



A Fruitful Life

ST. PAUL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Service of the Word

Fifth Sunday of Easter

April 28, 2024

+Denotes "Please rise, as able"

Liturgist Serving in Worship Today:

Mary Kirkpatrick

GREETING

PRELUDE (o) *Prelude No. 8 from Eight Short Preludes & Fugues* -J. S. Bach

RINGING the BELLS

BRINGING the LIGHT of CHRIST

INTROIT *Easter Bells* -arr. Michael Ryan
Bells of Joy

CALL to WORSHIP

Beloved, let us love one another,

Because love is from God;

Everyone who loves is born of God and knows God.

Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love.

God's love was revealed among us in this way:

God sent the only Son into the world so that we might live through Christ.

By this we know that we abide in God and God in us,

Because God has given us the Spirit.

Let us love one another and join in worship of our God,

For God is love.

+OPENING HYMN *Love Divine, All Loves Excelling* #43

+INTRODUCTION to CONFESSION

Knowing how easy it is to wander from the paths of right living -- how can we not come to God with our confessions? Please join me as we pray, saying,

+PRAYER of BROKENNESS/CONFESSION

Awesome God, we confess that we have allowed fear to close our doors, our hearts, our minds. But You are Perfect Love, and You cast out all fear. Help us to let go of what holds us back and to be open to Your Spirit, to love freely, and to love deeply. Help us to love those most in need, the most vulnerable, and guide us into ways of love and care that help heal our brokenness. In the name of Christ we pray all things. Amen.

+BLESSING/ASSURANCE of GOD'S GRACE

We come together with grateful hearts, remembering all that Christ has done for us, and knowing we can never repay that kind of love, except in how we love one another. So share God's love, peace, and joy. You are forgiven, loved, and restored. Amen.

+PRAISE RESPONSE

Tune: Hyfrydol

**Alleluia! Alleluia! Glory be to God on high;
Alleluia to the Saviour who has won the victory;
Alleluia to the Spirit, Fount of love and sanctity;
Alleluia! Alleluia! To the Triune Majesty.**

PASSING of the PEACE

ANTHEM

When Peace Like a River

-arr. John A. Behnke
Festive Ringers

SACRAMENT of BAPTISM

Dexter Crawford and Nathan Jackson

WELCOME

Dear friends, as we come to this font of living water, let us recall the meaning of baptism. For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body - Jews or Greeks, slaves or free - and all were made to drink of one Spirit. Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it.

ADDRESS

Jesus said: Unless we are born anew, we cannot see the reign of God; unless we are born of water and the Spirit, we cannot enter God's new order. Paul the apostle said: All of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into Christ's death. We were buried therefore with Christ by baptism into death, so that as Christ was raised from the dead, to the glory of God, we too might walk in newness of life.

Baptism is the sacrament through which we are united to Jesus Christ and given part in Christ's ministry of reconciliation. Baptism is the visible sign of an invisible event: the reconciliation of people to God. It shows the death of self and the rising to a life of obedience and praise. It shows also the pouring out of the Holy Spirit on those whom God has chosen. In baptism, God works in us the power of forgiveness, the renewal of the Spirit, and the knowledge of the call to be God's people always.

QUESTIONS

Do you desire to be baptized into the faith and family of Jesus Christ?

I do.

Do you renounce the powers of evil and desire the freedom of new life in Christ?

I do.

Do you profess Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior?

I do.

Do you promise, by the grace of God, to be Christ's disciple, to follow in the way of our Savior, to resist oppression and evil, to show love and justice, and to witness to the work and word of Jesus Christ as best you are able?

I promise, with the help of God.

Do you promise, according to the grace given you, to grow in the Christian faith and to be a faithful member of the church of Jesus Christ, celebrating Christ's presence and furthering Christ's mission in all the world?

I promise, with the help of God.

+CONGREGATIONAL ASSENT (please rise as you are able)

Jesus Christ calls us to make disciples of all nations and to offer them the gift of grace in baptism. Do you, who witness and celebrate this sacrament, promise your love, support, and care to the one about to be baptized, as she lives and grows in Christ?

We promise our love, support, and care.

+AFFIRMATION of FAITH

Do you believe in God?

I believe in God.

Do you believe in Jesus Christ?

I believe in Jesus Christ.

Do you believe in the Holy Spirit?

I believe in the Holy Spirit.

PRAYER of BAPTISM

Bless by your Holy Spirit, gracious God, this water. By your Holy Spirit save those who confess the name of Jesus Christ that sin may have no power over them. Create new life in ALL baptized this day that THEY may rise in Christ. Glory to you, eternal God, the one who was, and is, and shall always be, world without end. Amen.

ACT of BAPTISM

Nathan and Dexter, you are baptized in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

BLESSING

PRAYER for the BAPTIZED

Let us pray for the one baptized today. Gracious God, you have filled the world with joy by giving us the gift of Jesus. Bless these newly baptized persons. May they be filled with joy; may they never be ashamed to confess a personal faith in you. Bless the parents of these young adults. May they always show their gratitude for the life you have given by loving and caring for Dexter and Nathan. Bless these your faithful people. Unite them in the peace of Christ and the company of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

BENEDICTION

Go in the peace of Christ

Thanks be to God.

SCRIPTURE READING

Acts 8:26-40

P. 119 (N.T.)

John 15:1-8

P. 103 (N. T.)

A MESSAGE for ALL AGES

-Denise Johnson

SERMON

A Fruitful Life

-Rev. Jonathan Bangera

+HYMN of PRAISE

Like the Murmur of the Dove's Song

#270

(Ushers will collect Prayer Cards at this time)

MORNING PRAYERS

Joys and Concerns

Silent Prayer

Pastoral Prayer

The Lord's Prayer

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

OFFERING INVITATION

OFFERTORY (o) *Arioso* -J.S. Bach

+ RESPONSE *God, Whose Giving Knows No Ending* #565 v. 1

God, whose giving knows no ending, from your rich and endless store,
Nature's wonder, Jesus' wisdom, costly cross, grave's shattered door:
Gifted by you, we turn to you offering up ourselves in praise;
Thankful song shall rise forever, gracious donor of our days.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

+PARTING HYMN *I Need You Every Hour* #517

+BENEDICTION

+POSTLUDE (o) *Sinfonia in D Major* -J.S. Bach

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St. Paul UCC Prayer List



Dan Daab, Carol Bergmann, Glenda Churchill, Sandy Kirkpatrick,
Ron Habermehl, Larry Sifford, Cheryl Riebeling-Hooten, Lacey Greene,
Tina Womack, Neil Freeland, Alice Horn, Kara Harres,
Tom and Carol Gentry, Jan Habermehl, Brenda Richter, Violette Nast,
Carol Turnquist, Tony Jansen, Randy Wilmore, Donna Ritson, Sandy Cates,
Ken Jahr, Rick Close, Diane Silva, Dorothy Rey.

Prayers for safe deployment for Jack Augustin and Sean Parrin.



**The flowers on the organ were
given to the glory of God
in memory of Edna Dell Weinel,
Given by:
Sheldon Culver**



Sunday, April 28

9:30 am Worship and Baptisms
9:30 am Sunday School
10:30 am Social Time
10:45 am Mindfulness Meditation

Monday, April 29

10:00 am Staff Meeting
6:00 pm Band Practice

Tuesday, April 30

Pastor Jonathan's Day Off

9:00 am Preschool



05.19.2024

Wednesday, May 1

9:00 am Preschool
10:00 am Morning Bells
3:30 pm Kids Crew
6:00 pm Evening Bells
6:00 pm Confirmation
7:00 pm Chancel Choir

Thursday, May 2

9:00 am Preschool
5:30 pm Youth Night
5:30 pm Personnel
6:00 pm Cub Scout Den Meeting
7:00 pm Executive Committee

Friday, May 3

8:00 am Quilters

Saturday, May 4

10:00 am Faith Recharge Class

Sunday, May 5

9:30 am Worship and Communion
9:30 am Sunday School
10:30 am Social Time
10:45 am Mindfulness Meditation