

St. Paul United Church of Christ

OAK HARBOR, OHIO

March 7, 2021

Lent 3

10:15am

Rev. Dan Sather, Interim Pastor

Rev. Scott Cunningham, Associate Pastor

TIME OF SHARING & CONNECTING WITH THE COMMUNITY

PRELUDE

GATHERING THE COMMUNITY FOR WORSHIP

*OPENING WORDS:

One: Our lips sing praise and our whole selves rejoice
in the God who makes us free.

**Many: We gather, recognizing that not all human beings
have known this freedom.**

One: The divine has been made known in Eden and in Egypt;
in Gettysburg and in Cape Town.

**Many: Born in freedom, redeemed from slavery,
our destiny in Christ is liberty. Amen.**

*GATHERING HYMN: "This Is a Day of New Beginnings" No. 417
(verses 1, 3, 5)

MISSION MOMENT

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION: (unison)

In this season of Lent we reflect on those things
that lead us away from the life we desire.
We focus on whatever we do that oppresses and enslaves others
who, like us, are created in the image of the divine.
And now we seek the grace that frees us to live in faithfulness to holy
love. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

RESPONDING TO GOD'S LOVE

SHARING OUR JOYS AND PRAYER CONCERNS

SILENT PRAYERS – MORNING PRAYERS – THE LORD'S PRAYER

PRAYER RESPONSE: "Cares Chorus" No. 637

I cast all my cares upon You. I lay all my burdens down at your feet.
And anytime that I don't know what to do, I will cast all my cares upon You.

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM See insert

HEARING AND SHARING GOD'S WORD

SCRIPTURE: John 2:13-22

SERMON "Turned over Tables"

SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION See insert

SENDING FORTH TO PROCLAIM GOD'S LOVE

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION: (unison)

Receive these gifts, Holy One, sanctify them by your Spirit.
Drive away any ill motives and accept, we pray, our humble offering.
Amen.

*BENEDICTION:

POSTLUDE

(During the Postlude, please remain seated until you are dismissed by an usher. Thank you for your
cooperation in this matter.)

**Indicates that worshippers are invited to stand, if able*

1 As we gath - er at your ta - ble, as we lis - ten to your word,
2 Turn our wor - ship in - to wit - ness in the sac - ra - ment of life;
3 Gra - cious Spir - it, help us sum - mon oth - er guests to share that feast

help us know, O God, your pres - ence; let our hearts and minds be stirred.
send us forth to love and serve you, bring - ing peace where there is strife.
where tri - um - phant Love will wel - come those who had been last and least.

Nour - ish us with sa - cred sto - ry till we claim it as our own;
Give us, Christ, your great com - pas - sion to for - give as you for - gave;
There no more will en - vy bind us nor will pride our peace de - stroy,

teach us through this ho - ly ban - quet how to make Love's vic - tory known.
may we still be - hold your im - age in the world you died to save.
as we join with saints and an - gels to re - peat the sound - ing joy.

In this hymn, commissioned by an Episcopal parish in Virginia for the celebration of its tricentennial, Carl P. Daw, Jr., utilized a familiar phrase from Isaac Watts' "Joy to the World," which was the motto for the celebration: "Repeat the sounding joy."

Tune: BEACH SPRING 8.7.8.7.D.
The Sacred Harp, 1844
Harm. The New Century Hymnal, 1992

Sacrament of Baptism

Levi Thomas Lozar

HYMN

"For the Beauty of the Earth"

No. 793

(verses 1, 3, 4)

Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit
and born of the virgin Mary.
He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to hell.
The third day he rose again from the dead.
He ascended to heaven
and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty.
From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic* church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.

BAPTISM PROMISES

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

This Is a Day of New Beginnings

2 Cor. 5:16-17

Brian Wren, 1978; rev. 1983

Unison

1 This is a day of new be - gin - nings, time to re -
 2 For by the life and death of Je - sus, God's might - y
 3 Then let us, with the Spir - it's dar - ing, step from the
 4 Christ is a - live, and goes be - fore us to show and
 * In faith we'll gath - er 'round the ta - ble to taste and

mem - ber and move on, time to be - lieve what love is
 Spir - it, now as then, can make for us a world of
 past and leave be - hind our dis - ap - point - ment, guilt, and
 share what love can do. This is a day of new be -
 share what love can do. This is a day of new be -

bring - ing, lay - ing to rest the pain that's gone.
 dif - ference, as faith and hope are born a - gain.
 griev - ing, seek - ing new paths, and sure to find.
 gin - nings— our God is mak - ing all things new.
 gin - nings— our God is mak - ing all things new.

*Alternate fourth stanza for Holy Communion

Brian Wren wrote this hymn in 1978 for a New Year's Day service in Oxford, England. The music is by the editor of two hymnals of the United Methodist Church and was composed for the original Wren text.

Tune: BEGINNINGS 9.8.9.8.
 Carlton R. Young, 1987

©1983, 1987 Hope Publishing Company
 Used by Permission. All Rights Reserved. CCLI#3198841 / #20584301 (streaming)

For the Beauty of the Earth 793

Give thanks to the Lord for His unfailling love and His wonderful deeds. Psalm 107:8

G D7/A G D/F# G C/E D7/F# G C D/C G/B C G/D D G

1 For the beau - ty of the earth, For the glo - ry of the skies,
 2 For the won - der of each hour Of the day and of the night,
 3 For the joy of hu - man love, Broth - er, sis - ter, par - ent, child,
 4 For Thy Church that ev - er - more Lift - eth ho - ly hands a - bove,
 5 For Thy - self, best gift di - vine, To our race so free - ly given;

G D7/A G D/F# G C/E D7/F# G C D/C G/B C G/D D G

For the love which from our birth O - ver and a - round us lies:
 Hill and vale and tree and flower, Sun and moon and stars of light:
 Friends on earth and friends a - bove; For all gen - tle thoughts and mild:
 Off - ering up on ev - ery shore Her pure sac - ri - fice of love:
 For that great, great love of Thine, Peace on earth and joy in heaven:

G D/F# G D/F# D D7 G C D/C G/B C/E G/D D D7 G

Lord of all, to Thee we raise This our hymn of grate - ful praise.

TEXT: Folliot, S. Pierpoint, altered
 MUSIC: Conrad Kocher; arranged by William H. Monk

DIX
 7.7.7.7.7.

Cares Chorus 627

Cast your cares on the Lord and He will sustain you. Psalm 55:22

1 2 3 4 5

6 7 8 9 10

11 12 13 14 15 16

TEXT: Kelly Willard
MUSIC: Kelly Willard

CARES CHORUS
Irregular meter

© Copyright 1978 by Maranatha! Music. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

THE SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

COMMUNION PRAYER

L: God be with you.

P: And also with you.

L: Lift up your hearts.

P: We lift them to God.

L: Let us give God thanks and praise.

P: It is right to give God thanks and praise.

L: Holy God, we praise and bless... share the gift of eternal life. Amen.

HYMN

"As We Gather at Your Table"
(verses 1 and 2)

No. 332

BREAKING THE BREAD AND POURING THE CUP

THE LORD'S PRAYER

CALL TO THE TABLE:

SHARING THE GIFTS

Prayer after the Meal (*unison*)

We thank you, God, for inviting us to this table where we have known the presence of Christ and have received all Christ's gifts. Strengthen our faith, increase our love for one another, and let us show forth your praise in our lives; through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

EASTER LILIES

WOULD YOU LIKE TO HELP DECORATE THE CHANCEL FOR EASTER BY DONATING AN EASTER LILY? YOU MAY ORDER A SINGLE LILY FOR \$8.75 OR A DOUBLE LILY FOR \$16.00 OR YOU MAY BRING LILIES IN YOURSELF. FILL OUT THE FORM BELOW AND DEPOSIT IT IN THE OFFERING PLATE WITH YOUR CHECK OR CONTACT THE CHURCH OFFICE **NO LATER THAN FRIDAY – MARCH 12TH - AT 9AM.**

PLEASE INDICATE WHAT YOU WOULD LIKE TO APPEAR IN THE BULLETIN (IN HONOR OF; IN MEMORY OF...) AND ALSO WHETHER YOU WOULD LIKE TO PICK UP YOUR FLOWERS OR HAVE THEM DELIVERED TO SHUT-INS.

PLEASE NOTE: IF YOU BRING THE FLOWERS IN YOURSELF, PLEASE DO SO BY 9AM SATURDAY MORNING, APRIL 3RD. PLEASE PLACE YOUR NAME ON YOUR LILY IN AN OUT-OF-THE-WAY SPOT BUT IN A FASHION THAT IT CANNOT BECOME DETACHED. *THANK YOU!*

My name is : _____

_____ Phone: _____

_____ (number) single pot(s)

_____ (number) double pot(s)

_____ (number) pot(s); I will purchase these myself and deliver them by 9am Saturday morning, 4/3

_____ I will pick up my lilies

_____ I would like my lilies to be delivered to shut-ins

This is the language I would like to see included in the bulletin:

SERVICE OF LAMENT AND PRAISE MARCH 14TH

Sunday, March 14th will mark one year since COVID, and the last time we met as a congregation under pre-Covid expectations for worship and fellowship. Churches around the world moved to new ways of being, and understanding Church in this COVID time. Still, to this day, many have not returned to in person worship and breaking bread together. The past year has been filled with losses of every kind and it will be helpful for us to remember these, lift them up and look forward to a new time when we can be fully together, again. In addition, many have lost loved ones to COVID-19. We have closed the building to groups, fellowship, dinners, Sunday School, weddings and celebrations we would have loved to be a part. We social distance in church, limit our singing, and wear masks to protect one another from the virus. All of these things have changed our understanding and expectation of church. On Sunday, March 14th, I would like to engage the congregation in a **Service of Lament and Praise**. I would like to grieve the losses we have known, the changes that we have had to make, remember those who have died because of COVID-19, and move to praise and anticipation for a new time. In order to do this most effectively, I am soliciting input from the members and would like to include your information in our worship service on the 14th. In order to do this, there are three things that I would like for you to consider sharing with me, via my E-mail, that I would like to include in worship. You can send your ideas to my E-mail address. My E-mail address: pastordan@stpauluccoh.org. Here are the suggestions I would like to receive from you in order to plan our worship service of Lament and Praise.

1. Names of those closest to you who have died because of COVID.
2. What do you miss about church that COVID has taken away from you? (List as many as you like)
3. What do you most look forward to as we return to church under more normal circumstances? (Limit your response to 1 or 2 that are most important to you).

Thank you for responding and sending your thoughts to me. **Please make sure that you your responses are returned to me by Sunday, March 7th** so that we have the necessary time to complete the bulletin for the 14th. I am looking forward to hearing from you.

Pastor Dan Sather



Let love
flow. One Great **HOUR**
OF SHARING

Water is life. Water is love. Let love flow.

Access to clean fresh water is vital for all of humanity, but for women in particular, water access means the difference between life and death for them and their families. The United Nations International Observance of **World Water Day** (March 22) reflects on the importance of water in our daily lives and remembers those who lack access to adequate drinking water supplies.

For women and girls around the world, it can be a 12 hour walk to the nearest water source to collect water to maintain basic needs and crucial hygiene practices during the COVID-19 pandemic.

With your support, 100 families will benefit from the Water Well project, sponsored by the United Church of Christ in Mozambique (UCCM). When you give to One Great Hour of Sharing, you invest in the hopeful future of women and girls around the world and serve as co-workers with God to build *a just world for all*.



Give safely online at
ucc.org/oghs

Photos by Craig Thompson

One Great
Hour
OF SHARING