

St. Paul United Church of Christ

OAK HARBOR, OHIO

June 27, 2021

Open and Affirming Sunday

9:30 am

Rev. Dr. Bob Bottoms- Interim Senior Pastor

Rev. Scott Cunningham, Associate Pastor

TIME OF SHARING & CONNECTING WITH THE COMMUNITY

PRELUDE

GATHERING THE COMMUNITY FOR WORSHIP

*GATHERING WORDS: Linda Mortus, Lay Reader

Leader: One: From ancient times to this present day, people have gathered in sacred spaces like this one.

ALL: Moments of time fold together when we immerse ourselves in love and connection.

One: We ask for Divine Love to be revealed to us in this gathering.

ALL: We open our spirits to the depth and breadth of Divine Presence.

One: We listen for sacred whisperings and await holy joy to be written on our hearts.

ALL: Being truly ourselves, we come together in this eternal moment.

One: We bring our prayers to you as one community, one assembled body

ALL: Beloved people of God. We come, and we pledge our commitment to walk the path of Jesus. Amen.

*OPENING HYMN: "Help Us Accept Each Other" Insert

*GATHERING PRAYER (*unison*)

God, your child Jesus taught us to welcome each other, but welcome often seems too little in this world. Welcome, without affirmation, becomes an empty promise, devoid of the lesson that to truly welcome each other means to see the face of God in each other. We commit to affirm all people, Welcoming them and Affirming them as God's beloved creations.

You taught us that whoever welcomes a prophet in the name of a prophet will see a prophet's reward; That whoever welcomes a righteous person in the name of a righteous person will receive the reward of the righteous. Amen.

*PRAISE RESPONSE "Gloria Patri"

RESPONDING TO GOD'S LOVE

SHARING OUR JOYS AND PRAYER CONCERNS

SILENT PRAYERS – LORD'S PRAYER

PRAYER RESPONSE: "Just as I Am" (verse 1) No. 488

HEARING AND SHARING GOD'S WORD

SCRIPTURE: Galatians 3:26-29 Psalm 139:1-18 Linda Mortus, Lay Reader

SERMON: "Affirmed" Pastor Scott

SENDING FORTH TO PROCLAIM GOD'S LOVE

*PARTING SONG: "We Are Called to be God's People" No. 415

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION: (*unison*)

Gracious God, you love all that you have created, and you celebrate the diversity of your creation. Throughout your history with your people, you have reminded us that those whom the world sees as the least are the greatest in your eyes. Teach us to honor and celebrate, accept and celebrate every person in every gathering of your beloved community. We ask this in your many names. Amen.

*BENEDICTION:

POSTLUDE

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

GUARDIAN PROGRAM

Church Council would like to announce that July 4th will be the beginning of the "Guardian Program." The purpose of this program is to furnish our members and visitors with a safe and secure environment during their time at St. Paul. The Guardians will work together with the Head Usher to address the needs of anyone who comes to worship and share in the love of God.

The Guardians will be easily identified by the gold-colored name tag they will wear. They will be committed to helping everyone obtain a meaningful worship experience. Some duties of the Guardians will be to assist anyone with mobility issues to exit their vehicle and find a comfortable place in our sanctuary. They will welcome worshipers as they arrive and answer any questions or give directions as needed. They will also help visitors find their way in our church and experience the friendly environment of St. Paul.

So, on July 4th, receive the greeting of the Guardians and experience the loving fellowship and kindness that is found at St. Paul United Church of Christ.

488 Just as I Am

Whoever comes to Me I will never drive away. John 6:37

1. Just as I am, with - out one plea But that Thy
 2. Just as I am and wait - ing not To rid my
 3. Just as I am, though tossed a - bout With many a
 4. Just as I am - Thou wilt re - ceive, Wilt wel - come,

blood was shed for me, And that Thou bidd'st me
 soul of one dark blot, To Thee whose blood can
 con - flict, many a doubt, Fight - ings and fears with -
 par - don, cleanse, re - lieve. Be - cause Thy prom - ise

come to Thee, O Lamb of God, I come! I come!
 cleanse each spot, O Lamb of God, I come! I come!
 in, with - out, O Lamb of God, I come! I come!
 I be - lieve, O Lamb of God, I come! I come!

TEXT: Charlotte Elliott

MUSIC: William B. Bradbury; Last stanza setting and Choral ending by Tom Fetteke

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WOODWORTH

L.M.

ANNOUNCEMENTS – June 27, 2021

ALTAR FLOWERS: are in celebration of Larry and Kimm Krehmke's 28th wedding anniversary which was on June 26th

TODAY'S WORSHIP PARTICIPANTS:

Head Usher: John Crosser
Organist: Sue Tomor
Altar Flower Delivery: Kimm Krehmke

THIS WEEK AT ST. PAUL:

Monday 6:30pm Search Team
Sunday 9:30am Worship
Monday Office Closed – Independence Day Holiday

MEMORIAL SERVICE: A memorial service for Mary Floro will be held here at the church at 11:00am on Friday, July 9th

WORSHIP WITH COMMUNION JULY 4TH

Next Sunday, we will celebrate the Lord's Supper. All are invited to the Lord's Table, even children (at the discretion of their parents).

REGULAR REMINDERS

- After checking into St. Paul UCC, please silence electronic devices and cell phones prior to worship.
- Large Print bulletins are available at the Sanctuary entrances.
- Upper Room daily devotional books are available in regular- and large-print.
- Please contact the church office if you or a family member is hospitalized.

LAST SUNDAY - Attendance: 61; General Fund Offering: \$1635

(Plus \$335 – Benevolence; \$250 – Strengthen the Church)

2021 Year-to-Date Budget: \$143,225

2021 Year-to-Date Offering: \$123,978

Eph. 2:13-22; 4:4-6; 1 Cor. 3:11

Samuel J. Stone, 1866; alt.

1 The church's one foun - da - tion is Je - sus Christ our Lord;
 2 E - lect from ev - ery na - tion, yet one o'er all the earth,
 3 'Mid toil and trib - u - la - tion, and tu - mult of our war,
 4 Yet we on earth have un - ion with God, the Three - in - One,

we are Christ's new cre - a - tion by wa - ter and the word;
 one char - ter of sal - va - tion, one God, one faith, one birth,
 we wait the con - sum - ma - tion of peace for - ev - er - more;
 and mys - tic sweet com - mu - nion with those whose rest is won.

From heaven Christ came and sought us in love to set us free;
 One name to - geth - er bless - ing, one ho - ly food we share,
 Till with the vi - sion glo - rious, our long - ing eyes are blessed,
 O hap - py ones and ho - ly! God, give us grace that we,

with pre - cious blood Christ bought us for all e - ter - ni - ty.
 to one hope we are press - ing, at one in work and prayer.
 and the great church vic - to - rious shall be the church at rest.
 like them, the meek and low - ly, may live e - ter - nal - ly.

Like the writings of Ambrose many centuries earlier, this hymn was born out of a doctrinal dispute. The young priest Samuel J. Stone composed twelve hymns on the articles of the Apostles' Creed in support of those reacting against nontraditional views of biblical scholarship. This hymn is based on article nine, "the holy Catholic Church."

Tune: AURELIA 7.6.7.6.D.
 Samuel S. Wesley, 1864

Help Us Accept Each Other

388

Fred Kaan, 1974; alt.

John 15:12; 17:20-23; Eph. 4:1-6, 11-16

- 1 Help us ac-cept each oth-er
 as Christ ac-cept-ed us;
 teach us as sis-ter, broth-er,
 each per-son to em-brace.
 Be pres-ent, God, a-mong us,
 and bring us to be-lieve
 we are our-selves ac-cept-ed
 and meant to love and live.
- 2 Teach us, O God, your les-sons;
 as in our dai-ly life
 we strug-ple to be hu-man
 and search for hope and faith.
 Teach us to care for peo-ple,
 for all, not just for some,
 to love them as we find them,
 or as they may be-come.

- 3 Let your ac-cep-tance change us,
 so that we may be moved
 in liv-ing sit-u-a-tions
 to do the truth in love;
 To prac-tice your ac-cep-tance,
 un-til we know by heart
 the ta-ble of for-give-ness
 and laugh-ter's heal-ing art.
- 4 God, for to-day's en-coun-ters
 with all who are in need,
 who hun-ger for ac-cep-tance,
 for righ-teous-ness and bread,
 Bring us new eyes for see-ing,
 new hands for hold-ing on;
 re-new us with your Spir-it;
 God! Free us, make us one!

Dutch theologian Fred Kaan was ordained in the United Reformed Church in England and Wales and has served as an international church administrator. Author of more than 200 hymns, Kaan frequently has addressed contemporary issues in his texts.

Tune: AURELIA 7.6.7.6.D.
 Samuel S. Wesley, 1864

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Lyrics sung to Our Church's One Foundation (on back cover)

We Are Called to Be God's People 415

You are a chosen people, a people belonging to God. 1 Peter 2:9

Eb Eb⁴ Eb Bb Bb⁷ D
Eb B⁷ Eb Ab Eb G Bb⁷ D
Eb Fm Cm Bb

1. We are called to be God's peo - ple, Show - ing by our lives His grace,
 2. We are called to be God's ser - vants, Work - ing in His world to - day;
 3. We are called to be God's proph - ets, Speak - ing for the truth and right;

Eb Eb⁴ Eb Bb Bb⁷ D
Eb B⁷ Eb Ab Eb G Bb⁷ D
Eb Fm Cm Bb

One in heart and one in spir - it, Sign of hope for all the race.
 Tak - ing His own task up - on us, All His sa - cred words o - bey.
 Stand - ing firm for god - ly jus - tice, Bring - ing e - vil in - to light.

Bb Eb Bb Bb⁷
Eb Bb Bb Ab G Fm Cm
F⁷ Bb

Let us show how He has changed us And re - made us as His own;
 Let us rise, then, to His sum - mons, Ded - i - cate to Him our all,
 Let us seek the cour - age need - ed, Our high call - ing to ful - fill,

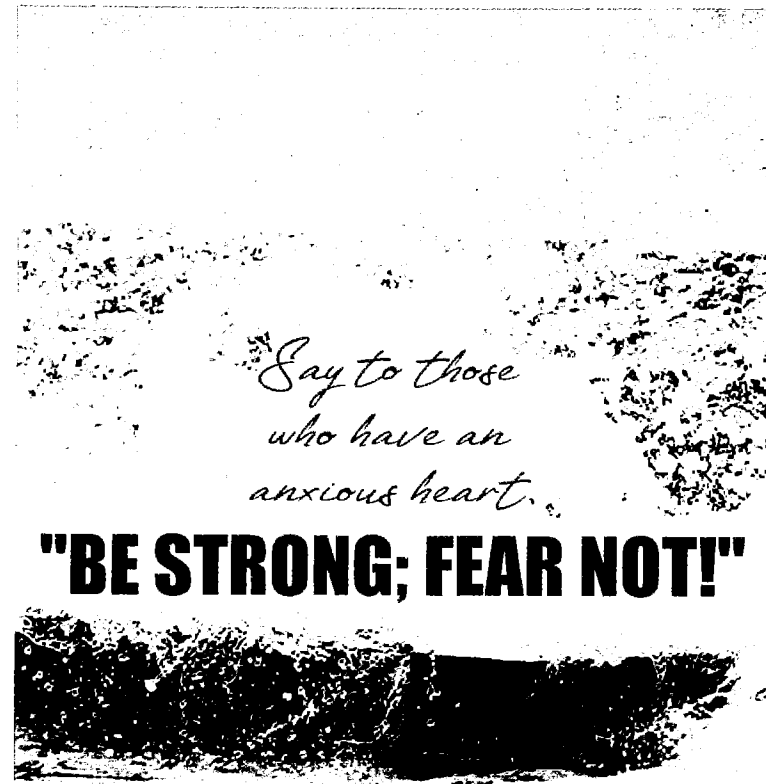
Eb EbM⁷ G
Ab Eb Ab G Bb D
Eb Bb Bb Ab G Ab Bb Gm Bb⁷ Eb

Let us share our life to - geth - er As we shall a - round His throne.
 That we may be faith - ful ser - vants, Quick to an - swer now His call.
 That we all may know the bless - ing Of the do - ing of God's will.

TEXT: Thomas A. Jackson
 MUSIC: Franz Joseph Haydn

AUSTRIAN HYMN
 8.7.8.7.D.

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*Say to those
 who have an
 anxious heart.*

"BE STRONG; FEAR NOT!"

Isaiah 35:4, ESV