

THE WORD OF GOD

(Sunday Take-home Insert – Sixth Sunday of Easter IRCL)

Collect

Presider: The Lord is with you.

Assembly: **And also with you.**

Presider: Let us pray together:

Holy Spirit of Truth,

Breathe of Life:

In You, “we live and move and have our being”;

In You, we have no fear;

You are in us, we are in you;

Breathe into us now and

Reform our minds,

To know you as the “One who gives everyone life”;

Breathe into us now and

Reform our hearts,

To embody your justice in a broken world.

To You alone we graciously return

All that we are:

Mind, heart and body. Amen.

A period of silence for reflection follows each lesson and the sermon. Allow your attention to drop in and down and rest upon your breath. When distractions arise – such as thoughts and sounds and smells – simply notice and return to the breath.

Christian Scriptures

Acts 17:22-31

Reader: A reading from the Book of Acts.

Then Paul stood up before the council of the Areopagus and delivered this address: “Citizens of Athens, I note that in every respect you are scrupulously religious. As I walked about looking at your shrines, I even discovered an altar inscribed, ‘To an Unknown God.’ Now, what you are worshiping in ignorance I intend to make known to you. “For the God who made the world and all that is in it, the Sovereign of heaven and earth, doesn’t live in sanctuaries made by human hands, and isn’t served by humans, as if in need of anything. No! God is the One who gives everyone life, breath – everything. From one person God created all of humankind to inhabit the entire earth, and set the time for each nation to exist and the exact place where each nation should dwell. God did this so that human beings would seek, reach out for and perhaps find the One who is not really far from any of us – the One in whom we live and move and have our being. As one of your poets has put it, ‘We too are God’s children.’ “If we are in fact children of God, then it’s inexcusable to think that the Divine Nature is like an image of gold, silver or stone – an image formed by the art and thought of mortals. God, who overlooked such ignorance in the past, now commands all people everywhere to reform their lives. For a day has been set when the whole world will be judged with justice. And this judge, who is a human being, has already been appointed. God has given proof of all of this by raising this judge from the dead.”

Reader: Hear what the Spirit is saying to the church.

Assembly: **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 66:8-20

8 Bless our God, all you peoples,
let the sound of God's praise be heard!
9 God has kept us among the living,
and has not let our feet slip.
10 For you have tested us, O God –
you have refined us as silver is refined.
11 You put us in prisons
and laid burdens on our backs;
12 you let people ride over our heads;
we went through fire and through water-
and you brought us to a place of abundance and space.
13 I will come to your house with burnt offerings;
I will pay my vows to you,
14 the ones my lips uttered
and my mouth promised when I was in trouble.
15 I will present you burnt offerings of fatlings,
with the smoke of burning rams;
I will make an offering of bulls and goats.
16 Come and hear, all who revere God,
and I will tell what the Holy One has done for me.
17 I cried aloud to God,
and praise was on my tongue.
18 If I had nursed evil in my heart,
God would not have listened.
19 But God did listen,
and heeded the voice of my prayer.
20 Blessed be God,
who has not rejected my prayer
or stopped loving me!

The Epistle

1 Peter 3:13-22

Reader: A reading from the First Letter of Peter.

Who is going to harm you if your goal is to do what is right? But even if you do suffer for what is right, count it a blessing. Don't fear what they fear. Don't be afraid, and don't worry. In your hearts, set Jesus apart as holy and sovereign. Should anyone ask you the reason for this hope of yours, be ever ready to reply, but speak gently and respectfully. Keep your conscience clear so that, whenever you are defamed, those who slander your way of life in Christ may be shamed. If it should be God's will that you suffer, it is better to do so for good deeds than for evil ones. The reason Christ died for sins once for everyone – the just for the sake of the unjust – was in order to lead you to God. Jesus was put to death in the flesh but was given life in the Spirit. And in the Spirit, Jesus went and preached to the imprisoned spirits. They had refused obedience long ago, while God waited patiently in the days of Noah and the building of the ark, in which a few persons, eight in all, were brought to safety through the water. That water prefigured the water of baptism through which you are now brought to safety. Baptism is not the washing away of physical dirt, but the appeal made to God by a good conscience: it brings salvation through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, who entered heaven and is now at the right hand of God, having dominion over angelic authorities and powers.

Reader: Hear what the Spirit is saying to the church.

Assembly: **Thanks be to God.**

Hymn (see hymn board)

We stand as able.

The Gospel

John 14:15-21

Deacon: A reading from the Holy Gospel according to John.

Assembly: **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

If you love me and obey the command I give you, I will ask the One who sent me to give you another Paraclete, another Helper to be with you always – the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot accept since the world neither sees her nor recognizes her; but you can recognize the Spirit because she remains with you and will be within you. I won't leave you orphaned; I will come back to you. A little while now and the world will see me no more; but you'll see me; because I live, and you will live as well. On that day you'll know that I am in God, and you are in me, and I am in you. Those who obey the commandments are the ones who love me, and those who love me will be loved by Abba God. I, too, will love them and will reveal myself to them."

Deacon: Hear what the Spirit is saying to the church.

Assembly: **Thanks be to God.**

The readings are taken from *The Inclusive Hebrew Scriptures Vol. I, II, and III* and *The Inclusive New Testament* with © permission from: Priests for Equality/Quixote Center, P.O. Box 5206 Hyattsville, MD 20782 301-699-0042. Collect is by Kevin G. Thew Forrester.

***WELCOME!** We welcome all visitors and guests this morning. After the service, you are invited to the Great Room on the lower level (accessible by stairs or elevator) for coffee and conversation.*

TODAY’S HOSPITALITY AND WORSHIP LEADERSHIP

Presider:	Marcia Pruner
Preacher:	Rise Thew Forrester
Deacon:	Pat Micklow
Organist:	Jan Broderson
First Reader:	Kai Carrigan
Second Reader:	Kai Carrigan
Prayers of the People:	Grace Randall
Chalice Bearers:	Faith Cole
Ushers:	Miriam and Liam Thew Forrester
Server:	Faith Cole
Candles	Ginger Randall
Crucifer	Ben Cole
Altar Guild:	Jayne McQuaid and Cathy Cole
Coffee Hour Hosts:	Brett and John Bartlett and Jan and Jim Edwards
Evening Prayer Officiant:	Mary Sullivan
Children’s Ministry	Jim Edwards, Cathy Greer Cole, and Nancy Railey
Eucharistic Visitors:	Marcia Franz to MGH, Bob Railey to Jacobetti (Bill Mudge)

LEADERSHIP CONTACTS

Hospitalization Contacts:

Kai Carrigan		249-9829	kairri@chartermi.net
Marcia Franz		226-2830	mqlake@yahoo.com
Bob Railey		226-9617	rmrailey@excite.com
Leon Jarvis	Hospital Chaplain	225-0338	lj Jarvis@mgh.org
Judy Britton	Nursing Home Contact	346-6852	rbritton@nmu.edu

Vestry Wardens

Al Raymond	Senior Warden	249-3534	alrayusma@charter.net
Tom Feller	Junior Warden	486-9967	Tompfeller@aol.com
Tony Pearson	Treasurer	225-0514	rpearson@chartermi.net
Kay Payant	Secretary	225-5068	kpayant@nmu.edu

Vestry Members

Sandy Purrington	Meg Goodrich	Michelle Randall	
Marian Carlton	Barb Carpenter	Susan Micensky	Jim Jajich

Ministry Support Team

Communications

Meg Goodrich	Communications Coord.	226-8920	mgoodrich@charter.net
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Liturgy

Bob Railey	Worship Coordinator	226-9617	rmrailey@excite.com
Vince Reed	Worship Coordinator	228-7333	vincentreed@gmail.com

Mutual (Pastoral) Care

Marcia Franz	Mutual Care Coordinator	226-2830	mqlake@yahoo.com
Coralie Hambleton	Mutual Care Coordinator	869-2046	cvhamblet@hotmail.com

Outreach (All Are Welcome)

Kai Carrigan	Outreach Coordinator	249-9829	kairri@chartermi.net
Pat Micklow	Outreach Coordinator	249-3479	dunetop@chartermi.net

Stewardship

Al Raymond	Stewardship Coordinator	249-3534	alrayusma@charter.net
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BEING RECEIVED INTO THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH

There are many paths into God, all of them sacred, and each emphasizes something different and beautiful. St. Paul's stands within the Christian path of the Episcopal Church. As followers of the way of Jesus of Nazareth, we are a community of people on a journey – we hold as sacred the questioning mind and the searching heart. We worship in the presence of a God whose love knows no bounds. The table around which gather and are fed is open to all, for this table is the face of a bountiful God.

If it may be your experience that the Episcopal church offers a life-giving path, and you are interested in being received into this Church family in the near future or simply want to discuss the possibility and process, please contact Sandra Purrington (225-5453 or spurrington1142@charter.net), Barb Carpenter (226-7571 or bandcarpenter@charter.net) or Kevin Thew Forrester (226-2912 or kevintf@sbcglobal.net).

THIS WEEK AT ST. PAUL'S CHURCH

Month of April:	Food Pantry – peanut butter, jelly, jam, canned fruit	
Tuesday 29 th	Morning Meditation	8:00 am
Wednesday 30 th	Holy Eucharist	5:30 pm
	Soup Supper	6:00 pm
	Choir Practice	7:00 pm
Thursday, May 1 st	Nia Dance	5:30 pm
Saturday 3 rd	Episcopal Ministry Discernment Team	10:00 am

SPRING CLEAN UP

St. Paul's Annual Spring Clean Up will take place following the service TODAY. Please help us spruce up St. Paul's after the ravages of winter. Food and refreshments will be provided.

WARREN GLASS HOUSE BLESSING TODAY AT 2:00 PM

We celebrate Warren's recent move from the long-time family home to his new apartment (Snowberry #805) with house blessing and Eucharist, followed by visiting and beverages (no pot-luck meal this time). Both of Warren's parents died about one year ago and were buried from St. Paul's. Warren is an accomplished craftsman, and made the crèche that has been used at St. Paul's each year since it was donated.

OUTREACH SUNDAY AT ST. PAUL'S

On the "last Sunday" of every month, we support local outreach activities in two ways:

DONATIONS OF FOOD AND MONEY Non-perishable food items and designated money are given alternately to two Marquette area food pantries: St. Vincent de Paul and the Salvation Army.

MONETARY DONATIONS to a Marquette Area Social Service Agency. Each month, a different agency receives our "outreach" contributions. This month's agency is *Marquette County Habitat for Humanity*. Each year, the Marquette County chapter builds about six homes for low income families.

SPRING UTO INGATHERING

It's time to reflect on the many things we have to be thankful for with the Spring United Thank Offering Ingathering. Count your blessings and show them monetarily with a generous donation to your "Little Blue Box". The money collected will go toward grants which will be awarded to applicants focusing on programs benefitting women and children.

PERSONAL ACTION TOWARD HEALTH

PATH is a 6 week program that teaches practical skills for living a healthy life with a chronic health condition like diabetes, arthritis, asthma, chronic pain, or heart disease. Classes meet 2 ½ hours once a week. Cost is \$10/person for the 6 week program. For registration information call 228-9203. Classes will be held on Wednesdays, May 7 – June 11, from 9:30 – 12:00 pm at the Peninsula Medical Center Conference Room, 1414 W. Fair Ave., Marquette.

27 April 2008

EARTH KEEPER SURVEYS

The EarthKeeper Surveys are due today. If you haven't done so already, please take a few minutes to fill one out and return it to the basket near the lectern.

EarthKeepers *Clean Sweep 08*

“Collecting Carbon” for the Good of Creation

(This year we are asking people to cut carbon emissions by taking action to reduce energy and water use at home, at church, and in their lifestyles.)

The Unknown God Acts 17: 22-31

Invited (pushed?) to identify and explain his faith at Athens, surrounded by the variety of statues and temples to the various gods of Greek culture, Paul grasps at the image of “The Unknown God” and proceeds to introduce the Greeks to the God of all Creation, Maker of heaven and earth.

Thomas Berry suggests that one of the primary ways we learn about the Creator is by experiencing the Creation, the work of God's hands (and voice!). It teaches us that God values diversity, beauty, and life. If we lived on the moon, he says, we would have a different perception of God altogether.

But what will our children, grandchildren, and great grandchildren learn about their Creator by looking at the world in which they will live? Will forests still be green and healthy, or will temperature and climate changes leave them weakened and fragile? Will birds sing in the morning hours, or will migration patterns and ecological niches have changed faster than they could adapt? Will water still be a gift of God fresh flowing and free, or will it be a scarce item and a cause of conflict and war? Will our descendants live in and look out on a garden or a damaged land?

We can make a difference. Each bit of energy we cut back means that much less CO₂ in the atmosphere, each gallon of water we refrain from using means one more gallon splashing peacefully in the stream and lakes. Our spiritual leaders encourage us to use the EarthKeepers checklist to make appropriate changes in our homes, our churches, our cars, and our lifestyles.

EarthKeepers is a cooperative effort of these ten traditions – Roman Catholic, Lutheran, Jewish, Buddhist, United Methodist, Episcopal, Presbyterian, Quaker, Unitarian Universalist, Baha'i; and these two non-profit organizations – The Superior Watershed Partnership and The Cedar Tree Institute.

Upcoming:

COVER THE UNINSURED: AWARENESS WALK AND HEALTH FAIR

Cover The Uninsured Week (CTUW), April 27-May 3, 2008, is a national campaign drawing attention to the uninsured, and is being spotlighted this year by the Medical Care Access Coalition (MCAC) and its many partners with an awareness walk and community health fair.

The awareness walk begins at 9:00 A.M. **Saturday, May 3** at Marquette Commons on the corner of Third and Main St., followed by the health fair from 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Uninsured living in Marquette County make up 11% of the population, nearly 7,000 family, friends and neighbors. Please check our website (www.upmcac.org) for more information and event details.

We hope you'll join us for exercise, education, health resources, including free blood pressure screenings and giveaways!

LADIES APPRECIATION LUNCHEON

An appreciation luncheon will be held on Mother's Day, Sunday, May 11th immediately following the service. Men and boys are needed to help in the Men's Kitchen so please set aside May 11th and contact Dan Carpenter to volunteer.

Year A Sixth Sunday of Easter

27 April 2008