

LEARNING TO LOVE LIKE GOD

Sixth Sunday after Pentecost

Open and Affirming Sunday

Peace United Church of Christ Elkader. Iowa 52043

PRELUDE:

CANDLELIGHTING, BELL RINGING, ANNOUNCEMENTS

***TRANSFORMATION AND NEW LIFE PRAYER:**

L: As we gather in worship, let us take this moment to consider Your love, O God, your love that heals and changes us, your forgiveness and grace that is part of life in your Kingdom.

(A time of silent confession)

P: God, we appeal to you for we live in a world where there is much pain and suffering, where weapons of war get in the way of Your peace. May you help us change our hearts and love our own humanity and the awesomeness of other humans. May you help us forgive ourselves for the harsh things that we have said and thought and done. Each person is a unique and beautiful expression of Your love, created in your image. We confess that we forget this sometimes. We thank you for loving us and gracing our lives. AMEN.

***THE PARDON AND RECEIVING OF GOD'S GRACE**

L: The love and forgiveness of Christ touches every one of us. We thank God for the comfort, strength and compassion to move forward, to do God's will on earth as it is done in heaven. Now let us greet our brothers and sisters with God's love and peace.

(pass the peace and then be seated)

OPENING PRAYER: (unison)

Living and Faithful God in whom we live and serve and have our being, the God who is made known in Christ Jesus, may you bless each of us as we worship you this day. May our hymns and prayers, our thoughts and hearing of the scriptures open us to You. AMEN.

OPENING SONG: "Great Is Your Faithfulness" #423

THE HEALING WORD FROM OUR GOD OF LOVE

THEME: Today's scriptures address the debilitating cost of chronic disease, the death of a child.. God comes to those in pain, offering abundance of steadfast love and healing, bringing peace in the midst of tragedy. This is the vision of living in a world where God's peace exists. In response, the Epistle calls us to build that community of God, a community of support, a community that makes it possible for others to live in the midst of tragedy and suffering.

OLD TESTAMENT: Lamentations 3:22-33 Laura Moser

EPISTLE: II. Corinthians 7:8-15 Laura Moser

GOSPEL: Mark 5:21-43 Pastor Paula

MESSAGE: "Son, Daughters, Go in Peace"

AFFIRMATION--OPEN AND AFFIRMING SUNDAY

(based on excerpts from Romans 12)

L: Paul wrote to the Roman Christians, encouraging them to rejoice in hope, be patient in suffering and constant in prayer, to resist persecuting and oppressing others for any reason.

P: O God, we are often pressured to conform, to place our hope in others rather than you. Today, we find strength in Your promises, building in this place Your community of love and acceptance for all.

O God, we face trials and pressures to abandon your beliefs and values and shut out others for various reasons. May you help us stand firm, endure as a welcoming, affirming church, producing patience, character, hope and most of all, a love like Yours that is for everyone. And now we pledge to stand together with hearts full of hope and faith, with voices raised in praise and ready to serve where needed—all done in Your Name—Creator God, Redeemer God, Comforter Spirit. AMEN

PRAYER SONG: “Hear, Savior, in this Quiet Place”

vs.1-4 #555

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND LORD’S 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. Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. AMEN

OFFERING INVITATION:

L: Beloved friends, when hope is high, abundance surrounds us and we bask in the goodness of God’s provision, God calls to us to: **P: open our hearts and our hands.**

L: When disasters and tragedies strike, when we carry the worry and weight of a perilous present and unknown future, God calls to us to: **P: open our hearts and our hands.**

L: When we are moved with compassion, our hearts urging us to reach out to support others. God calls us to give gratefully and spread the Good News. The offering is taken.

OFFERING AND OFFERTORY:

***DOXOLOGY:**

Praise God from whom all blessings flow.

Praise God all creatures here below;

Praise God above you heavenly host;

Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen

***BENEDICTION:**

L: Christ’s touch can heal us. God’s love can restore us.

P: Let us reach out and touch Jesus in this world.

L: Christ’s touch can help us find healing and peace and hope in his love.

P: Let us reach out and go forth. God’s love is steadfast. God heals our brokenness and gives us peace. Amen.

***SENDING FORTH SONG:**

“God Whose Giving Knows No Ending”

#565

***POSTLUDE:**

WELCOME

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Worship Leaders

Today-30th

Worship: Pastor Paula

Reader: Laura Moser

Fellowship: Steve McCorkindale

Organist: Laura Moser

Ushers: Barb Chandler

**Opening/
Closing** Gary Kuehl

Next Sunday July 7th

Pastor Paula

Potluck at Park

Guitarist-Tom Glifford

PRAYER LIST: Greg Anderson, Gus Augustson, Dave & Diane B-H, Eli Belser, Roger and Betty Buchholz, Jonah Burns and family of Jasen Burns, Dave Dennler, Deb Dennler, Steve Doepcke, Wayne F., Karen Glesne, Linda Glesne, Penny Jacobson, Karla, Ruth Grau, Gerry Kramer, Gary & Nancy Kuehl, Marlene Marmann, Eunice McMillan, Marilyn Nielsen, Ruth and Jenny Olson, Lucena Phelps, Sharon Reichert, Payton Renschler, Harry Robbins, Joan Strauss, Teena, Father James (Pastor Paula's oblate director)

AN OPPORTUNITY TO SERVE: Needed: drivers willing to provide transportation to and from appointments for those without transportation.

Please contact Pastor Paula if interested.

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

PASTOR PAULA

(subject to change if emergencies or meetings arise)

9 a.m.-noon—Mon. Wed. Thur; 9-10:45 a.m. Tues.

DEBBIE

9-10 a.m.---Mon;

9-11 a.m. Wed. & Thur.

WEEKLY CALENDAR OF CHURCH ACTIVITIES

TODAY: 1-3 p.m. Visitation in celebration of the life of Jasen Burns—narthex and Herbster Hall—per Jasen's request, no service will be held

**Monday: 9-10—Office open
Pastor Paula gone in a.m.**

Tuesday: 9-10:45 a.m. Office Hours

Wednesday: 9-noon—Office hours-bulletin deadline

Thursday: 4th of July—OFFICE CLOSED
Friday: Pastor's Day Off
Saturday: Worship Preparation

NEEDED FOR SUMMER WORSHIP: Anyone interested in providing special music for Sunday worship July through August, please contact Pastor Paula!

REMEMBER: those in charge of opening/closing, please plug in coffee pots! Thank you!

Sunday, July 7th-----10 a.m. Worship service at Founders' Park followed by potluck at park. If raining, the service will be held in the church at 10 a.m. and a pot-luck in Herbster Hall.