

PRAYER SONG

UMH 487

This is our prayer. This is our prayer, O God!

THE LORD'S PRAYER

**INVITATION/PRESENTATION OF OUR TITHES AND
OFFERINGS**

***DOXOLOGY**

UMH 95

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION Unison**

With all the gifts of creation, you have blessed us, gracious God. We give thanks for all your works. Gratitude is our first impulse for giving. Accept our grateful hearts, along with our gifts. We ask for wisdom as our church determines priorities for the use of resources. May we be as concerned about outreach and mission as we are about programs for ourselves. As you are faithful to us, O God, may we be faithful in all things, seeking always to live by your gracious will. We pray in Jesus' name. Amen!

We Go Forth to Love God and Serve One Another

***CLOSING HYMN** *Marching to Zion* **UMH 733 (vs. 1 & 2)**

***BENEDICTION** **Pastor Jenny Lee**

***POSTLUDE** **Toni Koons (G)/Sharon Asp (A & SCF)**

 **Upper St. Croix Parish
United Methodist Church**

The 2023 Parish Ministry Theme:
“Fill My House” (Luke 14:23)

6th Sunday After Pentecost



**Grantsburg-Central,
Since 1897**



Atlas, Since 1887



**St. Croix Falls,
Since 1859**

SUNDAY SERVICES:

**9:00 AM at Grantsburg with Online Zoom Service
(9:15 AM, Sunday School)**

10:00 AM at Atlas (Sunday School-Summer break)

11:15 AM at St. Croix Falls with Online Zoom Service

CONTACT INFORMATION

Pastor Jenny Lee: jennlee1732@gmail.com

Youth Director Shayna Schmid: snsnyder@gmail.com

Parish Secretary Colleen Norenberg: centralumc2016@gmail.com

Parish Office: 715-463- 2624 **St. Croix Falls Office:** 715-483-9494

www.upperstcroixparish.org

<https://www.facebook.com/UpperStCroixParishUMC>

Upper St. Croix Parish
Grantsburg: Central, Atlas, St. Croix Falls
6th Sunday After Pentecost
July 9th, 2023

*Please stand if you are able.

***PRELUDE** Toni Koons (G)/Sharon Asp (A & SCF)

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PASSING OF THE GREETINGS

Peace be with you!

(Waive your hands at one another)

We Celebrate New Life in Christ

***CALL TO WORSHIP** Responsive

Come with joy and gladness to praise and honor God.

Come to the refreshing waters that God provides.

God is gracious and merciful and full of compassion.

All creation joins us in giving thanks.

Give ear, all people, to the law of God.

Give thanks for all the guidance God gives us.

God upholds all who are falling.

God raises us up when we are bowed down.

Come, all who are weary and carrying heavy burdens.

Come, for Christ has promised rest.

The gentle spirit of Christ invites us.

We have come to find rest for our souls. Amen.

***DEDICATING HYMN** *Only Trust Him* UMH 337 (vs. 1 & 2)

OPENING PRAYER Unison

We come together, gracious God, because we have heard your invitation. We sense that you alone know the burdens we carry. You understand our weariness. Sometimes our journey seems long and without respite. We long for the refreshment you provide as we come to worship you. The anticipation of this hour of rest and nourishment fills us with renewed joy and gladness. We thank you, God, that your revelation comes to us, not because we are worthy, but because we are open to your word. Open our hearts to receive all you offer. Amen!

CHILDREN'S TIME (G)

UMH 191 (vs.1)

Proclamation of God's Word

***THE GOSPEL LESSON**

Matthew 11:16-19; 25-30

16 "But to what will I compare this generation? It is like children sitting in the marketplaces and calling to one another,

17 'We played the flute for you, and you did not dance; we wailed, and you did not mourn.'

18 "For John came neither eating nor drinking, and they say, 'He has a demon'; 19 the Son of Man came eating and drinking, and they say, 'Look, a glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners!' Yet wisdom is vindicated by her deeds."

25 At that time Jesus said, "I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and the intelligent and have revealed them to infants; 26 yes, Father, for such was your gracious will. 27 All things have been handed over to me by my Father, and no one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son chooses to reveal him.

28 "Come to me, all you who are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. 29 Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. 30 For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light."

This is the word of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God.

SERMON

"Let's Walk Together!"

Pastor Jenny Lee

We Respond to God's Word

RESPONDING PRAYER Unison

Holy God, in whose serve we find joyous delight, may we learn from Christ to share one another's burdens, to let others care for us in our time of need and extend to them our help and comfort in their distress, that we might be united across time and space in the community of mutual caring where you reign. Amen.

SHARING OUR JOYS AND CONCERNS

After each prayer request:

Pastor: Lord, in your mercy,

All: Hear our Prayer.

JULY CHURCH MISSIONS

ATLAS

Mission committee chair: Peggy Frederickson

INK JET RECYCLING PROGRAM:

Atlas collects and recycles ink jet cartridges and cell phones year-round.



LOAVES & FISHES NEEDS OUR ONGOING SUPPORT

Requested items: Bread, eggs, milk, cheese, fresh vegetables (carrots, potatoes), fresh fruit (apples, oranges), canned meat, dish soap, lotion, toothpaste, toothbrushes, paper towels. They appreciate any and all donations.

We appreciate your ongoing support!

1. We will focus on financial support of our church to help expand our ministry.
2. Donate items for the thrift sale (8/5)

GRANTSBURG

Mission committee chair: Deb Hammer

BE A "BACK-PACK BACKER"!

REMEMBER
... Every
Sunday Is MAC
'N CHEESE SUNDAY!
Supporting the Salvation
Army's "Happy Kids Back-
Pack Program"



CUMC's mission for July is to help support Atlas United Methodist Church financially and through donations to their Thrift & Bake Sale and scheduled for August 5th. Donations can be dropped off at Central for delivery to Atlas prior to the sale. Thank you for your continued support of the Upper St. Croix Parish.

ST. CROIX FALLS

Mission committee chair: Kate Murtaugh



Food Shelf
(Communion Sunday)



Sailor Hat Offering:

The Sailor Hat offering will go to support Harbor House

Thank you for your support!

TODAY'S SERVICE VOLUNTEERS

Ministers

All God's People
Pastor Jenny Lee

Central:

Pianist
Liturgist
Acolyte(s)
Mowing
Fellowship
Counter
Cleaning
Sunday School

Toni Koons
Toni Koons
Willow Nyland
Dave Huff
Kayleen Branstad
Dave Huff
Charlie Glonek and Sandra Erickson
Barb Loomis

Atlas:

Pianist
Liturgist
Usher
Acolyte(s)
Cleaning
Sunday School

Sharon Asp
Sue Olson
Colleen Adams-Schween
Volunteer Needed
Volunteer Needed
Younger/Older
Summer Break-VBS: Aug. 7th-10th

St. Croix Falls:

Pianist
Liturgist
Usher(s)
Money Counter
Bell Ringer
Flowers
Fellowship

Sharon Asp
Kathy Gionis
Jim Andrews
Peter Gionis
Jim Sciacca
Ladies of the Church
Ad Council Members



Break through Prayers: Please pray for those who are moving and transitioning in their lives.

PLEASE NOTE:

- 1) **Online Zoom Services are scheduled for this Sunday at 9:00 and 11:15 am.** The link will be posted on our parish website and Facebook page. Click the LINK to Join Zoom Meeting <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84147808460?pwd=SDZleFNubmEvaDBlcytTRzVxMFIIZz09>
Phone: +1 312 626 6799, Meeting ID: 841 4780 8460, Passcode: 568271
- 2) Our Sunday Sermons are on the website at upperstcroixparish.org under Sermons!
- 3) You may watch a recorded video of the service on our parish Facebook page. <https://www.facebook.com/UpperStCroixParishUMC>
- 4) We will also send you a weekly bulletin and written sermon through post mail and email. If you have any questions regarding the mailing weekly materials, please contact our parish secretary, Colleen Norenberg.

This Week's Calendar:

Today: 6th Sunday after Pentecost; God bless you all!

Sunday Worship Services:

7/9: 6th Sunday after Pentecost

9:00 am Grantsburg (9:15 am, Sunday School)
10:00 am Atlas (No Sunday School)
11:15 am St. Croix Falls

7/9: 12:15 pm Ad Council Meeting (SCF)

7/11-7/14: Pastor Jenny attends the Association of North Central Jurisdiction Retreat in Colorado Springs, CO

7/12: 1:30 pm UMW Meeting-Birthday Party (questions to Mary McNally)

7/14: 5:30-8:00 pm Youth Family Game Night (G-C)

7/15: 2:00 -7:00 pm Joseph Murtaugh's Graduation Party

PLEASE NOTE: WHEN WRITING A CHECK PLEASE MAKE IT PAYABLE TO YOUR INDIVIDUAL CHURCH. WHEN THE OFFERING IS MAILED IN WE ARE THEN ABLE CREDIT THE APPROPRIATE CHURCH. THANK YOU!

VBS is from August 7th - August 10th

First Registration Deadline: by July 14th (All Kids will get a shirt)

Second Registration Deadline: by July 28 (Kids may not get shirts)

We need your help as volunteers. A sign-up sheet is available.

Find a spot and be a part of Vacation Bible School.

Questions: Contact Shayna Schmid (Youth Director)

Next Sunday (July 16th) Volunteers:

Central:

Pianist Toni Koons
Liturgist *Volunteer Needed*
Acolyte(s) Willow Nyland
Mowing *Volunteer Needed*
Fellowship Julie & Bob Branstad
Counter *Volunteer Needed*
Cleaning Charlie Glonek and Sandra Erickson
Sunday School Barb Loomis

Atlas:

Pianist Sharon Asp
Liturgist Sue Olson
Usher Colleen Adams-Schween
Acolyte(s) *Volunteer Needed*
Cleaning *Volunteer Needed*
Sunday School Younger/Older
Summer Break-VBS: Aug. 7th-10th

St. Croix Falls:

Pianist Sharon Asp
Liturgist Kathy Gionis
Usher(s) Jim Andrews
Money Counter Peter Gionis
Bell Ringer Jim Sciacca
Flowers Ladies of the Church
Fellowship Ad Council Members



THIS WEEK'S BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

Jamie Steffen 7/12

Walden Erickson 7/14

Brodie Kunze 7/15





“Let’s Walk Together!”

I want to start with something funny I found on an internet site: Mrs. Smith was fumbling in her purse for her offering when a large television remote fell out and clattered into the aisle. The curious usher bent over to retrieve it for her and whispered, “Do you always carry your TV remote to church?” “No,” she replied, “but my husband refused to come with me this morning, and I figured this was the most evil thing I could do to him legally.”

Is this story familiar to you? It is very familiar to me because my mom used to hide the TV remote from my dad so that he might come to church. As my mom expected, my dad, who was intoxicated, used to come to church to ask my mom where she had put the TV remote. My siblings were ashamed when my dad came to church drunk, but my mom thought it was the only way my dad would attend church. My mom faithfully prayed and expected that my dad would someday come to church and become a faithful Christian, and he finally did. What would you do if you have loved one who would not attend church?

Last Sunday, I talked about how we are all different. The differences include our faith, understanding, perspective, and knowledge backgrounds. Even though we learn the same things simultaneously, our growing faith also differs. We know that in a society, there are the weak and the strong, the rich and the poor, the wise and the silly. Let’s think about who the weak or the strong, the rich or the poor are, and who the wise or the silly are. However, don’t judge them because nobody always stands the same way. Let’s walk together whether we are weak or strong, rich or poor, wise or silly.

Today’s scripture gives us parable imagery about this generation: “But to what will I compare this generation? It is like children sitting in the marketplaces and calling to one another, ‘We played the flute for you, and you did not dance; we wailed, and you did not mourn.’” It is a parable about having no compassion and no empathetic or sympathetic mind for another. How much do you care about social or global burdens? We have sympathetic minds when we hear about global disasters, poverty, social violence, injustice, or even looking at our weak neighbors. However, we have to behave with empathetic deeds. In other words, we not only think of them as ‘they are poor,’ or ‘how can this be?’ but also, we should practice helping others out by our acts. “Her deeds vindicate wisdom!” Even though we have wisdom, we don’t apply it in our daily life; it is nothing; even though we have faith, if we don’t practice our faith daily, it is dead faith (James 2:17).

Today, I want to talk about “walking together” to act in faith. Jesus invites us, “Come to me, all you weary and carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me.” Do you know what a yoke is? How many of you have seen one? According to the dictionary, a yoke is “a wooden crosspiece that is fastened over the necks of two animals and attached to the plow or cart that they are to pull.” A pair of oxen usually carries the yoke. Therefore, if two oxen are under the same yoke, they cannot move independently. If one of them does not work sincerely, the other will feel a heavy burden. However, in contrast, if one is sincere in their work, the other feels an easier load.

In Israelite's tradition, when people choose one pair of oxen for the yoke, they choose one that is weaker; the other is stronger. When they make the oxen carry burdens, they give the stronger one the heavy burden and give the weaker one a smaller, lighter burden. The reason they do it this way, which is unequal, is that it makes the stronger ox work sincerely. Interestingly, if one makes the stronger work alone, the stronger would not work or carry burdens because they feel it's too difficult to carry them alone. Therefore, even though the weaker does not work as hard, or just carries smaller burdens walking beside the stronger ox, the stronger ox works hard and carries the heavy burdens easily.

Our Lord invites us to take the yoke together in today's scripture. We have burdens such as taking care of family, handling our life, working hard every day, health concerns, and so on. As I mentioned, there are the strong and the weak, the rich and poor, the wise and the silly in any society, even in our family and with our neighbors. People sometimes are weak physically, spiritually, or emotionally. Therefore, we should walk with family, friends, and loved ones who may be in need. If someone comes to your mind at this moment, God invites you to walk with them. If you have weaker companions, that, perhaps, is God's invitation to walk with them.

Jesus Christ, our Lord, who knows our weakness, would work for us as does the stronger oxen, because our Lord is "gentle and humble in heart." If we learn "gentle and humble" from the Lord, we will find rest for our souls. To be under the yoke of Jesus, we should be gentle and humble. "Gentleness" is one of the fruits of the Holy Spirit. The truly meek person is one whose life has been empowered by the Holy Spirit, which comes from faith that the Words of God have energized. The word gentle has been used for wild horses, which we trained to behave in a certain acceptable manner. Gentleness and meekness are not put downs but instead, they are tough, free, and confident characteristics to have. Gentleness is a very desirable and compassionate inner mind. If you walk with the weak, you are gentle in the fruit of the Holy Spirit. Nobody ignores you when you walk with the weak because the Holy Spirit empowers you.

We know some of the gentle and humble figures in the bible. In Number, "the man Moses was very humble, more so than anyone else on the face of the earth" (Number 12:3). Moses' leadership was challenged by his siblings, Aaron and Miriam because he married a Cushite woman. However, Moses was not angry with them. How could Moses get this kind of recognition by being gentle and meek? He could be gentle and humble for God because he has walked with God in the wilderness for 40 years. As you know, Moses killed a person in Egypt because he could not control his anger by himself, and he escaped from Egypt. He met God in the burning bush when he became a shepherd in the Midian wilderness. After that, he walked with God throughout the wilderness. Moses was gentle and humble toward God only by the grace of God.

Let us walk with our Lord, Jesus Christ. Jesus promised to carry our burdens so that we could rest. Jesus carried our heavy burdens out already through the cross. We just need to walk beside Jesus as a pair of oxen walk together. Also, look at our neighbors who appear weaker than us and walk with them. Walking along with the weak is walking with the Lord. Jesus said, "If you give a cup of cold water to the little one, you never lose your reward" (Matthew 10:42). Thanks be to God! Amen!