



Intergenerational: Stories to Build the Bridge

Sixth Sunday of Easter
May 5, 2024 | 9:00 am

+ Please Stand

Bold Text = Congregation speak or sing

Chancel Flowers

*Janet and Steve Schroeder give flowers to honor
St. Paul's Women in Faith for all their work to support
missions in our community and worldwide.*

Worship Attendants

Rev. Jonathan Heifner, Lead Pastor

Rev. Ryan Roth-Klinck, Associate Pastor of Discipleship

Rev. Daniel Niyonzima, Associate Pastor, African Nationals

Dr. Mark Baumann, CAGO, Coordinator of Music Ministries

Michael Sauer, Director of Sanctuary Choir

Jane Smerdon, Colin Mulholland, and Laurie Worden, Liturgists

Langston Family, Scripture Readers

Terra Amundson, flute

Kelly Truax, piano

Alicia Aguiar, soloist

Laura Azelborn, Slide Presenter

Maury Anderson, Videographer

Isaac Anderson, Video Streaming

Mike Weaver, Audio

The Roundtable Team

Cynde Clymer

Carol Curry

Bill Daylong

Cindy Edge

Stan Vandersall

GATHERING

Welcome

Prelude

All Are Welcome

Charles L. Lenz

Call to Worship

Ryan: This is our final week of polling you all about the generations. This poll is important because it will help us think about ways to build bridges with other generations.

Jane: Hopefully, you received an additional paper with your bulletin with some questions we will ask you. If you need paper, please wave to an usher. As we ask these questions, we encourage you to fill it out and pass the paper forward at the end of the call to worship.

Colin: For those worshipping with us online, we encourage you to answer the questions in the comment section of our feed. Our tech team will also post the questions in the feed.

Ryan: After this series, would you be willing to meet up with someone from a different generation to grab coffee, tea, or some other drink to get to know them better?

Jane: Does the church have permission to connect you with someone from a different generation who said yes to the previous question?

Colin: Would you be interested in attending a potluck or a meal to connect with and meet other church members?

Ryan: Would you be willing to host a dinner? (This could be at your house, at a park, at the church, or even at a meet-up at a restaurant).

Jane: Would you like to go on an intergenerational mission trip?

Colin: If you have children, do you ever need someone to help watch them? If you are retired or have some extra time, would you be willing to watch a parent's children?

Ryan: What is a skill you could teach someone from another generation?

Jane: What is a fun activity you would like to do with someone from another generation?

Colin: As you finish, please send your papers to the front to Pastor Jonathan and Pastor Daniel. After you send your paper, we want you to close your eyes and remember a significant relationship with someone from a different generation.

Ryan: Maybe it was a grandparent when you were a child or a teacher in school.

Jane: Maybe a young adult taught you something new, or a younger co-worker with whom you got along well.

Colin: Maybe it was someone who took you under their wing or someone who became like an older sibling or a parent to you.

Ryan: Our stories with other generations deeply matter because these relationships affect our personal lives.

All: From generation to generation, God calls us to build a bridge by listening to each other's stories.

Jane: We aspire to be a church community where people of all ages can flourish! So, whether you are a child or an elder, young or retired, in your mid-life or somewhere in between, you are welcome here!

**All: You are embraced,
loved, and called by God.
Let's worship God together!
Amen!**

Colin: Please rise in body or spirit
as we sing our first hymn,
All Are Welcome.

+ Hymn of Praise to the Triune God

All Are Welcome

(stanzas 1-3, 5; see insert and slides)

Text: Marty Haugen

Tune: TWO OAKS

Used by permission

**Let us build a house
where love can dwell
And all can safely live,
A place where saints
and children tell
How hearts learn to forgive.
Built of hopes
and dreams and visions,
Rock of faith and vault of grace;
Here the love of Christ
shall end divisions:**

**All are welcome, all are welcome,
all are welcome in this place.**

**Let us build a house
where prophets speak,
And words are strong and true,
Where all God's children
dare to seek
To dream God's reign anew.
Here the cross
shall stand as witness
And as symbol of God's grace;
Here as one we claim
the faith of Jesus:**

**All are welcome, all are welcome,
all are welcome in this place.**

**Let us build a house
where love is found
In water, wine and wheat:
A banquet hall on holy ground,
Where peace and justice meet.
Here the love of God,
through Jesus,
Is revealed in time and space;
As we share in Christ
the feast that frees us:**

**All are welcome, all are welcome,
all are welcome in this place.**

**Let us build a house
where all are named,
Their songs and visions heard
And loved and treasured,
taught and claimed
As words within the Word.
Built of tears and cries
and laughter,
Prayers of faith
and songs of grace,
Let this house proclaim
from floor to rafter:**

**All are welcome, all are welcome,
all are welcome in this place.**

Passing of the Peace

Each week, we take time to
bless each other with peace
because we believe God
truly desires peace for all.

A blessing is a way to wish for
wholeness in someone's life,
so please ensure everyone has
peace passed to them, regardless
of their generation.

As we pass the peace to each other,
we would also like you to share
a brief story with your neighbors
to help us foster deeper
connections in our community.

If you are online, please include
your response to this prompt in
the comment section. This week,
we invite you to share about the
relationship with another generation
you thought about during
the call to worship.

May the peace of Christ
be with you!

All: And also with you!

FORMING

Life of the Community

Prayers of the Generations

God of the many generations,
we far too often forget Christ's
commandment to love our neighbors
as ourselves. We recognize we have
not always listened and sought
to understand our neighboring
generations, those who have
come before or after us.

**All: We seek to be better
neighbors, God! May we
listen and learn to love our
neighboring generations!**

Those who are our elders,
All: We affirm and bless you!

God in your mercy.
All: Hear our prayer.

The 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.
And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
and the power,
and the glory, forever.
Amen.**

Affirmation of Faith

We believe God is present in the
darkness before dawn,
**All: in the waiting and
uncertainty where fear and
courage join hands, conflict and
caring link arms, and the
sun rises over barbed wire.**

We believe in a with-us God,
**All: who sits down in our midst
to share our humanity.**

We affirm a faith that takes us
beyond the safe places...
**All: into action, into vulnerability,
and into the streets.**

We commit ourselves to be
the body of Christ together,
**All: to be a community who
seeks to listen and understand the
experiences of each generation,
so we can work for change.**

May we be willing to put
ourselves on the line,
bear responsibility, take risks,
live powerfully, and even
face humiliation;
**All: May we stand with those
on the edge, choose life, and be
used by the Spirit for God's new
community of hope. Amen.**

Hymn of Preparation

Here I am Lord

UMH 593 (stanzas 1-2)

**I, the Lord of sea and sky,
I have heard my people cry.
All who dwell in dark
and sin my hand will save.
I who made the stars of night,
I will make their darkness bright.
Who will bear my light to them?
Whom shall I send?
Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord?
I have heard you
calling in the night.
I will go, Lord, if you lead me.
I will hold your people
in my heart.**

**I, the Lord of snow and rain,
I have borne my people's pain.
I have wept for love of them.
They turn away.
I will break their hearts of stone,
give them hearts for love alone.
I will speak my word to them.
Whom shall I send?
Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord?
I have heard you
calling in the night.
I will go, Lord, if you lead me.
I will hold your people
in my heart.**

+ Scripture Lesson

1 Samuel 3:1-18

adapted from The Voice

The boy Samuel continued to serve God under the guidance of Eli. In those days, messages from God were rare, and sacred dreams or visions were given to very few. Eli, who was very old, had become almost blind. He was lying in his room; it was late at night but before dawn as the lamp of God still burned. Samuel was resting in the house of the Eternal One, where the covenant chest of the True God was located, and he heard a voice.

All: (God) **Samuel! Samuel!**

Samuel: Here I am!
I heard you calling; here I am!

Eli: I did not call you, my son.
Go back, and lie down.

So Samuel went back to bed.
But God called him again.

All: (God) **Samuel!**

Samuel: I heard you calling;
here I am!

Eli: No, I did not call you,
my son. Go back, and lie down.
I need my rest.

Jane: Samuel did not recognize the voice of God, for the word of the Eternal One had not been revealed to Samuel yet. So Samuel went back again to his bed. And God called him a third time.

All: [God (Extra Loud)] **Samuel!**

Samuel: I know you called me;
I am here!

Eli: Go back and lie down, my son.
If the voice calls you again,
I want you to say, “Speak, God.
Your servant is listening.”

So Samuel went to his bed in his place and listened. Then God came into his presence as before.

All: (God) **Samuel! Samuel!**

Samuel: Speak, God.
Your servant is listening.

Colin: God: Pay attention!

I am about to do something so amazing in Israel that it will sting the ears of everyone who hears it. The day is coming when I will carry out the vow I made to Eli about his family, every word of it. I have told him that I will punish his house forever for the sins of his sons, bringing a curse on themselves that he knew about but did nothing to stop. So I vow that the sins of the house of Eli may never be atoned for by sacrifice or by offering.

After hearing this message, Samuel lay there until morning and then opened the doors of the Eternal One's house, but he was afraid to tell Eli what God had said to him.

Eli: Samuel, my son.

Samuel: Here I am.

Eli: What was it that He told you? Tell me everything. May the True God carry out His vengeance on you and worse, if you hold anything back from me that He said to you.

So Samuel told him everything, hiding nothing.

Eli: This message is truly from the Eternal One. Let Him do what seems good to Him.

As Samuel grew, God guided him and none of His words were lost on Samuel. And all Israel, from Dan to Beersheba, learned that Samuel was a prophet of God and that his words could be trusted. From time to time, God continued to appear at Shiloh, where He had spoken to Samuel.

For the Word of God in scripture,
for the Word of God among us,
for the Word of God within us.

All: Thanks be to God. Amen!

Here I am Lord
UMH 593 (stanza 3)

**I, the Lord of wind and flame,
I will tend the poor and lame,
I will set a feast for them.
My hand will save.
Finest bread I will provide
till their hearts be satisfied.
I will give my life to them.
Whom shall I send?
Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord?
I have heard you
calling in the night.
I will go, Lord, if you lead me.
I will hold your people in my heart.**

Sermon

Act of Praise

For Everyone Born

Tom Trenney

Sanctuary Choir

For everyone born,
a place at the table,
For everyone born,
clean water and bread,
A shelter, a space,
a safe place for growing,
For everyone born, a star overhead.

And God will delight
when we are creators of justice
And joy, compassion and peace:
Yes, God will delight when we are
creators of justice,
Justice and joy!

For woman and man,
a place at the table,
Revising the roles,
deciding the share,
With wisdom and grace,
dividing the power,
A system that's fair,

And God will delight when
we are creators of justice
And joy, compassion and peace:
Yes, God will delight when we are
creators of justice,
Justice and joy!

For young and for old,
a place at the table,
A voice to be heard,
a part in the song.
The hands of a child
in hands that are wrinkled,
For young and for old,
the right to belong

And God will delight when
we are creators of justice
And joy, compassion and peace:
Yes, God will delight when
we are creators of justice,
Justice and joy!

Joy!

For everyone born,
a place at the table,
To live without fear,
and simply to be,
To work to speak out,
to witness and worship
For everyone born,
the right to be free!

**And God will delight when
we are creators of justice
And joy, compassion and peace:
Yes, God will delight when
we are creators of justice,
Justice and joy!**

Justice and joy!

Invitation

Song of Invitation

Be Present at Our Table, Lord
UMH 621

**Be present at our table, Lord;
be here and everywhere adored;
thy creatures bless,
and grant that we may feast
in paradise with thee.**

Confession and Pardon

**All: Merciful God,
We confess we have failed to
honor each generation's strengths,
experiences, and stories.
We have been quick to move
towards criticism and blame.**

**We have slandered their
competence and ability,
blamed them for
all that is wrong in the world,
called them cruel names,
and dismissed their
achievements and gifts.**

**We each have said things like,
“back when I was their age...,”
or “get with the times...”
or “they are ruining...”**

**We acknowledge how our words
and actions have wounded
the lives of others and kept us from
forming meaningful relationships.**

**May God have mercy on us,
forgive us, and liberate us
from our preconceived ideas
about other generations,
so we may be free to know the
beauty, joy, and wisdom that is
embodied in each age group.**

Trusting in God’s forgiveness,
hear this good news:

Christ died for us so we could
encounter God’s presence in every
generation that proves God’s love
toward us. In the name of Jesus
Christ, you are forgiven!

**In the name of Jesus Christ
you are forgiven.**

All: Glory to God. Amen.

The Great Thanksgiving

TFWS 2257 (b, c, d)

God is with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks
to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give
our thanks and praise.**

It is right, and a good and joyful
thing, always and everywhere to give
thanks to you, Almighty God,
creator of heaven and earth.

What do we bring to Christ's table?

All: We bring bread, made by many people's work, from an unjust world where some have plenty, and most go hungry.

At this table all are fed.

All: Thanks be to God.

What do we bring to Christ's table?

All: We bring wine made by many people's work, from a world where some have leisure and most struggle to survive.

At this table all share the cup of pain and celebration.

All: Thanks be to God.

These gifts shall be for us the body and blood of Christ.

All: Our witness against hunger, our cry against injustice, our celebration of all that is good, our hope for a world where God is fully known and every child is fed.

Thanks be to God.

And so,

with your people on earth
and all the company of heaven
we praise your name and join their
unending hymn:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord,
God of power and might,
Heaven and earth
are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest!
Hosanna in the highest!
Hosanna in the highest!
Blest is the one who
comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest!
Hosanna in the highest!
Hosanna in the highest!**

Among friends gathered round a table Jesus took bread, broke it and said, 'This is my body, it is broken for you'.

And later he took a cup of wine and said, 'This is the new relationship with God made possible through my death take this – all of you'.

And so,
in remembrance of these your
mighty acts in Jesus Christ, we offer
ourselves in praise and thanksgiving
as a holy and living sacrifice,
in union with Christ's offering for us,
as we proclaim the mystery of faith.

**Christ has died,
Christ is risen;
Christ will come again.
Hosanna in the highest!
Hosanna in the highest!
Hosanna in the highest!**

Pour out your Holy Spirit on us
gathered here, and on these gifts of
bread and juice. Make them be for us
the body and blood of Christ -
healing, forgiving,
and making us whole.

May we become the body of Christ
for the world. May we love and care
for the world until your kin-dom
comes. Holy are you, and blessed
is your Son Jesus Christ.

Through your Son Jesus Christ,
with the Holy Spirit in your Holy
Church, all honor and glory is yours,
almighty God, now and forever.

**Amen. Amen. Amen.
Hosanna in the highest!
Hosanna in the highest!
Hosanna in the highest!**

Giving the Bread and the Cup

Eat This Bread

UMH 628

*The congregation sings the refrain at the
beginning and after each solo section
at the invitation of the soloist.*

**Eat this bread, drink this cup,
come to me and never be hungry.
Eat this bread, drink this cup,
trust in me and you will not thirst.**

Prayer After Communion

SENDING

+ Sending Hymn

*O God, Your Constant
Care and Love*

(stanzas 1-3; see insert and slides)

Text: H. Glen Lanier

Tune: DUKE STREET (*Jesus Shall Reign*)

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**O God, your constant care and
love are shed upon us from above,
throughout our lives in every stage,
from infancy to later age.**

**We thank you, Lord, for dreams
of youth, for wisdom leading on
to truth, for memories gathered
through the years, and faith that
grows from joy to tears.**

**All time is yours, O Lord, to give;
may we, in all the years we live,
find every day of life is new,
a celebration, Lord, with you.**

Invitation to Gather

Blessing

Going Forth

Postlude

Toccata on DUKE STREET

David Cherwien

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welcome ALL

**We gather to worship God, whose nature is love.
And because God's love knows no bounds,
All are welcome here.**

All

ages

races

abilities

ethnicities

life circumstances

gender identities, expressions, and sexual orientations.

**We joyfully celebrate the diversity of All God's children
as we are inspired by the Holy Spirit to love as Jesus loves.**

Welcome to God's extravagant, inclusive love!

Welcome to St. Paul's!



What's Happening

at



Scan Me

Scan QR Code above to view our events calendar.

INTERGENERATIONAL
LISTEN AND LEARN
ACTIVITY



May 5 | 10:10 am | Sanctuary



May 5 | 10:15 am
Artist Talk
Art Exhibit: May & June
Upper Room Gallery

by Helen Hunter



75 Years
In the Making!
The Harmony Hawks Chorus celebrates 75 years of musical magic.


Saturday, May 11 at 3 p.m.
St. Paul's United Methodist Church
1340 3rd Ave SE, Cedar Rapids

Tickets at HarmonyHawks.org
or at the door (cash or check only)
\$15 adults, \$5 students.


For discounted group tickets or group sales call 319-541-8855.



Plant & Garden Tool Swap
Saturday, May 18, from 9:00-11:00 am
St. Paul's 14th Street parking lot



SPUMC
KIDS
(4-year-old | 5th grade)



SPUMC
YOUTH
(Youth Group | 6th-12th grade)

Midweek Faith Formation
WEDNESDAYS | 6:30 pm



YOUTH
CO-OP
Ecumenical Youth Group | 6th-12th grade

SUNDAYS
QUESTIONS? Contact Becca Nims



ONLINE

stpaulsumc.org/give



MAIL

Cash/Check/Credit/Debit
1340 3rd Avenue SE
Cedar Rapids, IA 52403



TEXT-TO-GIVE

text **SPUMCCR**
to **73256**



IN PERSON

Offering Plate



4 WAYS TO GIVE