



ST. PAUL'S

United Methodist Church of Odessa

Reaching Up, Reaching In, Reaching Out

Twentieth Sunday After Pentecost - Theme: Following Jesus
October 10, 2021 – 8:30 AM Service with ASL Interpretation,
11 AM Traditional Service and Virtual Worship
406 Main Street Odessa, DE 19730 302-378-2420
www.stpaulsodessa.org

** Indicates please stand in body or in spirit*

WE ENTER GOD'S GATES WITH PRAISE

WELCOME WITH MUSIC AND IMAGES

PRELUDE

Duane Dillard (8:30)

Amy Brown (11:00)

Mark Holden, Photographer & Curator

PASTORAL WELCOME

Welcome to the worship service for October 10, 2021. In God's mercy, we are rich. In Jesus' love, we are welcomed. In the Spirit's peace, we are satisfied. Come; let us worship our savior and our king! Today's liturgist is Carlotta Cline (8:30) & Samuel Harrell (11:00).

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

L: Welcome to worship today. Bring your joys and sorrows to the Lord.

P: We come from busy lives, filled with a host of banes and blessings.

L: Give your fears to the Lord, for God will heal your souls.

P: Praise to God who listens to our cries and heals us.

L: Open your ears and your hearts to the Lord.

P: We open our lives to do God's will. AMEN.

***OPENING HYMN**

He Is Exalted (8:30)

Black Hymnal, 2070

I Sing Praises to Your Name (8:30)

Black Hymnal, 2037

O God, Our Help in Ages Past, v.1,3,5,6 (11:00)

Red Hymnal, 117

OPENING PRAYER

Lord, you have called us here this day for healing, hope, and transformation. As we listen to the Scripture, pray our prayers, sing our

hymns, and hear the words of wisdom, open our hearts to hear your claim on our lives; that we may fully and joyfully serve you. AMEN.

CHILDREN'S TIME: *Lord, I Lift Your Name on High* (8:30)

Green Hymnal, 2088

Lord I lift Your name on high. Lord I love to sing Your praises. I'm so glad You're in my life. I'm so glad You came to save us. You came from heaven to earth. To show the way. From the earth to the cross, My debt to pay. From the cross to the grave. From the grave to the sky. Lord I lift Your name on high.

Tell Me the Stories of Jesus, v.1 (11:00)

Red Hymnal, 277

Tell me the stories of Jesus I love to hear; things I would ask him to tell me if he were here: scenes by the wayside, tales of the sea, stories of Jesus, tell them to me.

Courtney Martin (8:30) & Pastor Sam Harrell (11:00) shares a blessing with our children!

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (11:00)

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 Patri (11:00)

Red Hymnal, 70

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.

PRAYER FOR INSPIRATION: *What a Friend We Have in Jesus, v.1*

What a Friend we have in Jesus, all our sins and griefs to bear!

What a privilege to carry everything to God in prayer!

O what peace we often forfeit, O what needless pain we bear,

All because we do not carry everything to God in prayer.

*GOSPEL: *Mark 10:17-31*

The Rich and the Kingdom of God 17 As Jesus started on his way, a man ran up to him and fell on his knees before him. "Good teacher," he

asked, “what must I do to inherit eternal life?” 18 “Why do you call me good?” Jesus answered. “No one is good—except God alone. 19 You know the commandments: ‘You shall not murder, you shall not commit adultery, you shall not steal, you shall not give false testimony, you shall not defraud, honor your father and mother.’[a]” 20 “Teacher,” he declared, “all these I have kept since I was a boy.” 21 Jesus looked at him and loved him. “One thing you lack,” he said. “Go, sell everything you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow me.” 22 At this the man’s face fell. He went away sad, because he had great wealth. 23 Jesus looked around and said to his disciples, “How hard it is for the rich to enter the kingdom of God!” 24 The disciples were amazed at his words. But Jesus said again, “Children, how hard it is[b] to enter the kingdom of God! 25 It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for someone who is rich to enter the kingdom of God.” 26 The disciples were even more amazed, and said to each other, “Who then can be saved?” 27 Jesus looked at them and said, “With man this is impossible, but not with God; all things are possible with God.” 28 Then Peter spoke up, “We have left everything to follow you!” 29 “Truly I tell you,” Jesus replied, “no one who has left home or brothers or sisters or mother or father or children or fields for me and the gospel 30 will fail to receive a hundred times as much in this present age: homes, brothers, sisters, mothers, children and fields—along with persecutions—and in the age to come eternal life. 31 But many who are first will be last, and the last first.”

One: May this story inspire us all.

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

*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:

**Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia Glory to God! Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia
Glory to God! For the Lord Most High is worthy of glory and
praise. Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia Glory to God! Alleluia, Alleluia,
Alleluia Glory to God!**

*HYMN OF PREPARATION

Open Our Eyes (8:30)

Black Hymnal, 2086

Precious Lord, Take My Hand (11:00)

Red Hymnal, 474

THE MESSAGE: *Following Jesus*

Rev. Kevin Benjamin

MISSIONARY MESSAGE

Matthew Caspero

WE GIVE THANKS

OFFERTORY PRAYER

Rev. Kevin Benjamin

With open hands and thankful hearts, we offer to you all that is already yours, O Lord. Everything we possess is a gift from you. You so freely give us what we need, and you promise even greater treasures that await us in heaven. Take what we offer and use it for the goodness of your kingdom. Help us share generously with others all that you so graciously give to us. Amen.

THE OFFERING

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

Today's **Yellow Hat** mission offering supports the Campus Crusade Mission. Cru is a mission where students on college campuses can explore their faith no matter what spiritual background they are from. Often these students already are followers of Christ, committed to following Jesus. There are also students who have no background with Jesus or Christianity. However, all are welcome. TODAY, please join Matthew Caspero, grandson of John and Carole Harmon as he shares his North African mission experience and where he is headed to fulfill his next mission.

Duane Dillard (8:30) & Amy Brown (11:00) - Instrumental

**THE DOXOLOGY: Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow*

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise God, all creatures here below: Alleluia! Alleluia! Praise God, the source of all our gifts! Praise Jesus Christ, whose power up lifts! Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

PASTORAL PRAYER

Rev. Kevin Benjamin

God of infinite patience and wisdom, we come to you with so many things that claim our time, our energy, our resources, our very lives. We are easily drawn away from serving you by the enticements of the world for wealth, ease, and comfort. Just like the young man in the scriptures, we are owned by our possessions, held captive by our treasures. You continue to offer to us healing and hope. You seek to transform our lives from captivity to freedom in witness and service. We look at the world in which there is so very much warfare and strife, anger and hatred, and we easily become overwhelmed by the needs and the stresses. Help us to place our lives and our trust in you, knowing that with your help, many wonderful things can be accomplished which will provide hope and

peace for others and ourselves. Give us courage and strength to truly be your disciples. For we ask this in Jesus' Name. AMEN.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Rev. Kevin Benjamin

Lord, we look for you in the wrong places. We put our trust in material things. We worry about things we cannot change. We wonder if you are even there at all. For all the times we have doubted you, Lord, forgive us. For all the ways we have neglected your word and ignored your people, forgive us. Do not be far from us, Lord. There is no one else we can turn to for help. Renew our fickle hearts and help us put our trust in you.

INVITATION FOR COMMUNION (Mark 10)

In this meal, Christ fills the hungry. All are welcome—rich and poor, old and young, healthy and sick. You, who long to taste heaven's goodness, come. Come to our Lord's table and be fed.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

One: The Lord be with you

All: And also with you

One: Lift up your hearts

All: We lift them up to the Lord.

One: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

HOLY COMMUNION

Rev. Kevin Benjamin

Pastor Kevin: Pour out your Holy Spirit on us gathered here, and on these gifts of bread and wine. Make them be for us the body and blood of Christ, that we may be for the world the body of Christ, redeemed by his blood.

Communion Song (8:30)

Holy, Holy, Holy Lord, 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.

Reader 1: 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." Please take your wafer and commune along with me.

Reader 2: When the 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." Please take your juice and commune along with me.

Reader 1 & 2: Eternal God, we give you thanks for this holy mystery in which you have given yourself to us. Grant that we may go into the world in the strength of your Spirit, to give ourselves for others, in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Pastor Kevin: Go forth in peace. The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. Amen.

WE GO IN THE SPIRIT

SENDING HYMN

Soon and Very Soon (8:30)

Red Hymnal, 708

Lord, I Want to Be a Christian (11:00)

Red Hymnal, 402

BENEDICTION/BLESSING

Rev. Kevin Benjamin

You have been made free by the love of God through Jesus Christ our Lord. Go into the world to serve God by helping others. Be at peace and bring God's peace and love with you wherever you go. AMEN.

POSTLUDE

Duane Dillard (8:30)

Amy Brown (11:00)

SERVING IN WORSHIP TODAY (8:30 AM)

Ushers: Dick & Ellie Leuliette

Audio/Video: Charlii Miller & John Littell

Liturgist: Carlotta Cline

Communion Servants: John & Patti Harmer

Musicians: Duane Dillard and the Worship Ensemble

ASL Interpreter: Gail Garner

SERVING IN WORSHIP TODAY ARE (11:00 AM)

Ushers: June Stemmler, Denis Shaffer, John Harmon

Audio/Video: Charlii Miller & John Littell

Liturgist: Samuel Harrell

Communion Servants: Pastor Kevin and Matthew Caspero (guest missionary)

Musician: Amy Brown, Music Director and the Chancel Choir

**Flowers at the altar today are from Faye Taylor in memory of her parents and brother:
Ernie, Mary & Ronnie Nichols**

Rev. Kevin Benjamin, Pastor pastorkevin@stpaulsodessa.org (302) 312-3636
Alice Mullins, Admin./Treasurer stpodessa@stpaulsodessa.org (302) 378-2420
Amy Brown, Music Director amyrowebrown@gmail.com (480) 677-0910
Duane Dillard, Minister of Music duanedillard@gmail.com (410) 620-4650
Janice Thompson, Family Life Coord. janicethompson2007@gmail.com (302) 376-0934

WEEKLY GATHERINGS

- ✦ Office Hours Tuesday-Thursday 9 AM-2 PM
- ✦ Boy Scouts – Mondays 7-8:30 PM
- ✦ TOPS Meeting – Wednesdays 6 PM
- ✦ St. Paul's Handbell Rehearsal – Wednesdays 6 PM
- ✦ St. Paul's Choir Rehearsal - Wednesdays 7:10 PM
- ✦ AA Meeting – Saturdays 7 PM

Charge Conference for St. Paul's UMC, Odessa is scheduled for Saturday, October 16 @ 1 PM. Our host location is Bethesda UMC, 116 E. Main Street, Middletown, DE.

**THIS SUNDAY'S OUTDOOR 4PM GROVE SERVICE WILL BE POSTPOSTED
DUE TO THE INCLEMENT WEATHER FORCASTED.**

Wearing masks inside the building at St. Paul's UMC services and events will be optional. This difficult decision was based on a majority vote that took place at the most recent church leadership meeting. Social distancing and hand washing will be continually practiced. Mask wearers and non-masked individuals will be separated by several rows. The most vulnerable are encouraged to socially distance, wear masks and/or take advantage of virtual options. This decision may change based on changes enforced by the Office of the Governor. Church leadership will continue to monitor the situation as a way of ensuring safety. Thank you for your ongoing support and patience.

Pastor Kevin; Steve Johnson & Cathy Blanco, Co-Chair Leadership

Upcoming Yellow Hat Schedule for October:

10/17 – Habitat for Humanity
10/24 – Our Daily Bread
10/31 – El Ayudante Child, Yesprin

THANK YOU!!!

The church yard clean-up was a SUCCESS this past Saturday! Thank you so much to those who took the time out of their busy day to help make our church look so beautiful!

GriefShare Program

It is time again for St. Paul's United Methodist Church to offer GriefShare, a program that focuses on grief topics associated with the death of a loved one. The DVD seminar features nationally respected grief experts and real-life stories of people, followed by a small group discussion about what was viewed. No matter what the cause of your loved one's death, this is an opportunity to be around people who understand what you are feeling. You will learn how to recognize the symptoms of being stuck in grief and that you do not need to live in bondage to certain emotions. You will learn valuable information about facing your new normal in life and renewing your hope for the future. GriefShare will be held on Tuesday, from 10:00 am to 12:00 pm, beginning on November 2 and ending in February. Registration can be completed at the table in the Narthex next Sunday or by calling the church office (302-378-2420), Bob Collins (302) 670-6863, or Pastor Danese (302)745-6336 by October 18. For more information go to <https://www.griefshare.org>.

Choir & Handbells

Handbells rehearse at 6pm on Wednesdays in the music room, with choir rehearsal immediately following in the Sanctuary at 7:10 pm. Everyone is welcome, and no experience or ability to read music is required.

Prayer Walks

Please join us for our Prayer Walks each Saturday starting at 9 AM. All Prayer Walks will leave from the Church. Hope to see you there!

Flowers for Worship

If you are interested in honoring a loved one with flowers at the altar on a particular Sunday, we are asking you to contact Alicia Blackwell, from Wildflowers by Alicia to place your order. Alicia can be reached at (302) 593-9884. Also, please email the church office so we make sure the information is added in the bulletin.

St. Paul's Church Website Page

We are looking for youth, young adults, and the young at heart who are computer savvy and would like to redesign our church website. We would like to put together a team who have computer skills and can create a new vision for our website. Please contact the church office if you have an interest.

Prayer Group Ministry

Carole Harmon hosts a prayer circle, Thursday mornings at 10 AM in-person. Please contact Carole if you are interested in joining the group or have a special prayer request. You can also find prayer request cards on the table in the Narthex.

Virtual Children's Sunday School

Sunday School is held at 10:00 a.m. each Sunday via Zoom. If your child would like to participate, please fill out the registration form found on the church website and email it to Tracy.Walls.Pulling@gmail.com. Materials for the upcoming lesson will be delivered to your home on Thursday or Friday each week, so we need to plan ahead in order for us to make a delivery for your child. If you have any questions, please reach out to Tracy via the email above or call or text her at 302-561-4211.

Children's Lesson Announcement

If you are interested in being part of our children's lesson rotation for the Fall, please contact Janice Thompson (janicethompson2007@gmail.com). We're looking for volunteers at both 8:30 and 11am services. Thank you!

Adult Bible Study

Adult Bible Study will be on Zoom at 10-10:45 am each Sunday. The Zoom link will be on the church website.

St. Paul's UMM Bible Study

St. Paul's UMM Bible Study will continue each Tuesday in the month of October from 9-10 AM. The study scripture will be the Hebrews and Hap Bonham has graciously agreed to lead us!

Love Thy Neighbor Fund

It is with grateful hearts that the *Love Thy Neighbor* committee says THANK YOU to our congregation for their generous giving. Because St. Paul's fulfills its promise to **Reach In** and thus, **Reach Out** we have been able to help several individuals who have emergency needs or simply need a helping hand. We appreciate that this is the charity of your choice, and we are reassured you are blessed because of your benevolence.

Deep Roots

Nadine Johnson & Karen Ellis continue to work with the "Deep Roots" mission. This group works with families who are disconnected through homelessness and provides transitional shelter and other services to families in need. They need your help as they continue to contact members of the church

to help with making meals once a month feeding approximately 50+ individuals. Here's hoping you will be able to help us with this very important and necessary mission. Thanks so much!

Our Daily Bread Needs

Donations are accepted on Tuesdays from 9:30-11:30 AM. Thank you so much!

Water - individual bottles and/or juice bags; individual bags of salty snacks; individual packages of sweet snacks; individual fruit cups or applesauce; fresh fruit; canned meats; spaghetti & sauce; baked beans; cereal (small boxes); instant mashed potatoes; peanut butter & jelly; mustard & ketchup; individual microwavable food (i.e., mac & cheese, Spaghetti O's, beef stew, Chef Boyardee, Hormel Complete meals)

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 contact Mark@maholden.com or call 802-279-8100.

JOYS & CONCERNS: If you know someone you'd like to add to our prayer list, please email the church office or visit the church website (www.stpaulsodessa.org) to complete a prayer request. Please email the office when someone can be taken OFF the list. If you or a loved one needs a pastoral visit, please call or email the church office to schedule.

Prayers for: Kimberly Ogden; Mary Beth; Matthew Smith; Naomi Betts; Cheryl Buckworth; Dave Corby; Edith Chas; Jerrod Bolline; Sue Holden's sister, Betsey Snipes; Dana Atwell; Bill Smith; Beth; Matt & Louise Latocha; Carol Myers; Darryl Dillard; Kathy Golden; Eva Larkin

Birthdays: October 12-Thomas O'Grady; October 13-Finley Chas; October 14-Bev Fawcett; October 16-Lulu Calbazana

Anniversaries: October 10-Phil & Kris Elliott; Brian & Kelly McNelis; October 14-Greg & Marisa Apps; October 15-Joe & Kathy Chas, Keith & Meghan Sydnor; October 16-Gene & Kenzel Messick