



ST. PAUL'S

United Methodist Church of Odessa

Reaching Up, Reaching In, Reaching Out

Theme: Fortify

August 23, 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: *Vignette* in Classic Style

Arr. Edward Broughton

Amy Brown

Mark Holden, Photographer & Curator

WORSHIP WELCOME

CALL TO WORSHIP (Psalm 124)

Brenda Shaffer

Our help is in the name of the Lord, who made heaven and earth.
We belong to God. When we feel overwhelmed, God is on our
side. When we are afraid, God will keep us safe. Our help is in
the name of the Lord, who made heaven and earth. Blessed be
the Lord!

OPENING HYMN: *He Is Exalted*

Duane Dillard

**He is exalted,
the King is exalted on high;
I will praise him.
He is exalted, forever exalted
and I will praise his name!**

**He is the Lord,
Forever his truth shall reign;
heaven and earth
rejoice in his holy name.**

**He is exalted,
the King is exalted on high.**

**He is exalted,
the King is exalted on high;
I will praise him.**

**He is exalted, forever exalted
and I will praise his name!**

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OPENING PRAYER (Romans 12)

Brenda Shaffer

Loving God, call us together as your people;
transform us with your love. Transform our hearts, that we may
love generously. Transform our eyes, that we may see your
grace. Transform our hands, that we may serve others.
Transform our spirits, that we may be the body of Christ,
gathered to worship and sent out to serve. 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.**

Brenda Shaffer 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 12:1-8 – Life in God's Service

Brenda Shaffer, Liturgist

So then, my friends, because of God's great mercy to us I appeal to you: Offer yourselves as a living sacrifice to God, dedicated to his service and pleasing to him. This is the true worship that you should offer. Do not conform yourselves to the standards of this world, but let God transform you inwardly by a complete change of your mind. Then you will be able to know the will of God—what is good and is pleasing to him and is perfect.

And because of God's gracious gift to me I say to every one of you: Do not think of yourself more highly than you should. Instead, be modest in your thinking, and judge yourself according to the amount of faith that God has given you. We have many parts in the one body, and all these parts have different functions. In the same way, though we are many, we are one body in union with Christ, and we are all joined to each other as different parts of one body. So we are to use our different gifts in accordance with the grace that God has given us. If our gift is to speak God's message, we should do it according to the faith that we have; if it is to serve, we should serve; if it is to teach, we should teach; if it is to encourage others, we should do so. Whoever shares with others should do it generously; whoever has authority should work hard; whoever shows kindness to others should do it cheerfully.

Exodus 2:5-10

The king's daughter came down to the river to bathe, while her servants walked along the bank. Suddenly she noticed the basket in the tall grass and sent a slave woman to get it. The princess opened it and saw a baby boy. He was crying, and she felt sorry for him. "This is one of the Hebrew babies," she said.

Then his sister asked her, "Shall I go and call a Hebrew woman to nurse the baby for you?"

"Please do," she answered. So the girl went and brought the baby's own mother. The princess told the woman, "Take this baby and nurse him for me, and I will pay you." So she took the baby and nursed him. Later, when the child was old enough, she took him to the king's daughter, who adopted him as her own son. She said to herself, "I pulled him out of the water, and so I name him Moses."

Matthew 16:13-20 – Peter's Declaration about Jesus

Jesus went to the territory near the town of Caesarea Philippi, where he asked his disciples, "Who do people say the Son of Man is?"

“Some say John the Baptist,” they answered. “Others say Elijah, while others say Jeremiah or some other prophet.”

“What about you?” he asked them. “Who do you say I am?”

Simon Peter answered, “You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God.”

“Good for you, Simon son of John!” answered Jesus. “For this truth did not come to you from any human being, but it was given to you directly by my Father in heaven. And so I tell you, Peter: you are a rock, and on this rock foundation I will build my church, and not even death will ever be able to overcome it. I will give you the keys of the Kingdom of heaven; what you prohibit on earth will be prohibited in heaven, and what you permit on earth will be permitted in heaven.”

Then Jesus ordered his disciples not to tell anyone that he was the Messiah.

One: May this story inspire us all

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

HYMN OF PREPARATION: *Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah*

Duane Dillard

**Guide me, O thou great Jehovah,
pilgrim through this barren land.
I am weak, but thou art mighty;
hold me with thy powerful hand.
Bread of heaven, bread of heaven,
feed me till I want no more,
feed me till I want no more.**

**Open now the crystal fountain,
whence the healing stream doth flow;
let the fire and cloudy pillar
lead me all my journey through.
Strong deliverer, strong deliverer,
be thou still my strength and shield,
be thou still my strength and shield.**

**When I tread the verge of Jordan,
bid my anxious fears subside;
death of death, and hell's destruction,
land me safe on Canaan's side.
Songs of praises, songs of praises
I will ever give to thee,
I will ever give to thee.**

THE MESSAGE: *Fortify*

Pastor Kevin Benjamin & Gail Garner

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

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 (Romans 12)

God has blessed us with an abundance of gifts. We are called to offer all that we are to God—our bodies, our spirits, our minds, our time, and our money. As the body of Christ, we are called to be in ministry with others. With true generosity, let us give of ourselves this morning.

THE OFFERING:

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

Today's YELLOW HAT mission offering supports Habitat for Humanity.

Offertory: *Hour of Worship*

Arr. Mercy Bartlett
Amy Brown, Organ

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (Exodus 1–2, Romans 12)

Caring God, you call us to be the body of Christ: to live in community, to care for one another, to use our different gifts. Instead of working to sustain community, we follow our own desires. Instead of trusting in your care, we think we can do it alone. Forgive our neglect of others. Give us obedient spirits, that we may care for one another, depend on your love, and use our gifts for your gospel. Amen.

Prayers for: Althea Johnston; Ginny Guessford; Eleanor Cleaver; Kathy Golden; Bridgette Stanley; Jenna; Faye Taylor's sister, Pat Bodan; Elsie Everett; Matt Latocha; Beverly Gordy; Kathy Hoffman

PASTORAL PRAYER

Lord, many of us grew up in a time during which thinking highly, in a spirit of appreciation, about our talents was considered bragging. We were taught not to discern the difference between acceptance/appreciation and haughty behavior. And so we belittled the gifts you gave us. We believed that they were not good enough, and ultimately that spilled over into a concept that each of us was not good enough to serve. How foolish we are! You lavish your love on us every day. You do not demand that we earn it. You give it freely, just as you have given each one of us special and unique gifts. We can recognize the gifts in others. Now help us claim the gifts you have given to us and to use them in your service. Enable us to encourage others to identify their special talents and to find ways to help one another. We offer this prayer in Jesus' Name.
AMEN.

Birthdays: August 23-Beth O'Grady; August 24-Taloh Joy Reeves; August 26-Dennis Downes; August 28-Cheryl Martin, Zowie Dahn, Joe Mastin, Bella Redick; August 29-Barbara Moore

Anniversaries: August 27-Ben & Dawn Feldmann

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.**

INVITATION TO COMMUNION (Romans 12)

Here at the table, we see most clearly that we are part of the body of Christ. We are no longer divided into people of different ages, different ideas, different backgrounds, different gifts. Here unique individuals become a single body, made richer for the multitude of gifts shared. Here, we feast on one bread and one cup, and become one body in service to the world.

WE GO IN THE SPIRIT

SENDING HYMN: *The Lily of the Valley* Duane Dillard

**I have found a friend in Jesus,
he's everything to me,
he's the fairest of ten thousand to my soul;
the Lily of the Valley, in him alone I see
all I need to cleanse and make me fully whole.
In sorrow he's my comfort, in trouble he's my stay,
he tells me every care on him to roll.**

*He's the Lily of the Valley,
the bright and Morning Star,
he's the fairest of ten thousand to my soul.*

**He all my grief has taken, and all my sorrows borne;
in temptation he's my strong and mighty tower;
I have all for him forsaken, and all my idols torn
from my heart, and now he keeps me by his power.
Though all the world forsake me, and Satan tempts me sore,
through Jesus I shall safely reach the goal.**

*He's the Lily of the Valley,
the bright and Morning Star,
he's the fairest of ten thousand to my soul.*

**He will never, never leave me, nor yet forsake me here,
while I live by faith and do his blessed will;
a wall of fire about me, I've nothing now to fear,
with his manna he my hungry soul shall fill.
Then sweeping up to glory, to see his blessed face,
where rivers of delight shall ever roll.**

*He's the Lily of the Valley,
the bright and Morning Star,
he's the fairest of ten thousand to my soul.*

SENDING FORTH TO PROCLAIM THE GOOD NEWS!

BENEDICTION (Exodus 1–2, Psalm 127)

Resist the powers that use people. Hear the cries of the weak.
Dare to work for justice. Know that God—Source, Word, and
Spirit—is your help, will keep you safe, and will bring you new
life. You are blessed by God and sent to serve.

BLESSING AND POSTLUDE

Jubilation (Toccatina)
Postlude

Donald Callendar
Amy Brown

Next Sunday's Theme: Overcome – Romans 12:9-21

Key verse: Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good. (Romans 12:21)

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

**Charge Conference for St. Paul's UMC, Odessa is Tuesday, December 8, 2020
at 7 PM via Zoom**

Yellow Hat – Habitat for Humanity

Habitat for Humanity of New Castle County is part of a global, nonprofit housing organization operated on Christian principles that seeks to put God's love into action by building homes, communities and hope. Habitat NCC is dedicated to eliminating substandard housing locally and worldwide through constructing, rehabilitating and preserving homes; by advocating for fair and just housing policies; and by providing training and access to resources to help families improve their shelter conditions.

Please pray for Carlotta. Her farm was hit by yesterday's tornado.
Greg & Marissa Apps were also impacted.



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 are taking a special offering to support C-Line Stables. Carlotta kindheartedly 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!

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 - 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!!

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