

**Welcome to**  
**St. Paul's United Church of Christ**  
*An Open and Affirming Congregation of the United Church of Christ*  
August 6, 2023

**WHEN HE WENT ASHORE,  
HE SAW A GREAT CROWD;  
AND HE HAD  
COMPASSION  
FOR THEM**



**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  
The Rev. Allyssa A. Boyer  
Lector: Kathy Aumiller

### **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**

Lead Greeter: Wendy Hayden  
Greeters: Chris Grice, Craig Martek, Sherry Spencer, Kathy Aumiller, Steven Roush  
Acolyte: Elsa Riesmeyer  
Kids' Place:  
Flower Preparation: Susan Gabriel  
Flower Delivery: Chris Grice  
Counting Team: Sherry Spencer, Martha Keith  
Fellowship Time Sponsors: PFLAG, Carol Sizemore

### **Pastor Emeritus**

The Rev. Dr. Thomas E. Herrold

### **Ministers**

The Entire Congregation

*Visit the church website, under the 'Sign Up' menu heading, to help  
as a Sunday volunteer or Worship Participant.  
We're grateful for your generosity.*

### **ST. PAUL'S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**

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

**saintpaulsucc-mech.org**

**Office: stpaulstaff@outlook.com**

**Rev. John: revjohnwd@outlook.com**

**Rev. Allyssa: allyssaboyer@outlook.com**



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

TENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

August 6, 2023

*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 "Sweet Hour of Prayer"

Greg Sewell

CALL TO WORSHIP

From "On Thy Wondrous Works I Will Meditate (Psalm 145)" by Mary Oliver

"How many mysteries have you seen in your  
lifetime? How many nets pulled  
full over the boat's side, each silver body  
ready or not falling into  
submission? How many roses in early summer  
uncurling above the pale sands then

falling back in unfathomable  
willingness? And what can you say? Glory  
to the rose, and the leaf, to the seed, to the  
silver fish. Glory to time and the wild fields,  
and to joy. And to grief's shock and torpor, its new swoon.

So it is not hard to understand  
where God's body is, it is  
everywhere and everything; shore and the vast  
fields of water, the accidental and the intended  
over here, over there. And I bow down  
participate and attentive

it is so dense and apparent. And all the same I am still  
unsatisfied. Standing  
here, now, I am thinking  
not of His thick wrists and His blue  
shoulders but, still, of Him. Where, do you suppose, is His  
pale and wonderful mind?

I would be good—oh, I would be upright and good.  
To what purpose? To be shining not  
sinful, not wringing out of the hours  
petulance, heaviness, ashes. To what purpose?  
Hope of heaven? Not that. But to enter  
the other kingdom: grace, and imagination,

and the multiple sympathies: to be as a leaf, a rose,  
a dolphin, a wave rising  
slowly then briskly out of the darkness to touch  
the limpid air, to be God's mind's  
servant, loving with the body's sweet mouth—its kisses, its  
words—  
everything.”

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

\*PRAYER OF INVOCATION (unison)

**All-Powerful God, remind us of the possibilities of miracles. In particular, remind us that when we follow Your Instructions, despite what seems like an impossible situation, miracles of all sorts might come through our hands, which are Blessed by You. Amen.**

CALL TO CONFESSION

“There is nothing I can do; there is nothing we can do; will somebody else please take care of this; ah, just let those folks take care of themselves.” We have often uttered these words, while those in need await the assistance we can provide. We give up before looking around and discerning what You, God, have provided. Let us join in the time of Silent Prayers of Confession.

SILENT PRAYERS OF CONFESSION

WORDS OF ASSURANCE (Responsive)

One: God forgives us, and continues to speak to us, calling on us to do what we can.

**ALL: Let us make use of what we have, even when it feels meager, to meet the needs of those around us, and those far away. 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.  
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

Genesis 32:22-31

THE PSALM READING

Psalms 145:8-9, 14-19

THE RESPONSE:

One: God is Still Speaking.

**All: Thanks be to God!**

THE GOSPEL READING & MESSAGE:

Matthew 14:13-21

“You Give Them Something to Eat”

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

THE CHORAL RESPONSE (unison)

Lord, lis-ten to your chil-dren pray-ing. Lord, send your Spir-it in this place;

Lord, lis-ten to your chil-dren pray-ing. send us love. send us pow'r, send us grace.

*Please place your pew pad sheets in the Offering Plate. Thank you.*

THE OFFERTORY “Shelter Me”

Lippincott

Beth and Azure Lengel, vocalists

Laura Ramsey, accompanist

\*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)

**Thank you, God, for all You have given to satisfy our needs. You quench our thirst and alleviate our hungers when we turn to You. You turn scarcity into plenty and give us the opportunity to help others. May our offerings proclaim Your goodness and mercy. May they be devoted to extending the beloved community of Your people. Keep our words and actions attuned to your will, that we may offer to all what they need from Your hand. Amen.**

\*THE HYMN No. 321 “Break Now the Bread of Life”

## THE SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION

### THE INVITATION

One: God be with you.

**All: And also with you.**

One: Lift up your hearts.

**All: We lift them up to God.**

One: Let us give thanks to God.

**All: It is good to give God thanks and praise.**

### PASTORAL PRAYER AND LORD'S PRAYER

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed by 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. Greeters will pass out bread and gluten-free crackers, and then red wine and white grape juice. They will bring the trays to you.*

*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 Blessing 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 then 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 "Where Is Bread?" (to the tune of no. 43, "Love Divine, All Loves Excelling.")

*"Where is bread?" the great crowd murmured – Thousands strong, yet all in need.*

*"Where is bread?" your people wondered, Faced with such a crowd to feed.*

*Who, Lord Jesus, could have guessed it? One small boy brought food to share.*

*Taking what he gave, you blessed it; All were fed, with much to spare.*

*(cont.)*

*Where is bread? We know their yearning; Every day, we wish for more.  
God, in time, we're slowly learning: All we own can make us poor.  
Our possessions can possess us, Leaving hunger deep inside.  
Christ our Bread, come now and bless us; At your feast, we're satisfied.*

*"Where is bread?" the call is rising; Millions cry who must be fed.  
God, your answer seems surprising: "You, my Church, you give them bread."  
Bread to fill each hungry spirit, Bread for hungry stomachs, too!  
Give us bread and help us share it. Richly blest, may we serve you.*

Text: Copyright © 2000 by Carolyn Winfrey Gillette. All rights reserved.

\*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 "Jesus Is Lord"

John Innes

References:

The Call to Worship is part of the poem "On Thy Wondrous Works I Will Meditate (Psalm 145)" by Mary Oliver, found on pages 56-58 in Thirst, 2006, Beacon Press.

The Prayer of Dedication is from "Led by Love" by Lavon Bayler, 1996, 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  
Jonneke Dundore, "In memory of my father, Albert van Olden"