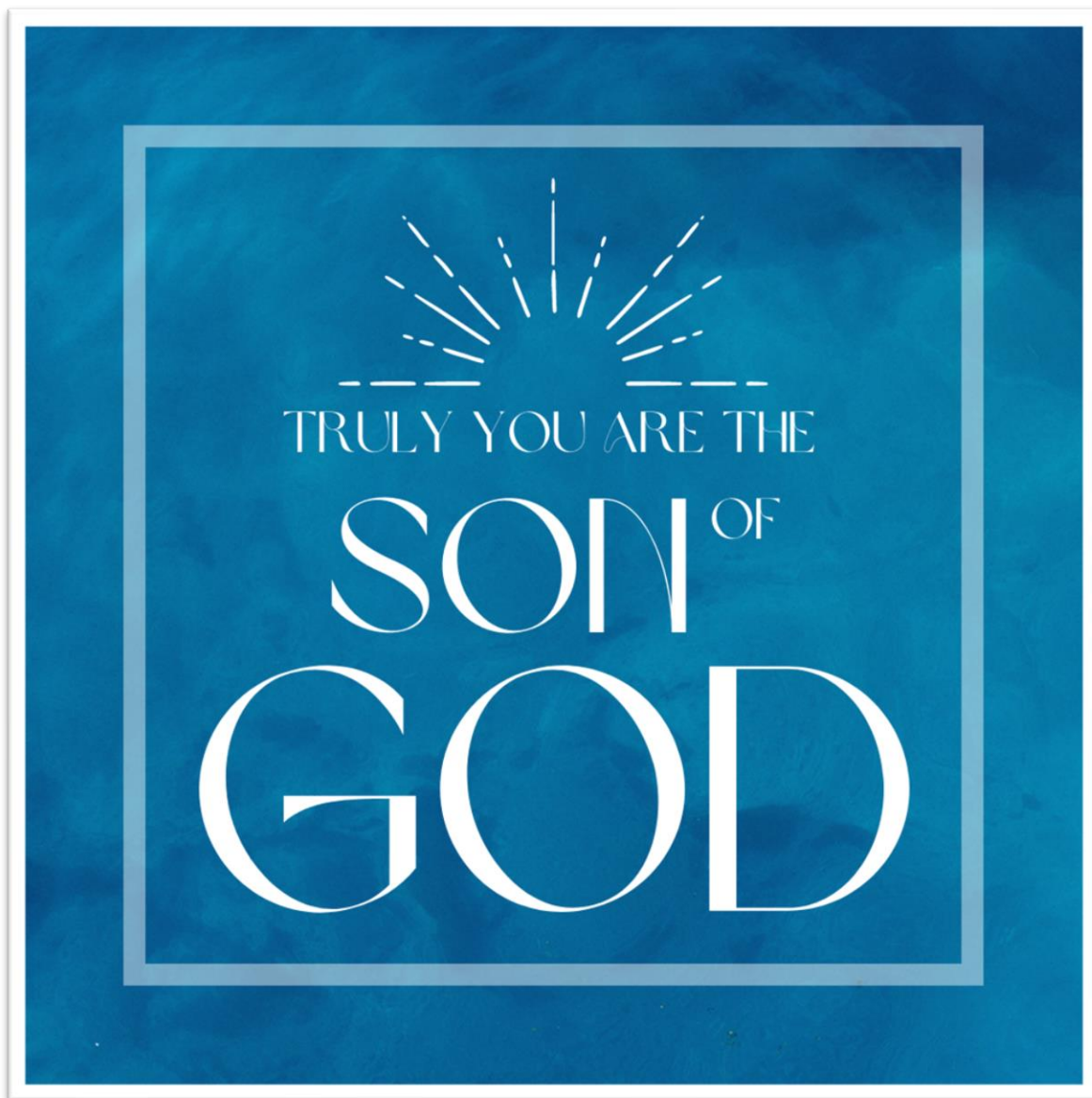


Welcome to
St. Paul's United Church of Christ

An Open and Affirming Congregation of the United Church of Christ

August 13, 2023



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: Karin Stork-Whitson

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: Jody Biss, Craig Martek, Jenn Martek
Acolyte: Elsa Riesmeyer
Kids' Place: Don Dupes
Flower Preparation: Susan Gabriel
Flower Delivery: Martha Keith
Counting Team:

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

ELEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

August 13, 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 "Lord, Take My Heart"

Charles E Overholt

CALL TO WORSHIP

Surprisingly, the Bible contains a Museum of Failed Discipleship. Over and over again the Gospels record the stories of the disciples' spiritual failures. If anyone were trying to write a fictional, legendary account of the life of Jesus, this would not be the way to do it. We tend to cover up our heroes' faults, and we're even more likely to gloss over our own colossal flops. Instead, the Gospels allow us to see the disciples' failures—and most of those stories came from the disciples themselves. This not only adds to the historical reliability of the Gospel accounts; it also encourages us in our own faltering attempts to follow Jesus.

Matt Woodley

*THE HYMN No. 407 "How Firm a Foundation"

*PRAYER OF INVOCATION (unison)

Almighty God, guide us in taking the opportunity You have given us to become our best selves, who You created us to be. Amen.

CALL TO CONFESSION

Sometimes we minimize our abilities and what we can do. Sometimes we try to act like God, like Jesus. We have a hard time accepting who we honestly are. This often gets in the way of us accomplishing what God has called us to do and living life in peace as God hopes for us. Let us join in the Time of Silent Prayers of Confession.

SILENT PRAYERS OF CONFESSION

WORDS OF ASSURANCE (Responsive):

One: God forgives us. God seeks to remind us, regularly, who we are and who we can become.

ALL: Let us commit to honestly reflecting upon who we are and how we can best live our lives as individuals and in community. 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*

BLESSING OF THE PRAYER SHAWLS (Unison)

**May God's grace be upon these shawls...warming, comforting, enfolding, and embracing.
May these mantles be safe havens...sacred places of security and well-being...sustaining
and embracing in good times as well as difficult ones. May the ones who receive these
shawls be cradled in hope, kept in joy, graced with peace, and wrapped in love. Blessed
be!**

THE HEBREW SCRIPTURE READING

Genesis 37:1-4, 12-28

THE PSALM READING

Psalm 105:1-6, 16-22

***THE HYMN No. 441 "Jesus, Savior, Pilot Me"**

THE RESPONSE:

One: God is Still Speaking.

All: Thanks be to God!

THE GOSPEL READING & MESSAGE:

Matthew 14:22-33

"Why Walk On Water?"

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)

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 “Amazing Grace” traditional hymn, arr. Gerlitz
Grace Simpson, soloist

*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)

God, we cannot deceive You with the appearance of generosity. You know how we manage the wealth entrusted to our care. Help us to know the joy of sharing from the abundance You provide. Help us to trust when we feel we do not have enough. We give thanks that You enable us to be givers, not just receivers. May what we offer here provide a helpful ministry to many. May what we offer to our families, friends, and co-laborers tomorrow also be blessed as ministry. Amen.

*THE HYMN “O Lord, You Sent your Friends” (to the tune of no. 245, “The Day of Resurrection”)

*O Lord, you sent your friends out upon the sea one day,
Then you went up a mountain to be alone and pray.
But soon their boat was shaken by mighty winds and waves.
They fought the storm that threatened and prayed to God who saves. (cont.)*

*Soon, early in the morning, they saw you on the sea.
They thought a ghost was with them and cried out fearfully.
"Don't be afraid," you told them, "for it is I," you said.
You stayed with them and helped them when they were filled with dread.*

*"If it is you," said Peter, "Just give me your command
And I'll walk on the water as if it were dry land."
He bravely went to meet you, but soon he sank in fear.
He found it hard to trust you when danger was so near.*

*You reached your hand to Peter and then you stilled the storm.
They worshiped you in wonder as wind and waves grew calm.
May we your church have courage to trust in you alone.
In you we find safe passage and you will bring us home.*

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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 Hope Is Built on Nothing Less"

Gilbert M. Martin

References:

The Call to Worship is from Matt Woodley in *The Gospel of Matthew: God with Us*. Downers Grove: InterVarsity Press, 2010; as quoted in "Sermon Seeds: For Faith" by The Rev. Dr. Cheryl A. Lindsay, Minister for Worship and Theology (lindsayc@ucc.org), in the weekly email from the UCC: Weekly Seeds, Friday August 4, 2023. The Prayer of Blessing is by Janet Bristow, 2008, www.shawlministry.com. The Prayer of Dedication is from "Taught by Love" by Lavon Bayler, 1998, 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 Susan Thorn, "In memory of Ken and Edna Garrett."