

Welcome to St. Paul's United Church of Christ

An Open and Affirming Congregation of the United Church of Christ

September 4, 2022

"Whoever does not carry the
cross and follow me cannot be
my disciple."

LUKE 14:27



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 Keith 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: Paula Boyer

Worship Welcome Team: Chris Grice, Jim Pirtle, Steven Roush, Craig Martek, Wendy Hayden

Nursery:

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

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Mechanicsburg, PA 17055

717/766-7931

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Office email: stpaulstaff@outlook.com

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

THIRTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

September 4, 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 "Arioso"

J.S. Bach

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

*THE HYMN No. 42 "O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing"

*PRAYER OF INVOCATION (unison)

Like a skilled potter, O God, you have shaped each one of us as a unique design. You know us better than we know ourselves. You value us more highly than we can imagine. You weep when we are marred or broken, through our own misdeeds, or the world's cruelty. We gather now to worship You, and to join in prayer for one another and all the world. Hear us, gracious God. Amen.

CALL TO CONFESSION

God has drawn the church into covenant, calling us to be a faithful people who walk in the ways of Christ. Yet how often do we explore what that means or examine our behavior against the example of Jesus? A time of confession gives us the opportunity to reclaim and grow in our relationship with God. Let us join in silent prayers of confession.

SILENT PRAYERS OF CONFESSION

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

God does not cast us off or forsake us but is with us in our suffering and adversity. Surely there is shelter for us in the midst of our troubles, and forgiveness when we have gone our own way. Praise God, who has blessed and forgiven us.

*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 HEBREW SCRIPTURE READING

Jeremiah 18:1-11

THE READING OF THE PSALM

Psalms 139:1-6, 13-18

THE RESPONSE:

One: God is Still Speaking.

All: Thanks be to God!

THE GOSPEL READING & MESSAGE:

Luke 14:25-33

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

THE CHORAL RESPONSE

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 “How Can I Keep from Singing” Ellie Weaver, soloist

Lowry

*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)

Loving God, there is no way we can settle accounts with you. We have no way to repay you for all we have received from your hands. Yet we want to give our best to the work you call us to do through this community of seekers. We enter, with renewed commitment, the costly venture of spreading love through your word. Amen.

*THE HYMN No. 204 “‘Take Up Your Cross,’ the Savior Said”

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 & 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.

*THE HYMN “O God Our Creator, You Work Every Day”
(to the tune of No. 1, “Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise”

*O God our Creator, you work every day:
A potter, you form us — your people — like clay.
A shepherd, you guide us and seek out the lost.
A parent, you love us, not counting the cost.*

*Christ Jesus, how rough were your hard-working hands!
You labored among us; our God understands!
Bless workers who struggle, their families to feed;
Bless those who face hardship, oppression, or greed.*

*Lord, some live among us who need constant care,
Whose work is to make us more humbly aware.
They teach us the best of your lessons, by far:
It’s not what we do, Lord, you love who we are!*

*We’re baptized! Your Spirit gives new work to do,
That we, through our serving, may glorify you.
Each person’s vocation, each calling, has worth
As you send us out to bring Christ’s love on earth.*

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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 “Fantasia on ‘Coronation’”

Edward Broughton

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 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
Wendi Taylor, "In memory of Lenora Smith"

ANNOUNCEMENTS

NEXT SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 11TH.

9:15AM: Rally Day Kick Off

10:30AM: Morning Worship

11:30AM: All Church Picnic

5:30PM: Youth Fellowship Fall Kick Off.

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 11th. The fun will continue after worship with the annual Rally Day picnic. You don't want to miss it!

ALL CHURCH PICNIC

St. Paul's annual all church picnic will be held on Sunday, September 11, follow the 10:30AM 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 or Wendi Taylor at wendi.taylor@verizon.net.

YOUTH FELLOWSHIP

Youth Fellowship aims to create a supportive environment for youth to grow in relationship with God, to provide a space where they can be themselves and discern their gifts, and opportunities to make friends while helping to serve the community. Youth Fellowship is open to youth in grades 6-12. We meet bi-monthly; our first youth group gathering will be September 11; 5:30-7:30 PM. Questions? Contact Pastor Allyssa.

#42 - O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing

O for a thousand tongues to sing my great Redeemer's praise,
The glories ever echoing the triumphs of God's grace!

My gracious Savior and my God, assist me to proclaim,
To spread through all the earth abroad the honors of your name.

Jesus! the name that calms our fears, that bids our sorrows cease
Is music in the sinner's ears, is life, and health, and peace!

Glory to God, and love and praise be ever, ever given
By all the saints in every age, the church in earth and heaven.

#204 - "Take Up Your Cross," the Savior Said

"Take up your cross," the Savior said, "if you would my disciple be;
Take up your cross with willing heart and humbly follow after me."

Take up your cross; let not its weight fill your weak spirit with alarm;
Christ's strength will bear your spirit up and brace your heart, support your arm.

Take up your cross, heed not the shame, and let your foolish pride be still;
For Christ did not refuse to die upon a cross on Calvary's hill.

Take up your cross and follow Christ, nor think till death to lay it down,
For only those who bear the cross may hope to wear the glorious crown.