

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION Unison**

Thank you, God, for your faithfulness. We bring ourselves and some of what we have accumulated to praise you and do the work you call us to do. Fulfill your purpose for this church as you enlist our offerings and our lives. In amazement at the work of your hands, we reach out our hands to help others and invite them to join us. In our labors for you, we will not lose heart. Help us to do your will. Amen!

We Go Forth to Love God and Serve One Another

***CLOSING HYMN** *How Great Thou Art* UMH 77 (vs. 1 & 2)

***BENEDICTION** **Rev. Debora Lind (G)**
Responsive (A & SCF)

God's grace has been poured out on us.
We are invited to share it with more and more people.
We seek to live so God's grace is evident.
We will consult with God in our decision-making.
God into the world to serve, to the glory of God.
May your thanksgiving increase day by day.
Our praise will not cease when we leave this place.
All the world is God's temple, a place to give thanks.
We are brothers and sisters of Jesus Christ.
The holy Spirit has come among us and abides with us.
We have good news to share, so we will do it!
May our thanksgiving proclaim God's glory! Amen!

***POSTLUDE** **Toni Koons (G, A & SCF)**



Upper St. Croix Parish United Methodist Church

The 2024 Parish Ministry Theme:
"Let's Replant it" (Galatians 6:7-10)

3rd 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 (No Sunday School-Summer break)
11:15 AM at St. Croix Falls

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
June 9th, 2024
3rd Sunday After Pentecost

*Please stand if you are able.

***PRELUDE** Toni Koons (G, 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
This is the day that the Lord has Made!
Let us rejoice and be glad in it!
This is a day of new beginnings!
This is a time for growing into new disciples for Jesus.
Come, let us prepare ourselves for worship.
Let us be prepared for service to God. Amen.

***DEDICATING HYMN** *This is the Day* UMH 657

OPENING PRAYER Unison
Lord, we come this day, having seen the miracles of everyday creation in our world. We have enjoyed both the bright sunshine and the gentle rains. We have marveled over the beauty of flowers and the complexity of your creation. Make our hearts ready to joyfully serve you all of our days. Amen!

CHILDREN’S TIME (G) UMH 191 (vs. 1)

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (G) Unison
Patient Lord, you know how we are. We let the frustrations and worries of our lives overcome us. Our hearts seem to buckle under the weight of anger and confusion. And we turn away from you, sure that you can do nothing to alleviate our strife. How foolish we are! How faithless we are! Please forgive us. Help us to learn that you are actively involved in our lives, not as a “puppet master” but as a creative co-worker, seeking healing and hope not only for each of us,

but for the whole world. Make us into disciples of peace and compassion; for we ask this in Jesus’ name. Amen!

WORDS OF ASSURANCE (G) Rev. Debora Lind
Let go of your fears and doubts. God pours God’s love on you, in you and through you to others. Be at Peace. Amen!

Proclamation of God’s Word

THE NEW TESTAMENT LESSON (G) 2 Corinthians 4:13-5:1
(See Insert)

***THE GOSPEL LESSON (G, A, & SCF)** Mark 3:20-35 (See Insert)

This is the word of God for the people of God.
Thanks be to God. Amen!

SERMON *“Pieces or Peace?”* Rev. Debora Lind (G)
“Jesus Calls” Mrs. Kathy Gionis (A & SCF)

We Respond to God’s Word

RESPONDING PRAYER Unison
Gracious and loving God, who in Jesus Christ has called each one of us to recognize that we are all sisters and brothers and members of your family, unite us today as a community of faith, listening to your word and finding in it our greatest hope and highest joy. May we hear the words of your mouth and give thanks for your steadfast love and faithfulness. Amen!

SHARING OUR JOYS AND CONCERNS
After each prayer request:
Pastor: Lord, in your mercy,
All: Hear our Prayer.

PRAYER SONG UMH 487
This is our prayer. This is our prayer, O God!

PASTORAL PRAYER Rev. Debora Lind (G)
THE LORD’S PRAYER
INVITATION/PRESENTATION OF OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS
***DOXOLOGY** UMH 95

Proclamation of God's Word

THE NEW TESTAMENT LESSON (G) 2 Corinthians 4:13-5:1

13 But just as we have the same spirit of faith that is in accordance with scripture—"I believed, and so I spoke"—we also believe, and therefore we also speak, 14 because we know that the one who raised Jesus will also raise us with Jesus and will present us with you in his presence. 15 Indeed, everything is for your sake, so that grace, when it has extended to more and more people, may increase thanksgiving, to the glory of God. 16 So we do not lose heart. Even though our outer nature is wasting away, our inner nature is being renewed day by day. 17 For our slight, momentary affliction is producing for us an eternal weight of glory beyond all measure, 18 because we look not at what can be seen but at what cannot be seen, for what can be seen is temporary, but what cannot be seen is eternal.

5 For we know that, if the earthly tent we live in is destroyed, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens.

***THE GOSPEL LESSON (G, A, & SCF) Mark 3:20-35**

20 Then he went home, and the crowd came together again, so that they could not even eat. 21 When his family heard it, they went out to restrain him, for people were saying, "He has gone out of his mind." 22 And the scribes who came down from Jerusalem said, "He has Beelzebul, and by the ruler of the demons he casts out demons." 23 And he called them to him and spoke to them in parables, "How can Satan cast out Satan? 24 If a kingdom is divided against itself, that kingdom cannot stand. 25 And if a house is divided against itself, that house will not be able to stand. 26 And if Satan has risen up against himself and is divided, he cannot stand, but his end has come. 27 But no one can enter a strong man's house and plunder his property without first tying up the strong man; then indeed the house can be plundered.

28 "Truly I tell you, people will be forgiven for their sins and whatever blasphemies they utter, 29 but whoever blasphemes against the Holy Spirit can never have forgiveness but is guilty of an eternal sin"— 30 for they had said, "He has an unclean spirit."

31 Then his mother and his brothers came, and standing outside they sent to him and called him. 32 A crowd was sitting around him, and they said to him, "Your mother and your brothers are outside asking for you." 33 And he replied, "Who are my mother and my brothers?" 34 And looking at those who sat around him, he said, "Here are my mother and my brothers! 35 Whoever does the will of God is my brother and sister and mother."

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

Thanks be to God. Amen!

JUNE CHURCH MISSIONS



ATLAS

Mission committee chair: Ashleigh Olson

<p>INK JET RECYCLING PROGRAM:</p> <p>Atlas collects and recycles ink jet cartridges and cell phones year-round.</p> 	<p>LOAVES & FISHES NEEDS OUR ONGOING SUPPORT</p> <p>Requested items:</p> <p>cooking oil (smaller and larger), mayonnaise, sugar 4# size, bar soap, dish and laundry soap. Personal products for men and women.</p>	<p>HELP CLEAN THE CHURCH</p> <p>June 22nd we will be cleaning the Atlas Church starting at 9:00 am. Many hands make light work so please join us and help in any way you can!</p> <p>HELP YOUR NEIGHBORS</p> <p>In addition, we want to continue the spirit of helping other by helping our neighbors as part of our June mission! You can help in any way you can think of! Here are a few ideas, but the sky's the limit!</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Help with Yardwork • Run an Errand • Drop off a Treat or a Meal • Help with Childcare
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GRANTSBURG

Mission committee chair: Deb Hammer

<p>BE A "BACK-PACK BACKER"!</p> <p>REMEMBER ... Every Sunday Is MAC 'N CHEESE SUNDAY! Supporting the Salvation Army's "Happy Kids Back-Pack Program"</p> 	<p>JUNE MISSION-FAITH HOUSE</p> <p>Again this month will be collecting financial donations, which will go to support Faith House, which is the Salvation Army's homeless shelter in Siren, WI. We appreciate your ongoing support of our monthly mission work.</p> 
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ST. CROIX FALLS

Mission committee chair: Kate Murtaugh

 <p>Food Shelf (Communion Sunday)</p>	 <p>Sailor Hat Offering: The Sailor Hat offering will go to support Harbor House!</p>
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Thank you for your support!

TODAY'S SERVICE VOLUNTEERS

Ministers All God's People
Rev. Jenny Lee
Rev. Debora Lind



VOLUNTEERS

Central -Grantsburg

Pianist	Toni Koons
Preaching	Rev. Deborah Lind
Liturgist	Volunteer Needed
Acolyte(s)	Willow Nyland and John Ambeling
Fellowship	Sharon Huff
Counter	Volunteer Needed
Cleaning	Sandra Erickson
Mowing	Dave Huff
Sunday School	Jenni Stedman

Atlas

Pianist	Toni Koons
Preaching	Kathy Gionis
Liturgist	Colleen Adams-Schween
Usher	Cheryl Olson
Cleaning	Volunteer Needed
Sunday School	Summer Break

St. Croix Falls

Pianist	Toni Koons
Preaching	Kathy Gionis
Liturgist	Jim Andrews
Usher(s)	Karen Sciacca
Money Counter	Peter Gionis
Bell Ringer	Jim Sciacca
Communion	Jim and Karen Sciacca
Flowers	Kathy Gionis



Breakthrough Prayers:

Please pray for those who are in need, the sick, those who have lost loved ones, and for God's peace and justice for all over the world!

PLEASE NOTE:

- 1) **An Online Zoom Service is scheduled for this Sunday only at 9:00 am.**
- 2) 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=SDZleFNubmEvaDBlcytTRzVxMFllZz09>
Phone: +1 312 626 6799,
Meeting ID: 841 4780 8460, Passcode: 568271
- 3) Our Sunday Sermons are on the website at upperstcroixparish.org under Sermons!
- 4) This Sunday's video may be uploaded next week!
<https://www.facebook.com/UpperStCroixParishUMC>
- 5) 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:

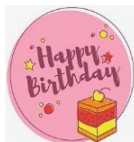
Today: 3rd Sunday After Pentecost.
God Bless you all!

Worship Service Schedule

- 6/9: 9:00 am Grantsburg with Zoom (9:15 am, Sunday School)
10:00 am Atlas (No Sunday School-Summer Break)
11:15 am St. Croix Falls
- 6/7-7/10: Wisconsin Annual Conference of the UMC at Green Bay: Pastor Jenny Lee, Barbara Loomis, and Sue Olson will attend. Pastor Jenny will be back to office on Fri.
- 6/12: 1:00 pm UMW Meeting-hanging out for lunch (G)-Contact Mary McNally
- 6/13: 4:30-5:30 pm Guitar Lessons
6:30-8:00 pm Senior Youth Gathering (G)
- 6/14: 5:30-8:00 pm Family Game Night (Dinner served)
- 6/14-6/15: Lay Servant Basic Course via Zoom
- 6/15: 2:00-5:00 pm Taryn's Graduation Party

This Week's Birthdays & Anniversaries

Rod Dahl 6/9, Cindy Michaels 6/12, Deb Hammer 6/15



Next Sunday (June 16th):

VOLUNTEERS:

Central -Grantsburg

Pianist	Toni Koons
Liturgist	<i>Volunteer Needed</i>
Acolyte(s)	Willow Nyland and John Ambeling
Fellowship	Kayleen Branstad
Counter	<i>Volunteer Needed</i>
Cleaning	Sandra Erickson
Mowing	<i>Volunteer Needed</i>
Sunday School	Jenni Stedman

Atlas

Pianist	Sharon Asp
Liturgist	Sue Olson
Usher	Colleen Adams-Schween
Cleaning	<i>Volunteer Needed</i>
Sunday School	Summer Break

St. Croix Falls

Pianist	Sharon Asp
Liturgist	Jim Andrews
Usher(s)	Karen Sciacca
Money Counter	Peter Gionis
Bell Ringer	Jim Sciacca
Communion	Jim and Karen Sciacca
Flowers	Kathy Gionis

Upcoming Events & News-Mark Your Calendar

- 6/16 **Father's Day, Ad Council Meeting (SCF), C.C. Center Worship**
- 6/22 **Atlas Church Cleaning Day-** All Atlas members are expected to join in and help.
- 6/27 **Future Development Strategy Meeting (SCF):** SCF has a meeting to plan a future development ministry. All SCF members are invited.
- 8/4-8/8 **2024 VBS (except 8/6)** (We received a grant of \$1,000) Donations and volunteer signup sheets are posted. We can make VBS happen together!



Jesus Calls

From 1931 to 1935, my Grandfather, Cecil Roy Gaylord, was pastor at the St. Croix Falls Methodist church as well as Wolf Creek and Eureka Methodist churches. Grandpa was a saver and he had boxes of photos, momentos and his newspaper writings that he collected and saved over the years. My dad and then my uncle continued to store these papers and records for many years until one of grandpa's talented descendants, my cousin, Vicki Gaylord, took the time to organize and archive this valuable history and share with cousins by Google drive. Not quite 100 years ago, Grandpa wrote a "Weekly Spiritual Message" for the Standard Press in St. Croix Falls. I came across one that was written on June 6, 1935, almost exactly 89 years ago, and I estimate that Grandpa was probably about 40 years old. By the content of the message, at first I thought it was a poignant Christmas message. But rather it was written on June 6, 1935. I think it is quite beautiful and grandpa gives credit to the various other authors he is quoting:

[See Insert Quoting from the Article]

["Three years he preached his gospel....."]

Jesus' ministry was short but powerful, and part of his powerful preaching came from the use of parables. Some parables seem fairly straight forward in their message, but the message they convey is deep and central to the teachings of Jesus. Many parables refer to simple everyday things such as the baking of bread (the parable of the Leaven), a man knocking on his neighbor's door (the parable of the Friend at Night) and a roadside mugging (the parable of the Good Samaritan). Even so, these parables deal with major religious themes such as the meaning of love, the importance of prayer and the growth of the Kingdom of God.

In the scripture reading for today, it starts out with "Then he went home and the crowd came together again...". Immediately prior to this, at the beginning of the Chapter 3 of Mark, Jesus had healed the withered hand of a man at the synagogue. The Pharisees were watching Jesus to see if he would heal a man on the Sabbath. This angered Jesus, and he healed the man, and the Pharisees left to conspire with the Herodians as to how they could destroy Jesus.

Then Jesus left with his disciples for the sea, and a “great multitude” from Galilee followed him and Jesus sent his disciples ahead to get a boat ready for him so that he could escape the crowd.

The next scene is of Jesus going up into the mountain with the 12 men that he would appoint to be with him as his disciples and would be sent out to preach and cast out demons.

The following scene is where today’s scripture reading starts with Jesus going home and the crowd coming together again. The scribes were in the crowd and accused Jesus of being the devil, calling Jesus “Beelzebul” and accusing him of casting out demons by the power of the ruler of the demon. He called the people together and started to speak in parables, asking, “How can Satan cast out Satan?” He asks how a divided kingdom can stand, or a divided house can stand, then comparing Satan rising up against himself and being divided.

The next part is the part of the parable that to me was confusing. “But no one can enter a strong man’s house and plunder his property without first tying up the strong man; then indeed, the house can be plundered.” It doesn’t exactly sound like the Golden Rule, but after doing some research, it appears that one common interpretation of this part of the parable is that the “strong man” represents Satan and the attacker represents Jesus. Satan has control over the earth (the house), but Jesus defeats Satan with his earthly ministry (tying Satan up). Jesus thus says that he could not perform exorcisms (represented by stealing the strong man’s possessions) unless he was opposed to- and had defeated- Satan (represented by tying up the strong man).

Some scholars see the parable echoing the Book of Isaiah:

“Can plunder be taken from warriors, or captives rescued from the fierce?”

“But this is what the LORD says: “Yes, captives will be taken from the warriors, and plunder retrieved from the fierce; I will contend with those who contend with you, and your children I will save.” Isaiah 49:24-25.

For me, Isaiah helps make sense of the parable. With God and Jesus on our side, evil can be defeated.

Opinions vary regarding Jesus’ use of parables. Jesus explained to his disciples, “To you it has been given to know the secrets of the kingdom of God; but to others I speak in parables, so that ‘looking they may not perceive, and listening they may

not understand.”” Luke 8:9-19. Others regard the parables as stories that believers would understand and unbelievers would not understand. Another opinion is that Jesus used familiar examples to lead men’s minds towards heavenly concepts.

Two other parables following closely in Chapter 4 of the book of Mark are The Parable of the Sower and the Lamp under a Bushel. Jesus explained to the disciples that the seed represents the Gospel, the sower represents anyone who proclaims it, and the various soils represent people’s responses to it. The Lamp under a Bushel parable is another example that the Light is to be revealed, not concealed, and the Light refers to Jesus or his message, or the believers response to that message.

So, as you read parables, you may need to dig a little deeper and look for the meanings in the parable regarding the meaning of love, the importance of prayer and the growth of the kingdom of God. The “Weekly Spiritual Message” that we read at the beginning, ends with this call: “Still walks a lonely Peasant by a lakeside and calls to his disciples, “Follow me.”

THURSDAY, JUNE 6, 1935.

Our Weekly Spiritual Messages

CHRIST INCOMPARABLE

By C. R. Gaylord, Pastor, M. E. Church

"From the best joy that earth imparts, we turn unfilled to Thee again."

Jesus Christ was born in the meanest of circumstances, but the air above was filled with the hallelujahs of the heavenly host. His lodging was a cattle pen, but a star drew distinguished visitants from afar to do Him homage. . . He had no cornfields or fisheries, but He could spread a table for 5,000 and have bread and fish to spare. He walked on no beautiful carpets, but He walked on the waters and they supported Him. . . . When He died. . . all nature honored Him; sinners alone rejected Him. . . Three years He preached His gospel. He wrote no book, built no church, had no money back of Him. After 1,900 years, He is the one central theme of all preaching, the pivot around which the events of the ages revolve—Keith L. Brooks.

Dr. Huff said: Jesus made the hills of Galilee His pulpit. He made the wild flowers along the wayside talk of God. He preached to people by the acre. The disciples wrote some of the things He uttered, but John said the world could not hold all that He said.

Dr. Charles M. Sheldon wrote: If we want to know about God and Heaven and the best way to live we go

to that Person who understood as no man ever did, the eternal facts of life. Jesus did not say, "This is the way and the truth and the life." He said, "I am the Way and the Truth and the Life."

Talmage, an outstanding Christian minister, of some time ago, said this: "My theology—I tell you all of my theology in one sentence: Jesus Christ—take Him, and live; refuse Him, and die."

The poet, Francis Ridley Havergal, sang:

Reality, reality,
Lord Jesus Christ, thou art to me!
My glorious King, my Lord, my God,
Life is too short for half the laud,
For half the debt of praise I owe,
For this blest knowledge that "I know
The reality of Jesus Christ,"
Unmeasured blessing, gift unpriced!
Will I not praise Thee when I see
In the long noon of eternity
Unveiled thy "bright reality"?

World-weary? "When I am weary of the world, of toil and of pleasure, I can always turn to Jesus, for in Him I find optimism without frivolity and seriousness without despair."—M. Sabatier.

Ah, yes.

"From the best joy that earth imparts, we turn unfilled to Thee again."

And, dear reader—THE CALL:

Still walks a lonely Peasant by a lakeside and calls to His disciples, "Follow Me."

June 9th, 2024, (G) “Dealing with Divisions and Decisions”

Rev. Deb Lind

Mark 3: 20-35

Jesus appointed the 12 to be sent out as apostles to do HOLY WORK..

Mark 3: 20 Pressing crowds surround Jesus, pressuring him to cure diseases and cast out demons. Which he does but there is no relieve, no escape.

His disciples see how they are pursuing and crushing the miracle worker. Jesus is treated like a healing stone ...people are touching him and falling before him.

Finally he escapes the clamor by going up the mountain. Jesus knows he needs help to meet the needs of many. So he appoints 12 no longer students or disciples. Rather they are now called apostles because they have the duty to “go out” in Christ’s name. This SHOULD take the load off Jesus’ but at the moment, it is debatable. Jesus seeks peace and relieve in his home.

However, his family couldn’t eat in peace. Critics shout out that Jesus has broken the law and is in league with Satan, Beelzaba. His rebuttal could have been the question “Is Curing people and casting out demons a crime?” Instead, Jesus retorts, You say I am posses by evil, Satan. How can I cast out Satan when you say I am Satan.. (Im using the word we know)

How can you accuse me of being evil when I am doing good, healing the sick mind, body and soul.

It’s a ridiculous scene. Even some of Jesus family claims he is mental deranged.

There is division and derision in the crowds, community and his family. However, his disciples and other loyal followers stand close and reasonable quiet.

And, then new family system is defined. Kinship is not about bloodlines, according to Jesus.

Family is bigger and broader in some respects. Those who love God and follows my teaching form a new kinship. A love God, neighbor and self -greatest commandment Family. “Whoever does the will of God is my family”. Brothers and sisters , parent , child. You who believe and follow are in the family of God.

One Mother’s Day , I was talking to someone who said her grown children don’t talk to her but they never talk to each other either. A tear or two was shed and they she said, Im glad I have my church family.

Many know the reality of broken relationships, it hurts. Hopefully, we provide comfort and understanding in our faith communities.

2 Corinthians 4:18

Because we look not at what can be seen for what can be seen is temporary, but what can't be seen is eternal.

5:1 for we know that if the earthly tent we live in is destroyed, we have a building from God, not made with hands eternal in the Heavens. ...

5:7 We walk by Faith

Psalm 130 Lament.

Psalm 138 Thankful praise for steadfast love and faithfulness

v. 7 Though I walk in the midst of trouble, you preserve me. You stretch out your hand and deliver me. God will fulfill his purpose for me. Your steadfast love endures forever.

Working Preacher podcast from June 2.

Gospel "Jesus- this isn't working for me....assign 12 disciples to be more engaged in the ministry. Apostle sent out. Ministers not just students!"

Jesus is also "Calling people out!" Countering criticism.

Reality of 2024

Tensions are heating up with elections, family division

"You Lost Me" Book- What is your opinion of the church

You lost me today doesn't mean You lost me forever....don't right me off.

Don't write people off ...

My aunt Elaine's words, "Keep the door open" For the child, teen or adult relative who has gone away angry about a disagreement.

Don't fall into the "I'll never talk to him/her again". Division..because of religious differences, or political choices...differences of opinion.

Jesus' family was struggling with his new role, preaching and healing

People were lining up to be healed, to hear his sermons...

The fervor increased, lame, blind, bleeding people reached out grasping his robe.

Demonic and humans...

Reminder that the people who seemed to support Jesus, could turn on him.

Genesis 3- God who is with us even when we sin, fail to obey God's simple laws.

Reality that human beings are aware of their sin and try to hide from God's view..God's critical gaze

PSALM 130

Out of the depths, I call to you...deep despair, hurt, disobedience –separation from God.

Hope and anticipation- guilty as we are, God is with us.

Samuel- Last week Samuel was called by God as a very young boy. He answers, I am listening. He tried his best to listen to God's call and follow God's direction.

Later Samuel became a King. Step by Step Samuel walked away from God's law and leading.

Be careful what you wish for...

God's forbearance.

Faithfulness – highlight the little person who continues to walk God's way of peace. (me)

Unjust ...breaking up families, churches, communities.

2 Corinthians 4: 13-5:1

Corinth was a place of division, destruction, death...

The Apostle Paul is suffering, physically and emotionally. He is separated from his home, his people. Imprisoned. Paul claims the peace within, the spirit of Christ or God who comes along side Paul, even when he faces death.

"Nothing will separate me...