

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.

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

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

Closing Hymn O Splendor Of God's Glory Bright URW 211

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: Exodus 3:1-15; Psalm 105:1-6, 23-26, 45b; Romans 12:9-21; Matthew 16:21-28

Preaching This Week: Ben Wayman

Preaching Next Week: Judy Cox

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

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

Greeting

O magnify the LORD with me;

Let us exalt God's name together!

Hymn Sing Praise To God Who Reigns Above URW 70

Prayer

Grant, O merciful God, that your Church, being gathered together in unity by your Holy Spirit, may show forth your power among all peoples, to the glory of your Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. **Amen.**

First Lesson

Exodus 1:8-2:10

Now a new king arose over Egypt, who did not know Joseph. He said to his people, "Look, the Israelite people are more numerous and more powerful than we. Come, let us deal shrewdly with them, or they will increase and, in the event of war, join our enemies and fight against us and escape from the land." Therefore they set taskmasters over them to oppress them with forced labor. They built supply cities, Pithom and Rameses, for Pharaoh. But the more they were oppressed, the more they multiplied and spread, so that the Egyptians came to dread the Israelites. The Egyptians became ruthless in imposing tasks on the Israelites, and made their lives bitter with hard service in mortar and brick and in every kind of field labor. They were ruthless in all the tasks that they imposed on them. The king of Egypt said to the Hebrew midwives, one of whom was named Shiphrah and the other Puah, "When you act as midwives to the Hebrew women, and see them on the birthstool, if it is a boy, kill him; but if it is a girl, she shall live." But the midwives feared God; they did not do as the king of Egypt commanded them, but they let the boys live. So the king of Egypt summoned the midwives and said to them, "Why have you done this, and allowed the boys to live?" The midwives said to Pharaoh, "Because the Hebrew women are not like the Egyptian women; for they are vigorous and give birth before the midwife comes to them." So God dealt well with the midwives; and the people multiplied and became very strong. And because the

midwives feared God, he gave them families. Then Pharaoh commanded all his people, “Every boy that is born to the Hebrews you shall throw into the Nile, but you shall let every girl live.” Now a man from the house of Levi went and married a Levite woman. The woman conceived and bore a son; and when she saw that he was a fine baby, she hid him three months. When she could hide him no longer she got a papyrus basket for him, and plastered it with bitumen and pitch; she put the child in it and placed it among the reeds on the bank of the river. His sister stood at a distance, to see what would happen to him. The daughter of Pharaoh came down to bathe at the river, while her attendants walked beside the river. She saw the basket among the reeds and sent her maid to bring it. When she opened it, she saw the child. He was crying, and she took pity on him, “This must be one of the Hebrews' children,” she said. Then his sister said to Pharaoh's daughter, “Shall I go and get you a nurse from the Hebrew women to nurse the child for you?” Pharaoh's daughter said to her, “Yes.” So the girl went and called the child's mother. Pharaoh's daughter said to her, “Take this child and nurse it for me, and I will give you your wages.” So the woman took the child and nursed it. When the child grew up, she brought him to Pharaoh's daughter, and she took him as her son. She named him Moses, “because,” she said, “I drew him out of the water.”

R: The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Psalm *Psalm 124*

If it had not been the Lord who was on our side—let Israel now say—if it had not been the Lord who was on our side, when our enemies attacked us, then they would have swallowed us up alive, when their anger was kindled against us; then the flood would have swept us away, the torrent would have gone over us; then over us would have gone the raging waters. Blessed be the Lord, who has not given us as prey to their teeth. We have escaped like a bird from the snare of the fowlers; the snare is broken, and we have escaped. Our help is in the name of the Lord, who made heaven and earth.

Hymn O God, Our Help In Ages Past 59

Second Lesson *Romans 12:1-8*

I appeal to you therefore, brothers and sisters, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable

to God, which is your spiritual worship. Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God—what is good and acceptable and perfect. For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of yourself more highly than you ought to think, but to think with sober judgment, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned. For as in one body we have many members, and not all the members have the same function, so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually we are members one of another. We have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us: prophecy, in proportion to faith; ministry, in ministering; the teacher, in teaching; the exhorter, in exhortation; the giver, in generosity; the leader, in diligence; the compassionate, in cheerfulness.

R: The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia

URW 402

Gospel

Matthew 16:13-20

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

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, “Who do people say that the Son of Man is?” And they said, “Some say John the Baptist, but others Elijah, and still others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.” He said to them, “But who do you say that I am?” Simon Peter answered, “You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God.” And Jesus answered him, “Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father in heaven. And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not prevail against it. I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.” Then he sternly ordered the disciples not to tell anyone that he was the Messiah.

R: This is the Gospel of our Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

Apostles' Creed

THEOLOGY OF PREACHING AT ST. PAUL'S

St. Paul's submits to the authority of Christian Scripture. We preach from the lectionary, which means we attend 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.

GODLY PLAY RESUMES NEXT SUNDAY!

Summer break is ending, and our **preschool and elementary-age (3+) children** are once again warmly invited to join in Godly Play Sundays at **9:45am** on the lower level. 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.

GODLY PLAY DOORKEEPER TRAINING

Might you enjoy spending a Sunday morning hour ~ once a month **welcoming our children into the story of God**? You might belong on our **Godly Play** team as a **doorkeeper**! In early to mid-September Georgann Kurtz-Shaw will offer an **evening training session for doorkeepers**; for more information or to register, please promptly email georgann.kurtz-shaw@greenville.edu or stpaulsfmc@gmail.com

SUNDAY SCHOOL RESUMES SOON

Our **Youth** and **Adult/College Sunday School** classes are also coming to the end of their summer break. Stay tuned for information on the fall schedule.

MORNING PRAYER CONTINUES

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

BAKER(S) WANTED

Are you interested in **baking fresh bread regularly for our Sunday Communion**, beginning in **September**, perhaps on a **rotation** with others? For more information, and recipes, contact Judy at stpaulsfmc@gmail.com

HELP WANTED FOR EDEN'S GLORY

Eden's Glory Social Enterprise teaches work skills to its residents via repurposing recycled t-shirts et al. as products for sale, to help raise funds. 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. Contact **Beth Rodgers** at (540)421-9384 if you can help.

OTHER SUPPORT FOR 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 milk jug** at the back of the sanctuary.

HELP FEED THE HUNGRY IN BOND CO.

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

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: you may **text the message @eb9aa** to the number **81010**, OR you may send an **e-mail** to eb9aa@mail.remind.com (leaving both subject line and body of e-mail blank).

CHECK OUT OUR NEW WEBSITE!-- AND 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