

# Welcome to St. Paul's United Church of Christ

*An Open and Affirming Congregation of the United Church of Christ*

August 28<sup>th</sup>, 2022

For all who  
**exalt themselves**  
will be humbled,

Luke 14:11, NRSV

and those who  
**humble themselves**  
will be exalted.

**GOD IS STILL SPEAKING**

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

### **Worship Leadership**

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

### **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: Joan Moyer, Fenton Fox  
Nursery: Shirley Knox  
Flower Delivery: Dale Thorpe and Don Dupes

### **Pastor Emeritus**

The Rev. Dr. Thomas E. Herrold

### **Ministers**

The Entire Congregation

*Please visit the church website at <http://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](http://www.saintpaulsucc-mech.org)  
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John's email: [revjohnwd@outlook.com](mailto:revjohnwd@outlook.com)  
Allyssa's email: [allyssaboyer@outlook.com](mailto:allyssaboyer@outlook.com)**

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

TWELFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

August 28, 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 "I Will Lift Up My Eyes"

Gary Davidson

CALL TO WORSHIP (Responsive)

One: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**All: And also with you.**

One: Let us raise our voices in praise to God.

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

\*THE HYMN No. 86 "When Morning Gilds the Skies"

\*PRAYER OF INVOCATION

**Gracious God, our helper, we seek the assurance of Your presence in this time of worship. We have come to listen and to receive Your counsel. Melt our stubborn hearts to remove the barriers that keep us from seeing Your glory and doing Your will. Challenge all that is obstructive in our lives, that we may become worthy imitators of Jesus Christ, in whose name we pray. Amen.**

CALL TO CONFESSION

When we are not in daily communion with God, false gods rush in to claim our loyalty. We chase after things that may profit us in the short term but are not beneficial to the Beloved Community. We become cracked cisterns that can hold no water. Only God can fill our emptiness. Let us join in the time of silent prayers of confession.

SILENT PRAYERS OF CONFESSION

WORDS OF ASSURANCE (Responsive):

Minister: God hears the confession of our hearts. Our past is accepted; our sins, forgiven.  
**ALL: Now we may let it go, and live in the freedom God hands to us, new each day.  
Thanks be to God!**

*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.*

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

BLESSING OF THE BACKPACKS

One: God of fresh starts and new beginnings,

**All: We bring ourselves, our big feelings, and our backpacks to you.**

One: In our backpacks, we carry blank pages, sharpened pencils, and pointy crayons, and in our hearts, we carry big feelings, unanswered questions, and hopeful expectations. There are endless possibilities of what this new year might bring — of what we might learn, who we might meet, and who we might become.

**All: God, our friend, be with us through it all.**

One: Be with us as we ride the bus, be with us as we walk, be with us as we buckle seat belts, zip-up jackets, and tie shoes.

**All: However we get there, and whatever we wear, bless this journey into something new.**

One: For the grown-ups going back to school, With-Us God, be with them too. Thank you for our teachers, helpers, caregivers, and leaders, and for all they do to help us learn and grow.

**All: God, our friend, fill their hearts and bless their hands. Amen.**

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 HYMN “God of All Learning”

(to the tune of “Morning Has Broken”)

*God of all learning, God of all knowing,  
We bring these backpacks filled with supplies.  
Bless all these tools of learning and growing.  
Use them, we pray, to change many lives.*

*Bless all the students, young ones and old ones —  
Walking or riding, traveling by bus.  
May they remember that you go with them,  
And that they all are precious to us.*

*Some kids are poor and some kids are wealthy;  
May we give all the tools that they need.  
May we make sure they're safe, loved and healthy  
So that they all may thrive and succeed.*

*Bless all who learn and bless those who guide them,  
Bless those who teach and counsel and care.  
May they remember you walk beside them.  
Through all their school days, you, Lord, are there.*

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THE HEBREW SCRIPTURE READING

Jeremiah 2:4-13

THE READING OF THE PSALM

Psalms 81:1, 10-16

THE RESPONSE:

One: God is Still Speaking.

All: **Thanks be to God!**

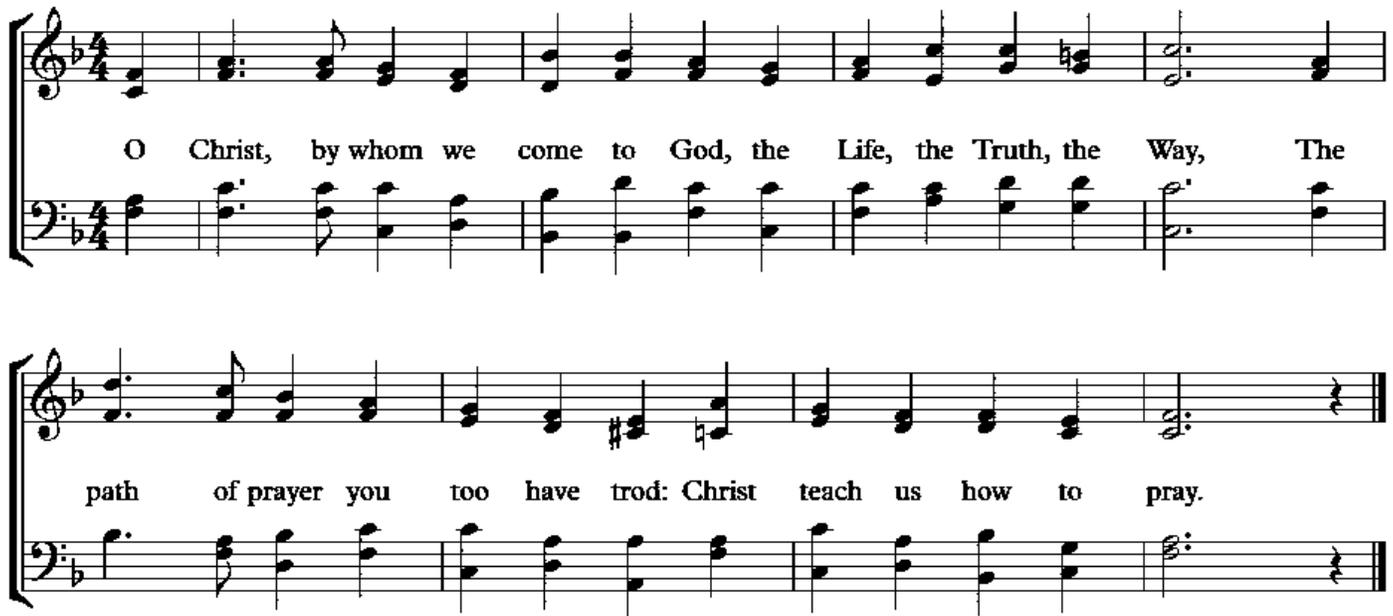
THE GOSPEL READING & MESSAGE:

Luke 14:1, 7-14

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE 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.**

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 HYMN “When You Show Up at a Dinner”

(to the tune of no. 459, “Come, O Fount of Every Blessing”)

*When you show up at a dinner thinking you have quite the name,  
do not take the place of honor, for you might be put to shame.  
For the host may greet you, saying, "Someone else is sitting here!  
There's the place you will be eating — at the table, in the rear."*

*When you show up at a dinner, here's the thing that you should do:  
Find the low seat and be humble, then the host may say to you,  
"Friend, move up! Your place is higher!" You'll be honored, all around!  
For the meek will be made greater and the great will be cast down.*

*And when you're the one inviting, here's the guest list, to be sure:  
Don't invite your friends and siblings, but instead, invite the poor.  
Welcome in the sick and struggling who can never once repay.  
Your reward will be in heaven come the Resurrection Day.*

*Jesus, may we hear your teaching, for your goal was not to shame  
but to help us catch the vision of the blessings of God's reign.  
There will be a great reversal and we all will be surprised!  
Make us kind and meek and humble! Change our ways, Lord! Change our lives!*

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**\*DOXOLOGY**

*From all who dwell beneath the skies,  
Let the Creator's praise arise!  
Let the Redeemer's name be sung.  
Through every land, by every tongue! Amen.*

**\*THE PRAYER OF DEDICATION (Unison)**

**In joyous thanksgiving for the banquet of life, we invite those who live in poverty to share our wealth. We give up some of what we have for the sake of brothers, sisters, and siblings who lack food, shelter, or medical care. We reach out to help, expecting no reward but the satisfaction of sharing what You have so richly entrusted to us. We dedicate our time and abilities along with these fruits of our labor. Amen.**

**\*THE HYMN "God, You Give Each Generation"**

(to the tune of no. 4, "Joyful, Joyful, We Adore You")

*God, you give each generation words of wisdom, truth to tell.  
And your call to every nation is to teach our children well.  
For each child is in your image, moving toward maturity.  
Through your word, we hear your message: Teach your children! Guide and lead!*

*Christ, you taught us love of neighbor when you welcomed people in;  
And you told us: Children matter! To neglect them is a sin.  
May the children who are yearning to be all that they can be  
find in every school the caring of the whole community.*

*Spirit, give to us a vision of a world that's just and fair.  
May our courage, strength, and wisdom reach to children everywhere.  
May enriching education touch the lives of rich and poor;  
may we build a strong foundation, then watch all your children soar.*

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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 “Sing Aloud to God, Our Strength”

Robert J. Hughes

References:

The Prayer of Invocation, Call to Confession, Words of Assurance, and Prayer of Dedication are adapted from “Gathered by Love” by Lavon Bayler, 1994, United Church Press.

The Blessing of the Backpacks is from “Back to School Worship Liturgy,” Illustrated Ministry, 2022. 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  
Anna Thompson, “In honor of Sonya and Lance, Sabrina and Chris, Scott and Mary.”

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 11<sup>TH</sup>. 2022**

**RALLY DAY, SUNDAY SCHOOL BEGINS, CHURCH PICNIC**

### **BACK TO [SUNDAY] SCHOOL!**

We are excited to begin another great year of faith formation in Sunday school! At St. Paul’s, we believe education involves our hearts, minds, and spirits; we are all both students and teachers; we are unafraid to ask questions; and we know that learning is a life-long endeavor. Classes meet from 9:15-10:15 every Sunday morning, beginning with our kick-off to Sunday school on September 11<sup>th</sup>, Rally Day, in Fellowship Hall. We hope you will join us as we seek to learn and grow together!

### **RALLY DAY**

Help us kick-off an exciting new year of learning on Rally Day! We’ll begin our celebration with a fun, multigenerational activity for all (kids, youth, and adults), beginning in Fellowship Hall on September 11<sup>th</sup>. The fun will continue after worship with the annual Rally Day picnic. You don’t want to miss it!

### **DON’T MISS OUT ON THE FUN!!!!**

St. Paul’s annual all church picnic will be held on Sunday September 11, following the 10:30 worship service. Hot dogs, fixin’s, place settings and water will be provided. Bring a side dish to share and enjoy some fun activities and each other’s company. If possible, please sign up on our website or the signup sheet in the Common. There is no rain date, so pray for a lovely day! Questions? Contact Jonneke Dundore at 717-460-8303 or [jonnekev@aol.com](mailto:jonnekev@aol.com) or Wendi Taylor at [Wendi.taylor@verizon.net](mailto:Wendi.taylor@verizon.net).

## #86 - When Morning Gilds the Skies

When morning gilds the sky, our hearts awaking cry:  
May Jesus Christ be praised!  
Alike at work and prayer, one purpose I declare:  
May Jesus Christ be praised!

New strength comes night or day when from the heart we say::  
May Jesus Christ be praised!  
Let sin and evil fear, when this sweet chant they hear:  
May Jesus Christ be praised!

Discordant human kind, in this your concord find:  
May Jesus Christ be praised!  
Let all the earth around ring joyous with the sound:  
May Jesus Christ be praised!

Be this, while life is mine, my canticle divine:  
May Jesus Christ be praised!  
Be this the eternal song through all the ages long:  
May Jesus Christ be praised!