

Doxology

Great Thanksgiving

The peace of the Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give thanks and praise.

Communion

pages 496 and 497

This Sunday we again offer healing prayer, anointing, and laying on of hands for healing. You may also ask to be anointed on behalf of another who needs healing or is troubled.

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

Offering

Hymn Of Response We Give Thee But Thine Own 360

Hymn Lord, Whose Love Through Humble Service URW 204

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: Isaiah 5:1-7; Psalm 80:7-15; Philippians 3:4b-14; Matthew 21:33-46

Preaching This Week: John Brittingham

Preaching Next Week: Mikey Ward

St. Paul's Free Methodist Church Seventeenth Sunday After Pentecost

Call To Worship Come, Sing With Joy To God URW 292

Greeting

My mouth will speak the praise of the LORD;

All flesh will bless God's holy name forever and ever.

Hymn Of Praise Praise With Joy The World's Creator URW 73

Prayer

O God, you declare your almighty power chiefly in showing mercy and pity: Grant us the fullness of your grace, that we, running to obtain your promises, may become partakers of your heavenly treasure; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. **Amen.**

First Lesson

Exodus 17:1-7

From the wilderness of Sin the whole congregation of the Israelites journeyed by stages, as the LORD commanded. They camped at Rephidim, but there was no water for the people to drink. The people quarreled with Moses, and said, "Give us water to drink." Moses said to them, "Why do you quarrel with me? Why do you test the LORD?" But the people thirsted there for water; and the people complained against Moses and said, "Why did you bring us out of Egypt, to kill us and our children and livestock with thirst?" So Moses cried out to the LORD, "What shall I do with this people? They are almost ready to stone me." The LORD said to Moses, "Go on ahead of the people, and take some of the elders of Israel with you; take in your hand the staff with which you struck the Nile, and go. I will be standing there in front of you on the rock at Horeb. Strike the rock, and water will come out of it, so that the people may drink." Moses did so, in the sight of the elders of Israel. He called the place Massah and Meribah, because the Israelites quarreled and tested the LORD, saying, "Is the LORD among us or not?"

R: The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Psalm

Psalm 78:1-4, 12-16

Give ear, O my people, to my teaching; incline your ears to the

words of my mouth. I will open my mouth in a parable; I will utter dark sayings from of old, things that we have heard and known, that our ancestors have told us. We will not hide them from their children; we will tell to the coming generation the glorious deeds of the LORD, and his might, and the wonders that he has done. ... In the sight of their ancestors he worked marvels in the land of Egypt, in the fields of Zoan. He divided the sea and let them pass through it, and made the waters stand like a heap. In the daytime he led them with a cloud, and all night long with a fiery light. He split rocks open in the wilderness, and gave them drink abundantly as from the deep. He made streams come out of the rock, and caused waters to flow down like rivers.

Hymn **Glorious Things Of Thee Are Spoken** (*vss. 1-3*) 502

Second Lesson *Philippians 2:1-13*

If then there is any encouragement in Christ, any consolation from love, any sharing in the Spirit, any compassion and sympathy, make my joy complete: be of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves. Let each of you look not to your own interests, but to the interests of others. Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness. And being found in human form, he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death—even death on a cross. Therefore God also highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. Therefore, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed me, not only in my presence, but much more now in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling; for it is God who is at work in you, enabling you both to will and to work for his good pleasure.

R: The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia

URW 402

Gospel

Matthew 21:23-32

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

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

When he entered the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people came to him as he was teaching, and said, “By what authority are you doing these things, and who gave you this authority?” Jesus said to them, “I will also ask you one question; if you tell me the answer, then I will also tell you by what authority I do these things. Did the baptism of John come from heaven, or was it of human origin?” And they argued with one another, “If we say, ‘From heaven,’ he will say to us, ‘Why then did you not believe him?’ But if we say, ‘Of human origin’ we are afraid of the crowd; for all regard John as a prophet.” So they answered Jesus, “We do not know.” And he said to them, “Neither will I tell you by what authority I am doing these things. What do you think? A man had two sons; he went to the first and said, ‘Son, go and work in the vineyard today.’ He answered, ‘I will not’; but later he changed his mind and went. The father went to the second and said the same; and he answered, ‘I go, sir’; but he did not go. Which of the two did the will of his father?” They said, “The first.” Jesus said to them, “Truly I tell you, the tax collectors and the prostitutes are going into the kingdom of God ahead of you. For John came to you in the way of righteousness and you did not believe him, but the tax collectors and the prostitutes believed him; and even after you saw it, you did not change your minds and believe him.”

R: This is the Gospel of our Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

Apostles’ Creed

Prayers Of The People

The Peace

By dying, Christ destroyed our death; in rising, he restores our life; in giving us his Spirit, he grants us peace.

The peace of the Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us take a few moments to greet each other with signs of peace and reconciliation.

THEOLOGY OF PREACHING AT ST. PAUL'S

St. Paul's submits to the authority of Christian Scripture. We preach from the lectionary, attending to the full witness of the Bible. In our preaching, we practice a "rotating pulpit" approach because we believe diverse Christian perspectives and voices are gifts from God. In hearing God's word preached by pastors and lay people, students and professors, old and young, women and men, we become the people of God. We celebrate the ways in which the Holy Spirit challenges, comforts, surprises, confronts, and embraces us through the sermon. Our faithful response to what God is saying to us requires honesty, humility, and courage. Even in our human and feeble efforts to speak on God's behalf, God proves faithful in addressing us, helping us become the reconciled and restored people of God in our time and place.

TOWARD A THEOLOGY OF HEALING, BRIEFLY

Healing is a feature of full salvation; like salvation, it results from God and God's church working together. Healing is the work of the church, and takes place under God's sovereignty in the church's life and worship. The church supports the healing ministry of family, friends, and medical professionals in prayer and by visiting the sick. It provides regular services of healing following the pattern in James 5: "[The] sick ... should call for the elders of the church and have them pray over them, anointing them with oil in the name of the Lord. The prayer of faith will save the sick, and the Lord will raise them up; and anyone who has committed sins will be forgiven." Under God's sovereign care will every prayer be answered as we request, every time, right away?—probably not. Some will be healed by medicine, some by rest, recuperation and care, and others by better habits and new information. And some will be healed by the working together of the sovereign action of God through the engagement of the faith of the church and the laying on of hands. Some will not be healed in this life; all can be saved.

"God heals sometimes, God saves always." (Sam Wells)

SAVE THE DATE: OCTOBER 28

Companionship/listening training will be offered **Saturday morning, Oct. 28, 10-12** (with coffee and breakfast from 9:30-10). More info to come!

BRINGING YOUR MUSICAL GIFTS

If you have skills you could bring in **directing vocal music**, and/or **playing keyboard and guitar**, St. Paul's would gladly and thankfully receive them! Please email Pastor Judy at stpaulsfmc@gmail.com

OPT IN TO "REMIND" NOTIFICATIONS

To receive one-way notifications from St. Paul's (**potluck** reminders, weather closings, etc.), you must opt in by one of two methods: **text the message @eb9aa** to the number **81010**, OR send an **e-mail to eb9aa@mail.remind.com** (leaving both subject line and body of e-mail blank).

WELCOMING OUR CHILDREN TO GODLY PLAY

Our **preschool and elementary-age (3+) children** are warmly invited to join in Godly Play Sundays **on the lower level**; meet outside the **carved door at 9:45am**. Godly Play creatively and imaginatively engages them with the church's stories, rituals and rites, preparing them to join in the worship and life of the church.

ADULT/COLLEGE SUNDAY SCHOOL

Our **Adult/College Sunday School** meets at **10am** Sundays in the lower level. YOU are invited to join our multi-week study on **Mission led by Dr. Mathias (Matt) Zahniser, emeritus missiology professor.**

YOUTH SUNDAY SCHOOL

Our Youth Sunday School, led by **Pastor Niquita and our sexton Kat Westbrook**, meets in the Teen Room Sundays at 10am.

ST. PAUL'S PRAYS WITHOUT CEASING

Join us in Morning Prayer **Monday-Friday 7:30-8:00am** in the sanctuary for prayer, Scripture and Communion.

HELPING THOSE IN NEED

You may send aid to those recovering from the hurricanes in Texas, Florida and the Caribbean via the (FMC-USA)

Bishops' Relief Fund at: <http://fmcusa.org/bfund/>

For more information see these websites:

<http://fmcusa.org/blog/2017/09/09/hurricane-irma-update-pray-and-give/> as well as this one:

<http://fmcusa.org/blog/2017/09/06/free-methodists-provide-harvey-relief/>

TRIVIA FUNDRAISER FOR EDEN'S GLORY

A **Trivia Night and Live Auction** benefiting **Eden's Glory** is planned for **Saturday, October 14th** at the First Christian Church (1100 Killarney Drive). Eight to ten people per team, \$100 entry fee per team. Doors open at 6:30pm, trivia starts at 7:00pm. Soda and water for sale; BYO snacks. **100% of money raised goes to Eden's Glory!** (You can also help Eden's Glory raise money by drinking Prairie Farms milk. Please drop your **Prairie Farms milk caps labeled "Our Caps, Your Cause" in the jug** at the back of the sanctuary.)

VOLUNTEER TO HELP EDEN'S GLORY

Eden's Glory Social Enterprise teaches work skills to its residents, repurposing recycled t-shirts et al. to sell. Recent demand for its **dog/pet toys** brings an urgent need for **volunteers with strong hands** to help replenish inventory. Your clean old **t-shirts (adult M-XXL only, in any colors but black and white)** are needed too!—**no side seams**, please. Please contact **Beth Rodgers** at (540)421-9384 if you can help.

FEEDING THE HUNGRY IN BOND COUNTY

Our local food pantry urgently needs **soups, canned pasta meals, mac-n-cheese, and peanut butter and jelly**. Please place your **non-perishable** donations (food and toiletries) in the **box** in the mural room. They also gratefully receive and distribute **fresh produce from local gardens!** Please email stpaulsfmc@gmail.com for more direction regarding these **perishable** donations.

PLEASE CHECK OUT OUR NEW WEBSITE— & HELP BUILD OUR ONLINE DIRECTORY!!!

Thanks to the gifts of **Meg File**, we have a new website! Take a look at yourselves at:

stpaulsfmc.org

Our desire with this new site is to strengthen our sense of community with better communication and resources. Here we have **mobile-friendly** access, online **announcements**, and many more upgrades. Browse around—you'll like what you see! And while you're browsing, **please join our new online church directory**, currently under construction. Note on the homepage, at the top right, the heading **MORE...**; when you hover over it, a box labeled **Congregation Area** pops up. (On your phone, Congregation Area is the last of the menu options.) Click on that, and you'll be prompted to enter our password, which is:

stpfamily

This password gives you access to the **St. Paul's Private Congregation Area**. Clicking on the **Directory Survey** button (inside the box in the upper left corner entitled **New Church Online Directory**, or first item on your phone) will take you to a simple form to fill out, in as much detail as you choose. (The only required information is your name and preferred mode of contact.) **This directory information WILL NOT be publicly available** on the church's new website, **but will remain password-protected in the Congregation (only) Area**. Please complete this survey for EACH family member separately, including children.

Making this a photo directory will help us all put names with faces! So please, when you've filled out your form(s), **email photo(s) [of each family member]** to us at

stpaulsfmc@gmail.com or file.meg@gmail.com

If you'd rather **submit your directory information on a paper form** (and receive a **print copy of the directory**), please contact Pastor Judy at stpaulsfmc@gmail.com