

St. Paul United Church of Christ

119 North Franklin Street
New Bremen, Ohio 45869
Phone (419-629-2502), Fax (419-629-3207)
Email stpaulnb@nktelco.net or stpaulnb.org
Like and follow our page St. Paul United Church of Christ – New Bremen, Ohio on Facebook
Rev. Becky Erb Strang-Senior Pastor 419-953-1152
Myra Hanenkratt-Council President 419-305-3652

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

Whether you are worshipping online or in person, Welcome, one and all, to this time of worship. We are blessed to have you with us today.

IN PERSON WORSHIP NOTES:

Bulletins, Communion, Offering Plates, and Masks are available on tables.

Listening devices are available in the Narthex/front entrance, for those who need them. Please return your device to an Usher following worship. Thank you!

Children's Easter Take Home Bags containing children's Holy Week bulletins and other activities are available on the tables. Thank you!

Restrooms are located in the Narthex/front entrance of the church and in the south hallway of the educational building.

WIFI Connection-connect via "St Paul – Guest" Password: godlovesyou

The * indicates all who are able may stand

Maundy Thursday April 6, 2023 Handwashing & Sacrament of Holy Communion

Worship Leaders

Ministers
Rev. Becky Erb Strang
Arianne Henry
June Oaks
Bryan Trego

The Congregation
Senior Pastor
Organist
Sr. Deacon
Sr. Elder

WORDS OF GREETING

Diane Gilberg

PRELUDE

WELCOME

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: What shall we give God in return for all we have been given?

People: We cannot possibly repay God.

Leader: Jesus gives us of himself—body and blood.

People: We cannot possibly repay God.

Leader: Let us call on the name of our God.

People: We will do this in remembrance of Jesus.

*HYMN Jesu, Jesu, Fill Us with Your Love

No. 273

(verses 1 & 4)

273 Jesu, Jesu, Fill Us with Your Love



WORDS: Tom Colvin (1925-2000) MUSIC: Ghana folk song; adapt. Tom Colvin (1925-2000); arr. Charles H. Webb (1933-) CHEREPONI Irregular Leader: If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us.

People: If we confess our sins, God is faithful and just and will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Leader: Brothers and sisters in Christ, let us confess our sins in silence and ask God for the forgiveness we need.

SILENT CONFESSION OF SIN UNISON CONFESSION OF SIN

Loving God, you taught us compassion. You took a servant's role and knelt at the feet of your friends. You gave us a meal to remind us of your life-giving love. You called us to love one another, too. Forgive us, Lord, for not practicing the compassion you modeled. Forgive us, Lord, for wanting to be served rather than to serve. Forgive us, Lord, for not loving as you called us to love. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Leader: This is the message we have heard from Christ and proclaim to you: God is light.

People: If we walk in the light as Christ is in the light, we have communion with one another and the blood of Jesus Christ cleanses us from all sin.

*GLORIA PATRI No. 734

Glory Be to the Father



NEW TESTAMENT LESSON: Matthew 26:17-30

Gracie Henry

On the first day of Unleavened Bread the disciples came to Jesus, saying, "Where do you want us to make the preparations for you to eat the Passover?" ¹⁸ He said, "Go into the city to a certain man and say to him, 'The Teacher says, My time is near; I will keep the Passover at your house with my disciples.' " ¹⁹ So the disciples did as Jesus had directed them, and they prepared the Passover meal.

²⁰ When it was evening, he took his place with the twelve disciples, ^[a] ²¹ and while they were eating he said, "Truly I tell you, one of you will betray me." ²² And they became greatly distressed and began to say to him one after another, "Surely not I, Lord?" ²³ He answered, "The one who has dipped his hand into the bowl with me will betray me. ²⁴ The Son of Man goes as it is written of him, but woe to that one by whom the Son of Man is betrayed! It would have been better for that one not to have been born." ²⁵ Judas, who betrayed him, said, "Surely not I, Rabbi?" He replied, "You have said so."

²⁶ While they were eating, Jesus took a loaf of bread, and after blessing it^[b] he broke it, gave it to the disciples, and said, "Take, eat;

this is my body." ²⁷ Then he took a cup, and after giving thanks he gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you, ²⁸ for this is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins. ²⁹ I tell you, I will never again drink of this fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new with you in my Father's kingdom."

³⁰ When they had sung the hymn, they went out to the Mount of

Olives.

RESPONSE

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

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

MEDITATION

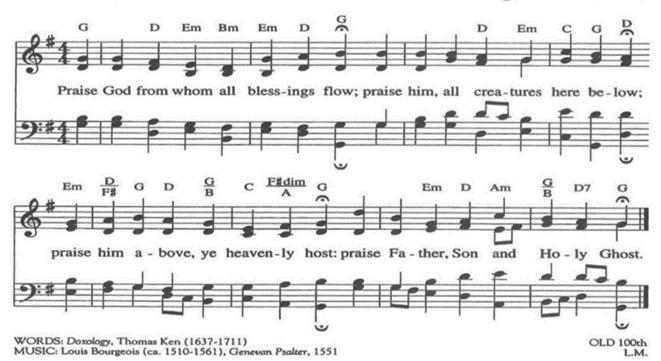
Rev. Becky Erb Strang

TIME OF OFFERING
OFFERTORY SENTENCES
*DOXOLOGY

Elyssa Mullins

No. 34

Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow 34



*PRAYER OF DEDICATION (unison): God, you have not held back anything from us, even your own body and blood. We offer only what you have given us: our resources, our time, our very selves. Accept these gifts as a sign of our commitment to you and to your good work in the world, in Jesus' name. Amen.

SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION AND HEALING (adapted from Litanies and Other Prayers For the Revised Common Lectionary, Year B by Phyllis Cole and Everett Tilson)

Pastor: Tonight we are reminded of the power and peril of friendship. Tonight is a night of love and betrayal—of promises made and promises broken. Tonight we gather around this table to share in Christ's love for us—as well as to face our own betrayals and brokenness.

People: Like the disciples, tonight we stand in need of prayer, in need of forgiveness, in need of healing, in need of grace. As we gather around this table, our prayers search for words beyond our own understanding. Our prayers grope for the Spirit within who intercedes with sighs too deep for words. Our prayers bring us to this table of grace—that together we might know wholeness out of brokenness and promises kept through pouring out of one's all.

Pastor: As we partake of the cup and the loaf, we are reminded of our unity we have in the name of Christ Jesus. As we seek healing in our lives, we look to Christ as our Physician. For it is through his love for us that we come to know God's gifts of grace and healing. Let us pray.

People: O merciful God, tonight we take our place at the table with Christ Jesus. When he predicts our betrayal, let us examine not our neighbors but ourselves. When he predicts our falling away, let us remember that the crow of the cock is more predictable than any of us. As we contemplate his imminent arrest, let us feel not only the pain of our great loss but the shame of our tragic guilt. Accept us at this table, Holy God, that we might live anew—washed clean in the sorrow of this night and the day to come. Lay your hands gently upon us, heal us, and strengthen us to do your will and to sing your praises. All 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. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION: It is this night we remember each and every time we celebrate this sacrament. This is the night Jesus brought together his closest friends for a Passover Meal. Jesus knew he would be betrayed. He knew he would be denied. And yet, he sat at the table with his disciples, breaking the bread and saying, "This is my body broken for you. Do this in remembrance of me." He also took the cup and said, "This is the Cup of Salvation, my blood poured out for you. Do this as often as you drink it for the forgiveness of sins." The gifts of God for the people of God. All things are now ready.

SHARING THE ELEMENTS

The Bread of Heaven, the Body of Christ, broken for you. The Cup of the New Covenant, the Blood of Christ, shed for you.

SERVICE OF HEALING, HANDWASHING, & CANDLE LIGHTING
Spirit of the living God, present with us now, enter you: body, mind, and
spirit, and heal you of all that harms you, in Jesus' name. Amen.
(If you so desire, a member of the Called to Care Team will invite you to
cleanse your hands, offering the Iona Prayer for Healing. You are also
invited to light candles of healing for yourself and others.)

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING (in unison)

Julia Mullins

Leader: Let us pray together.

People: O Jesus, our ever-living Teacher, Friend and Master: on this holy night, we are a new family in your name. We have turned to you for healing, hope, and light. We have received the bread and wine, signs of your presence and power within us. By your Spirit, prompt us now, we pray, to do as you command, to imitate your willingness to serve, and to live as your children, fed and nourished on our journey with Jesus. Move our hearts to love you more and more. Amen.

*HYMN

They'll Know We Are Christians

No. 595 (all verses)

They'll Know We Are Christians 595



WORDS and MUSIC: Peter Scholtes (1938-); para. John 13:35
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*BENEDICTION

(You are invited to depart in silence.)