u>https://stpaulnb.org</u> 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 help keep those around us safe. 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 16, 2020 Eleventh 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

No Matter



*CALL TO WORSHIP

(adapted from <u>Chalice Worship</u>; Chalice Press, 1997)

Leader: Sister and Brothers, we are called:

People: Called to follow Jesus. What a challenge! What an opportunity!

Leader: Called to move, as he did, among the people; to feel with them; to care for them; to touch them and be touched by them.

People: Called to name, as he did, the oppressions that destroy our world: those of which we are already aware, and those injustices we have not yet learned to recognize or to name.

Leader: Called to discern those gifts of life, God has hidden deep within each one of us.

People: Called to discover and to share those gifts of our hearts, our hands, our whole selves.

Leader: Called to place our gifts in God's hands: the holy hands from which they came. Called to follow Jesus...

People:...and yes, we can answer; we can follow because we have been called first to love.

Leader: Called to be God's children.

People: Called by name. Let us worship God!

*HYMN OF PRAISE

Great Is the Lord

GOD OF MAJESTY & POWER

Great Is the Lord



WORDS and MUSIC: Michael W. Smith (1957-) and Deborah D. Smith (1958-) Words and Music © 1982 Meadowgreen Music (Admin. EMI Christian Music Publishing)

*SERVICE OF CONFESSION

CALL TO CONFESSION

Leader: Let us confess our sin, our brokenness before God and one another.

CONFESSION OF SIN

Leader: Lord you come to us, but we do not recognize you. You call, but we do not follow. You command, but we do not obey. You bless us, but we do not thank you.

People: Please forgive and help us.

Leader: Lord, you accept us but we do not accept others. You forgive us, but we do not forgive those who wrong us. You love us, but we do not love our neighbors.

People: Please forgive and help us.

Leader: Lord, you showed us how to carry out your mission, but we still insist on our own. You identified yourself with outcasts, the needy, and the poor, but we do not bother to find out what is happening to them. You suffered and died for the sake of all but we do not give up our comfortable lives.

People: Please forgive us and help us.

Leader: Now may our confession continue in this silence that belongs to you, O God.

SILENT CONFESSION OF SIN

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

Leader: Hear the good news! Who is in a position to condemn? Only Christ, and Christ died for us, Christ rose for us, Christ reigns in power for us, and Christ prays for us. In the name of Christ, we are forgiven our sins!

People: Thanks be to God!



PRAYER HYMN Leaning of

Leaning on the Everlasting Arms

496 Leaning on the Everlasting Arms



WORDS: Elisha A. Hoffman (1839-1929) MUSIC: Anthony J. Showalter (1858-1924)

PASTORAL JOYS AND CONCERNS OF THE PEOPLE **Joys:** Worshipping together!

Concerns: We are continuing to pray for those who need our prayers.

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

Gentle and healing God, we pray today for the nations: for their right dealing with one another; for the breaking down of barriers of race, creed and all that separates us. We pray for political freedom and educational development and for a more just economic structure both domestically and worldwide. SILENCE

In the faith that your love is a healing love, your power a healing power, your peace a healing peace, we bring to you the needs of all those who suffer from disease, hunger, unemployment, loneliness, confusion and fear, depression and guilt. Open our hearts, O God, that we might help alleviate and eliminate the suffering around us. SILENCE

We lift up to you today in prayer, O God, all who are sick, all who are recuperating, all who need your healing touch. We pray for those who are grieving the loss of loved ones. Pour your comforting Spirit upon each. Remind them (and each of us!) that they are beloved children of yours. SILENCE

We pray for your church universal: for Christians the world over who seek your peace, your justice, your transformation in their lives. We pray also for our own beloved congregation. Continue to infuse us with your Holy Spirit as we pray for one another, uplift one another, and love one another. May our hearts and our doors offer a joyful welcome to all who worship with us. SILENCE

Hear us now, Holy God, as we lift up to you the prayers that are upon our hearts. SILENCE

We thank you, Gentle God, for hearing our prayers and for loving us in extravagant ways. All of this we pray in the name of Jesus who taught us to pray: Eternal Spirit, Earth-maker, Pain bearer, Life-giver, Source of all that is and that shall be, Father and Mother of us all, Loving God, in whom is heaven: The hallowing of your name echo through the universe! The way of your justice be followed by the peoples of the world! Your heavenly will be done by all created beings! Your commonwealth of peace and freedom sustain our hope and come on earth! With the bread we need for today, feed us. In the hurts we absorb from one another, forgive us. In times of temptation and test, strengthen us. From trial too great to endure, spare us. From the grip of all that is evil, free us. For you reign in the glory of the power that is love, now and forever. Amen. (Lord's Prayer from <u>New Zealand</u> <u>Prayer Book</u>)

ANTHEMThe Old Rugged CrossAlan Jackson(YouTube Search: The Old Rugged Cross—Alan Jackson)

On a hill far away stood an old rugged cross The emblem of suffering and shame And I love that old cross where the dearest and best For a world of lost sinners was slain

So I'll cherish the old rugged cross Till my trophies at last I lay down And I will cling to the old rugged cross And exchange it some day for a crown

To the old rugged cross I will ever be true It's shame and reproach gladly bear Then he'll call me someday to my home far away Where his glory forever I'll share

And I'll cherish the old rugged cross Till my trophies at last I lay down And I will cling to the old rugged cross And exchange it some day for a crown

I will cling to the old rugged cross And exchange it some day for a crown NEW TESTAMENT LESSON: Luke 11:1-4 (NRSV)

He was praying in a certain place, and after he had finished, one of his disciples said to him, "Lord, teach us to pray, as John taught his disciples."² He said to them, "When you pray, say:

Father, hallowed be your name.

Your kingdom come.

³ Give us each day our daily bread.

 And forgive us our sins, for we ourselves forgive everyone indebted to us. And do not bring us to the time of trial."

RESPONSE

Leader: The word of God for the people of God! People: God is still speaking! Thanks be to God!

SERMON

Rev. Becky Erb Strang

As a small child, growing up in Texas, the Lord's Prayer was the first prayer I learned. Each evening, as mom tucked me into bed, I would pray the Lord's Prayer aloud. Now, truth be told, I was never fully clear on all the words—especially all those "thy" and "thines". For years, I was certain the Lord's Prayer ended with, "For Lions the Kingdom and the power and the glory forever." After all—weren't lions in charge of the animal kingdom?

Now, years later—while I do have a better grip on the actual words— I find myself struggling to PAY ATTENTION when we pray the prayer aloud in worship, during home communions, in personal prayer. The words have become so routine, so ingrained that it has become easy to pray the prayer without paying much attention to what and why and how I am praying.

In fact, I'm much less convinced that the first portion of Jesus' teaching on prayer as recorded in the Gospel of Luke is about memorizing words for a prayer than it is about God's very nature. One of Jesus' disciples must have watched Jesus praying and wanted to know more. Jesus did not offer magic words, but wisdom and insight into who God is.

And who is God? At the Presbyterian Teachers College in Rubate Kenya, the students and staff would regularly say this: God is good all the

time. All the time God is good for that is God's nature. If today's scripture lesson reinforces nothing else, it is this simple truth—that God is good all the time—for that is who God is.

If God is good all the time—what can we/must we/do we ask God for in prayer? According to Luke:

- 1. Bread—physical nourishment for all.
- 2. Forgiveness—the ability to be forgiving of others AND to accept graciously the forgiveness asked of us.
- 3. Deliverance from harming others, harming ourselves by our life's choices.

What's more—we are promised again and again and again that God answers our prayers. Perhaps we will not be answered the way WE EXPECT to be answered, but God—who is good all the time—will answer our prayers.

In my last parish I had a parishioner whose daughter was both a Buddhist nun living in a Buddhist community in Japan and was blind. The mother once told me how her daughter will—without assistance—walk to a street corner in Japan and simply wait: wait for someone to come along to offer to help her across the busy road.

Someone ALWAYS, ALWAYS comes along to assist and she will walk along with her newfound friend until that person must go his or her own way. Then, this woman's daughter will simply WAIT until someone else comes along to guide her through the next portion of her journey.

Imagine the tremendous faith it takes to walk blindly through life trusting that someone will come along to lead the way.

Isn't that what prayer is all about?

Yet, we—with our Western World sensibilities and ways tend to balk at prayer. Sometimes we quit praying when God doesn't deliver what we want. Sometimes we forget to take time out to pray. Sometimes we don't believe in either God OR prayer. And sometimes, we don't even bother to come to God in prayer. Prayer does not seem consistent with our pull-yourselves-up-byyour-own-bootstraps society. Prayer seems fruitless in our God-helpsthem-who-help-themselves culture. Prayer seems unnecessary in our buy-now-pay-later mentality. With all of our education & with all of our degrees, we seem to want PROOF that prayer works, that prayer is valid, that there is good reason to come to God in prayer. Yet, Jesus calls us to pray with the assurance we will be answered.

The promise is sure: God loves us and accepts us no matter what. We will not be abandoned. We are not alone. What's more, we are called to offer this same love and acceptance to others—our family, our friends, our enemies, strangers both near and far.

So, beyond praying for the basics: nourishment, forgiveness, and deliverance—what more can we pray? German Theologian of the Thirteenth Century, Meister Eckhart once said, "If the only prayer you said in your whole life was "thank you," that would suffice. When we thank God for her presence in our lives, we are acknowledging with joy that God is good. When we thank God for his journeying with us into the future, we are trusting that God is good ALL the time! And, when we truly believe that God is good all the time, we are able to offer not only prayers to God, we are also able to let go of the future, let go of the outcome; we are able to trust in God—that God's love will anchor all our days and all our ways.

Sue Monk Kidd, the author of <u>The Secret Life of Bees</u> has written a delightful essay about her teenage son and the nature of God's persistent love. In his early teen years, her beloved child was surly and remote. She found herself constantly fighting with him, saying things to him that were both hurtful and unkind.

In the midst of this dark time, she frequently found her mailbox full of weeds and straw. Her son repeatedly denied pulling a prank on her and Sue Monk Kidd repeatedly swept out the debris with frustration and anger.

Then one day it happened. When she went to her mailbox, she found the inevitable pile of twigs, sticks, and dried up dandelions. AND she found a small, blue bird's egg. Looking up, she saw a mother bird nearby—a piece of straw in her beak.

Kidd was awed by the mother bird's persistence. Each day she had to rebuild her nest, her home, after it had been swept away. Yet, she kept

at her task—certain that new life would have the final say. Sue Monk Kidd's anger abated and she began to listen to her son's concerns—starting their relationship anew.

Monk Kidd ended her essay by saying, "Three baby birds appeared in our mailbox. Every day the mother perched on top of it and sang. It was a song that would get me through the teenage years—the sweet, stubborn sound of love that never quits.

Friends, God is like a mother bird—singing songs of love, continually seeking to rebuild broken homes, broken lives, broken relationships with a love that never quits. For this love and for much, much more, we offer to God our thanks and praise. Amen.

WE RESPOND WITH OUR GIFTS

OFFERING INVITATION: God's beautiful creation overflows with water, sunlight, and the rich, dark soil to grow our food. When we share the fruits of this earth, there is more than enough for all: there is a table of plenty set by a God who loves every one of us. At this table, all are fed and still there are gifts overflowing into the world God loves. Our giving supports this ministry that God is growing stronger each day. You are invited to give out of the abundance you have been gifted by God. Amen.

*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)

Lord God, we bring back to you the gifts you have given us so generously. We also bring ourselves before you. Take us, and our gifts of money, to do your work in the world. Accept the praise we offer, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

*HYMN OF SENDING There Are Many Ways of Sharing

THERE ARE MANY WAYS OF SHARING

NETTLETON Carolyn Winfrey Gillette©2004 Wyeth's Repository of Sacred Music, 1813 All rights reserved. There are ma - ny ways of shar-ing, but God's Spir-it gives each one. 1) We've been bap-tized in 2) the wat-ers! We've been giv-en work to do. are blest by gifts you give us; some are 3) All set a - part lead. to There are differ-ent ways of car - ing; it's one Lord whose work is done. When you call your sons and daught-ers, you give gifts for serv-ing you. Give us Jes - us' love with - in US as we care for those in need. God, whose_gifts are ov - er - flow - ing, may we_ hear you when you call. God, we_join in cel - e - bra - tion of the_ tal - ents you im - part. Give us___faith to make de - ci - sions; give us__ joy to share your Word Keep us serv-ing, keep us grow-ing for the com-mon good of all. Bless each bap-tized one's vo - ca - tion; Give each one a serv-ant's heart. u - ni - ty and vi - sion as Give us we serve your church and world.

Copied from Songs of Grace: New Hymns for God and Neighbor, by Carolyn Winfrey Gillette@2009 Used by permission. The author may be contacted thus: bcgillette@comcast.net.

*BENEDICTION: May the power of the love of Christ work in the hearts of all who hear. May the power of the love of Christ fire-up many to go and tell the good news. May the power of the love of Christ uphold all who serve, that by the same power the peoples of the earth may be blessed to be at peace with each other. Amen.

*BENEDICTION RESPONSE Pass the Love 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

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

Altar Flowers are given in loving memory of Roland and Sally Meckstroth by Sher, Jeff and Greg Meckstroth.

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

Attendance-Online-Daily Devotions Avg.-88, Aug 2-Sunday Worship Online-309, In Person-39

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.

September/October 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.

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: https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81502752298?pwd=MIVqR3oxNmQ4NC9Zaj I4cXRKUWpldz09 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: berbstrang@stpauInb.org

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) Black, Blue, & Red Pens **Glue Sticks** 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) **Ticonderoga** Pencils Boxes of Tissues Sandwich Size Ziploc Bags Gallon 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!

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 <u>3 Different Ways to Give</u>

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)

Por project of the year giving. Send 25 space poy (nit 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.