



FIFTH AVE. UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
323 South 5th Avenue, West Bend WI 53095

FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER **PENTECOST ~ JUNE 17, 2024**

JOIN US IN-PERSON or ONLINE ~ Sundays @ 9:30 A.M.

God Always Uses the Right Tool



Pastor Clarissa, Liturgist
Deanna Gibeau, Accompanist
Doug Fitzgerald, Guest Speaker
Rev. Clarissa Martinelli, Senior Pastor

WELCOME TO FIFTH AVENUE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

How wonderful to have you in Worship with us today! We are a church family that welcomes you. Join us following Worship for Fellowship Hour. There will be yummy refreshments, coffee, and lots of friendly faces.

*Note: L: Denotes "Liturgist"
P: Denotes "People"
*: Please Stand If You Are Able

~WELCOMING & GATHERING of GOD'S PEOPLE~

PRELUDE:

"In Quiet Peace"

Stewart Landon

GREETING:

Pastor: We are happy to have you with us on this Father's Day; thank you for choosing to spend a portion of your day worshipping Jesus Christ with us.

For some that is a glad and easy celebration and remembrance. For others it is a day mixed with sorrow and regret for a relationship that once was and now is gone or for a desired relationship that was never possessed. That makes worship easy for some and difficult for others. Fathers and father figures, today we lovingly remind you that you are called to have the right tools. When you have the right tools, the work gets done much more efficiently and with much less frustration. The right tools are even more important when it comes to our worship life and our ongoing study of God's Word.

Men of God (fathers and father figures) we joyfully celebrate you today, your role in the life of family, but especially and more importantly, your vital role in the life of the Church. We honor each of you every day and always with a spirit of profound respect. Amen.

~MEDITATION FOR GATHERING~

CENTERING MUSIC:

"He Hideth My Soul"

Robert J. Hughes

CALL TO WORSHIP:

L: Our relationships with our fathers are complicated.

P: For some of us, our father's love is like God's love -- too deep, too long, too wide, too strong to measure.

L: Some of our dads are here; some were never here.

P: For some of us, God's love fills in the empty spaces our fathers left behind.

L: All of us are shaped by the relationship or lack of relationship with our fathers.

P: On this day when we remember what it means to have a father or be a father, we recognize the importance of fathers in our church and communities. We pledge as a congregation to love and nurture the fathers among us so that they will manifest the love of God in all that they do. Amen.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION:

All: Patient Lord, you know how we are. We let the frustrations and worries of our

~GOD’S RELENTLESS INVITATION~

Bro. Doug: God of Life, you shared your peace with us when you gathered and formed us from the dust of the ground and breathed the breath of life into us. But life with you was not enough for us. Even in our rebellion, you clothe us and provide a way in the world. We are thankful that you continue to seek us, even in our wandering ways.

Jesus, Prince of Peace, you separated us from our sin in a way we never could – in a way we never can. You were a vessel of peace in a world that did not welcome you. But you persevered in love in the face of hatred. You taught us that forgiveness is possible even in the midst of extreme suffering. We are thankful that you continue to love us, even in our unrepentant ways.

Holy Spirit, you hold peace within us despite our circumstances. You tend to the deepest parts of our inmost being, nurturing peace so that it may grow. You lead us in paths of righteousness, showing us the way to bear love to the world. When hatred speaks its convincing lies, you show us the truth. We are thankful that you continue to sanctify us, even in our careworn ways.

So that we may become instruments of peace, able to sow love so that hatred does not take root, we pray, Holy Spirit, that you would move in this place today. May our meager offering of bread and cup become our communion with the Triune God and one another. May peace and love abound in us and through us.

Pastor: Clarissa: In the certain hope that love overcomes all, we join our voices to pray together, each of using the words we find most familiar, saying:

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 the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

Pastor Clarissa: In the face of betrayal and impending death, Jesus ate one final meal with his disciples. As he did so, he broke the bread, gave thanks for it, and then offered it to each one there, saying: Take. Eat. This is my body broken for you.

Likewise, he took the cup and gave thanks for it. Then offering it to his disciples, he said: Take. Drink. This is my blood shed for you.

The broken body and the shed blood are a continuation of God's covenant of peace with us. They are also the signs of a new covenant – a covenant where love is the rule, and hatred can be overcome.

Every time we share this meal, we proclaim the triumph of peace and love until the day when hatred is gone forever.

All are welcome. All has been prepared. Come and eat as we share in the peace of God.

Invitation to the Table

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION: (Unison)

All: Holy God, the bread and the cup remind us how good you are. You nourish us in our journey of faith, reminding us that you are always with us. As we journey through Lent, prepare us to hear your call. Lord, make us instruments of your peace. As we receive your peace, may we see where we can share it with others. Guide us in our words and actions. Where there is hatred, let us sow love. We give you thanks for who you are and the blessing of being called your people. Amen.

~GOD'S MULTI-TOOL~

But the Lord said to him, "Go, for this man is my chosen instrument to take my name to Gentiles, kings, and Israelites. Men, if women don't find you handsome, they should at least find you handy. Men of God, you are called to be one of God's most useful tools.

In God's great and unfathomable mercy, God has chosen to use sinners like you as tools in God's hand. Like a patient father allowing a toddler to "help" him with a project, our heavenly Father kindly wields you blood-bought rebels to fulfill God's purposes. Were it up to us, God would use angels or just snap God's fingers and have done with it. Yet, in God's infinite wisdom, God selects what seems to be the unlikeliest tools in the box, knowing that each of you, Men of God, are exactly right for the job!

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***DOXOLOGY:** **"Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow"** UMH 94
**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 uplifts! Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

All: Eternal God, the Source of all blessings, we come before you with hearts full of gratitude and reverence. As we offer our gifts and reflect on your word this day, we ponder our role as stewards of your blessings. Guide us to bless our leaders with prayers for wisdom and compassion. May they lead with justice and righteousness, reflecting your will for peace and unity. Help us to be instruments of your peace, working tirelessly for the well-being of all people. Strengthen our commitment to love and serve others, as we strive to fulfill your divine purpose in the world. Amen.

~SENDING FORTH/BENEDICTION~

All: be praise and glory today and for ever. Amen.

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