



ST. PAUL'S

United Methodist Church of Odessa

Reaching Up, Reaching In, Reaching Out

Theme: Savor

August 16, 2020 – 8:30 AM VIRTUAL WORSHIP

with ASL Interpretation

406 Main Street

Odessa, DE 19730

302-378-2420

www.stpaulsodessa.org

WE ENTER GOD'S GATES WITH PRAISE

WELCOME WITH MUSIC AND IMAGES

Countdown Prelude: *Whispering Hope*

Arr. Lani Smith

Amy Brown

Mark Holden, Photographer & Curator

WORSHIP WELCOME

CALL TO WORSHIP

Janet Miller

What joy we feel when we are called together, either virtually or corporately, to celebrate God's love. God's love flows through our lives! This is what it means to be the body of Christ! This is what it means to be faithful witnesses to God. Let us rejoice on this day! Lord, we thank you for the blessings you pour on us.
AMEN.

OPENING HYMN: *My Faith Looks Up to Thee*

Duane Dillard

My faith looks up to thee,

thou Lamb of Calvary, Savior divine!

Now hear me while I pray, take all my guilt away,

O let me from this day be wholly thine!

May thy rich grace impart

strength to my fainting heart, my zeal inspire!

As thou hast died for me, O may my love to thee

pure, warm, and changeless be, a living fire!

**While life's dark maze I tread,
and griefs around me spread,
be thou my guide; bid darkness turn to day,
wipe sorrow's tears away, nor let me ever stray
from thee aside.**

**When ends life's transient dream,
when death's cold, sullen stream
shall o'er me roll; blest Savior, then in love,
fear and distrust remove; O bear me safe above,
a ransomed soul!**

OPENING PRAYER

Janet Miller

Lord, what a blessing it is to come together in this community of faith. We travel here from all walks of life, from different ages and stages, and are welcomed in your love and your presence! Today we bring before you the names of loved ones who are struggling with loss, with illness, with depression, with addiction, with alienation from those that they love. Be with each of them. Lay your hand of healing gently over their lives and pour out your balm of peace on them. Help us to reach out to be of service to each other in Jesus' name. Lord, we also bring to you situations of celebration: birthdays, anniversaries, weddings, family gatherings, special occasions which lift us up and remind us of the goodness that there is in life. Breathe your spirit into these wonderful events that all who gather may rejoice and celebrate the blessings you have given each of us. Keep our hearts and minds open for your reconciling word for us; for we ask this in Jesus' name. AMEN.

WELCOME AND BLESSING

CHILDREN'S TIME: *I Have Decided to Follow Jesus, v.1*

**I have decided to follow Jesus,
I have decided to follow Jesus,
I have decided to follow Jesus,
No turning back, no turning back.**

Ellie Leuliette shares a blessing with our children!

WE SHARE THE GOOD NEWS

PRAYER FOR INSPIRATION: *Come and Find the Quiet Center*

**Come and find the quiet center
In the crowded life we lead,
Find the room for hope to enter,
Find the frame where we are freed:

Clear the chaos and the clutter,
Clear our eyes that we can see
All the things that really matter,
Be at peace, and simply be.**

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth; And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; the third day he rose from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth at the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Universal church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

Gloria Patria

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost; as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen, amen.

THE GOOD NEWS: Romans 11:1-2a, 29-32

Janet Miller, Liturgist

I ask, then, has God rejected his people? By no means! I myself am an Israelite, a descendant of Abraham, a member of the tribe of Benjamin. God has not rejected his people whom he foreknew. Do you not know what the scripture says of Elijah, how he pleads with God against Israel?

for the gifts and the calling of God are irrevocable. Just as you were once disobedient to God but have now received mercy because of their disobedience, so they have now been disobedient in order that, by the mercy shown to you, they too

may now receive mercy. For God has imprisoned all in disobedience so that he may be merciful to all.

Matthew 15:10-20, 21-28

Then he called the crowd to him and said to them, “Listen and understand: it is not what goes into the mouth that defiles a person, but it is what comes out of the mouth that defiles.” Then the disciples approached and said to him, “Do you know that the Pharisees took offense when they heard what you said?” He answered, “Every plant that my heavenly Father has not planted will be uprooted. Let them alone; they are blind guides of the blind. And if one blind person guides another, both will fall into a pit.” But Peter said to him, “Explain this parable to us.” Then he said, “Are you also still without understanding? Do you not see that whatever goes into the mouth enters the stomach, and goes out into the sewer? But what comes out of the mouth proceeds from the heart, and this is what defiles. For out of the heart come evil intentions, murder, adultery, fornication, theft, false witness, slander. These are what defile a person, but to eat with unwashed hands does not defile.”

Jesus left that place and went away to the district of Tyre and Sidon. Just then a Canaanite woman from that region came out and started shouting, “Have mercy on me, Lord, Son of David; my daughter is tormented by a demon.” But he did not answer her at all. And his disciples came and urged him, saying, “Send her away, for she keeps shouting after us.” He answered, “I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel.” But she came and knelt before him, saying, “Lord, help me.” He answered, “It is not fair to take the children’s food and throw it to the dogs.” She said, “Yes, Lord, yet even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their masters’ table.” Then Jesus answered her, “Woman, great is your faith! Let it be done for you as you wish.” And her daughter was healed instantly.

Genesis 45:1-15 - Joseph Tells His Brothers Who He Is

Joseph was no longer able to control his feelings in front of his servants, so he ordered them all to leave the room. No one else was with him when Joseph told his brothers who he was. He

cried with such loud sobs that the Egyptians heard it, and the news was taken to the king's palace. Joseph said to his brothers, "I am Joseph. Is my father still alive?" But when his brothers heard this, they were so terrified that they could not answer. Then Joseph said to them, "Please come closer." They did, and he said, "I am your brother Joseph, whom you sold into Egypt. Now do not be upset or blame yourselves because you sold me here. It was really God who sent me ahead of you to save people's lives. This is only the second year of famine in the land; there will be five more years in which there will be neither plowing nor reaping. God sent me ahead of you to rescue you in this amazing way and to make sure that you and your descendants survive. So it was not really you who sent me here, but God. He has made me the king's highest official. I am in charge of his whole country; I am the ruler of all Egypt.

"Now hurry back to my father and tell him that this is what his son Joseph says: 'God has made me ruler of all Egypt; come to me without delay. You can live in the region of Goshen, where you can be near me—you, your children, your grandchildren, your sheep, your goats, your cattle, and everything else that you have. If you are in Goshen, I can take care of you. There will still be five years of famine; and I do not want you, your family, and your livestock to starve.'"

Joseph continued, "Now all of you, and you too, Benjamin, can see that I am really Joseph. Tell my father how powerful I am here in Egypt and tell him about everything that you have seen. Then hurry and bring him here."

He threw his arms around his brother Benjamin and began to cry; Benjamin also cried as he hugged him. Then, still weeping, he embraced each of his brothers and kissed them. After that, his brothers began to talk with him.

One: May this story inspire us all

All: To walk in the way that leads to life.

REENACTMENT OF SCRIPTURE/DRAMTIZATION

Jack Rowley, Morgan & Jason Wallace

HYMN OF PREPARATION: *He Leadeth Me: O Blessed Thought*
Duane Dillard

**He leadeth me: O blessed thought!
O words with heavenly comfort fraught!
Whate'er I do, where'er I be,
still 'tis God's hand that leadeth me.**

*He leadeth me, he leadeth me,
by his own hand he leadeth me;
his faithful follower I would be,
for by his hand he leadeth me.*

**Sometimes mid scenes of deepest gloom,
sometimes where Eden's flowers bloom,
by waters still, o'er troubled sea,
still 'tis his hand that leadeth me.**

*He leadeth me, he leadeth me,
by his own hand he leadeth me;
his faithful follower I would be,
for by his hand he leadeth me.*

**Lord, I would place my hand in thine,
nor ever murmur nor repine;
content, whatever lot I see,
since 'tis my God that leadeth me.**

*He leadeth me, he leadeth me,
by his own hand he leadeth me;
his faithful follower I would be,
for by his hand he leadeth me.*

**And when my task on earth is done,
when by thy grace the victory's won,
e'en death's cold wave I will not flee,
since God through Jordan leadeth me.**

THE MESSAGE: *Savor*

Pastor Kevin Benjamin & Gail Garner

Key verse (Romans 11:29) for the gifts and the calling of God
are irrevocable.

WE GIVE THANKS

INVITATION TO THE WAY OF CHRIST: *The Summons*

Amy Brown

**Will you come and follow me if I but call your name?
Will you go where you don't know and never be the same?
Will you let my love be shown,
 will you let my name be known,
Will you let my life be grown in you and you and me?
Will you let the blinded see if I but call your name?
Will you set the prisoners free and never be the same?
Will you kiss the leper clean, and do such as this unseen,
And admit to what I mean in you and you in me?**

**Lord, your summons echoes true
 when you but call My Name.**

**Let me turn and follow you and never be the same.
In your company I'll go where your love and footsteps show.
Thus I'll move and live and grow in you and you in me.**

OFFERTORY PRAYER

As God has so richly blessed us, let us return a portion of these blessings to God, asking that these gifts may be used in service to others through the ministries and mission of this church. Let us receive our morning offering.

THE OFFERING:

<http://www.stpaulsodessa.org/VANCOOnlineGiving>

*Today's **YELLOW HAT** mission offering supports our friends at the Neighborhood House.*

Offertory: *Open My Eyes*

Arr. Paul Taylor
Amy Brown, Organ

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God of infinite mercy and love, we come before you this day, knowing that we have not always been faithful to what you would have us do. We have too often turned our backs on those in need, choosing not to hear their cries. Forgive us, O Lord. We know that you do not want us to behave in this way. Your love and mercy, so generously showered over us, should be a beacon to guide our own actions. We make no excuses, for none would

suffice. We ask your forgiveness and blessing, turning us again around and placing us on the path of compassion and peace. This prayer we offer in Jesus' name. AMEN.

Prayers for: Jenna; Faye Taylor's sister, Pat Bodan; Elsie Everett; Matt Latocha; Beverly Gordy; Kathy Hoffman

PASTORAL PRAYER

How beautiful is the diversity present here today! Lord, you have blessed us with such variety in this gathering. You have not demanded that everyone be the same, have the same degree of faith, offer the same service. You have given freely of your healing love to each one of us. Today we have offered many names in prayer for healing, restoration, hope, and peace. Some of these names have been spoken aloud in this gathering, while others remain in our hearts and our minds. Yet you have heard each cry for healing. You have heard all the prayers we have offered. Now let us place our trust in your compassion. Let us remember that your blessings extend to all people. Strengthen us in this time to be witnesses to your love and servants in ministry to all your people. For we offer this prayer in Jesus' Name. AMEN.

Birthdays: August 17-Karen Ellis, Burtie Hutchison, Allen Ingram; August 18-David Koski; August 19-Megan Reitzes; August 22-Keith Whitmer

Anniversaries: August 17-Billy & Vickie Bush; August 18-Steve & Nadine Johnson; August 21-Rick & Lynda Lambert

THE LORD'S PRAYER

**Our Father, who art in heaven
Hallowed by thy name,
Thy kingdom come, thy will done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread,
And forgive us our trespasses,
As we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation,
But deliver us from evil,**

**For thine is the kingdom, and the power,
and the glory, forever. Amen.**

AGAPE MEAL – Ryan & Katelynn Scott

WE GO IN THE SPIRIT

SENDING HYMN: Blessed Quietness

Duane Dillard

**Joys are flowing like a river,
Since the Comforter has come;
Christ abides with us forever,
Makes the trusting heart a home.**

*Blessed quietness, holy quietness,
What assurance in my soul!
On the stormy sea, Jesus speaks to me,
And the billows cease to roll.*

**Bringing life and health and gladness,
All around this heavenly Guest;
Banished unbelief and sadness,
Changed our weariness to rest.**

*Blessed quietness, holy quietness,
What assurance in my soul!
On the stormy sea, Jesus speaks to me,
And the billows cease to roll.*

**Like the rain that falls from heaven,
Like the sunlight from the sky,
So the Spirit, too is given,
Coming on us from on high.**

*Blessed quietness, holy quietness,
What assurance in my soul!
On the stormy sea, Jesus speaks to me,
And the billows cease to roll.*

**See, a fruitful field is growing
Blessed fruit of righteousness;
And the streams of life are flowing
In the lonely wilderness.**

*Blessed quietness, holy quietness,
What assurance in my soul!
On the stormy sea, Jesus speaks to me,
And the billows cease to roll.*

**What a wonderful salvation,
When we always see Christ's face!
What a perfect habitation!
What a quiet resting place!**

*Blessed quietness, holy quietness,
What assurance in my soul!
On the stormy sea, Jesus speaks to me,
And the billows cease to roll.*

SENDING FORTH TO PROCLAIM THE GOOD NEWS!

I am a Christian

Music Ministry

BENEDICTION

May God's mercy and peace go with you as you re-enter God's world to serve those in need. Go in peace. AMEN.

BLESSING AND POSTLUDE

Psalm XVII (The Heavens Declare the Glory of God)

Benedetto Marcello

Postlude

Amy Brown

Next Sunday's Theme: Fortify – Romans 12:1-8

Key verse: so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually we are members one of another. (Romans 12:5)

For the season of Pentecost (August 2 – September 6) we will be focusing on Romans 9-13. The series theme: Embrace

August 2 – Entrust – Romans 9:1-5 (key verse: 9:3)

August 9 – Extend – Romans 10:5-15 (key verse: 10:12)

August 16 – Savor – Romans 11:1-2a, 29-32 (key verse: 11:29)

August 23 – Fortify – Romans 12:1-8 (key verse: 12:5)

August 30 – Overcome – Romans 12:9-21 (key verse: 12:21)

September 6 – Invest – Romans 13:8-14 (key verse: 13:8)

Adult Bible Study Worship starting after Labor Day

(All links will be available on our website, stpaulsodessa.org and Facebook site, St.

Paul's UMC Odessa – Zoom invitations and passwords will be sent via email)

Join us each Wednesday for noon prayer, via Zoom

The Scott's host a weekly Wednesday evening (6:30)

Bible Study on Mark (Zoom)

**Carole Harmon hosts a prayer group Thursday afternoons at 1 PM
(please contact Carole or the church office for a Zoom invitation)**

**Next Sunday, August 16
Livestream Worship at 8:30 am (YouTube)**

**ALL WEEKLY AND SPECIAL IN-PERSON GATHERINGS HAVE BEEN POSTPONED
AND THE OFFICE IS CLOSED DURING THE QUARANTINE.**

**ST. PAUL'S STAFF ARE WORKING REMOTELY AND CAN BE CONTACTED USING
THE FOLLOWING EMAIL ADDRESSES AND PHONE NUMBERS OR MAIL**

Rev. Kevin Benjamin, Pastor	
pastorkevin@stpaulsodessa.org	(302) 312-3636
Alice Mullins, Admin. Assist. & Treasurer	
stpodessa@stpaulsodessa.org	(302) 378-2420
Vicki Spence, Family Life Coord.	
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Duane Dillard, Accompanist	
duanedillard@gmail.com	(410) 620-4650
Amy Brown, Music Director	
amyrowebrown@gmail.com	(480) 677-0910

St. Paul's United Methodist Church
P.O. Box 253 – Odessa, Delaware 19730

Yellow Hat – Neighborhood House

Our mission is to provide programs that educate, enlighten and empower people to improve their lives. This is accomplished by offering comprehensive services that include a Five Star Early Learning Center, Family Services and Crisis Alleviation, year-round Youth Development Programs, Comprehensive Housing Counseling that includes credit building and first-time home buyer's support and foreclosure counseling.



On Tuesday, August 4, 2020, Hurricane Isaias impacted our church community. Carlotta Cline and Bill & Margie Apps were severely impacted with property damage. Thankfully Bill & Margie Apps only had porch damage and arrangements have been made for their repairs.

Carlotta Cline's damages were more significant and therefore we would like to take a special offering for the next two Sundays to support C-Line Stables. Carlotta kindly donated her property for over 8 years to the St. Paul's Covenant Garden, which provided vegetables for the Neighborhood House to many families in need. Also, our St. Paul's Youth have benefited from horse-riding instruction located on her same property. Let us come together once again as a community of gracious servant hearts! Your generous donations by checks can be made payable to St. Paul's UMC and please write "**Special Donation-C-Line Stables**" on the memo line. Thank you and God Bless!

Deep Roots Dinner

Thank you so much to the following individuals for contributing to the Deep Roots dinner on Tuesday, August 11: Phyllis Burris, Barbara Lynn Manlove, Rosalie Lukens, Nancee Bleistine, Carolyn Stanley, Susie & John Cate, Nadine Johnson and Jan Corby. They were delighted with the homemade dinner and breakfast goodies from Wawa.

Saturday Morning Service - Walk & Social Distance Gathering

Saturday mornings at 9:00 am, I am extending an invitation for St. Paul's family to join me in a 30-minute walk throughout the historical district of Odessa. At 9:30 am, we will meet on the church lawn for a 15-minute social distancing gathering that will include worship, communion, fellowship and a grab and go breakfast. Masks are strongly recommended and social distancing is to be observed. Weather permitting, I plan to meet there every Saturday from now until the end of September. *Pastor Kevin*

Family Life – VBS Participants...THANK YOU!!!!

Thank you to the participants and everyone who gave their time to help make this VBS year so successful. A huge shout out to: Pastor Kevin, Courtney Martin, Charlii Miller, Brian McNelis, Kendall & Natalie Reitzes, Pulling Family, Susie Cate, Scott Family, Vicki Spence, Addison & Kai Barker, Nola Dunning, Janet Miller, Olivia Arnold, Dave Corby, Izzy Holland and Morgan Wallace.

Virtual Sunday School

We will gather around the computer to learn about stories from the Bible and how we can use them to help us live our best lives in the world today. Look for familiar characters from Holy Moly and familiar faces to lead us through the lessons. Packets of materials will be available for pick up at the church in the coming weeks. Sunday School will begin September 13. Specific link information will be coming!!

United Methodist Men – Odessa National Golf Outing

Our next outing is scheduled for Tuesday, August 18 with 9 AM T time at Odessa National. The same Protocol in regards to Covid-19 is still in place at the golf course! I need to know your intentions, as well as those who wish a single cart, by Saturday, August 15. Thank you for your consideration and response. Looking forward to a day of Fellowship with each of you! Stay blessed, *Paul Loder*

PFLAG Meeting

Meetings are held at 6:30 PM on the 3rd Thursdays of each month, presently via Zoom. Please join us if you would like to be supported or offer support and please spread the word to all corners of our Communities. We are currently working on a system which will help youth who have been rejected by their parents, find families who will help them. Please join us we would love your input. Please contact Mark Holden at Mark@maholden.com or call 802-279-8100. Mark Holden

Memory Book Gifted to Pastor Bo

A copy of the memory book that was gifted to Pastor Bo is in the Narthex for viewing. Please be courteous and remember to wash hands prior to viewing to avoid spreading germs. Hand sanitizer is available in the Narthex. Thank you, *Cathy Blanco*

Our Daily Bread

Our Daily Bread continues to accept the following items:

- individually packed potato chips, cookies, sweets, other snacks
- individually packed crackers, breakfast/granola bars
- fresh fruit (apples, bananas, oranges) & desserts (store bought)
- bottled water or other beverages (apple juice, lemonade, etc.)
- bread & milk (1/2 gallon)
- Non-perishables - PB&J, canned veggies, soup, mac & cheese, canned fruits, Pasta & sauce, canned chicken & tuna, etc.

Middletown Family YMCA Golf Benefit - Monday, 8/24, at the Links at St. Anne's

Sign Up Today: <https://donate.ymcade.org/event/2020-middletown-family-ymca-golf-tournament/e272048>

Foursome: \$400 Individual Golfer: \$125 Dinner Guest: \$40

Included: Range, Lunch, Green Fees, Golf Cart, Souvenir Gift, Awards, and Dinner