

Gaylord United Church of Christ
Dispersed to our own homes. Sheltering in Place.
Worshiping together in the Spirit of God.

Holy Communion for Trinity Sunday
June 7, 2020



HOLY COMMUNION *This is communion Sunday so please prepare some bread, a slice or a small loaf of any kind of bread or cracker and water, wine or juice of some kind prior to the starting the video of worship. Set these elements in the living room or kitchen wherever you experience worship electronically with our faith community. Perhaps you want to put them on a lovely cloth or fabric that reminds you of a special time or a person deeply connected with you in the communion of saints. Perhaps you will light a candle or place beside the bread and the cup, a flower, plant or the photograph of someone you wish to bring with you into the circle of faith.*

MORNING MEDITATION Jimi Hendrix, 20th century
"Knowledge speaks, but wisdom listens." (Note: *It also calls!*)

The Call: Psalm 8

O Lord, our Sovereign, how majestic is your name in all the earth!
You have set your glory above the heavens. Out of the mouths of babes and infants you have founded a bulwark because of your foes, to silence the enemy and the avenger.
When I look at your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars that you have established; **what are human beings** that you are mindful of them, mortals that you care for them?

Yet you have made them a little lower than God and crowned them with glory and honor.

You have given them dominion over the works of your hands; you have put all things under their feet, all sheep and oxen, and also the beasts of the field, the birds of the air, and the fish of the sea, whatever passes along the paths of the seas. O Lord, our Sovereign, how majestic is your name in all the earth!

Prelude

Sandy Wentzloff

Welcome and News of the Church

- Digging Deeper - Tuesday June 9, 2020 at 6:30 p.m.
- Report of Council on worshiping together.

Gathering Hymn

"I Sing the Mighty Power of God" vs 1 & 2

NCH #12

- 1 We sing the mighty power of God that made the mountains rise, that spread the flowing seas abroad and built the lofty skies. We sing the wisdom that ordained the sun to rule the day; the moon shines full at his command, and all the stars obey.
- 2 We sing the goodness of the Lord that filled the earth with food; he formed the creatures with his word and then pronounced them good. Lord, how your wonders are displayed, where'er we turn our eyes, if we survey the ground we tread or gaze upon the skies.

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: In the name of the Creator, the Christ and the Holy Spirit.

Many: Amen.

One: In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.

Many: In the beginning was the Word and the Word was with God and the Word was God.

One: In the beginning the Spirit of God swept over the face of the waters.

Many: In the beginning God said, "Let us make humankind in our image."

One: And so we came into being, created by God who exists in community.

Many: We are here as God's community to worship the Source of our being.

Opening Prayer

One: Holy Mother you have birthed us into life, Holy Father you have nurtured us along our way, In you we have live and move and have our being. To you we bring our offering of praise and thanksgiving. We open ourselves to your presence in this time of worship. Fill us with resolve and purpose, to be your community and to expand our boundaries until all of creation is renewed and all people are welcomed and blessed. This we ask through the risen and ascended Christ who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

All: Amen.

Graduation Celebration for Ginger DiAngilo

video

Prayer of Confession

One: Let us pray.

Holy God, we were created in your image, an image of mutuality and respect for one another; an image of a dance ever moving, ever in tune one with others; an image of community with shared blessing and mission.

You have given us dominion over the work of your hands. You have charged us to be fruitful and multiply, to make disciples of all nations.

Many: Forgive us God; we have denied our purpose.

One: We have abused the earth's resources for our own selfish gain and the consequences wreak havoc upon the fish of the sea, the birds of the air and every living thing that moves upon the earth.

Many: Forgive us God; we have defiled your image.

One: We have regarded some of your children as "other" and therefore, beyond the reach of your love and care because their professed faith in you, or lack thereof, is different from our own.

Many: Forgive us God; for we have sinned.

Silence for personal reflection and confession

Words of Absolution

One: God desires to see broken relationships restored and has heard our prayer. In the name of Jesus the Christ and in the power of the Holy Spirit, we are forgiven.

Many: Thanks be to God.

Scripture

2 Corinthians 13:11-13

Finally, brothers and sisters, farewell. Put things in order, listen to my appeal, agree with one another, live in peace; and the God of love and peace will be with you. Greet one another with a holy kiss. All the saints greet you. The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with all of you.

Matthew 28:16-20

Now the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had directed them. When they saw him, they worshipped him; but some doubted. And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. 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, and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you.

And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age."

MESSAGE "AND TEACHING THEM ALL THAT I HAVE COMMANDED YOU" PASTOR DENNIS

Dear Friends in Christ, God's grace and peace be with you. Amen.

Early one morning, for no earthly reason, journalist Sara Miles, raised an atheist, wandered into a church in San Francisco. Out of curiosity she went forward when invited to share in Holy Communion. Against her better judgment she took the bread and the wine and found herself transformed. She was filled with the body of Christ!

Sara got involved in the congregation's work. Before long, she turned the bread she ate at communion into tons of groceries, piled on the church's altar to be given away. Within a few years, she and the people she served had started nearly a dozen food pantries in the poorest parts of their city. In her book, Take This Bread, Miles claims that Jesus invites us to "jump right in" to ministry- following him in doing the work he is doing, even before we have a clue as to what it might mean.

And so, once she was fed with the living body of Christ, she believed that Jesus lived in her and started acting like it. She started feeding the hungry, started forgiving those she found most irritating, started including those who were hardest to accept, started caring for others and advocating for justice. Her friends started to say that she was crazy- a "Jesus freak". She started living more as Jesus lived and doing things that Jesus told her to do, and discovered that she was part of something that could change the world.

It might be time for us to follow Jesus, too.

The last days have shown us the harsh side of our society once again in vivid colors. With the grievous and senseless death of George Floyd on May 25, our state is now, along with the coronavirus, dealing with another crisis - a crisis deeply rooted in years of oppression, racism, hatred and bigotry. We are a broken and hurting people.

Many of us stay on the sidelines, not knowing how to help, what to say, or where to stand. We pray for God to guide us, to heal the divisions in our nation, to bring us peace, but then we may stand back and hope we can recuse ourselves from the rest of the discussion.

But what if God calls us to get involved? ***"Go therefore and make disciples of all nations,"*** Jesus says to us in today's gospel, ***"baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you."***

We know these words of Jesus as the Great Commission. In Matthew's gospel these are Jesus last words. His last words are not "It is finished" or "I must go", or "I wish I had turned more water into wine." No, his last words are "Go". "Go and live the Good News." Living the Good News is what being a disciple is all about. Being God's people today and being church today means living God's mission where we are.

"Go" says Jesus, because you can't keep this Good News to yourself. If you do, it won't be Good News anymore. Go, because we live in a world that desperately needs the oxygen of God's grace and love. Go, because this isn't just about you, only about you, only for you. Go, and live the Good News in your home, community and world today and in so doing, draw others into the family of God through our willingness to go and be a witness to God's love by the way we live our lives. Martin Luther once said, "God doesn't need your good works, but your neighbor does!" Jesus taught justice and our neighbor needs justice. Our neighbor needs acceptance. Our neighbor needs inclusion and equal rights.

Maybe our world needs more people like Sara Miles. She dared to believe that Jesus lives in her and she started acting like it. Her friends called her crazy. Maybe what our world need is more "crazy" Christians. Remember that when Jesus' family heard what he was doing and saying, they thought he was crazy and went to get him under control. (Mark 3:21). They felt they had good reason to be concerned because Jesus had been teaching things like: "Love your enemies, bless those who curse you, pray for those who spitefully use you." And in a powerful sermon Jesus even said, "Blessed are the merciful, the compassionate, blessed are those who hunger and thirst that God's righteous justice might prevail, blessed are those who work for peace, blessed are you when you are persecuted just for trying to love and do what is good." Jesus was crazy! He even prayed while folk were killing him, "Father forgive them." Now that is crazy!

When Jesus calls us today to go make disciples, is he perhaps calling us to go and be as crazy as he was. Crazy enough to forgive like Jesus. Crazy enough to love like Jesus. Crazy enough to call for justice like Jesus did. Crazy enough to give and to share like Jesus. Crazy enough, like Jesus, to dare to change the world for God and for good.

The book, Holy Women, Holy Men, chronicles the lives of people, who though they were very human and at times messed up like the rest of us, marched to the beat of a different drum and in their lifetimes, they made a difference for God's world.

Once such example in the book is that of a woman by the name of Harriet Beecher Stowe. She was born in 1811 and she is best known for a fictional work entitled Uncle Tom's Cabin. In this fiction, she told the truth. She told the story of how chattel slavery afflicted a family, afflicted real people. She told the truth of the brutality, the injustice, the inhumanity of chattel slavery. Her book did what YouTube videos of injustices and brutalities do today. It went 19th century viral. It rallied people against the injustice of racism.

The influence of Harriet Beecher Stowe's book was so powerful that Abraham Lincoln is reputed to have said upon meeting her, "So this is the little lady who started this great war!" A woman of her era was supposed to write "nice" stories, not stories that would disturb the conscience of a nation. She was supposed to marry well, raise well-bred children, participate in a few charitable activities and be fondly remembered by all who knew her. That was the "nice" life she was supposed to have. But she had been raised in a family that believed that following Jesus means changing the world from the nightmare it often is, into the dream that God intends. And sometimes that means marching to the beat of a different drummer. Sometimes that means caring when it is tempting to care less, or standing up when others shut up. Sometimes it means being different- even being crazy.

It seems to me that Jesus is sending us out into the world to be “crazy.” Crazy enough to believe that God is real, that Jesus lives and the Spirit is moving in our midst. Crazy enough to follow the radical way of the gospel. Crazy enough to believe that the love of God is greater than all the powers of hate, evil and death. Crazy enough to believe as Dr. Martin Luther King often said, “That though the moral arc of the universe is long...it bends toward justice.”

My friend, we need some crazy Christians today because **sane, sanitized Christianity is killing us**- it is not working anymore! Jesus today is calling us to go and be crazy enough to believe that children do not have to go to bed hungry, that the world doesn't have to be the way it often seems to be, that there is a way to lay down our swords and shields- down by the river side-, that as the slaves used to sing, “*There's plenty good rooms in my Father's kingdom.*” Why? Because my friend, every human being, every human being has been created in the image of God and we are ALL equally children of God and meant to be treated as such.

Jesus calls us today to “Go”. Go and live the Good News. But notice the very last words of our Gospel. Jesus promises, “And remember, I am with you always to the end of the age.” Yes, Jesus calls us to “Go” but we never go alone! We go with Jesus and we also go together with each other. We must go together! All of us. Clergy and laity... young and older.... those who pine for days gone by and those who are thirsty for new water. We GO, but we must, we absolutely must, GO together.

This is what we long for. We long for a world that more and more reflects the compassion and mercy of God. We long for God's future, which is that gift of hope and grace and renewal in whatever surprising form it takes- for us, our congregation and for the world. May it be so. Amen.

Prayers of the People and Our Lord's Prayer

One: Lord in Your Mercy

All: Hear Our Prayer

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 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

Three Fold Amen

Amen, Amen, A-A-A-A Amen.

Offering Invitation

One: God has abundantly bestowed upon us the gift of life. Our best response is to offer our whole lives as agents for God's mission in the world. Give as you are able to build the community of God in our homes, our congregation and around the world.

Prayer of Dedication

One: Receive these gifts, even our very lives for your service. Multiply them and our effort to meet the need. We are yours God, use us we pray, **Amen.**

HOLY COMMUNION



Communion Hymn *"I Come with Joy"* vs 1, 3 NCH #349

1. I come with joy, a child of God, for given, loved, and free,
The life of Jesus to recall, in love laid down for me, in love laid down for me.
3. As Christ breaks bread, and bids us share, each proud division ends.
The love that made us, makes us one, and strangers now are friends
And strangers now are friends.

One: As grain that was scattered on the hillside was gathered together and made into one loaf, so too, we, scattered at tables in our own homes, are bound together around Christ's table and become one.

As grapes grown in the field are gathered together and pressed into wine, so too are we drawn together and pressed by our times to share a common lot and are transformed into Christ's self-giving love for all.
God be with you.

Many: And with your spirit.

One: Lift up your hearts.

Many: We lift them up to God.

One: Give thanks to God, Blessed Trinity.

Many: It is right to give God thanks and praise.

One: Praise to you Divine Creator. Thank you for the gift of life, the beauty of nature, the structure of the law and your steadfast loving kindness.
Praise to you Divine Redeemer. Thank you for sharing our human existence, from birth through death to everlasting life you have shown us a way worth emulating, bringing healing and hope to those most in need.

Many: Praise to you Divine Sustainer. Thank you for the vision to see beyond the immediate, a calm in the midst of storm, the strength to build an ever expanding community and the courage to bring about any change necessary within our lives.

PRAYER OF CONSECRATION

One Holy God, descend your Spirit upon these gifts of grain and grape that they might be for us the presence of the living Christ and pour out your Spirit upon us so that we might be taken, blessed, broken and distributed so that others might know the blessings of living in communion with you and one another. Through Christ, with Christ and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honor are yours Almighty God, now and forever.

ALL: Amen.

THE WORDS OF INSTITUTION AND REMEMBRANCE

THE DISTRIBUTION

THE BLESSING

May the presence of Christ, Body and Spirit, keep and preserve you to everlasting life.

THANKSGIVING

One: Let us pray.

Many: For the beauty of creation, the gift of life and your presence with each of us, even though we are physically distanced, we give you thanks. Work through us so that we might be channels of understanding and justice in the world, to build your community on earth as it is in heaven. Amen.

SENDING HYMN

“SENT FORTH BY GOD’S BLESSING”

NCH #76

1. Sent forth by God’s blessing, our true faith confessing,
The people of God from His dwelling take leave.
The Supper is ended. O now be extended
The fruits of this service in all who believe.
The seed of His teaching, Receptive souls reaching,
Shall blossom in action for God and for all.
His grace did invite us, His love shall unite us
To work for God’s kingdom and answer His call.

2. With praise and thanksgiving To God ever-living,
The tasks of our ev’ryday life we will face.
Our faith ever sharing, In love ever caring,
Embracing God’s children of each tribe and race.
With Your feast You feed us, With Your light now lead us;
Unite us as one in this life that we share.
Then may all the living with praise and thanksgiving
Give honor to Christ and His name that we bear.

SENDING

One: God calls us from this time of worship to share the hope of abundant life in the presence of hardship, relationship that transcends the barriers of isolation, and to do what we can, where we are, to be the body of Christ.

Many: This is what we were created for.

Benediction

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit will go with you and before you, today and ever more.
Amen.

Postlude

Sandy Wentzloff

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Remember in Prayer: Bill Cowell, Eunice Gasow, and Aggie Schue. We pray for others who have been ill or are home bound and those at Oak Terrace and Golden Hearts. We pray for health and healing for all people everywhere. We pray with anticipation for the day we can all gather again with our church family. Pray for the ministries of our church. Pray for those serving in the military and for our local and national leaders during these trying times.

If you have a prayer request or would like to receive a call from Pastor Dennis call his office at 237-2595 (leave a private voice mail) or his cell 763-258-3371.

Giving our Gifts to God:

Tithes and Offerings can be sent to Gaylord United Church of Christ P.O. Box 385 Gaylord, MN 55334 or dropped by the church office on Wednesday between 10a.m. – 4p.m.

Pastor Dennis is usually in the office each Wednesday from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. He can be reached at the office, 237-2595 (private voice mail) or his cell: 763-258-3371.

E-mail: dmckee545@gmail.com

Website at listen2god.org

- ❖ **You can view the Service online by Friday or Saturday each week. Click on the link to view Service at: <https://listen2god.org/weekly-message/>**
- ❖ **UCC Church Directories are available for pickup inside the north door each Wednesday.**
- ❖ **Weekly devotional available each Tuesday at: www.listen2God.org/worship/devotionals**
- ❖ **Digging Deeper with Dennis concludes Tuesday, June 9 at 6:30 p.m. via Zoom. We are discussing the book “When Christians Get it Wrong.” The book is not required to participate. An email invitation will be sent out before that date. Follow the code in the invitation to join the video conversation. A phone call-in number will be provided as well.**

