

# St. Paul's Free Methodist Church

## Second Sunday After Pentecost

Call To Worship

Come Thou Fount

Greeting

This is the day that the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it!

**This is none other than the house of God, and this is the gate of heaven.**

Hymn Of Praise

Be Thou My Vision

Prayer

Keep, O Lord, your household the Church in your steadfast faith and love, that through your grace we may proclaim your truth with boldness, and minister your justice with compassion; for the sake of our Savior Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

*First Lesson*

*Genesis 18:1-15, 21:1-7*

The LORD appeared to Abraham by the oaks of Mamre, as he sat at the entrance of his tent in the heat of the day. He looked up and saw three men standing near him. When he saw them, he ran from the tent entrance to meet them, and bowed down to the ground. He said, "My lord, if I find favor with you, do not pass by your servant. Let a little water be brought, and wash your feet, and rest yourselves under the tree. Let me bring a little bread, that you may refresh yourselves, and after that you may pass on—since you have come to your servant." So they said, "Do as you have said." And Abraham hastened into the tent to Sarah, and said, "Make ready quickly three measures of choice flour, knead it, and make cakes." Abraham ran to the herd, and took a calf, tender and good, and gave it to the servant, who hastened to prepare it. Then he took curds and milk and the calf that he had prepared, and set it before them; and he stood by them under the tree while they ate. They said to him, "Where is your wife Sarah?" And he said, "There, in the tent." Then one said, "I will surely return to you in due season, and your wife Sarah shall have a son." And Sarah was listening at the tent entrance behind him. Now Abraham and Sarah were old, advanced in age; it had ceased to be with Sarah after the manner of women. So Sarah laughed to herself, saying, "After I have grown old, and my husband is old, shall I have pleasure?" The LORD said to Abraham, "Why did Sarah laugh, and say, 'Shall I indeed bear a child, now that I am old?' Is anything too wonderful for the LORD? At the set time I will return to you, in due season, and Sarah shall have a son." But Sarah denied, saying, "I did not laugh"; for she was afraid. He said, "Oh yes, you did laugh."...The LORD dealt with Sarah as he had said, and the LORD did for Sarah as he had promised. Sarah conceived and bore Abraham a son in his old age, at the time of which God had spoken to him. Abraham gave the name Isaac to his son whom Sarah bore him. And Abraham circumcised his son Isaac when he was eight days old, as God had commanded him. Abraham was a hundred years old when his son Isaac was born to him. Now Sarah said, "God has brought laughter for me; everyone who hears will laugh with me." And she said, "Who would ever have said to Abraham that Sarah would nurse children? Yet I have borne him a son in his old age."

**R:** The word of the Lord.

**C:** Thanks be to God.

*Psalm*

*Psalm 116:1-2, 12-19*

I love the LORD, because he has heard my voice and my supplications. Because he inclined his ear to me, therefore I will call on him as long as I live. What shall I return to the LORD for all his bounty to me? I will lift up the cup of salvation and call on the name of the LORD, I will pay my vows to the LORD in the presence of all his people. Precious in the sight of the LORD is the death of his faithful ones. O LORD, I am your servant; I am your servant, the child of your serving girl. You have loosed my bonds. I will offer to you a thanksgiving sacrifice and call on the name of the LORD. I will pay my

vows to the LORD in the presence of all his people, in the courts of the house of the LORD, in your midst, O Jerusalem. Praise the LORD!

Hymn                      **It Is Well (When Peace Like a River)**

*Second Lesson*                      *Romans 5:1-8*

Therefore, since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have obtained access to this grace in which we stand; and we boast in our hope of sharing the glory of God. And not only that, but we also boast in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and hope does not disappoint us, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us. For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. Indeed, rarely will anyone die for a righteous person—though perhaps for a good person someone might actually dare to die. But God proves his love for us in that while we still were sinners Christ died for us.

**R:** The word of the Lord.

**C:** Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation                      **Alleluia**

*Gospel*                      *Matthew 9:35-10:23*

**R:** Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to St. Matthew.

**C:** Glory to you, O Lord.

Then Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues, and proclaiming the good news of the kingdom, and curing every disease and every sickness. When he saw the crowds, he had compassion for them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. Then he said to his disciples, "The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; therefore ask the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest." Then Jesus summoned his twelve disciples and gave them authority over unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to cure every disease and every sickness. These are the names of the twelve apostles: first, Simon, also known as Peter, and his brother Andrew; James son of Zebedee, and his brother John; Philip and Bartholomew; Thomas and Matthew the tax collector; James son of Alphaeus, and Thaddaeus; Simon the Cananaean, and Judas Iscariot, the one who betrayed him. These twelve Jesus sent out with the following instructions: "Go nowhere among the Gentiles, and enter no town of the Samaritans, but go rather to the lost sheep of the house of Israel. As you go, proclaim the good news, 'The kingdom of heaven has come near.' Cure the sick, raise the dead, cleanse the lepers, cast out demons. You received without payment; give without payment. Take no gold, or silver, or copper in your belts, no bag for your journey, or two tunics, or sandals, or a staff; for laborers deserve their food. Whatever town or village you enter, find out who in it is worthy, and stay there until you leave. As you enter the house, greet it. If the house is worthy, let your peace come upon it; but if it is not worthy, let your peace return to you. If anyone will not welcome you or listen to your words, shake off the dust from your feet as you leave that house or town. Truly I tell you, it will be more tolerable for the land of Sodom and Gomorrah on the day of judgment than for that town. "See, I am sending you out like sheep into the midst of wolves; so be wise as serpents and innocent as doves. Beware of them, for they will hand you over to councils and flog you in their synagogues; and you will be dragged before governors and kings because of me, as a testimony to them and the Gentiles. When they hand you over, do not worry about how you are to speak or what you are to say; for what you are to say will be given to you at that time; for it is not you who speak, but the Spirit of your Father speaking through you. Brother will betray brother to death, and a father his child, and children will rise against parents and have them put to death; and you will be hated by all because of my name. But the one who endures to the end will be saved. When they persecute you in one town, flee to the next; for truly I tell you, you will not have gone through all the towns of Israel before the Son of Man comes."

**R:** This is the Gospel of our Lord.

**C:** Praise to you, O Christ.

## Sermon

### Apostles' Creed

#### Confession And Prayers Of The People

Dearly beloved, so that we may prepare ourselves in heart and mind for worship at the Lord's Table, let us with penitent and obedient hearts confess our sins, that we may obtain forgiveness by God's infinite goodness and mercy. ... **Let us pray: Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent. For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us; that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways, to the glory of your Name. Amen.**

**Leader:** Again, O Lord, once again

A black man dies in the street ... killed by power and a badge

Rayshard Brooks added to the litany

of those murdered for being Black

**Congregation: Lord, hear our prayer.**

**Leader:** We confess our failure to care about people different from us

We confess we have not listened well to others pain

We confess we have not spoken up for the unheard

We confess we have turned away when it hurts too much to look

**Congregation: Lord, hear our prayers, forgive us these sins**

**and all sins we have committed**

**and those omissions we have made as well.**

**Leader:** We cry out for the families of George Floyd

Ahmaud Arbery

Breonna Taylor

And countless other too numerous to name.

We take a Moment of Silence collectively

And we say to You Lord the names of those we love who are lost to violence or the pandemic.

**Congregation: Lord, hear our prayer.**

**Leader:** Lord show us that our colorblind lens does not

Whitewash the crimson pain.

Open our eyes to the reality that

America does not value the Black body

or the souls of Black folks.

God ... Hashtags will not fix this.

Where is justice for your people?

**Congregation: Lord, hear our prayer.**

**Leader:** Lord, across this nation people are crying out in pain.

They want to be heard.

They want to be seen.

They want to know they matter.

Show your church how to be present, how to advocate, how to represent ALL your people.

**Congregation: Lord, hear our prayer.**

**Leader:** Lord, when you sent your Spirit on Pentecost

You sent your Spirit on all people

Men and women, old and young,

And sent them out to tell all the world, all races,

The truth of your Gospel.

As we remember that first Pentecost we reach for that reality

That all peoples would be valued and seen.

**Congregation: Lord, hear our prayer.**

**Leader:** Lord ... act justly toward those who murder and who permit violence toward the Black body.

Act justly toward a (un)justice system that criminalizes, imprisons, and destroys Black people.

Act justly in a culture saturated with fear toward Black bodies.

**Congregation: Lord, hear our prayer.**

**Leader:** May the charging of Minneapolis police officers be the beginning of your justice.

Let your justice fall down and cleanse us of our perpetuation of and passivity to the vilification of Black bodies.

We your church must stand, unabated in the face of injustice and the sin of racism which squalors our souls and mocks your holiness. We must stand and exclaim that black lives matter.

Lord show the way.

**Congregation: Lord, hear our prayer.**

## **The Peace**

By dying, Christ destroyed our death; in rising, he restores our life; in giving us his Spirit, he grants us peace. In that peace we affirm, with joy:

**In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!**

So we can say to one another: the peace of the Lord be with you!

**And also with you.**

Let us take a few moments to greet one another with signs of peace and reconciliation.

## **Doxology**

## **Communion**

### **Prayer After Communion**

**God of mercy, God of grace, we bless and praise you for nourishing us with this Easter feast of redemption. Fill us with your Spirit, and make us living signs of your love; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

## **Community Sharing**

## **Hymn Of Dismissal**

## **The Blessing**

**Dismissal With Blessing**

Go in peace, to love and serve God and your neighbor. And may the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

**Next Week's Readings:** Genesis 21:8-21; Psalm 86:1-10, 16-17; Romans 6:1b-11; Matthew 10:24-39

**Preaching This Week:** Hannah Marshall

**Preaching Next Week:** Rachel Tyrrell