

Parish News • January 22, 2021

Ely United Methodist Church Members/Friends,
Greetings from Pastor Craig!

I am writing this on Inauguration Day, January 20, 2021. I briefly considered not sending out *Parish News* this week at all, because there is no pressing information to pass along apart from an updated Prayer Wall. Then the import of today pressed upon me a desire to share with you my passion for unity in our nation based on our shared values.

I don't believe pastors ought to advocate for one political viewpoint or another. Our purpose, rather it seems to me, is to provide leadership consistent with Gospel values, for a congregation where members have differing political convictions.

I choose to be in middle of the road theologically and politically, not because this is where it is expedient to be as a pastor, but because after a lifetime of study I believe that both conservative and progressive viewpoints have something valuable to offer, as well as shortcomings.

I believe both perspectives are necessary in describing the most accurate view of reality, as well as providing the most helpful pathway forward. This is right in step with our Judeo-Christian tradition itself. For instance, in the first five books of the Bible, Leviticus with its conservative social vision for purity sits right alongside the radical vision of inclusive hospitality present in Deuteronomy. They are both there because both matter.

The following paragraphs are primarily excerpts from important writings in our history across 152 years with my short observations in-between.

Intro to excerpt #1: Jon Meacham describes the way

Abraham Lincoln, in his second inaugural address on March 4, 1865, following the Civil War, sought to bring unity and healing to our nation. The words of Lincoln, which I find most stirring, are: "*With malice toward none, with charity toward all.*"

"Fifteen months later, in his second inaugural, Lincoln continued his theme of calling on our better angels from four years earlier. 'With malice toward none,' he said, 'with charity for all, with firmness in the right as God gives us to see the right, let us strive on to finish the work we are in, to bind up the nation's wounds, to care for him who shall have borne the battle and for his widow and his orphan, to do all which may achieve and cherish a just and lasting peace among ourselves and with all nations.' Stirring words, but the work of peace was just that: work, an unfinished effort to reunite America, to confront the legacy of slavery, to rebuild the South, and to press on through shadow and twilight." (From "*The Soul of America: The Battle for our Better Angels*" by Jon Meacham. 2018. p. 32. Italics in the original.)

Intro to excerpt #2: We refer to ourselves as "The United States of America." This phrase goes all the way back to September 9, 1776 when the Continental Congress replaced the name "United Colonies," which we had previously used in referring to ourselves.

But what's so interesting to me is, according to historian John McPherson, it wasn't until after the Civil War ninety years later that we actually thought of ourselves as one nation. McPherson writes the following words in his introduction to Margaret Leech's Pulitzer Prize winning book "*Reveille in Washington: 1860-1865.*"

"Before 1861 many Americans looked upon their Union as a voluntary association of states that could assert their separate sovereignty whenever they wanted to. But the

Washington the sovereign capital in fact as well as name. Before the war the words 'United States' were generally understood as a plural noun: The United States are a republic. After 1865 'United States' became a singular noun. The North went to war to preserve the Union. It ended by creating a nation. In Lincoln's first inaugural address he used the word 'Union' twenty times and never said the word 'nation.' In his first message to Congress, on July 4, 1861, he referred to the Union thirty-two times and to the nation three times. But more than two years later, at Gettysburg, Lincoln did not refer to the Union at all but spoke of the nation five times as he invoked a new birth of freedom to forge a new American nationalism." (Leech. p. viii. Italics in original.)

In other words, before the Civil War we thought of ourselves as a group of states; it wasn't until after the Civil War that we came to see ourselves as a nation!

Intro to excerpt #3: So we now see ourselves as "one nation under God, indivisible." This doesn't mean we see things the same way, however, and sometimes our differences are profound. For instance, in the events leading up to World War II isolationists desperately wanted to stay neutral, remembering the cost of World War I in lives lost, money spent, and dreams deferred at home. Interventionists, on the other hand, fervently believed we had a responsibility to come to the aid of our imperiled allies in Europe, especially Great Britain.

Yet, our most visionary leaders have always called us back to working together regardless of vast differences in belief and vision.

President John Fitzgerald Kennedy spoke of this in a speech he gave the summer following the Cuban Missile Crisis, as he spoke about the need for world peace. His daughter Caroline includes these words of her father in the preface she writes to

"Let us not be blind to our differences – but let us also direct attention to our common interests and to the means by which those differences can be resolved. And if we cannot end our differences, at least we can help make the world safe for diversity. For, in the final analysis, our most common link is that we all inhabit this small planet. We all breathe the same air. We all cherish our children's future. And we are all mortal." (p.3.)

"I am convinced that the decline – if there has been a decline – has been less in the Senate than in the public's appreciation of the art of politics, of the nature and necessity for compromise and balance, and of the nature of the Senate as a legislative chamber." (p. 3.)

The next two quotes come from the text of the book, where JFK himself refers to the need for people of differing opinions being willing to compromise in our national politics.

"It is compromise that prevents each set of reformers – the wets and the dries, the one-worlders and the isolationists, the vivisectionists and the anti-vivisectionists – from crushing the group on the extreme opposite end of the political spectrum. The fanatics and the extremists and even those conscientiously devoted to hard and fast principles are always disappointed at the failure of their Government to rush to implement all of their principles and to denounce those of their opponents. But the legislator has some responsibility to conciliate those opposing forces within his state and party and to represent them in the larger clash of interests on the national level; and he alone knows that there are few if any issues where all the truth and all the right and all the angels are on one side." (p. 5.)

"Some of my colleagues who are criticized today for lack of forthright principles – or who are looked upon with scornful

eyes as compromising ‘politicians’ – are simply engaged in the fine art of conciliating, balancing, and interpreting the forces and factions of public opinion, an art essential to keeping our nation united and enabling our Government to function. Their consciences may direct them from time to time to take a more rigid stand for principle – but their intellects tell them that a fair and poor bill is better than no bill at all, and that only through the give-and-take of compromise will any bill receive the successive approval of the Senate, the House, the President and the nation.” (p. 5.)

I’m writing these last sentences Thursday, the day after the Inauguration. My mood is hopeful, yet subdued. I believe President Biden has a vision for a way forward. Yet there are ever so many challenges, both in the issues we face and the competing solutions that different constituencies offer.

I will be watching for leaders in the executive and legislative branches, in Washington and Minnesota, who choose to listen carefully to all perspectives, and then thoughtfully move forward with concrete proposals to address concerns in all areas of our society. I then trust that these proposals will be debated without rancor in legislative chambers, with earnest efforts by all involved to find the best compromises possible.

I hope and pray the rest of January is blessed and safe for you. Next week’s *Parish News* will more closely resemble editions of past weeks and months.

We’ll “see you” on Sunday during our Facebook Live worship service!

The Lord bless you and keep you,
Pastor Craig

The Ely United Methodist Church

Prayer Wall

January 22, 2021

This is a guide for prayer this week. The *Prayer Wall* is a reminder of those needing prayers during devotional times. Thank you for dedicating some of your personal prayer time to lift up these requests.

Mark 11: 24

Zeke Urbas with clear scans!



“Therefore I tell you, whatever you ask for in prayer, believe that you have received it, and it will be yours.”



We lift up the following in prayer...

- **Zeke Urbas** – Zeke Urbas’s follow-up scans came out all clear. Praise God!
- **Diane Richards family & friends** – Pam Turnbull’s friend, Diane, passed away from COVID-19
- **Chris McDermott family & friends** – Carol Linneman’s step-sister passed away from COVID-19
- **Rich Siegert** – An Anna Urbas mentor had a severe heart attack & will receive stents when stabilized
- **Bob Niskula’s family & friends** – Bob, Jer’s brother, passed away unexpectedly. Prayers of comfort
- **Bonnie Berglund** – Fell on the ice bruising her hip and elbow, no broken bones, but pray for healing
- **Dan LaTourell** – Pam Turnbull requested prayers for her cousin Dan LaTourell
- **Tom Ferrell family & friends** – Tom passed away last Saturday, January 9th, friend of Pam Turnbull
- **Ken Wright** – Ken, a former Tomlinson neighbor, fell down stairs & had emergency spinal surgery but remains paralyzed and is in poor spirits. Doctors are not sure if he will recover motor control.
- **Ted Schreffler** – Tricia’s father-in-law and Jim’s dad is not doing well. Pray for healing and comfort
- **Madison** – Angie Olson’s cousin’s 16 year old daughter was diagnosed with thyroid cancer. Prayer for healing treatments
- **Norbert Cronin** – Norbert, Linda Hane’s friend, had a stroke Dec 7 and is in rehab and his wife, who has health issues herself, visits regularly to discuss treatments. His brother passed away last week
- **Lynn Lockhart** – Lynn, a friend of Sheila Shultz, had an accident & is having numerous health issues
- **Barbara Lassila’s family and friends** – In the passing of Pat Olson’s sister, Barbara
- **Linda Fryer** – Linda fell and fractured her cervical spine requiring same day surgery in Duluth Dec 13
- **Mike and Gail Haney** – Mike is having consultations in Duluth for brain and lung cancer treatments
- **Emma Smrekar** – Carolyn Fendt’s great granddaughter is getting chemo treatment for stomach cancer
- **Linda Williams** – Is having health issues & is recovering in the BWCC. Please keep her in your prayers.
- **Those who have contracted the COVID-19 Virus and Family Members**
- **All essential health care workers exposed to the COVID-19 virus**

We include all the United Methodist Churches and Pastors, both active and retired, in our MN UMC Annual Conference as we work in extraordinary ways to keep our congregations and communities free from infection by the COVID-19 virus.

Prayer requests are compiled from our church prayer chain, from our Sunday morning church congregation using the prayer request forms located in the pew welcome pads, and the North Star District Prayer List. Prayer requests will remain on the Prayer Wall through four weeks unless removed earlier because the prayer is known to be no longer necessary. People may ask that prayers be renewed on the list for subsequent 4-week periods. The Prayer Wall is finalized each Thursday for the Sunday morning service.

Ely United Methodist Church
Sunday, January 24, 2021
10:00 a.m.

Welcome Pastor Craig
Prelude Susan Germek

Opening Hymn #577 God of Grace and God of Glory Verses 1,2,4
Opening Prayer

Children's Time

Old Testament Reading Jonah 3:1-10 Pastor Craig
Gospel Reading Mark 1:14-20 Pastor Craig

Hymn #398 Jesus Calls Us, O'er the Tumult All Five Verses

Sermon Pastor Craig

Prayer Wall
Pastoral Prayer
The Lord's Prayer

Offertory
Doxology

Closing Song #348 Softly and Tenderly Jesus is Calling Verses 1,2,4
Ring of the Bell

Benediction
Postlude

Leading worship: Pastor Craig Haberman
Accompanist: Susan Germek
Song Leader: Bev Johnson

577 God of Grace and God of Glory

1. God of grace and God of glo - ry, on thy peo - ple
 2. Lo! the hosts of e - vil round us scorn thy Christ, as -
 3. Cure thy chil - dren's war - ring mad - ness, bend our pride to
 4. Save us from weak res - ig - na - tion to the e - vils

pour thy power; crown thine an - cient church - 's sto - ry;
 sail his ways! Fears and doubts too long have bound us;
 thy con - trol; shame our wan - ton, self - ish glad - ness,
 we de - plore; let the search for thy sal - va - tion

bring her bud to glo - rious flower. Grant us wis - dom,
 free our hearts to work and praise. Grant us wis - dom,
 rich in things and poor in soul. Grant us wis - dom,
 be our glo - ry ev - er - more. Grant us wis - dom,

grant us cour - age, for the fac - ing of this
 grant us cour - age, for the liv - ing of these
 grant us cour - age, lest we miss thy king - dom's
 grant us cour - age, serv - ing thee whom we a -

hour, (of this hour) for the fac - ing of this hour.
 days, (of these days) for the liv - ing of these days.
 goal, (king - dom's goal) lest we miss thy king - dom's goal.
 dore, (we a - dore) serv - ing thee whom we a - dore.

Jesus Calls Us

398



1. Je - sus calls us o'er the tu - mult of our
2. As of old the a - pos - tles heard it by the
3. Je - sus calls us from the wor - ship of the
4. In our joys and in our sor - rows, days of
5. Je - sus calls us! By thy mer - cies, Sav - ior,



life's wild, rest - less sea; day by day his
 Gal - i - le - an lake, turned from home and
 vain world's gold - en store, from each i - dol
 toil and hours of ease, still he calls, in
 may we hear thy call, give our hearts to



sweet voice sound - eth, say - ing, "Chris - tian, fol - low me!"
 toil and kin - dred, leav - ing all for Je - sus' sake.
 that would keep us, say - ing, "Chris - tian, love me more!"
 cares and plea - sures, "Chris - tian, love me more than these!"
 thine o - be - dience, serve and love thee best of all.

348 Softly and Tenderly Jesus Is Calling

1. Soft - ly and ten - der - ly Je - sus is call - ing,
 2. Why should we tar - ry when Je - sus is plead - ing,
 3. Time is now fleet - ing, the mo - ments are pass - ing,
 4. O for the won - der - ful love he has prom - ised,

call - ing for you and for me; see, on the por - tals he's
 plead - ing for you and for me? Why should we lin - ger and
 pass - ing from you and from me; shad - ows are gath - er - ing,
 prom - ised for you and for me! Though we have sinned, he has

wait - ing and watch - ing, watch - ing for you and for me.
 heed not his mer - cies, mer - cies for you and for me?
 death - beds are com - ing, com - ing for you and for me.
 mer - cy and par - don, par - don for you and for me.

Refrain
 Come home, come home; you who are
 Come home, come home; come home;

WORDS: Will L. Thompson, 1880
 MUSIC: Will L. Thompson, 1880

THOMPSON
 11 7.11 7 with Refrain

wea - ry, come home; ear - nest - ly, ten - der - ly,
 Je - sus is call - ing, call - ing, O sin - ner, come home!

Turn Your Eyes upon Jesus 349

Turn your eyes up - on Je - sus, look full in his
 won - der - ful face, and the things of earth will grow
 won - der - ful face,
 strange - ly dim in the light of his glo - ry and grace.

WORDS: Helen H. Lemmel, 1922
 MUSIC: Helen H. Lemmel, 1922
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LEMMEL
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