

May 24, 2021

Dear St. Paul Church Family and Friends,

As summer approaches, we celebrate the gift of the Holy Spirit who calls us, inspires us, and then sends us into our communities to share God's love.

Yesterday's Pentecost worship was Spirit-filled. It was also our first in-person worship in which masks were no longer mandated. Masking in worship is now a personal choice. We affirm both the masked and unmasked folk as we gather to worship God through the Risen Christ.

Even with Covid19 restrictions being lifted, we will continue to livestream worship and send the weekly worship mailing.

At May's Church Council meeting, we voted to work with a local construction company to replace the steeple roof. Council agreed on a metal roof for the steeple and the cost is estimated to be between \$52,000-\$60,000. While this is NOT our Project of the Year, we will begin raising funds.

We are also hoping to purchase and spread mulch in our landscaping beds. While we have not taken any bids for this, we are estimating the cost will be between \$700 and \$1000. If you would like to donate toward the purchase of mulch, please mark your financial donation "mulch."

On Sunday, June 6, we will dedicate the St. Paul Playground during worship with a reception in the playground following worship.

Included in this mailer is a giving envelope. Your ongoing financial support of St. Paul Church keeps the many ministries and missions going strong.

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

Grace and Peace,



Roland Dicke  
Council President



Myra Hanenkratt  
Council VP



Rev. Becky Erb Strang  
Senior Pastor

## Financial Information as of May 24, 2021

### Operating Fund

Beg. Balance \$0.00  
Giving Income \$3,375.69 (weekly)  
Endowment Transfers \$11,455.00(ytd)  
Income \$129,870.66 (ytd)  
Expenses \$122,936.29 (ytd)  
Balance \$6,934.37(ytd)

### Building Maint & Property Care

Beg. Balance \$73,644.37  
Income \$7,267.00(ytd)  
Endowment Income \$2,477.46(ytd)  
Expenses \$4,887.98 (ytd)  
Balance \$78,500.85 (ytd)

### Local Aid

Beg. Balance \$6,250.20  
Income \$6,790.00 (ytd)  
Expenses \$6,480.70 (ytd)  
Balance \$6,889.50

BP Beg Balance \$7,881.15  
Bless Pantry Inc. \$12,606.00(ytd)

Bless Pantry Ex. \$3,545.54(ytd)

BP Balance \$16,941.61

### Our Church Wider Mission

Pledge \$25,000.00  
Income \$541.00(weekly)  
Income \$11,539.00 (ytd)

### Project of the Year

Income \$25.00(weekly)  
Balance \$3,135.00(ytd)

MAY 30, 2021  
TRINITY SUNDAY



*God is holy.*

### DAILY BIBLE READINGS

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

Sunday	John 3:1-17	Born of the Spirit
Monday	Isaiah 6:1-8	A vision of God
Tuesday	Romans 8:12-17	Life in the Spirit
Wednesday	Luke 1:46-56	Mary's song of praise
Thursday	Psalms 103:1-14	Thanksgiving for God's goodness
Friday	John 15:12-15	Jesus calls us friends
Saturday	Psalms 29	The voice of God
Sunday	Mark 3:20-35	Doing the work of God

### SCRIPTURE VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

*And one [angelic figure known as a seraph] called to another and said:  
"Holy, holy, holy is the LORD of hosts; the whole earth is full of his glory."  
Isaiah 6:3 (NRSV)*

### PRAYERS AND BLESSING

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

God of power and might, give us courage and hope to live each day through Jesus Christ born in us through your Holy Spirit. Amen.

#### **Mealtime Prayer:**

Creator God, for the beauty of the earth and for this food, the fruit of the earth that we are able to eat this day, we give you thanks and praise. Amen.

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

May the Lord give you strength and bless you with peace. (Psalm 29:11)



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MAY 30, 2021

### HYMN OF THE WEEK

*Holy, Holy, Holy,  
Lord God Almighty*



### 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:

- When you hear the word, "holy," what do you think of?
- How is God more than a "good buddy" who gets me through tough times?
- How does God's holiness strengthen you in your daily life?

### DEVOTIONS



*Read:* Isaiah 6:1-8.

We live in an age when we can often envision God for us as a close and warm friend. That image is reinforced for us in John 15:15 when Jesus describes his followers as "friends." However, even in the John passage, there is an expectation of obedience, not just coziness. In Isaiah, the sense of reverence, awe—even deep fear—is present as Isaiah accepts his call as a prophet of God. In this dramatic moment in the temple with God and Isaiah present together, there are angels that have appearances that look like snakes and lions that can fly around with wings. It is a scene in which Isaiah responds with the words, "Woe is me" (v. 5). Trinity Sunday reminds us of God in three persons. A danger in such language is to assume that with such words we can really grasp the totality of who God is. Isaiah reminds us of the total otherness of God that is filled with power, might, judgment, and holiness. Jesus makes God accessible and personal. Trinity Sunday can remind us that our intimate relationship with God remains filled with awe and wonder. God is filled with glory, strength, majesty, and holy splendor (Psalm 29). Describe what this means to you and your faith.

*Pray:* **Awesome God, you who are far beyond what I can imagine, I thank you for reaching out to me and to all people through the power of the Holy Spirit and saving grace of Jesus Christ. Amen.**

### SERVICE



Psalm 29 gives many images of the power and awesomeness of God. As followers of such a mighty God, you are entrusted with divine powers of love to serve your neighbor near and far. How can you use God's divine power of love to serve others this week?

### RITUALS AND TRADITIONS



Begin your devotion times this week by saying the *Prayer for the Week* and marking yourselves with the sign of the cross. You may also wish to light three candles during devotions to represent the Trinity.

*Say:* **In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.**



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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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, Welcome! Your presence increases our joy as we praise our loving Savior. May every blessing be yours.

**Coronavirus (COVID-19) and the Church-**Following the CDC guidelines on May 14, 2021, you no longer need to wear a mask during worship. We do ask, however, that you maintain social distancing. We are aware that some of you will want to continue wearing a mask in worship. We affirm both the masked and unmasked folk as we gather to worship God through the Risen Christ.

**May 30, 2021**

**Trinity Sunday**

**Worship Leaders**

Ministers

Rev. Becky Erb Strang

Lauren Miller

Cheyenne Olt

Dick Hudson

Ann Kuhn

The Congregation

Senior Pastor

SALT Intern

Accompanist/Vocalist

Organist

Liturgist

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.

## WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

### WELCOME SONG

#### No Matter

*J=120*

No mat-ter who, no mat-ter what no mat-ter where you are on the  
jour-ney of life; you're wel-come, wel-come in this place. No mat-ter  
who, no mat-ter what, no mat-ter where you are on the  
jour-ney of life: ac-cept-ed, wel-comed by God's grace. grace.

### CALL TO WORSHIP

**Leader:** The Holy Spirit descends upon us like a dove, bringing peace to unite the world in a just and caring community.

**People:** **The Holy Spirit comes like a breath, bringing life to renew the people of God.**

**Leader:** The Holy Spirit spreads like fire, bringing energy for witnessing to the love of God.

**All:** **Spirit of the living God, come to us and transform our lives with power. We worship you with praise and thanksgiving! Amen.**

### HYMN OF PRAISE

*Holy, Holy, Holy! Lord God Almighty!*

Verses 1 & 4

# 136 Holy, Holy, Holy! Lord God Almighty!

D Bm A7 D G  $\frac{A}{G}$  G  $\frac{A9}{G}$  D

1 Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly! Lord God Al - might - y!  
 2 Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly! All the saints a - dore thee,  
 3 Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly! though the dark - ness hide thee,  
 4 Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly! Lord God Al - might - y!

$\frac{A}{C\#}$  D  $\frac{A}{C\#}$  Bm  $\frac{E7}{B}$   $\frac{A}{C\#}$  D  $\frac{A}{E}$  E7 A A7

Ear - ly in the morn - ing our song shall rise to thee.  
 cast - ing down their gold - en crowns a - round the glass - y sea;  
 though the eye made blind by sin thy glo - ry may not see,  
 All thy works shall praise thy name, in earth, and sky, and sea;

D Bm A7 D G  $\frac{A}{G}$  G  $\frac{A9}{G}$  D

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly! Mer - ci - ful and might - y!  
 cher - u - bim and ser - a - phim fall - ing down be - fore thee,  
 on - ly thou art ho - ly; there is none be - side thee,  
 Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly! Mer - ci - ful and might - y!

Bm  $\frac{D7}{F\#}$  G D  $\frac{Em}{G}$  A7 D

God in three per - sons, bless - ed Trin - i - ty!  
 which wert and art, and ev - er - more shalt be.  
 per - fect in power, in love and pu - ri - ty.  
 God in three per - sons, bless - ed Trin - i - ty!



## INVOCATION (unison)

**Holy Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, send your Holy Spirit to awaken us. Send your grace to forgive us, your truth to instruct us, your mercy to relieve us. Holy God, you created the world through the power of your love. And for this we offer you thanks and praise. Lord Jesus Christ, you redeemed the world your Father loves. For this we offer our thanks and praise. Holy Spirit, you blew your power into the church and sent her out to the world. Majestic God, triune from all ages, brimming with life upon life with your grace and peace, you poured out life to create, save and inspire. And so we worship you and adore you now and always. Amen.**

## HALLELUJAH!

Hal - le, hal - le, hal - le - lu - jaht

Hal - le, hal - le, hal - le - lu - jaht

Hal - le, hal - le, hal - le - lu - jaht Hal - le -

lu - jaht Hal - le - lu - jaht

The musical score consists of four staves of music in G major and 2/4 time. The lyrics are: Hal - le, hal - le, hal - le - lu - jaht. The first staff has a C chord under the first 'Hal' and an Am7 chord under the first 'le'. The second staff has a C chord under the first 'Hal', a D chord under the first 'le', a G chord under the second 'le', and a D7 chord under the first 'lu'. The third staff has a C chord under the first 'Hal', a D chord under the first 'le', a G chord under the second 'le', a D chord under the first 'lu', and an Em chord under the first 'jaht'. The fourth staff has a C chord under the first 'lu', a D chord under the first 'jaht', and a C chord under the first 'Hal' of the second line. The lyrics are: Hal - le, hal - le, hal - le - lu - jaht Hal - le - lu - jaht Hal - le - lu - jaht.

## CHILDREN'S MOMENT

Today is Trinity Sunday, a day we set aside every year to celebrate our wonderful Three-in-One God. The Trinity cannot be fully explained by me (or anyone else, for that matter), because we do not totally understand it. Believing in the Trinity, the Three-in-One God, is a mystery of our Christian faith.

Today I brought with me an apple to help explain the Trinity. When I cut the apple in half, we can see three very distinct parts of the apple: the peel, the flesh and the seeds. All three of these parts are very different/very distinct, yet together they are an apple.

The peel of the apple is like the Father—our protector. The flesh of the apple is like Jesus, the Son—God incarnate/enfleshed. The seeds of the apple signify the Holy Spirit, the Mother of us all—sending us out to plant the love and grace of God wherever we go.

Let us pray. Dear God, help us to know your love through Jesus, to feel your power through the Holy Spirit, and to praise your splendor in creation. Amen.

## PASTORAL JOYS AND CONCERNS OF THE PEOPLE

**Joys:** Welcoming Lauren Miller as our Summer Adult Leadership Training Intern.

**Concerns:** We are continuing to pray for Pam Simon (JTDMH), John Gilberg, James Nelson, Drew Wray, Jan Dammeyer, Shannon Shupp and Pastor Dee Schroer.

## PASTORAL PRAYER, SILENT PRAYER, AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

Triune God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, we adore you for your threeness and oneness, a holy mystery.

We are in awe that the same unfathomable mystery is reflected in the creation around us, in the complexity of an atom, in the birth of a child, in your work in our lives.

God, we celebrate that your ways are higher than our ways, your thoughts greater than our thoughts, so we acknowledge that we do not always understand your ways.

Today we offer to you our prayers for your creation and our call to care for the land, wind, water, and trees.

Today we offer to you prayers for the nations of the world, for our own nation and its leaders, for this community and the church universal as it works on your behalf.

Today we offer to you our prayers for St. Paul Church in its ministry and mission to the wider community. Continue to empower us for service. Open our eyes that we might see Jesus in one another and in all the people we encounter this week.

Today we offer to you our silence, knowing that you fill this vast space with your song, with your Word, with your love. SILENCE



All of this we pray in the name of Jesus, your Son, 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.**

SPECIAL MUSIC

Allie Bornhorst

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON: Psalm 1

(The Message)

*How well God must like you—  
you don't walk in the ruts of those blind-as-bats,  
you don't stand with the good-for-nothings,  
you don't take your seat among the know-it-alls.*

*<sup>2-3</sup> Instead you thrill to God's Word,  
you chew on Scripture day and night.*

*You're a tree replanted in Eden,  
bearing fresh fruit every month,  
Never dropping a leaf,  
always in blossom.*

*<sup>4-5</sup> You're not at all like the wicked,  
who are mere windblown dust—  
Without defense in court,  
unfit company for innocent people.*

*<sup>6</sup> God charts the road you take.  
The road they take leads to nowhere.*

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON: Matthew 28:16-20

(NRSV)

*Now the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had directed them. <sup>17</sup> When they saw him, they worshiped him; but some doubted. <sup>18</sup> And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. <sup>19</sup> Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, <sup>20</sup> and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age."*

## 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

Sometimes I surprise myself. After 27 years of ordained pastoring, I have never once (ever!) preached about the Trinity on Trinity Sunday. Trust me. I dug through old files to see what I might have said about Father/Son/Holy Spirit in the past three decades and I got nothing. Nada.

I think I was most surprised by my lack of words over the years, because I am a Trinitarian Christian—at least as a starting point.

From the very beginning, Christians struggled to put into words the relationships between the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Are these three separate beings? Are they one? How do the parts of the Trinity interact with one another? The definition of the Trinity is heavy in scholarly language: *The Trinity holds that God is one God, but three coeternal and consubstantial persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. The three persons are distinct, yet are one “substance, essence or nature.” Nature is what one is, whereas a person is who one is.*

Clear as mud, huh??? One way I describe the Trinity to our confirmands is via a math equation that doesn't actually work: Jesus is 100% human and 100% divine. Yet, this is part of the mystery of our faith.

We will begin with some history. Biblically, there is not a lot of Trinitarian language. Some. Just not a lot. Probably the passage we are most familiar with is today's reading from the very end of the Gospel of Matthew—what is called the Great Commission. In these few short verses, Jesus gave his disciples their threefold marching orders:

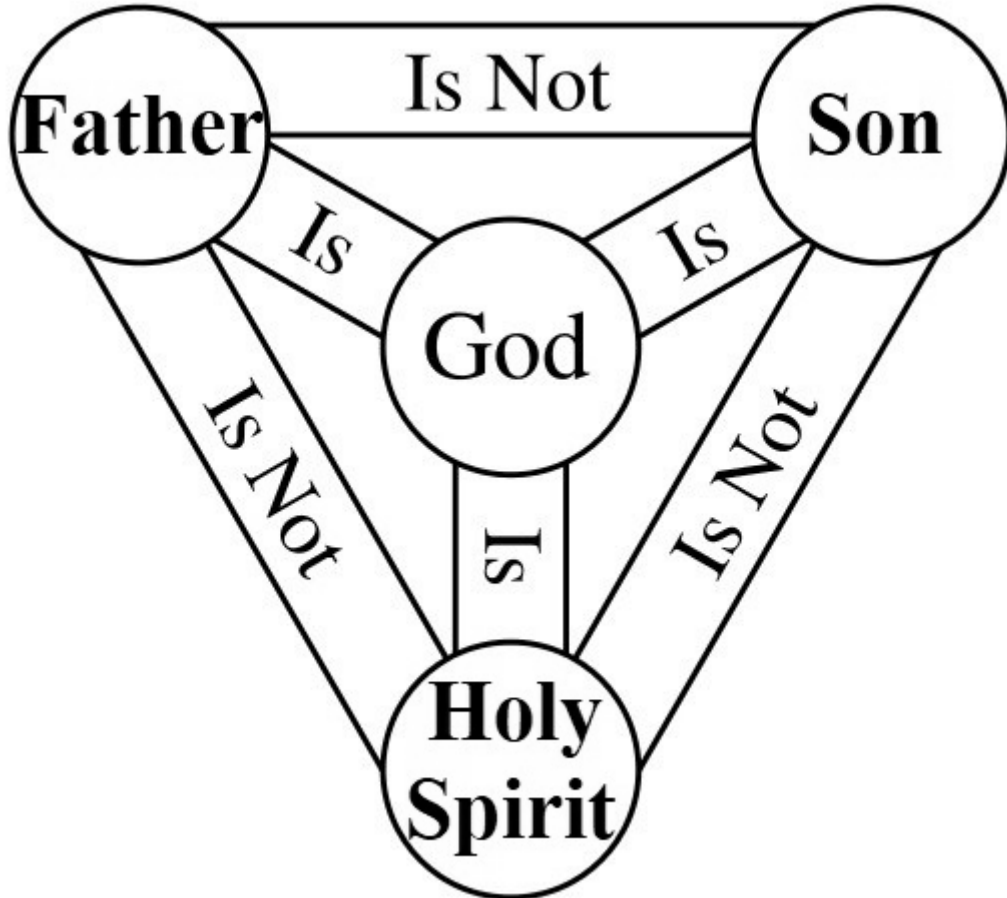
1. Make disciples of all nations
2. Baptize the new disciples in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit
3. Teach the new disciples to obey what Jesus commands.

Let me be clear: the Great Commission is not some set of instructions from a long time ago meant only for Jesus' eleven disciples. The Great Commission is at the foundation of what it means to be

Christian—so much so that evangelical Christians look to the Great Commission as the entirety of what they are called to do and to be.

Because there is so little Trinitarian language in the Bible, early church Fathers (yes: Fathers) struggled with how to describe the Trinity. Jesus was understood to be from the Father, having taken on human nature, and yet fully divine. The Holy Spirit was seen with a slightly different function: not necessarily to be worshiped, but sent by either the Father or by Jesus to be with the believers. As you can imagine, there was a lot of arguing by the early church Fathers about the full status of the Holy Spirit. Yet by the fourth century, the Holy Spirit was more widely accepted as being co-equal with the Father and the Son.

When I am attempting to teach confirmands about the Trinity, I pull out a blank piece of paper and draw a large triangle. Placing a G in the center of the triangle for “God”, I mark each of the three points of the triangle with: Father, Son, Holy Spirit. I explain that all of the points of this triangle give us a glimpse of who God is. I also explain that, like that mathematical formula that doesn’t actually add up, the Trinity is a mystery—something that cannot be fully explained.



Most, but not all Christians, baptize infants and believers with the Trinitarian formula: *I baptize you in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit*. At St. Paul Church and at David's Church in Kettering where I served before coming here, Bill Youngkin and I altered that Trinitarian formula a bit. At a St. Paul baptism, I say, *I baptize you in the name of God, the Father and Creator; Christ the Son and our Savior; and the Holy Spirit the Mother of us all. By the sign of Christ's cross, may you always be one of his faithful followers.*

Our baptism formula is not particularly traditional, but it is biblical. In the Old Testament book of Proverbs, we hear of Wisdom (equated in some schools of thought to the Holy Spirit) as a woman.

Proverbs 1:20-21. *Wisdom cries out in the street; in the squares she raises her voice. At the busiest corner she cries out; at the entrance of the city gates she speaks.*

Proverbs 4:5-9. *Get wisdom; get insight: do not forget, nor turn away from the words of my mouth. Do not forsake her, and she will keep you; love her and she will guard you. The beginning of wisdom is this: Get wisdom and whatever else you get, get insight. Prize her highly, and she will exalt you; she will honor you if you embrace her. She will place on your head a fair garland; she will bestow on you a beautiful crown.*

Proverbs 8:22-31 is recorded in Wisdom's voice—showing that she was with God at the creation of the universe. *The Lord created me at the beginning of his work, the first of his acts of long ago. Ages ago I was set up, at the first, before the beginning of the earth. When there were no depths I was brought forth, when there were no springs abounding in water. Before the mountains had been shaped, before the hills, I was brought forth—when he had not yet made earth and fields or the world's first bits of soil. When he established the heavens, I was there, when he drew a circle on the face of the deep, when he made firm the skies above, when he established the fountains of the deep, when he assigned to the sea its limit, so that the waters might not transgress his command, when he marked out the foundations of the earth, then I was beside him, like a master worker, and I was daily his delight, rejoicing before him always, rejoicing in his inhabited world and delighting in the human race.*

This last passage indicates that Wisdom/Spirit was with God from the very beginning. In fact, if we were to read the first two verses in the



Bible (Genesis 1:1-2), we hear: *In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth, the earth was a formless void and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters.* A wind from God. A breath from God. A spirit from God. All translate from the Hebrew equally.

What's more, that Hebrew rendering of Spirit is feminine. In Greek, it is neutral. In the much later Latin, it is masculine.

So back to the Trinity and Trinity Sunday—this day that is set aside each year in the church calendar to celebrate the many ways we can begin to understand who God is. By the sixth century, many Christians subscribed to the Athanasian Creed which pronounces that the Father is uncreated, the Son is uncreated and the Holy Spirit is uncreated, and all three are eternal without beginning. In this understanding, Father, Son and Holy Spirit are not names for different parts of God, but one name (together!) for God.

By the thirteenth century, the Fourth Lateran Council added, “In God there is only a Trinity since each of the three persons is that reality—that is to say substance, essence or divine nature.”

I hope you will excuse the super-fast lecture—there is a lot to cover in a short sermon timeslot, and yet it is important for us to understand how God has been described, defined and explained for 2000 years.

Which brings us to today. May 30, 2021. What is the take-away for Christians on Trinity Sunday? This I believe and this is what I teach our confirmands. After I draw the triangle with the three understandings of God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit, I begin to draw arrows. Lots of arrows that are sent out past that triangle. Why? I truly believe that our Trinitarian understanding of God should be a starting point and not an ending point. As mere humans, it is tempting to explain God with a diagram, a creed or a confession. But God is greater, more awesome, beyond our wildest imaginations. Always and forever.

When we speak of God as Father/Son/Holy Spirit, that should be the opening of the conversation (a comma, in United Church of Christ-speak), rather than a period. We cannot, absolutely cannot in this lifetime we have been given, fully understand who God is and was and shall always be. The Trinity gives us words to begin to describe God, but the Trinity cannot be the be-all-end-all of how we know God.

If I were an early church Mother, I'd like to imagine that I would not spend much time arguing about the Trinity. Those arguments feel to me an awful lot like the Medieval focus on trying to figure out how many angels would fit on the end of a pin. (I'm not kidding!) Any language we use for God is flawed. And that includes our language around the Trinity.

Instead, I am utterly convinced that, if I were an early Church Mother, when attempting to describe who God is in my life, I would point to 1 John 4:16b: *God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God, and God abides in them.*

Wait! I don't have to be an early church Mother to talk about God as love. God as love holds true today in our world that is so incredibly lacking in love. God as love reminds me over and over and over again that, no matter what, it is my call as a follower of Jesus to always (always!) choose the most loving path.

I invite you to join me on that path. Amen.

## AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

While we at St. Paul rarely in worship recite affirmations of faith, I decided that today, on Trinity Sunday, we can speak these words of affirmation, adapted from St. Patrick's Breastplate.

Affirmation of Faith (adapted from St. Patrick's Breastplate) (In Unison)

**I bind unto myself today the strong name of the Trinity, by invocation of the same, the Three-in-One and the One-in-Three.**

**I bind this day to me forever, by the power of faith, Christ's incarnation; his baptism in the Jordan River, his death on the cross.**

**I bind this day to me forever Christ's resurrection, his ascension into heaven.**

**I bind unto myself today the creation of the star-lit heaven, the glorious sun's life-giving light, the whiteness of the moon, the flash of lightning, the whirling wind, the stable earth, the deep salt sea held up by old, eternal rocks.**

**I bind unto myself today the power of God to hold and lead: God's eye to watch, God's might to stay, God's ear to hear my cries, God's love to hold me tight.**

**I bind unto myself today the Holy Spirit's power and presence, her breathtaking and breath-giving ways, the song she sings to beckon us to follow.**

**Christ be with me, Christ within me,  
Christ beside me, Christ before me,  
Christ beside me, Christ to win me,  
Christ to comfort and restore me,  
Christ beneath me, Christ above me,  
Christ in quiet, Christ in danger,  
Christ in the hearts of all that love me.**

**I bind unto myself the name, the strong name of the Trinity: Three-in-One and One-in-Three of whom all nature has created, Father, Spirit and Word. Amen.**

## **OFFERING OUR GIFTS AND TITHES**

**OFFERING SENTENCES:** Today's offering invitation is adapted from Romans 12:1. So here's what I want you to do, God helping you: take your everyday, ordinary life—your sleeping, eating, going-to-work and walking-around life—and place it before God as an offering. Embracing what God does for you is the best thing you can do for him. Let us give generously and joyfully. Amen.

## **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)**

**O God, we are not our own; we belong to you. You have created us and given us life anew, O God, our Creator, Savior and Sustainer. We extend our arms and open our hands to present our offerings to you. We make these gestures to display outwardly our hearts' overflowing gratitude for all your gifts. Receive these gifts from us, O Triune God, and through them bring life and hope to many. In the name of Jesus, through the power of the Holy Spirit. Amen.**

## **HYMN OF SENDING**

*God the Spirit, Guide and Guardian*

# 149 God the Spirit, Guide and Guardian

F C F Gm C7 F C Dm C E C7 F E

1 God the Spir - it, guide and guard - ian, wind - sped flame and  
 2 Christ our Sav - ior, sov - ereign, shep - herd, Word made flesh, Love  
 3 Great Cre - a - tor, life - be - stow - er, truth be - yond all  
 4 Tri - une God, mys - te - rious be - ing, un - di - vid - ed

Gm Dm C F C F Gm C7 F C Dm C E C7

hov - ering dove, breath of life and voice of proph - ets, sign of  
 cru - ci - fied, teach - er, heal - er, suf - fering ser - vant, friend of  
 thought's re - call, fount of wis - dom, womb of mer - cy, giv - ing  
 and di - verse, deep - er than our minds can fath - om, great - er

F E Gm Dm C F Am Dm Gm C7 Dm7 C7

bles - ing, power of love: give to those who lead your peo - ple,  
 sin - ners, foe of pride: in your tend - ing may all pas - tors\*  
 and for - giv - ing all: as you know our strength and weak - ness,  
 than our creeds re - hearse: help us in our var - ied call - ings

F E Dm Gm E G# Gm Bb maj7 Csus C E F6 Gm C7

fresh a - noint - ing of your grace; send them forth as  
 learn and live a shep - herd's care; grant them cour - age  
 so may those the church ex - alts; o - ver - see its  
 your full im - age to pro - claim, that our min - is -

\*When appropriate, ministers, leaders, elders, or deacons may be substituted for pastors.

WORDS: Carl P. Daw, Jr. (1944- )  
 MUSIC: Rowland H. Prichard (1811-1887); arr. Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872-1958)  
 Words © 1989 Hope Publishing Company

HYFRYDOL  
 8.7.8.7.D.

F E G7 C Bb C7 F F7 Bb F Bb E C7 F

bold a - pos - tles to your church in ev - ery place.  
 and com - pas - sion shown through word and deed and prayer.  
 life stead - fast - ly yet not o - ver - look its faults.  
 tries u - nit - ing may give glo - ry to your name.



**BENEDICTION:** May God, the Holy Trinity, make you strong in faith and love, defend you on every side, and guide you in truth and peace. And the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always. Amen.

## BENEDICTION RESPONSE *Pass the Love*

### Pass the Love

Love our God, ev - 'ry day, praise with joy go - ing on your way.

Pass it on, t'all you meet, ev - 'ry day in — ev - 'ry way.

Love our Ho - ly God. Pray with hope each day.

Bless the Ho - ly Name. Praise our — God.

The musical score is written in treble clef with a key signature of one flat (Bb) and a tempo of quarter note = 95. The lyrics are aligned with the notes. Chords are indicated above the staff: F, Gm7, F, Gm7, F/A, F/Bb, Gm9, C7, F, Gm7, F, Gm7, F/A, F/Bb, Gm9, G7, C, Fmaj7, Dm, F/G, F/C, Am7, Dm7, Gm7, F/C, C7, F.

## PASSING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

## POSTLUDE

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Altar Flowers** are given in loving memory of Robert Wilson by Carol Wilson and Family.

**Attendance**-Daily Devotions-57, May 16-Sunday Worship Online-307, In Person-58, In Person 22, Teachers-7.

**Daily Devotions**-Please join Rev, Becky and SALT Intern Lauren Monday-Thursday at 11:30am, online via Facebook Live. These will air on our Facebook page: St. Paul United Church of Christ-New Bremen, OH.

**Sundays in June-Worship** will be in person and via Facebook Live at 10:15am.

**Elmwood Worship-Tuesday June 1 at 2:00pm.** If you would like to assist Pastor Becky and Lauren with this worship service, please arrive at Elmwood at 1:45. Thank you! All are welcome!

**Men's Club-Saturday, June 5, 8:00am** at Speedway lanes.

**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.

**May/June Upper Rooms**-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.

**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. 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- Toothpaste, Hand Soap, Diapers (size 6), Baby Wipes, Razors, Shaving Cream, Paper Plates, Toilet Paper, Feminine Hygiene Products, Garbage Bags and Pet Food (Dry & Wet).** **Thank you!** There is a container outside the East and North Educational Building doors for donations.

**Volunteers Needed**-The Blessing Pantry is looking for volunteers to help during the open hours, especially Wednesday and Thursday afternoons. Volunteers do not need to be members of St. Paul. For more information, please contact the church office for Ronda Bowlby's (our volunteer coordinator) contact information. Thank you!

## Calendar-Week of May 30, 2021

Sunday	10:15am	Worship-in person & via Facebook Live
Monday	All Day	Office Closed
Tuesday	11:30am	Devotions via Facebook Live
	2:00pm	Elmwood Worship
	5:30pm-7:30pm	Blessing Pantry Open
Wednesday	11:30am	Devotions via Facebook Live
	1:00pm-3:00pm	Blessing Pantry Open
Thursday	11:30am	Devotions via Facebook Live
	1:00pm-3:00pm	Blessing Pantry Open
Friday	Afternoon	Office Closed
Saturday	8:00am	Men's Club-Speedway Lanes

### **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.

**May Monthly Mission-**The UCC Disaster Response Team is currently supporting long term recovery efforts, such as replacement of burst pipes, restoration of church food pantries and making homes safe again, due to late winter storms that impacted states from Texas to the Carolinas. Filling clean-up buckets and personal care kits are still a very important way of helping in disaster clean-up efforts. The clean-up bucket/supply list has undergone changes. Now, a five-gallon bucket with a resealable lid is used. More supplies are placed in the bucket making the price to fill, a bit more expensive. St Paul can fill the buckets with the funds that we collect or Church World Service will be happy to receive donations to purchase the contents. If sending your donation through St. Paul, please make check out to St. Paul (this way your giving account is credited) and designate bucket supplies. Please consider donating to this cause. Personal care kits are still the same as in the past. Your donations to our May Mission will be appreciated by all who are affected by these disasters. Thank you, the Mission Team

## **Church World Service-Hygiene Kit**

Supplies needed:

- One hand towel measuring approximately 15"x 28" to 16"x 32" (no fingertip, bath, dish towel or micro-fiber)
- One washcloth
- One wide-tooth comb removed from the package
- One finger nail or toe nail clipper removed from the package
- One bath size bar of soap in the wrapper
- One toothbrush in the package
- Ten standard size Band-aids

All items need to fit inside a one-gallon plastic zipper closure bag. Remove the excess air from the bag and seal before boxing. Do not add any extra items or toothpaste. A tube of extended expiration date toothpaste will be added to each Hygiene Kit just prior to its journey.

Value: \$15

Processing fee: \$2 per Kit



## Church World Service-Emergency Cleanup Buckets

Supplies needed:

- One five-gallon bucket with resealable lid (If bucket has been used, clean well but do not use if it has held chemicals of any kind.)
- Four scouring pads
- Seven sponges, including one large
- One scrub brush
- Eighteen reusable cleaning towels (e.g. Handi Wipes or Easy Wipes)
- One 50 oz. or two 25 oz. bottle(s) of liquid laundry detergent
- One 16-28 oz. bottle of liquid disinfectant dish soap
- One 12-16 oz. bottle of household cleaner that can be mixed with water
- (no spray bottles)
- One package of 48-50 clothespins
- Clothesline, two 50 ft. or one 100 ft.
- Five dust masks
- Two pairs heavy-duty, waterproof dishwashing gloves (latex-free, non-surgical)
- One pair work gloves, cotton with leather palm or all leather
- 24-28 heavy duty or contractor type 30-45 gallon trash bags on a roll and removed from carton
- One 6-9 oz. bottle of non-aerosol insect repellent

All cleaning items must be new— all liquid items must be capped and securely tightened. Place all items into the bucket, making sure they are packed securely to avoid damage during shipment. Snap the lid on tight and seal with packing tape.

Value: \$75

Processing fee: \$3 per Kit