

Welcome to
St. Paul's United Church of Christ

An Open and Affirming Congregation of the United Church of Christ

October 2, 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: John Layne

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: Chris Grice
Worship Welcome Team: Becky Thompson, Sherry Spencer, Steven Roush
Nursery: Kim Pirtle, Sherry Spencer
Flower Delivery: Jonneke Dundore

Pastor Emeritus

The Rev. Dr. Thomas E. Herrold

We offer thanks to the ordained clergy in our congregation who are helping to share the Sacrament of Holy Communion today:

Rev. Herb Bomberger, Rev. Richard Gordon, Rev. Tom Herrold, Rev. Gloria McPherson,
Rev. Brian Medkeff-Rose, Rev. Martha Spong, Rev. Karin Stork-Whitson, Rev. Jeff
Whitman, Rev. Anna Thompson

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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Allyssa's email: allyssaboyer@outlook.com

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

SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST;
WORLDWIDE COMMUNION

October 2, 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 "Meditation on 'Beach Spring'"

Hugh S. Livingston, Jr.

CHORAL INTROIT

*THE HYMN "You Call Us, Lord, to Worship"

(to the tune of no. 245, "The Day of Resurrection")

You call us, Lord, to worship; the day is set aside.

Your love is overflowing; the doors are opened wide.

Yet as we see your goodness, we see what we have been.

And so we humbly ask you, "Forgive us of our sin!"

We are forgiven people; we know your love's embrace.

The peace of Christ is with us; forgiveness fills this place.

We hear your word in scripture, in sermon and in song.

Again, again, you tell us: we're loved and we belong.

We share our joys and sorrows and then we offer prayer

For people who are hurting, for nations everywhere.

We bring our tithes and offerings, returning what is yours,

For what we keep may vanish, but what we give endures.

We celebrate your love, Lord, with water, wine and bread.

For at your font we're welcomed and at your feast we're fed.

We pray the prayer you taught us; we sing your praise and then

Through daily, faithful living, we worship you again.

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***PRAYER OF INVOCATION**

God of all people, guide us in recognizing that we are all Your Children. Help us to see our siblings in Faith joining together at Your Table worldwide. Help us to see too, that while there are differences, we break bread together. Thus, we are reminded, that no matter what Faith or no Faith a person has, we are bound together, for we are all Your Children. Amen.

CALL TO CONFESSION

We are most comfortable with people who are mainly like us. Yet, the whole of Creation, God's World, is filled with diversity. God calls us to love all and care for all, without exception. We continually put limits on who or what "all" refers to. Let us join in the time of Silent Prayers of Confession.

SILENT PRAYERS OF CONFESSION

WORDS OF ASSURANCE (Responsive):

Minister: God forgives us and calls on us to imagine a world in which we all sit down at table together in peace.

ALL: Let us seek to fulfill this dream, realizing peace is not achieved through limits and divisions but through respecting and embracing diversity and difference. 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 ANTHEM “Come Before the Table”

Marrolli

Chancel Choir

THE GOSPEL READING

Luke 17:5-6

THE PSALM READING

Psalm 37:1-9

THE RESPONSE:

One: God is Still Speaking.

All: Thanks be to God!

THE HEBREW SCRIPTURE READING & MESSAGE:

Habakkuk 1:1-4, 2:1-5


“Being Awake to God’s Presence”

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 PRAYER OF DEDICATION (Unison)

May Your truth be proclaimed through our offerings. May lives be changed as Your light is shared. May our siblings feel the touch of Your hand and find new hope in which to live. O God, may this high moment of giving be crowned with our renewed commitment to be servants of Jesus Christ, whose way we seek to follow. Amen.

*THE HYMN “We Come to This Table” (to the tune of no. 420, “We Gather Together”)

*We come to this table, O God, with thanksgiving.
We lift up our hearts, we remember, we pray.
We hear Jesus' welcome — inviting, forgiving;
We know your Spirit's peace as we feast here today.*

*We dine at your table as sisters and brothers,
Diverse in our cultures, yet nourished as one.
The bread and the cup that we share here with others
Are gifts uniting all who are claimed by your Son.*

*We grieve for your world here; we cry, "How much longer?"
We pray for the cycles of violence to cease.
Yet here, in Christ broken, we're fed and made stronger
To labor in his name for a world filled with peace.*

*We rise from this table with new dedication
To feed the world's children, to free the oppressed,
To clear out the minefields, to care for creation;
We pray, O God of peace, that our work will be blest.*

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THE SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION

THE INVITATION

One: It started last night, when we were sleeping. In Japan, New Zealand, and Siberia, people came.

Many: **As the sun stretches across the earth, more people are joining the table.**

One: In cathedrals made of marble and gold where mosaics glitter on the walls; in clapboard churches on vast and windswept plains,

Many: **In houses and shelters, in alleys and refugee camps, people are coming together.**

One: From India to Ukraine, Ethiopia to Portugal, Nova Scotia to Ecuador; running, rolling, walking, limping, we come to Your table, O God.

(cont. on next page)

**Many: Hungering for your bread, we come;
thirsting for your wine and juice, we come;
singing your song in every language,
speaking your name in every tongue,
in conflict and communion,
in trouble and tranquility, we come.
O God who remembers us, we come to remember You.**

PASTORAL PRAYER AND 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:

We gather both in person and in Spirit. For those of you present in the Sanctuary, if you are able, we invite you to come forward. We are Blessed to have breads representing various countries from around the world this morning. We are also Blessed to have other Ordained Clergy in our Congregation sharing the Sacrament with you. They will pass you the piece of bread of your choice. There will be a gluten free option as well. Please then proceed to the right or the left and Pastor Allyssa or I will have both wine and grape juice that you can dip your bread in. You may then eat your Communion elements.

If you prefer not to come forward, remain in your pew and a server will bring you the elements. Please raise your hand if you believe the server did not see you.

For those of you joining us via livestream, we hope you have some bread from around the world 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.

All are welcome to participate. Thank you.

THE PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING (Unison)

God, our Mother and Father, You have given us this earth rich and vibrant. Its renewing goodness nourishes us. Jesus, our Savior and Healer, You ate with friends and enemies. At a meal, you brought the gift of hope and gave the word of life. Spirit, our Comforter and Afflicter, You do not leave us on our own. Here are companions to know our joy. Here are companions to share our sorrow. Our companions have come to this table, and tables to our north and south, east and west. We are all Children of God, and You have saved us all a place at Your Table. We give you thanks for our human community, that we may all be one. Amen.

*THE HYMN No. 591 "This is My Song"

*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 ‘Duke Street’”

David Paxton

References:

The Prayer of Dedication is from “Refreshing Rains of Love” 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
Gene Shaner, “In Loving Memory of Parents, Ida & Gene Shaner Sr.”

ANNOUNCEMENTS

NEIGHBORS IN NEED OFFERING

Today we will be taking the Neighbors in Need Offering. Neighbors in Need (NIN) is a special mission offering of the United Church of Christ that supports ministries of justice and compassion in the United States. If you wish to give to this initiative, mark your donation and place it in the plate. Thank you for your generosity.

BAZAAR SET UP

Last year over 30 people helped to set-up for the Bazaar, getting our rooms ready to host this wonderful fundraiser. This year, we hope everyone can stay after worship today to join in this work. We will meet in Fellowship Hall and move tables and chairs to several different rooms in the church. We will also help to move donated items from the stage to the Flea Market area. With everyone’s help, this should not take more than half an hour. Many hands make light work...please join us!