

**St. Paul's United Church of Christ**  
**April 30, 2023 – Rite of Confirmation**  
**Rev. Robert F. Broeder**

**Organ Prelude**

**Ringing of the Bell**

**\*Welcome and Announcements**

**Confirmand Sharing** (Note for Lauren: Sandi has picture to add to this slide)

Mya Jean Maus

Parents: Denice Maus & Roger Maus

Sponsors:

Diane Todnem

Jackie McConnell

Roger & JoAnn Meyer

**\*Faith Statement**

**(Note for Lauren: Mya is reading and needs to be on a slide)**

**(Note for Rev Broeder: She would like to be up there without her sponsors)**

Who is God? Well God is someone who will guide you and will love you at all times. You are going through a rough time he is always there. He will guide you through the darkest and the lightest of times. God is someone who you can talk to at all times because he is with you every second of the day. He gives the strongest people the hardest battles. He gives you purpose to live your life to the fullest. God will grab a hold of our heart when you least expect it to show you what needs to change. He will! I have lots to change. I have to let go of anger and hurt to pray about others. Run to God in pain and suffering and open your ears. 1 Peter 3:8-12

Who is Jesus? The Son of God. He is a religious leader. He is the Holy One. He saves us from our sins. He gives us peace and strength and gets us and all we have to do is believe in him. He is a reliable person for us. He came to earth to die on the cross, to shed his blood, to have our sins forgiven when I asked for forgiveness.

Who is the Holy Spirit? The All Mighty God. The Holy Spirit guides me. He protects me. He also comforts and fills me with hope He abled me as Christian to believe in him and guide me with hope. The Holy Spirit is the little voice in my head that tells me how to do something right.

The role of church in the world and in your life? I believe the church is God's house. To lean and practice God's word. To come together for fellowship, prayer, commitment, and to help spread God's message to people. To help make new people feel welcome.

**\*Hymn #21 "Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise"**

1 Immortal, invisible, God only wise,  
in light inaccessible hid from our eyes,  
most blessed, most glorious, the Ancient of Days,  
almighty, victorious, thy great name we praise.

2 Unresting, unchanging, and silent as light,

nor wanting, nor wasting, thou rulest in might;  
thy justice like mountains high soaring above  
thy clouds, which are fountains of goodness and love.

3 To all life thou givest, to both great and small;  
in all life thou livest, the true life of all;  
we blossom and flourish as leaves on the tree,  
and wither and perish but naught changeth thee.

4 Great Father of glory, pure Father of light,  
thine angels adore thee, all veiling their sight;  
all praise we would render, O help us to see  
'tis only the splendor of light hideth thee.

**\*Call to Worship**

L: Where have we seen and not believed?

**P: Where have we heard and not listened?**

L: Open our inner eyes to your miracles Holy God;

**P: Open our inner ears to your amazing news.**

**ALL: Inspire us to see, believe, hear, and follow.**

**\*Prayer of Presence (unison)**

**O God, we are ashamed to admit that we have often gathered rocks not to build the safe fold of your commonwealth, but to stone the shepherd – prophets who challenge us to follow you. We are ashamed to admit that we can see our sisters and brothers doing the most marvelous works in your name, and offer them nothing but contempt. We are ashamed that we can watch justice dying in the slums, and choose the barricade ourselves in our churches rather than life a hand to help. Deepen our shame until it becomes repentance, God of Truth, and lift us into a forgiveness that is energetic action more than pious word as all of our lives may be dedicated to you. Amen.**

**\*The Gloria Patri**

*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*

**\*Pastoral Greetings**

**\*Sharing the Peace of Christ**

**Silent Prayer**

**Pastoral Prayer**

**Lord's Prayer**

**Cares Chorus**

*I cast all my cares upon you. I lay all of my burdens down  
at your feet. And anytime I don't know just what to do,  
I will cast all my cares upon You.*

## Scripture

**John 10:1-10** “Very truly I tell you Pharisees, anyone who does not enter the sheep pen by the gate, but climbs in by some other way, is a thief and a robber. The one who enters by the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep listen to his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. When he has brought out all his own, he goes on ahead of them, and his sheep follow him because they know his voice. But they will never follow a stranger; in fact, they will run away from him because they do not recognize a stranger’s voice.” Jesus used this figure of speech, but the Pharisees did not understand what he was telling them. Therefore Jesus said again, “Very truly I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep. All who have come before me are thieves and robbers, but the sheep have not listened to them. I am the gate; whoever enters through me will be saved. They will come in and go out, and find pasture. The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.

## Hymn #239 “In the Cross of Christ, I Glory”

1 In the cross of Christ I glory,  
towering o'er the wrecks of time;  
all the light of sacred story  
gathers round its head sublime.

2 When the woes of life o'ertake me,  
hopes deceive, and fears annoy,  
never shall the cross forsake me.  
Lo! it glows with peace and joy.

3 When the sun of bliss is beaming  
light and love upon my way,  
from the cross the radiance streaming  
adds more luster to the day.

4 Bane and blessing, pain and pleasure,  
by the cross are sanctified;  
peace is there that knows no measure,  
joys that through all time abide.

## Sermon: Have you opened the door for another

### Offering our Gifts

Invitation

Offertory Music

#### \*Doxology

*Praise God from who all blessings flow, Praise God all creatures here below, Praise God above ye heavenly hosts, Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen*

#### \*Offering Prayer

We give thee but thine own, What-e'er the gift may be: All that we have is thine alone, A trust, O Lord, from thee.

## Hymn #285 “Just as I am, Without one Plea”

1 Just as I am, without one plea,  
but that thy blood was shed for me,  
and that thou bidd'st me come to thee,  
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

2 Just as I am, and waiting not  
to rid my soul of one dark blot,  
to thee, whose blood can cleanse each spot,  
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

3 Just as I am, though tossed about  
with many a conflict, many a doubt,  
fightings and fears within, without,  
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

4 Just as I am, thou wilt receive,  
wilt welcome, pardon, cleanse, relieve;  
because thy promise I believe,  
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

### **Rite of Confirmation**

Mya Maus

Council Vice-President: Steve Fries

Confirmation Advisors: Sandi Braun-Ziemer & Paula Dhaene

### **Congregational Response (in unison)**

**Friends, we greet you with joy. We pledge to you our love in the Lord and will give you our support in prayer and service that you may continue to grow in knowledge and love of God and be witnesses to Jesus Christ our risen Lord.**

### **Hymn #233 Amazing Grace! How Sweet the Sound**

\1 Amazing grace (how sweet the sound)  
that saved a wretch like me!  
I once was lost, but now am found,  
was blind, but now I see.

2 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear,  
and grace my fears relieved;  
how precious did that grace appear  
the hour I first believed!

3 Through many dangers, toils and snares  
I have already come:  
'tis grace has brought me safe thus far,  
and grace will lead me home.

4 The Lord has promised good to me,

his word my hope secures;  
he will my shield and portion be  
as long as life endures.

## **Sacrament of Communion**

Invitation

Call to Confession

### **Unison Prayer of Confession (in unison)**

**Most Holy and Gracious God, we pause together in prayer to tend to our spiritual well-being. We know that we have worshipped with our lips but not always with our hearts. We have turned from the suffering of others, and lived unchanged by it. Forgive us for everything that keeps us estranged from you. In your reign, worship has no end, the hungry are fed, and you wipe away every tear from the eyes of those who weep. Bring us, by your grace, back into the full meaning of your reign. Let your forgiveness be upon us, to the glory of our name. Amen.**

### **Declaration of Pardon**

### **Apostle's Creed (in unison)**

**I believe in God the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth; and in Jesus Christ his only begotten son our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead and buried; he descended into Hell; the third day he rose again 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 one Holy Universal Christian Church, the communion of Saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

## **RECEIVING THE SACRAMENTS**

Confirmand at chancel followed by everyone else coming down the center aisle in a continuous order to the persons sharing the communion of Christ's body and blood. For those unable to come forward, notify the usher and the sacrament will be brought to you.

### **The Blessing**

### **Prayer of Thanksgiving**

Gracious God, we thank you for refreshing us at Christ's table. May our minds be renewed through our participation at your Holy Supper. Amen.

**\*\*No Slide (Mya – Confirmand Greeting)**

**\*Benediction**

**\*Postlude**