

Welcome to
St. Paul's United Church of Christ

An Open and Affirming Congregation of the United Church of Christ

August 20, 2023



GOD IS STILL SPEAKING



*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: The Rev. Allyssa A. Boyer
Lector: Paula 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

Lead Greeter: Wendy Hayden
Greeters: Jody Biss, Sherry Spencer
Acolyte: Elsa Riesmeyer
Kids' Place:
Flower Preparation: Susan Gabriel
Flower Delivery: Darryl and Winnie Wentz
Counting Team: Sherry Spencer

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

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**ONLINE
GIVING**



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

TWELFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

August 20, 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 "Menuet"

G. F. Handel

CALL TO WORSHIP

"Every religion has a mystical core. The challenge is to find access to it and to live in its power. In this sense, every generation of believers is challenged anew to make its religion truly religious. This is the point where mysticism clashes with the institution. We need religious institutions. If they weren't there, we would create them. Life creates structures. Think of the ingenious constructions life invents to protect its seeds, of all those husks and hulls and pods, the shucks and burrs and capsules found in an autumn hedgerow. Come spring, the new life within cracks these containers (even walnut shells!) and bursts forth. Crust, rind, and chaff split open and are discarded. Our social structures, however, have a tendency to perpetuate themselves. Religious institutions are less likely than seed pods to yield to the new life stirring within. And although life (over and over again) creates structures, structures do not create life."

—David Steindl-Rast, OSB

*THE HYMN No. 300 "Jesus Shall Reign"

*PRAYER OF INVOCATION (unison)

Loving God, draw us now into the community You intend for all Your people. Help us to listen and understand, both Your Word for us and our sharing with one another. Breathe Your Spirit into our tradition, that it may be a wellspring of wisdom and hope instead of a decaying room of rules and strictures. May we be fully open to your gifts and loyal to your call. Amen.

CALL TO CONFESSION

Both our speech and our actions call into question our faithfulness to God. In times of stress, we have made statements that we regret. Jealousy and anger have led to deceit, betrayal, and broken relationships. Our best intentions sometimes go astray. Rather than being distressed with ourselves, we bring the wounds of our common life to this time of confession, that we may receive God's healing. Let us join in silent prayers of confession.

SILENT PRAYERS OF CONFESSION

WORDS OF ASSURANCE (Responsive):

One: God is merciful toward us and listens to our honest prayers. Our thoughts and deeds are fully known to God, who is eager to forgive and lead us to new understandings.

All: When we earnestly seek God's help, we are set free to discover new opportunities. Even in the worst of circumstances, God works with us to bring some good. May God be praised!

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

Isaiah 56:1, 6-8

THE READING OF THE PSALM

Psalm 67

*THE HYMN "She Came to Jesus"

(to the tune of no. 99, "Abide with Me")

*She came to Jesus from outside the fold —
Canaanite woman! Persistent and bold!
Looking to Jesus, she wanted to see
One who would help her and set her child free.*

*Claiming a blessing, a touch of God's grace,
She knew God's love was not bounded by place.
Jesus, you listened, debated — then healed —
For in her asking, her faith was revealed.*

(cont.)

*God, you still bless those who seek you in prayer.
You welcome dreamers who faithfully dare.
In Christ, now risen, your mercy extends:
Those on the outside are welcomed as friends.*

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THE RESPONSE:

One: God is Still Speaking.

All: **Thanks be to God!**

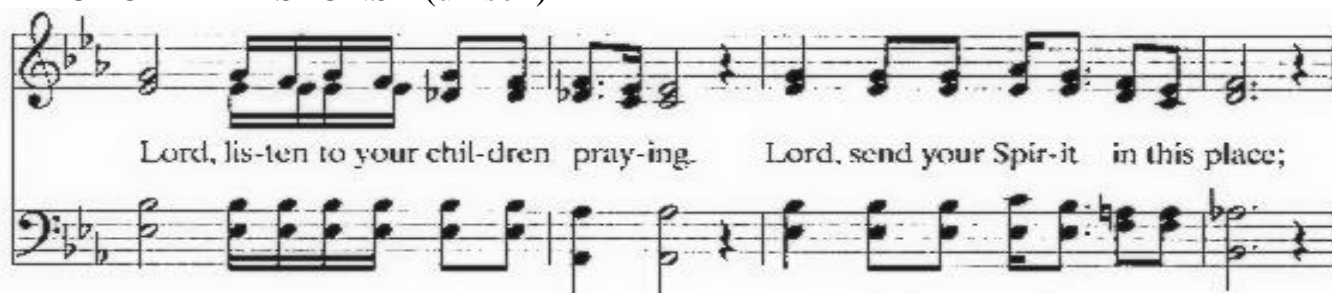
THE GOSPEL READING & MESSAGE:

Matthew 15:10-28

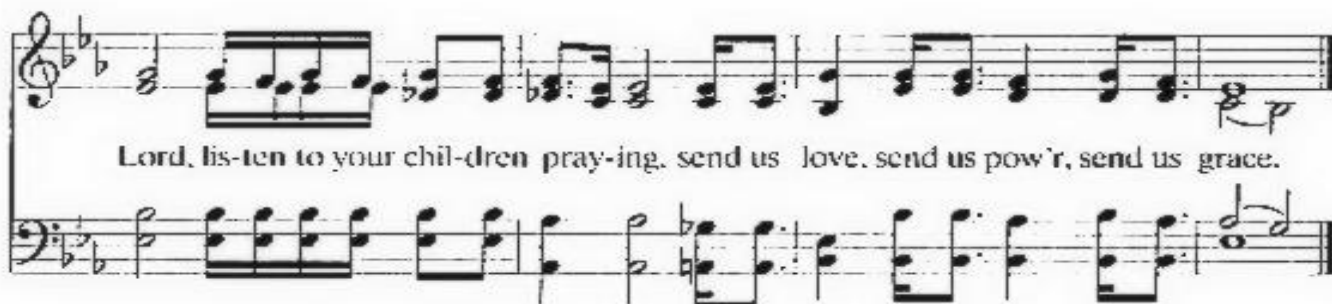
THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

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 "Variations on 'Leoni'"

arr. Mark Dundore

Mark Dundore, Bass Trombonist

***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)

As You have blessed us, O God, we are eager to share. May we offer more than crumbs from Your table. May none be sent away from the blessings You intend for all. What is in the offering plates is only a part of what we dedicate ourselves to do and be, that Your reign of unity and peace may come. Amen.

*THE HYMN No. 403 “My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less”

*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 ‘Forest Green’”

Lani Smith

References:

The Call to Worship is from David Steindl-Rast’s “The Mystical Core of Organized Religion.” *New Realities* Vol. X No. 4 (March/April 1990): 35-37.

The Prayer of Invocation, Call to Confession, Words of Assurance, and Prayer of Dedication are adapted from “*Taught by Love*” by Lavon Bayler, United Church Press: Cleveland, OH, 1998.

The World Peace Prayer is a paraphrase of a verse from the Upanishads, the most ancient scriptures of Hinduism, and is also prayed daily by Roman Catholic Benedictine Sisters.

ALTAR FLOWERS

The Altar flowers are given to the Glory of God by

Barbara Wightman-Freeman, “In memory of Glenn C. Wightman.”

Susan Gabriel, “In memory of her friend, Raquel Westfall and her mother, Joyce Carpenter.”