

March 1, 2021

Dear St. Paul Church Family and Friends,

Grace and Peace to you in the name of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Friend.

Throughout Lent at St. Paul, we are focusing on Jesus as our Healer. Almost a year into the global pandemic our worship centers around seeking healing of physical, mental and spiritual ailments.

We are still in need of volunteers to deliver Lent in a Bag to St. Paul folk. Please contact the church office to let us know you can assist.





Our Sunday School continues to meet at 9:00 a.m. Splash (youth grades 4 and 5) meets Sunday afternoons at 5:00 p.m. Senior and Junior High Youth Groups meet at 6:30 on Wednesday evenings. Confirmation also meets on Wednesdays at 6:30.

**Beginning this week, Facebook Live's Daily Devotions will take place on Monday-Thursday only at 11:30. Pastor Becky takes Fridays as her Sabbath day.**

Our Blessing Pantry is staffed by volunteers on Tuesday evenings from 5:30-7:30. The Pantry is also open Wednesday and Thursday afternoons from 1:00-3:00 p.m. We thank you for your generosity toward the Pantry—we have been able to keep it well stocked for our guests.

Thank you for your faithfulness to St. Paul Church! Together we are the Body of Christ in this community.

Grace and Peace,




  
 Roland Dicke    Myra Hanenkratt    Becky Erb    Strang Dee Schroer  
 Council President    Council VP    Senior Pastor    Associate Pastor

**Birth Candle** on the altar March 7<sup>th</sup>, welcomes Killian Grisby. Killian was born February 20, 2021 to Jennifer and Cody Grisby. He is the great grandson of Dale and Wilma Quellhorst. Welcome Killian!

**Thank you!!** Jan Dammeyer would like to thank the folk of St. Paul Church for the many cards you send her regularly.

**Financial Information as of March 1, 2021** is unavailable due to software glitch caused by recent power outage. Financial update will resume next week. Thank you for your understanding.

[Easter Flower Order Form](#)

We will be decorating our Sanctuary with assorted Easter Lilies, Dahlias & Daisy Mums.

Flowers may be picked up after the Last Easter Service, April 4, 2021.

Please return your order form and payment no later than Tuesday, March 20, 2021.

Checks should be payable to St. Paul



\_\_\_\_\_(quantity) Flowers, foiled, drip pan-\$10.00 each

In Memory of \_\_\_\_\_

A gift for \_\_\_\_\_

By \_\_\_\_\_

Total \$ \_\_\_\_\_

MARCH 7, 2021  
THIRD SUNDAY  
IN LENT



*God's glory, God's handiwork, is awesome.*

### DAILY BIBLE READINGS

These passages are related to the Lectionary texts for this Sunday.

<b>Sunday</b>	<b>John 2:13-22</b>	<b>Jesus cleanses the temple</b>
<b>Monday</b>	<b>Exodus 20:1-17</b>	<b>The Ten Commandments</b>
<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>1 Corinthians 1:18-25</b>	<b>Christ crucified</b>
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>Genesis 1:27-31</b>	<b>God created humankind</b>
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>Mathew 6:25-33</b>	<b>God cares for you</b>
<b>Friday</b>	<b>Job 12:7-10</b>	<b>Even the animals will teach you</b>
<b>Saturday</b>	<b>Psalms 19</b>	<b>God is creator and gives the law</b>
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>John 3:14-21</b>	<b>God so loved the world</b>

### SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

*Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable to you, O LORD, my rock and my redeemer.*

**Psalms 19:14 (NRSV)**

### PRAYERS AND BLESSING

#### **A Prayer for the Week:**

Awesome God, your foolishness is wiser than human wisdom and your weakness is stronger than our own might. Give us humility and thanksgiving for your saving grace through Christ our Lord. Amen. (1 Corinthians 1:25)

#### **Mealttime Prayer:**

For life and health and every good, we give you thanks, O Lord. Amen. (Traditional table grace song)

#### **A Blessing to Give:**

May the God who raised Jesus from the dead enliven your heart with joy.



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MARCH 7, 2021  
HYMN OF THE WEEK  
*For the Beauty of the Earth*



### WEEKLY MILESTONES

Take a moment to tell or think about a recent mountain high and/or valley low in your life.

### CARING CONVERSATIONS



Discuss in your home, small group, or use for personal reflections:

- Describe a time when you experienced great joy.
- In what ways is the Christian life an experience to enjoy?
- What are some words you would use to describe the majesty of God?

### DEVOTIONS



*Read:* Psalm 19.

The psalmist focuses on two ways to experience God's awesomeness: the sun as part of creation and the law that guides God's people. The first focuses on the power of creation to preach of God's glory throughout the universe. A sunrise shouts God's presence and glory. Creation communicates God's power, and, yet, no human hears it. The law also speaks in ways that communicates God's glory and goodness. The law is perfection itself, is sweeter than honey, and revives the soul. It is conveyed through many synonyms: decrees, precepts, commandments, and ordinances. Through God's guidance for humanity there is rejoicing, beauty, desire and great benefit for all. This psalm uses poetry to communicate what is finally indescribable: God's goodness that renews us each day with wisdom and joy. God's glory turns us from being rude and arrogant to celebrating with humility the awesomeness of God. The psalmist is not so much teaching but delighting the soul so that we experience and enjoy God's handiwork that is filled with beauty, power, and awe. How do you experience God's creation? How do you express that sense of awe and wonder?

*Pray:* **God of glory, we thank you for your goodness; help us to express our joy and delight in your presence through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

### SERVICE



The Ten Commandments listed in Exodus 20 give us a set of rules to help us understand how to live with others. Like the rules we have in our home, school, or elsewhere, they free us to live a good life and teach us how to be thoughtful and kind to others through our actions and our words. What act of kindness can you do for someone this week?

### RITUALS AND TRADITIONS

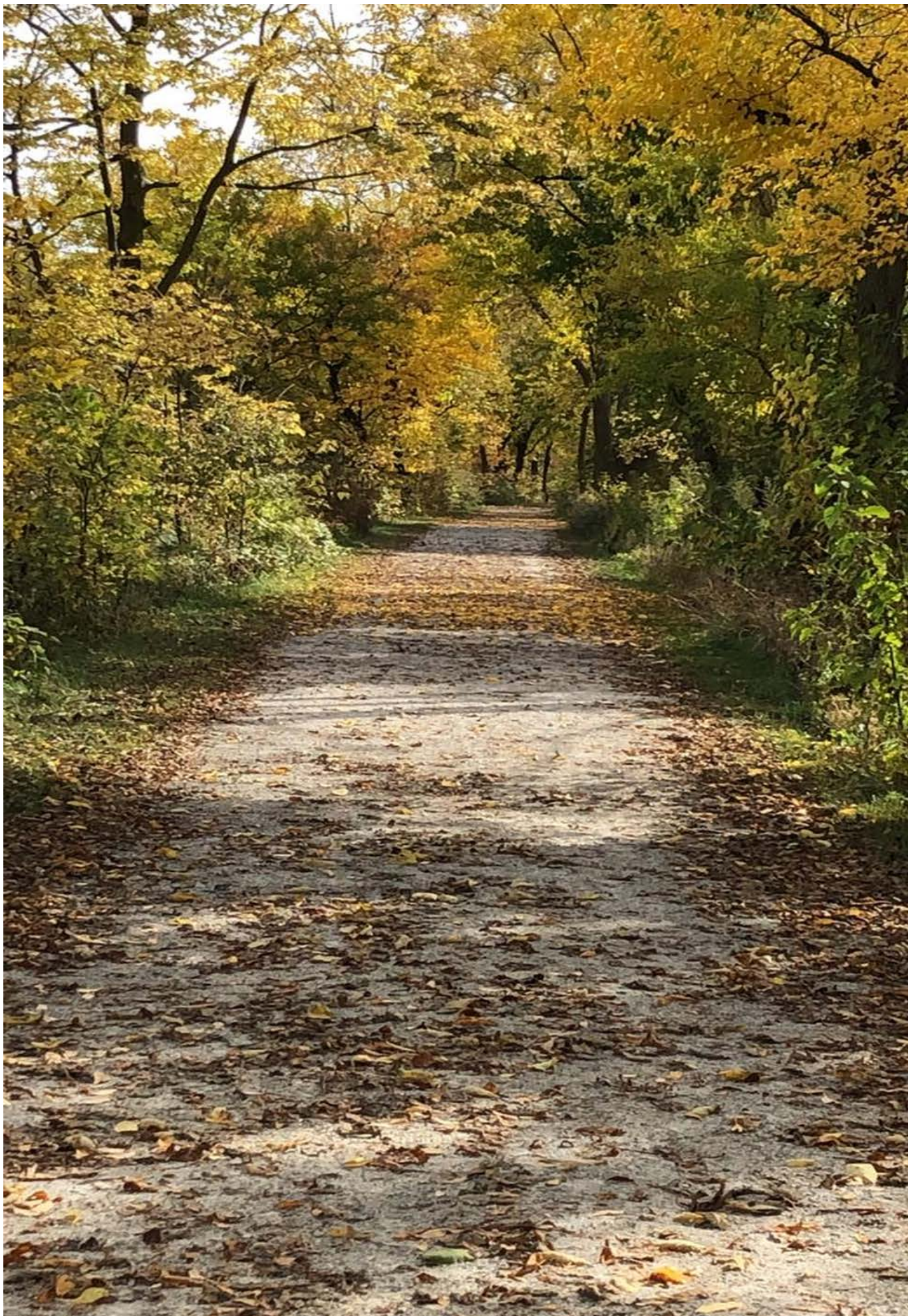


In the Gospel of John, the cleansing of the temple has an emphasis on Jesus as the temple of God, the very place to worship, see, and experience God in the world. We worship God in our congregations and in our daily lives. Where Christ is present in faith, your home is church, too, because God in Christ dwells with you. Keep this in mind as you do your *Daily Bible Readings* this week. Say the *Prayer for the Week* and add your own prayers. End the time by saying:

**Remember that you are God's, and to God you shall return.**



In addition to *Taking Faith Home*, celebrate milestones in your daily life as an effective faith formation tool. Go to: [www.milestonesministry.org](http://www.milestonesministry.org)



## **St. Paul United Church of Christ**

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Visit our website at <https://stpaulnb.org>

Like and follow our page St. Paul United Church of Christ – New

Bremen, Ohio on Facebook

Rev. Becky Senior Pastor

Pastor Dee Associate Pastor

Roland Dicke-Council President

### **Welcome to St. Paul UCC, we are glad you are here!!**

Whether you are worshipping online or in person, we welcome you to this service of worship. We hope that you will find it meaningful.

**Coronavirus (COVID-19) and the Church-**On July 23, 2020 Governor DeWine mandated mask wearing in public, including houses of worship. Masks are essential to help keep those around us safe. Thank you for cooperating.

**March 7, 2021**

**Third Sunday in Lent: Stories  
Sacrament of Holy Communion**

### **Worship Leaders**

Ministers

Rev. Becky Erb Strang

Pastor Dee Schroer

Cheyenne Olt

Dick Hudson

The Congregation

Senior Pastor

Associate Pastor

Accompanist/Vocalist

Organist

PRELUDE

**GREETING AND LIGHTING OF CANDLES:** As we light the altar and Christ candles, you are invited to light a candle or candles at home in preparation for worship.

# RINGING OF THE BELLS

## WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

### MOMENT FOR MISSION: Blankets +

The Mission Team has chosen to spotlight **BLANKETS+** during the month of March this year. Most of you are familiar with this Church World Service ongoing effort to provide the bright yellow blankets in warm areas of need and the warm gray blankets where it is cold. We give \$10 to replace each blanket used in a disaster or personal crisis. This is how we wrap the world in love. Our goal is to fund 125 blankets during March.

### THRESHOLD MOMENT

Leader: We continue our Lenten “season of recovery” as we focus the essential health of our spiritual lives.

#### *Song Leader: Holy Vessels*

Leader: Those who collect beach glass often become “archeologists”—seeking out any markings or clues as to the story of the original piece. It often takes much time to bring out the truth behind the piece of glass. This week we acknowledge the power of truth-telling as a healing property. There are stories that have shaped our lives, leaving us without the ability to see who we truly are in the eyes of God and leaving us without the ability to speak the depth of our stories of struggle. Today, we focus on the importance of recovery of mental health, reclaiming our sense of who we are and being able to proclaim new and redemptive stories of divine worth.

#### **Song Leader/Congregation:**

### Holy Vessels

#### Threshold Song

MUSIC: Chuck Bell  
WORDS: Marcia McFee

Musical score for "Holy Vessels" in G major, 4/4 time. The score consists of two staves. The first staff begins with a treble clef, a common time signature, and the instruction "colla voce". The melody is written on a single line. The second staff provides the bass line. Chord symbols are placed above the notes: C, Dm7, C/E, F2, Am7, G, Dm7, G sus, C/E, F, D/E#, G, Am7, C/E, G sus, G. The lyrics are: "Ves - sels, hol - y and whole. Bro - ken, need - ing the One O - pen, bod - y and soul Heal - er, come."

## OPENING PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Leader: Let us acknowledge our need to restore, repair, renew our Holy Vessels, which include the communities of which we are a part. Let us pray:

**People: Centering and Calming Divine Breath of God, you gifted us with amazing minds, capable of so many things. You gave us the ability to think and feel, filling us with discernment of thought and emotion. Like our physical bodies, sometimes this part of our selves is weary. We struggle under the strain of disappointment, despair, and disenchantment. Too often we hide this, afraid of what others might think of our difficulties in managing or moving forward, even in the face of devastating circumstances. Too often we perpetuate the stigma of a less-than-perfect state of mind by shaming ourselves and others. This misunderstanding compounds our fear. We label and belittle, all the while turning the hatred upon ourselves, for no one is immune from troubles of the mind at some point in our lives. So many are suffering now, O God, weary and distraught, grieving and at the end of their rope. We cannot fathom the proportions of loss and so we look away, sometimes even from the needs in our own homes, in our own community. Help us, Healer God. Show us our capacity for compassion. Forgive our inattention. Move us to move one step at a time toward greater care for one another. In this silence, we sense and acknowledge our yearning for wholeness. Amen.**

## SILENT CONFESSION OF SIN

### Song Leader/Congregation:

### Holy Vessels Threshold Song

MUSIC: Chuck Bell  
WORDS: Marcia McFee

The musical notation is written on two staves. The first staff begins with a treble clef and a 'C' time signature. The melody is written with quarter and eighth notes, and includes a 'colla voce' instruction. The second staff continues the melody. Chord symbols are placed above the notes: C, Dm7, C/E, F2, Am7, G, Dm7, G sus, C/E, F, D/E#, G, Am7, C/E, G sus, G. The lyrics are written below the notes: 'Ves - sels, hol - y and whole. Bro - ken, need - ing the One O - pen, bod - y and soul Heal - er, come.'

## ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Leader: I invite you to imagine and search for a warmth in the core of your body. It may help to keep your eyes closed. This warm orb of light is deep within you although sometimes it feels dulled, even cold. If it feels this way now, allow this. Do not judge yourself. Perhaps you do feel this warmth and all feels right with the world. This just is. You likely will not always feel that way. Whether or not you feel the warmth of peace and assurance right now, this does not make you right or wrong, good or bad. It just makes you human. You are not alone. Perhaps you can imagine the warmth coming from someone whose presence fills you with comfort. See it radiate from them to you, as it does when you need it most.

Know this: you are accepted. No. Matter. What. Accepting the truth of our difficulties is part of the journey of recovery. Sharing our stories of difficulty can open the way for healing. For you, for me, for all. Take a deep breath in and let this truth fill you...and breathe out with the relief of assurance.

**People: We offer to God our thanks and praise!**

## OPENING HYMN

### *Be Still, My Soul*

TRUST & ASSURANCE

451

## Be Still, My Soul

1 Be still, my soul: the Lord is on your side!  
2 Be still, my soul: your God will un - der - take  
3 Be still, my soul: the hour is has - tening on

Bear pa - tient - ly the cross of grief or pain; leave to your  
to guide the fu - ture as he has the past; your hope, your  
when we shall be for - ev - er with the Lord, when dis - ap -

Dm F A C Gm D7 A Gm Bb F A

God to or - der and pro - vide— in ev - ery change he  
 con - fi - dence let noth - ing shake— all now mys - te - rious  
 point - ment, grief, and fear are gone, sor - row for - got, love's

Bb Bb6 Gm6 Bb A F Dm F A C

faith - ful will re - main. Be still, my soul: your best, your heaven - ly  
 shall be bright at last. Be still, my soul: the waves and winds still  
 pur - est joys re - stored. Be still, my soul: when change and tears are

C Gm D7 A Gm Bb F C7sus C7 F

friend through thorn - y ways leads to a joy - ful end.  
 know his voice who ruled them while he dwelt be - low.  
 past, all safe and bless - ed we shall meet at last.

WORDS: Katherina von Schlegel (18th c.); tr. Jane L. Borthwick (1813-1897), alt.  
 MUSIC: Jean Sibelius (1865-1957); arr. Hymnal 1933

Music Arr. © 1933, Ren. 1961 Presbyterian Board of Education (Admin. Westminster John Knox Press)

FINLANDIA  
 10.10.10.10.10.10.

## CHILDREN'S MOMENT

Beach glass begins as something whole and yet discarded. As it is tumbled by the ocean, it is broken and polished until it becomes a smooth thing of beauty. Throughout Lent this year, we will look to beach glass as a metaphor for the healing that is needed in our lives: physical, emotional, spiritual healing. What began as a broken and discarded piece of glass is transformed by the waves of the ocean. What begins as brokenness in our own lives is polished and made smooth by God's love.



Poet Bernadette Noll writes this:

*I want to age like sea glass.*

*Smoothed by tides,*

*but not broken.*

*I want my hard edges to soften.*

*I want to ride the waves*

*and go with the flow.*

*I want to catch a wave*

*and let it carry me*

*to where I belong.*

*I want to be picked up*

*and held gently by*

*those who delight in my*

*well earned patina and*

*appreciate the changes I went*

*through to achieve that beauty.*

*I want to enjoy the journey*

*and always remember that if*

*you give the ocean something*

*breakable it will turn it into*

*something beautiful.*

*I want to age like sea glass.*

Throughout Lent, we will look to sea glass, to beach glass, as we seek healing in our lives. Each week we will add a bead of beach glass to a bracelet—a bracelet that grows each week with an added bead, an added reminder that God takes our lives, heals us, and transforms us into something beautiful. Today we begin by putting a grey glass bead onto our bracelets. Grey symbolizes balance and compromise. It also symbolizes depression—reminding each of us that we do not need to be strong at all times. Grey speaks truths that sometimes we might want to ignore. This week I encourage you to wear your bracelet with its green, blue and grey beads of healing. Every time you look at your wrist, every time you touch the beads, know this: you are treasured by God. God keeps and holds your life. You belong. Amen.

## A CONTEMPORARY WORD

*Part of the healing process is sharing with other people who care.*  
—Jerry Cantrell

*The courage it takes to share your story might be the very thing someone else needs to open their heart to hope.* —Unknown

*Owning our story and loving ourselves through that process is the bravest thing that we will ever do.* —Brene Brown

AN ANCIENT WORD: Matthew 9:27-33 (NRSV)

*As Jesus went on from there, two blind men followed him, crying loudly, “Have mercy on us, Son of David!” 28 When he entered the house, the blind men came to him; and Jesus said to them, “Do you believe that I am able to do this?” They said to him, “Yes, Lord.” 29 Then he touched their eyes and said, “According to your faith let it be done to you.” 30 And their eyes were opened. Then Jesus sternly ordered them, “See that no one knows of this.” 31 But they went away and spread the news about him throughout that district.*

*32 After they had gone away, a demoniac who was mute was brought to him. 33 And when the demon had been cast out, the one who had been mute spoke; and the crowds were amazed and said, “Never has anything like this been seen in Israel.”*

## RESPONSE

Leader: The word of God for the people of God!

**People: God is still speaking! Thanks be to God!**

## SERMON

Rev. Becky Erb Strang

Throughout this Lenten season, we are focusing on healing—healing of spirit, body and mind. Today, we are focusing on the mind: on mental illness and how, for so many people, this pandemic has exacerbated diagnoses AND has created new mental health issues for countless more. And here is the truth about mental illness—very few of us feel comfortable talking about/sharing our diagnoses. Society has conditioned

us to equate mental illness with weakness: that somehow our depression, our anxiety, our inner demons are a judgment on how we are not able to handle day-to-day life.

As someone who was hospitalized with depression nearly a decade and half ago, I can tell you that my daily meds keep me stable and functional and clear-headed. Working in tandem with the meds, my spiritual director keeps me balanced and on-track. I shudder to imagine what coronavirus would have looked like for me if I didn't have ongoing treatment in place.

And how does mental illness feel? For me, it felt like the walls were closing in on all sides. I felt like I couldn't extricate myself from the situation. I felt lost and alone.

In today's scripture lesson, we heard/read two healing stories: in the first instance, Jesus healed two men who were blind. In the second instance, he drove out a demon who had rendered a man mute.

In Jesus's time, mental illness was not a term. People with a variety of diagnoses were considered filled with demons, untouchable and unclean. And yet, Jesus offered healing, hope and new life to those trapped within their minds.

As I said earlier, one of the pandemic's many ramifications has been compromised mental health for people world-wide. Quarantines and lockdowns have isolated many who were already experiencing day-to-day isolation. And science backs this. In 2014 the Guardian newspaper out of the United Kingdom published a lengthy report about the mental health consequences of loneliness and isolation. Two years later, the National Alliance on Mental Illness here in the U.S. echoed the report. NAMI furthered the findings by adding that when we work to end the stigma of mental illness in society and when we offer people ways to share their stories, mental health improves markedly.

Just last June, our Centers for Disease Control reported that young adults, racial/ethnic minorities, essential workers and unpaid adult caregivers reported having experienced greatly worsened mental health outcomes, increased substance abuse and a greater risk of suicide. In other words, our nation's most vulnerable citizens have found themselves at even greater risk of mental illnesses, substance abuse and death by suicide.

As followers of Jesus, as Christians, we cannot turn our backs on those who are suffering. Jesus' entire ministry was to the people on the edges: the outcasts, the infirmed, the marginalized. It is our sacred calling to do the same. If St. Paul Church is going to continue to serve as a beacon of hope and healing for the wider community, we cannot exclude those with mental illnesses. We must, absolutely must, offer welcome, a listening ear and resources for healing.

In early February 2021, the Kaiser Family Foundation published an extensive study entitled *The Implications of Covid-19 for Mental Health and Substance Abuse*. This is what the Foundation reported: during the pandemic, about 4 in 10 adults in the U.S. have reported symptoms of anxiety or depressive disorder—which is a drastic increase from 1 in 10 adults reporting the same in the first half of 2019. Like the CDC report, the Kaiser Foundation reported that those most negatively impacted by the pandemic are young adults, people experiencing job loss, parents and children, people of color, and essential workers. The study also showed that households with incomes of less than \$40,000 a year had the highest incidences of mental health impacts. What's more, science also tells us that even when the physical effects of the pandemic are gone, mental health issues typically stick around for at least another three years. Yes. Three years.

Friends, we cannot, must not, pretend that our next-door neighbors are not suffering. We cannot, must not, act as if our children and grandchildren are doing "just fine." We cannot, must not, continue to push mental health into dark corners, creating taboos, shame and despair.

St. Paul Church can be part of the solution. When we feed our neighbors, we are helping to dissipate anxiety. When we create a culture of acceptance and listening, people will be unafraid to share their innermost thoughts. It is true: we are not a mental health facility any more than we are a physical health facility. However, we are the Body of Christ—offering spiritual healing and hope: even when the walls seem to be closing in.

From personal experience in New Bremen, I can tell you this. When I first arrived here in 2009 word quickly got out into the wider community that I was welcoming of people in mental distress. I cannot tell you how many people (generally non-St. Paul people) who knocked on the

parsonage door or who called me on the phone needing immediate mental health services. In one case, a New Bremen police officer rang the parsonage doorbell after dark so I could accompany him to a woman in distress.

I tell you this NOT because I'm a mental health guru or healer. Far from it. But I will take you seriously when your world is falling apart. I will work with you and your family to find appropriate resources in times of crisis. I won't judge you. I will love you. Listen to you. Give you space to be.

You can do the same. Take time to reach out to your lonely elderly or teenage neighbor. Create spaces of welcome and acceptance. Be willing to drive someone to the hospital or make phone calls on their behalf. Be open to praying with them and for them.

The two blind men who followed Jesus, asking for mercy and healing, believed that Jesus could restore their eyesight. The mute man, once Jesus sent the demon packing, was able to talk again—to tell his story, to share the good news. Let me be very careful with my words. Jesus is our Savior, our Friend, and our Healer. AND there will be times in each of our lives when we need professional help—from doctors, counselors, pastors. Trusting Jesus and trusting science can happen in tandem with one another. One does not cancel out the other.

And my own healing??? When my depression was at its worse, it did indeed feel like the walls were closing in. I took time off of work to heal—seeing a therapist regularly, taking my meds and finding ways to be creative. The breakthrough in my healing came on a camping trip I took alone in central Tennessee. Tall, beautiful, green trees surrounded my campsite. When I first looked up at the trees, they too, felt like walls closing in. But then I looked closer. Those trees had spaces between them. I could literally walk through them. The wall seen through depression was no wall at all—it was a pathway instead, through the woods, out of the woods, and a return to life itself. From that moment, I have committed my life to helping people walk through their wall of trees. I invite you to join me. Amen.

## PASTORAL JOYS AND CONCERNS OF THE PEOPLE

**Joys:** The Joy of following Jesus!!!!

**Concerns:** We are continuing to pray for Annabelle Wenning (JTDMH), Peg Henschen, Drew Wray, Jan Dammeyer, Shannon Shupp and Pastor Dee Schroer.

## A TIME SET ASIDE FOR PRAYER

### Song of Preparation (Music Leader/Congregation):

sung through twice

HEALING & WHOLENESS

### 631 There Is a Balm in Gilead

*Refrain (Unison)*  
C13 F B $\flat$ /F F C7

There is a balm in Gil-e-ad to make the wound-ed whole,  
there is a balm in Gil-e-ad to heal the sin-sick soul.

C13 F B $\flat$ /D F/C C13 F

Detailed description: The image shows a musical score for the hymn 'There Is a Balm in Gilead'. It consists of two systems of music. Each system has a treble clef staff with a melody line and a bass clef staff with a bass line. The key signature is one flat (Bb). The first system is labeled 'Refrain (Unison)' and includes the lyrics 'There is a balm in Gil-e-ad to make the wound-ed whole,'. The second system includes the lyrics 'there is a balm in Gil-e-ad to heal the sin-sick soul.' Above the treble clef staff, various chords are indicated: C13, F, Bb/F, F, C7 in the first system, and C13, F, Bb/D, F/C, C13, F in the second system. The music is written in a simple, accessible style suitable for a congregation.

## PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Healer of our every ill, especially our malady of the stigmatized fear of mental illness, we come before you to make our petitions known. Hear our cries for healing of body, mind, and spirit. We know that already you are at work among us, showing us the way to recovery from the toxicities and grief of our time.

You have stamped each one of us as “worthy.” We give you thanks that your mercy is wide and your faithfulness to us does not depend on our having our feelings sorted out or our sense of well-being secure. You are not waiting for us to “get our acts together” before offering us your love and grace.

We pray especially for those who have experienced heightened and acute mental and emotional difficulties as a result of this past year of isolation and fear. We pray for those who feel far from hope and we mourn

those who could not find a lifeline to survive these hardships. We pray for those who find themselves without access to adequate care, someone to talk to, or appropriate resources to steady their hearts and minds.

We give you thanks for those who are telling their stories, showing us how to open our hearts to help others and offering ripples of healing in the community. We offer grateful thanks for healthcare systems, healthcare workers, and all who work tirelessly to heal bodies and minds.

We pray today for our world, greatly in need of your healing love.

We pray today for our nation; may your healing power be upon us.

We pray today for our communities. May we offer your healing balm to neighbors and strangers alike.

We pray today for our congregation that your healing song might call us to new ministries and new ways of being the church.

We offer to you this silence, knowing that you fill our silences with your still, small voice. SILENCE

All of this we pray in the name of Jesus who taught us to pray...

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.**

**Song of Response (Music Leader/Congregation):**

*There Is a Balm in Gilead*

sung through twice

OFFERING OUR GIFTS, OUR TITHES, OUR LIVES

OFFERTORY SENTENCES: God's beautiful creation overflows with water, sunlight, and the rich, dark soil to grow our food. When we share the fruits of the earth, there is more than enough for all: there is a table of plenty set by a God who loves every one of us. At this table, all are fed and still there are gifts overflowing into the world God loves. Our giving supports the ministries and missions of this beloved Body of Christ as we seek to serve Jesus by serving our neighbors. Let us gather our gifts together and offer them to God in gratitude and praise.

## DOXOLOGY

*Praise God from whom all blessings flow; praise him, all creatures here below; praise him above, ye heavenly host: praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.*

## PRAYER OF DEDICATION (in unison)

**Accept these gifts and offerings, O God, the giver of every good and perfect gift. Grant that they may be symbols of our love and of ourselves now offered more fully to you. Use these gifts and us, we pray, to the end that your kingdom may come and your will be done on earth, even as it is done in heaven. We pray this in the name of Jesus, our Savior and Friend. Amen.**

## SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

Leader: Our God is with you!

**People: And also with you!**

Leader: Lift up your hearts.

**People: We lift them up to our God.**

Leader: Let us give thanks to our Loving and Healing God.

**People: It is right to offer our thanks and praise.**

Leader. Let us pray. It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you. In the beginning you breathed life into raw materials, creating and animating vessels of beauty and goodness. We, your Holy Vessels, were fired in the kiln of love until we shined with your light. Susceptible to shattering, we find ourselves broken, unable at times to remember your promise of repair. You remind us time and again that, though broken, we are held in your presence and made whole by your grace. And so, with your people on earth and all the company of heaven, we praise your name and join in their unending hymn:

**People: Holy, holy, holy God: God of power and might; heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.**

Leader: Holy are you, and blessed is your Son Jesus Christ, Holy Vessel of Divine Presence on earth. Your Spirit anointed him as a vessel of grace who preached good news to the poor, proclaimed release to the captives, recovery of sight to the blind, setting at liberty those who are



oppressed, and announcing that the time had come when you would save your people.

Your Son, our Lord, healed the sick, fed the hungry, and ate with those considered too broken for company. By the baptism of his suffering, death and resurrection you gave birth to the path of healing and recovery, delivered us from despair and isolation, and made with us a new covenant by water and Spirit.

When Jesus ascended, he promised to be with us always. Through the power of your Word and Holy Spirit, we are not alone.

On the night in which he gave himself up for us, he took bread, gave thanks to you, broke the bread, gave it to his disciples and said, "Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

When supper was over, he took the cup, gave thanks to you, gave it to his disciples and said, "Drink from this, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant poured out for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often as you drink it in remembrance of me."

And so, in remembrance of the healing, life-transforming acts in Jesus Christ, we offer ourselves as a holy and living sacrifice, in union with Christ's offering for us, as we proclaim the mystery of our faith:

**People: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

Leader: Pour out your Holy Spirit on us gathered here, and on these gifts of bread and wine. Make them be for us your Healing Spirit through Christ so that we may be for the world the Body of Christ, healing agents in a broken world, offering the life-blood of hope.

By your Spirit make us one with Christ, one with each other, and one in ministry to all the world, until Christ comes in final victory and we feast at his heavenly banquet. We pray all of this in the name of Christ Jesus, your Son and our Savior.

**People: Amen.**

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

Leader: The Body of Christ, broken for you.

Leader: The Cup of Salvation, poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. These are the gifts of God for the people of God. All things are now ready.

SHARING THE BREAD AND CUP

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING (unison): **Almighty and ever-living God, we most heartily thank you that by your great love for us, you have fed us at your table with the spiritual food of Christ's body and blood. We thank you that you have showered us with grace and equipped us for service in our villages, highways and by-ways of life. Send us out into the world, nourished and loved, that we might offer your love to all we encounter. Amen.**

HYMN OF SENDING

*Jesus' Hands Were Kind Hands*

WITNESS & MISSION

560

I Love to Tell the Story

1 I love to tell the sto - ry of un - seen things a - bove, of  
 2 I love to tell the sto - ry, 'tis pleas - ant to re - peat what  
 3 I love to tell the sto - ry, for those who know it best seem

Je - sus and his glo - ry, of Je - sus and his love. I love to tell the  
 seems, each time I tell it, more won - der - ful - ly sweet. I love to tell the  
 hun - ger - ing and thirst - ing to hear it like the rest. And when in scenes of

sto - ry be - cause I know 'tis true; it sat - is - fies my long - ings as  
 sto - ry, for some have nev - er heard the mes - sage of sal - va - tion from  
 glo - ry I sing the new, new song, 'twill be the old, old sto - ry that

D7  $\frac{G}{D}$  D7 G *Refrain* D D7  $\frac{D7}{G}$  G  $\frac{G}{B}$  C  
 noth - ing else can do.  
 God's own Ho - ly Word. I love to tell the sto - ry, 'twill be my theme in  
 I have loved so long.

$\frac{C}{G}$  G  $\frac{G}{B}$  C  $\frac{G}{D}$  D7  $\frac{G}{D}$  G  
 glo - ry, to tell the old, old sto - ry of Je - sus and his love.

WORDS: A. Catherine Hankey (1834-1911)  
 MUSIC: William G. Fischer (1835-1912)

HANKEY  
 7.6.7.6.D.Ref

**BENEDICTION:** Now go with confidence that the one who is Living Water is already cleansing, renewing, and clarifying our lives, recovering our depth of love for all and our joy of living in this world. May the words of Jesus ring in your ears: "Do you believe that I am able to do this?" And may the Spirit hover, move, and deliver salve to your soul and a spring to your step. Amen.

**BENEDICTION RESPONSE**

sung through twice

## Holy Vessels

### Threshold Song

MUSIC: Chuck Bell  
 WORDS: Marcia McFee

C *colla voce* Dm7 C/E F2 Am7 G Dm7 G sus  
 Ves - sels, hol - y and whole. Bro - ken, need - ing the One

C/E F D/E# G Am7 C/E G sus G  
 O - pen, bod - y and soul Heal - er, come.

# PASSING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

## POSTLUDE

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Altar Flowers** are given as Thank You to Rev. Becky, Pastor Dee and Barb for all they have done the past year by Amy Scheer.

**Attendance**-Online-Daily Devotions Avg.-73, February 21-Sunday Worship Online-228, In Person-38, Sunday School Online-115, In Person 18, Teachers-7, Splash-4, Leaders-2, February 24-Confirmation-13, Leaders-15, Sr/Jr High Youth Group-3, Leaders-1.

**Daily Devotions**-Please join Rev Becky or Pastor Dee Monday-Friday at 11:30am, online via Facebook Live. These will air on our Facebook page St. Paul United Church of Christ-New Bremen, OH.

**Zoom Bible Study**-join us Thursday's at 6:30pm. Join Zoom Meeting by clicking on or logging onto:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88640093949?pwd=ZllqSDBpZzdzZi9LT0d6SThwbltZz09>      **Meeting ID: 886 4009 3949**      **Passcode: 344973**

\*If you would like an email version of this to make logging on easier, simply email Pastor Becky: [berbstrang@stpaulnb.org](mailto:berbstrang@stpaulnb.org)

**Sundays in March-Sunday School** will be in person and via Facebook Live at 9:00am. **Worship** will be in person and via Facebook Live at 10:15am.

**March Book Club**-All are invited to the March Book Club set for Sunday, March 28 at 4:00 p.m. via Zoom. We will discuss Mitch Albom's have a little faith. Copies of the book are available at the church office.

Zoom login information:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81672987844?pwd=NTRMekJLK0UwTXEzUTV6TllzOTZpZz09>

**Meeting ID: 816 7298 7844**      **Passcode: 680642** All are welcome!

\*If you would like an email version of this to make logging on easier, simply email Pastor Becky: [berbstrang@stpaulnb.org](mailto:berbstrang@stpaulnb.org)

**Bulletin Availability-weekly bulletins** are available for download on our website [stpaulnb.org](http://stpaulnb.org). Just click the yellow **BULLETINS** box in the upper right hand corner.

**2021 Altar Flower Chart** has been posted in the Narthex. Please sign up for the date(s) you would like or call the church office Monday-Friday to sign up. Thank you. Open dates the rest of the year **March 28<sup>th</sup>**, **April 4<sup>th</sup>**, **August 22<sup>nd</sup> & 29<sup>th</sup>**, **September 19<sup>th</sup>** **October 3<sup>rd</sup>**.

**March/April Upper Rooms**-have arrived! They are available at the East entrance to the education building and on the round tables in the sanctuary. Or please call the church office if you would like one and we will gladly mail one to you.

### Calendar-Week of March 7, 2021

Sunday	9:00am	Sunday School-in person & via Facebook Live
	10:15am	Worship-in person w/Holy Communion
	11:30am	Worship Team
	5:00pm	Splash-in person
Monday	11:30am	Devotions via Facebook Live
	2:00pm-4:00pm	Coffee Shop w/Rev Becky New Bremen Coffee Inc.
Tuesday	11:30am	Devotions via Facebook Live
	5:30pm-7:30pm	Blessing Pantry Open
	7:00pm	Church Council
Wednesday	11:30am	Devotions via Facebook Live
	1:00pm-3:00pm	Blessing Pantry Open
	6:30pm	Jr/Sr High Youth Group-in person
Thursday	11:30am	Devotions via Facebook Live
	1:00pm-3:00pm	Blessing Pantry Open
	6:30pm	Bible Study via Zoom
Friday	11:30am	Devotions via Facebook Live
	Afternoon	Office Closed

**Mailbox**-There is a mailbox outside of the East Educational Building door for any correspondence you may have for the church and would like to drop off. Please lift the flap and drop through the slot on the top. The box is locked and will be checked often. Thank you!

**Blessing Pantry**-is located in the North Hallway and accessible by the North door during these hours - **Tuesdays 5:30pm-7:30pm, Wednesdays and Thursdays 1:00pm-3:00pm.** The Pantry will be closed Mondays and Fridays. **All Donations Welcome – Blessing Pantry Needs-Paper Plates, Toilet Paper, Paper Towels, Napkins, Laundry Detergent, Dish Soap, Razors, Shaving Cream, Deodorant, Baby Wipes, Bar Soap, Hand Soap, Tampons & Panty Liners, Cleaning Supplies, Storage Bags, Garbage Bags and Pet Food. Thank you!** There is a container outside the East and North Educational Building doors for donations.

### **E-Giving @ St. Paul** **3 Different Ways to Give**

**Online** – Make a donation on our website: [stpaulnb.org](http://stpaulnb.org)

**Give+ App** – Search “Give Plus Church” in your App store and find St. Paul to Get Started!

**Text** – Make a donation to our Number: 833-308-0048  
St. Paul New “Text to Give” #(# changed as of 10/9/19)

**How To Give by Text (Example - my amount for the example is \$25 (minimum amount is \$5.00))**

- For general fund giving: Send 25 space gl (hit send)
- For building & property fund giving: Send 25 space bp (hit send)
- For Blessing Pantry: Send 25 space pantry (hit send)
- For project of the year giving: Send 25 space poy (hit send)

**Once a text amount is sent:**

**Registration Link**- Sent via text the first time a donation is made.  
Thank you! Please visit (link) to register.

**Donation Confirm**- Sent via text each time a donation is made.  
Thank you for donating \$ (amount)! Text repeat to make this recurring or refund to cancel this donation.