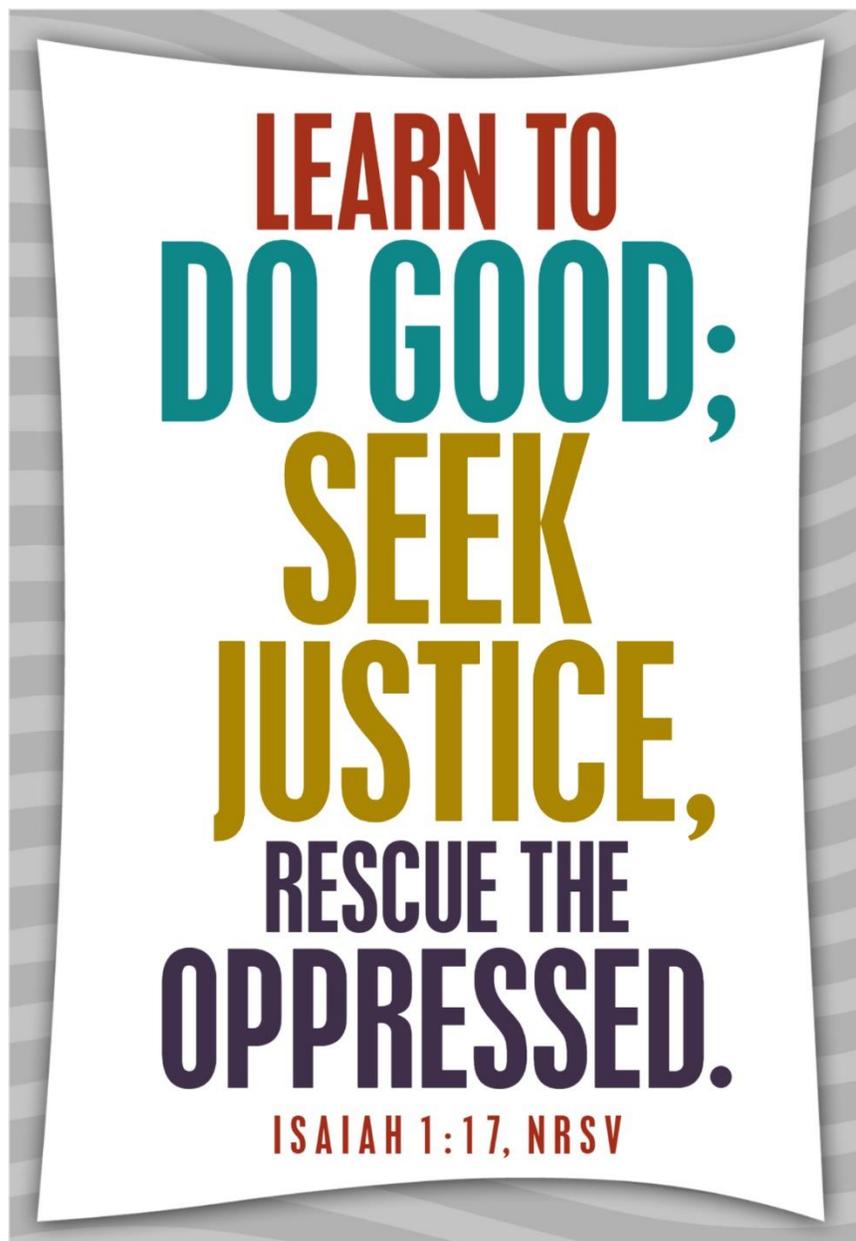


Welcome to
St. Paul's United Church of Christ
An Open and Affirming Congregation of the United Church of Christ
August 7th, 2022



GOD IS STILL SPEAKING



*NO MATTER WHO YOU ARE, OR WHERE YOU ARE ON LIFE'S
JOURNEY YOU ARE WELCOME HERE!*

Worship Leadership

Preacher: The Rev. John J. Ward-Diorio
Pastor Allyssa A. Boyer
Lector: Shirley Knox

Ministry of Music

Minister of Music: Eric R. Dundore
Choristers' Director: Jonneke A. Dundore
Assistant Music Director: Mark A. Dundore
Organist: Sarah A. Myers
Assistant Organist: Patrice G. Miller

Ministry of Audio and Video

Jeffrey A. Dundore

Ministry of Service

Worship Welcome Team Leader: Ernie Moyer
Worship Welcome Team: Wendy Hayden, Sherry Spencer, Steven Roush, Chris Grice, Paula Boyer
Nursery: Kim Pirtle, Jonneke Dundore
Flower Delivery: Joanne Miller

Pastor Emeritus

The Rev. Dr. Thomas E. Herrold

Ministers

The Entire Congregation

Please visit the church website at <https://saintpaulsucc-mech.org/> to sign up for Acolyte, Welcome Team, Lector, Volunteer in the Nursery, Deliver the Altar Flowers, and/or Sponsor the Altar Flowers. You will find the individual signup sheets under the "Sign Up" menu heading. Thank you.



St. Paul's Online Giving

ST. PAUL'S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

**626 Williams Grove Road
Mechanicsburg, PA 17055
717/766-7931**

**Website: www.saintpaulsucc-mech.org
Office email: stpaulstaff@outlook.com
John's email: revjohnwd@outlook.com
Allyssa's email: allyssaboyer@outlook.com**

ST. PAUL'S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
SERVICE OF WORSHIP

NINTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

August 7th, 2022

Please note: the livestream broadcast begins with the Announcements.

If you do not wish to appear in the livestream, it is best to sit in one of the back three pews of the Sanctuary.

Please write up any Prayer Requests ahead of time, leave them in the Red Bowl or give them to the Welcome Team Leader. They will bring them forward.

****Those who are comfortable doing so are invited to stand.***

THE RINGING OF THE CHIMES

THE WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE ORGAN PRELUDE "Holy Is the Lord"

Franz Schubert

Please note: we will be singing with our masks in place.

*THE HYMN No. 407 "How Firm a Foundation" (vs. 1, 2 & 5)

*PRAYER OF INVOCATION (unison)

Most Holy God, You know our hearts and spirits. May we not just go through the motions of worshipping You, but rather, through deeper and deeper connections with You, be led to fulfill Your calls for us to pursue justice and care for all in need. Amen.

CALL TO CONFESSION

There is a great danger that we might confuse acts intended to acknowledge our devotion to God and what God actually wants us to do to demonstrate such commitment. God's hope is our sacrifices and acts of devotion will benefit others and the whole of creation. That is not always the case. Let us join in the time of Silent Prayers of Confession.

SILENT PRAYERS OF CONFESSION

WORDS OF ASSURANCE (Responsive):

Minister: God forgives us and continues to make clear what God desires is our acting on God's behalf to better the lives of all people and the whole of creation.

ALL: Let us recognize more clearly how our rituals are intended to draw us closer to God, and participation in them, is not the fulfillment of our calls from God. Amen.

Please note: we will not be shaking hands or hugging.

If you are able, please rise and greet one another with other signs of Peace.

*THE PASSING OF THE PEACE

*THE GLORIA PATRI (#759 is the tune, but not all the same words)

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.

Children are invited to the front at this time. They may sit on the chancel steps, they may sit in the front pews, or they may remain seated with their families. Remember, everyone who comes forward will be on camera.

SING THE CHILDREN TO THE FRONT

Jesus Loves the Little Children

Jesus loves the little children, all the children of the world

Shy and Joyful, Bold and Bright

They are precious in his sight

Jesus loves the little children of the world.

THE WORD FOR THE YOUNG

SING THE CHILDREN TO THEIR SEATS

Jesus Loves Me

Jesus loves me, this I know, for the Bible tells me so

Little ones to him belong. They are weak but He is strong.

Yes, Jesus loves me. Yes, Jesus loves me

Yes, Jesus loves me. The Bible tells me so

THE GOSPEL READING

Luke 12:32-40

THE PSALM READING

Psalm 50:1-11, 22-23

THE RESPONSE:

One: God is Still Speaking.

All: Thanks be to God!

THE HEBREW SCRIPTURE READING & MESSAGE:

Isaiah 1:1, 10-20

“What Really Pleases God?”

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

THE CHORAL RESPONSE (unison)

O Christ, by whom we come to God, the Life, the Truth, the Way, The
path of prayer you too have trod: Christ teach us how to pray.

Please note: you can leave your offerings in the plate in the Narthex on your way in or on your way out after Service. You may also place your pew pad sheets in that Offering Plate. Thank you.

THE SPECIAL MUSIC “Peace Like a River” Spiritual, arr. Raney
Men’s Quintet – Mark Dundore, Craig Martek, Art Williams,
Jim Pirtle and Brian Medkeff-Rose

*DOXOLOGY

*THE PRAYER OF DEDICATION (Unison)

With joy and gladness we dedicate our treasure and our hearts to celebrate Your reign within us and in the community of Your faithful people. Reshape us in Your image and use us, we pray, to extend Your love to all we meet, and to siblings we will never know. Amen.

*THE HYMN “O For a Closer Bond with God”
(to the tune of no. 42, “O For a Thousand Tongues”)

*O for a closer bond with God, a calm and heavenly frame,
A light to shine upon the road that leads us to the Lamb!*

*Where is the blessedness we knew when first our hearts were stirred?
Where is the soul-refreshing view of Jesus Christ, the Word?*

*The dearest idols we have known, as we our ways pursue;
Help us to tear them from your throne, and worship only you.*

*So shall our bond be close with God, calm and serene our frame;
So purer light shall mark the road that leads us to the Lamb!*

THE SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION

THE INVITATION:

One: God Be with You.

Many: And Also With You.

One: Lift Up Your Hearts.

Many: We Lift Them Up to God.

One: Let Us Give Thanks to God.

Many: It Is Good to Give God Thanks and Praise.

PASTORAL PRAYER AND 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 debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

DISTRIBUTION OF THE ELEMENTS:

Today we gather both in person and in Spirit.

For those of you present in the Sanctuary, our ushers will be passing out the bread and gluten-free crackers and the wine and white grape juice. They will bring the trays to you. Unless you are sitting with a family unit, please do not pass the trays down but rather give them back to the usher.

For those of you joining us via livestream, we hope you have some bread and wine or juice of your choice before you. We trust that God is powerful enough to extend God's Blessings upon these Communion Elements, even as we and they are scattered in geographic space.

Please hold the elements until all have been served. We will eat and drink them together.

All are welcome to participate. Thank you.

THE PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING (Unison):

Holy God, we give You thanks for the miracle and wonder of this meal. We give You thanks for Your coming to us in the person of Jesus and for Jesus' willingness to offer his whole self for our benefit. We can see how we can best live our lives. We can believe all "deaths", those losses, endings and struggles in this life, and the ones at the end of our physical lives, are not the final word. We can trust that Your Spirit is within all of us, and always will be. May the gifts of this table always remind us of the gifts You have given us all. Amen.

*HYMN “Be Kind to One Another” (to the tune of no. 245, “The Day of Resurrection”)
Be kind to one another, be tender-hearted too — forgiving one another, as Christ has pardoned you.

Refrain from any gossip, for gossip is a sin. Be open to new friendships, and welcome people in.

Be kind in all your speaking and hear what others say. Be open to Christ's teaching, and in all matters, pray.

Be gentle, loving, faithful and keep a humble mind. Remember what is truthful. In everything be kind.

Be kind within your circle, but look past what you see; Be kind to those in trouble — the poor, the refugee.

The world is filled with violence; write letters, call out sin! Don't ever sit in silence and let the evil win.

O God of love, you've taught us. You've shown us what to do: Be just, commit to kindness, walk humbly here with you.

Your Spirit gives us courage to truly live this way. May love become our message; may kindness win the day.

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*THE BIDDING TO MISSION

*THE WORLD PEACE PRAYER

One: Lead us, O God.

All: Lead us from death to life, from falsehood to truth.

Lead us from despair to hope, from fear to trust.

Lead us from hate to love, from war to peace.

Let peace fill our hearts, our world, our universe. Amen.

*THE BENEDICTION

* THE THREE-FOLD AMEN

Please note: the livestream continues until the end of the Postlude.

Please know you are free to leave following the Three-fold Amen and exit to the Narthex to speak with one another. You may be visible and audible on the livestream as you exit early. If you choose to remain, please stay seated and listen quietly to the Postlude.

THE ORGAN POSTLUDE “My Heart Ever Faithful”

J.S. Bach

References:

The Prayer of Dedication is from “Refreshing Rains of the Living Word” by Lavon Bayler, 1988, United Church Press.

The World Peace Prayer is a paraphrase of a verse from the Upanishads, the most ancient scriptures of Hinduism, also prayed daily by Roman Catholic Benedictine nuns.

ALTAR FLOWERS

The Altar flowers are given to the Glory of God by
Nancy Richey, "In memory of Nancy's brother, Marc Cooley."
Jonneke Dundore, "In memory of Albert van Olden."
Anna Thompson, "In memory of Rena Smith."

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

INTERESTED IN JOINING ST. PAUL'S?

Two informational gatherings will be held after the worships service today, and August 21st. These sessions will not last more than an hour and will serve as a chance to ask questions, receive some written materials, and get a greater sense of what membership is like. You are under no obligation to join by attending these meetings. If you cannot make either meeting, but are interested in membership, please contact Rev. John.

UNLEASH YOUR INNER PICASSO!

Earlier, we announced an opportunity to create rainbow-themed artwork to adorn our church's Welcome Lounge. We'd LOVE to have you join us for a fun time of fellowship and creativity!
Wednesday, August 10 from 6-8 p.m. - this is scheduled as an Adult and Supervised children night

Wednesday, August 17 from 6-8 p.m. - this is scheduled as a "reunion" of children who participated in Vacation Bible School and they will work on one collective piece of art; however, if you painted the previous week and didn't finish your artwork, would like to do another painting, or would like to be involved in the collective piece of art, please join us.

What We Will Do: On both nights, Pastor Allyssa, Kathy Williams, and Mel Shaver-Durham will be on hand to supply you with paints, paint brushes, canvases, and other materials. PLEASE WEAR OLD CLOTHES that you don't mind getting paint on. We have selected various rainbow-themed art ideas for you to choose from, and Pastor Allyssa will be able to give you guidance on how to paint the designs. Once the paintings are completed and dry, we will mount them in the Welcome Lounge in a cool gallery wall layout that Mel has designed.

Light snacks and beverages will be provided. Let Kathy Williams (kjlwms@gmail.com or 717-979-9255) know if you have any questions and also which day(s) we can expect you.

#407 – How Firm a Foundation (verses 1,2 +5)

How firm a foundation for you has been laid, by God in the Word, in the sacrifice paid!
What more can God say than to you has been said, to you, who for refuge to Jesus have fled?

"Fear not, I am with you, oh, be not dismayed, for I am your God, and will still give you aid;
I'll strengthen you, help you, and cause you to stand upheld by my gracious, omnipotent hand."

"The soul that on Jesus has leaned for repose I will not, I will not desert to its foes;
That soul, though all hell should endeavor to shake, I'll never, no never, no never forsake!"