

Welcome to St. Paul's United Church of Christ

An Open and Affirming Congregation of the United Church of Christ

August 27, 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: Eric Dundore

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

Prelude, Special Music and Postlude sung by ABQ Women's Ensemble (Alissa Plant, Kim Hollich, Anmarie Jezorski, Kat Anderson, Amber Shearer, Janee Robinson)

ABQ = Anything But Quiet is a women's a cappella ensemble singing in the central PA area. They love to sing and share our music with our local community. All profits from singing engagements are donated to local charities, such as food banks and animal shelters.

Ministry of Audio and Video

Jeffrey A. Dundore

Ministry of Service

Lead Greeter: Wendy Hayden
Greeters: Jody Biss, Paula Boyer
Flower Preparation: Susan Gabriel
Flower Delivery: Jonneke Dundore
Counting Team: Joan Moyer, Martha Keith

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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Rev. John: revjohnwd@outlook.com

Rev. Allyssa: allyssaboyer@outlook.com



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

THIRTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

August 27, 2023

**Those who are comfortable doing so are invited to stand.*

THE WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE PRELUDE "Gloria Fanfare"

Austrian Carol, arr. Wylie

CALL TO WORSHIP

Go placidly amid the noise and the haste and remember what peace there may be in silence. As far as possible, without surrender, be on good terms with all persons. Speak your truth quietly and clearly; and listen to others, even to the dull and the ignorant; they too have their story. Avoid loud and aggressive persons; they are vexatious to the spirit. If you compare yourself with others, you may become vain or bitter, for always there will be greater and lesser persons than yourself. Enjoy your achievements as well as your plans. Keep interested in your own career, however humble; it is a real possession in the changing fortunes of time. Exercise caution in your business affairs, for the world is full of trickery. But let this not blind you to what virtue there is; many persons strive for high ideals, and everywhere life is full of heroism.

Be yourself. Especially do not feign affection. Neither be cynical about love; for in the face of all aridity and disenchantment, it is as perennial as the grass. Take kindly the counsel of the years, gracefully surrendering the things of youth. Nurture strength of spirit to shield you in sudden misfortune. But do not distress yourself with dark imaginings. Many fears are born of fatigue and loneliness. Beyond a wholesome discipline, be gentle with yourself. You are a child of the universe no less than the trees and the stars; you have a right to be here. And whether or not it is clear to you, no doubt the universe is unfolding as it should. Therefore be at peace with God, whatever you conceive Him to be. And whatever your labors and aspirations, in the noisy confusion of life, keep peace in your soul. With all its sham, drudgery, and broken dreams, it is still a beautiful world. Be cheerful. Strive to be happy.

by Max Ehrmann ©1927

*THE HYMN "Our God, Our Help in Ages Past"

*Our God, our help in ages past, our hope for years to come,
Our shelter from the stormy blast, and our eternal home:*

*Under the shadow of your throne your saints have dwelt secure;
Sufficient is your arm alone, and our defense is sure.*

*A thousand ages in your sight are like an evening gone,
Short as the watch that ends the night before the rising sun.*

(cont.)

*Time, like an ever-rolling stream, soon bears us all away;
We fly forgotten, as a dream fades at the opening day.*

*Our God, our help in ages past, our hope for years to come,
Still be our God while troubles last, and our eternal home!*

*PRAYER OF INVOCATION (unison)

Gracious God, You came into this world in the person of Jesus to show us how we might best live our lives. Help us to model such ways of living for others as well. Amen.

CALL TO CONFESSION

We can underestimate the influences that shape how we live, the choices we make. Ideas about what it means to be masculine, feminine, an American, a Christian are not necessarily shaped by our Faith but often more so by both our past and current culture. Lived out, these cultural ideas do not match the models that Jesus held up and offered. Let us join in the Silent Prayers of Confession.

SILENT PRAYERS OF CONFESSION

WORDS OF ASSURANCE (Responsive):

One: God forgives us and continues to call us to live in the ways Jesus demonstrated we could.

ALL: Let us commit to following Jesus' ways and modeling them for our young people, for each other, for the wider Communities which we find ourselves in. 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

Blessing of the Backpacks:

One: God of fresh starts and new beginnings, we bring ourselves and our backpacks to You. In our backpacks, we carry tools for learning, and in our hearts, we carry big feelings,

unanswered questions, and hopeful expectations. There are endless possibilities of what this new year might bring—of what we might learn, who we might meet, and who we might become.

All: Holy God, as school begins, we ask a blessing on these backpacks, briefcases, children, youth, and grown-ups who are heading into classrooms and workplaces. Help them to know that You are always with them. Send Your blessing upon students of all ages, abilities, and backgrounds. We pray for steady self-esteem and deepening resilience. We pray for minds that will expand in curiosity and wonder, learning not just from books but also from the people beside them. Open the minds of students with a willingness to be changed in unexpected ways.

One: Bless, O God, all the teachers, not just as classes start, but through the weeks and months ahead. Give them energy, creativity, and love, especially on the really hard days. Bless the administrators; fill them with Your wisdom and grace, and help them to lead as You have called them to lead. Give them bravery to build structures and systems which justly serve all Your children. Bless parents and grandparents. Wrap them with Your reassuring love as they place their trust in You. Bless them with peace and the promise You are right there with their child, whether heading to preschool or driving to college.

All: We pray for health and wholeness, fun and growth, safety and illumination, for this school year ahead, knowing You will hold us all the way through. We thank You, God. Amen.

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 51:1-6

THE PSALM READING

Psalms 138

*THE HYMN “Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound”

*Amazing grace, how sweet the sound, that saved a wretch like me!
I once was lost, but now am found, was blind, but now I see.*

*'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, and grace my fears relieved;
How precious did that grace appear the hour I first believed!*

*Through many dangers, toils, and snares, I have already come;
'Tis grace has brought me safe thus far, and grace will lead me home.*

*My God has promised good to me, whose word my hope secures;
God will my shield and portion be as long as life endures.*

*When we've been there ten thousand years, bright shining as the sun,
We've no less days to sing God's praise than when we'd first begun.*

THE RESPONSE:

One: God is Still Speaking.

All: **Thanks be to God!**

THE EPISTLE READING & MESSAGE:

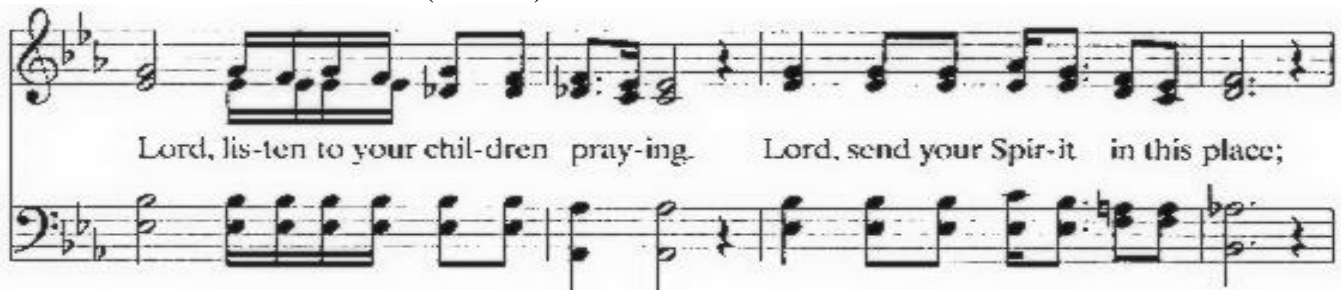
Romans 12:1-21

“Being Role Models”

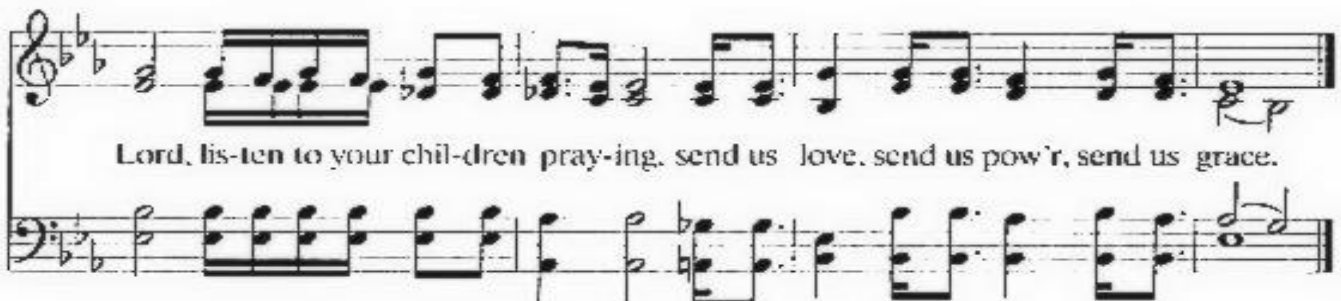
THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD’S PRAYER

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.

THE OFFERTORY “Song of Peace”

Sibelius, words by Kostkenniemi

ABQ Women’s Ensemble

***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)**

We give our best, Gracious God, lest in gaining the whole world we lose life itself. As a covenant people, we seek to do our part to witness to Your will and way. As we give, help us to perceive more clearly what You would have us do with the wealth entrusted to our management. As we contribute to the needs of the saints, we present ourselves as living sacrifices. Direct us according to Your will. Amen.

*THE HYMN “Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing”

*Come, thou Fount of every blessing; tune my heart to sing thy grace;
Streams of mercy, never ceasing, call for songs of loudest praise.
Teach me some melodious sonnet, sung by flaming tongues above;
Praise the mount! I’m fixed upon it, mount of God’s unchanging love!*

*Here I raise my Ebenezer; hither by thy help I’m come;
And I hope, by thy good pleasure, safely to arrive at home.
Jesus sought me when a stranger, wandering from the fold of God;
He, to rescue me from danger, interposed his precious blood.*

*O to grace how great a debtor daily I’m constrained to be!
Let that grace now, like a fetter, bind my wandering heart to thee.
Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it, prone to leave the God I love;
Here’s my heart; O take and seal it; seal it for thy courts above.*

*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 POSTLUDE “Will the Circle Be Unbroken”

Rose/Winter/Taylor

References:

Call to Worship from The Poems of Max Ehrmann edited by Bertha Ehrmann, published by Bruce Humphries, Inc. 1948.
The Prayer of Dedication is from “Fresh Winds of the Spirit, Book 2” by Lavon Bayler, 1992, 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 Allyssa Boyer, “In honor of niece Allison’s 13th birthday.”

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Please Note: Our Administrative Assistant, Renee, will be away from August 31st through September 6th. Patty Scott is available to cover as needed. Feel free to call the church and leave a message. We will be in touch with you.

HOMECOMING

Many people from our congregation have been traveling throughout the summer, while others have enjoyed leisure time closer to home. Regardless of where you've been this summer, we are eager to welcome you back home to St. Paul's UCC. Our Homecoming celebration will kick-off on September 10 at 9:15 AM in Fellowship Hall as we celebrate the start of our new Sunday school year with music and an all-ages activity. We hope you'll join us for Homecoming Sunday, and for Sunday school throughout the year!

Sunday school classes and teachers:

Preschool-1st grade (room 13): Art Williams and Jonneke Dundore

2nd grade-5th grade (room 10): Patty Scott and Val Chapman-Jones

6th-12th grade (room 11/12): Sue Ward-Diorio and Rev. Allyssa Boyer

Adult class (Fellowship Hall): Shirley Keith Knox and designated facilitators

ALL CHURCH PICNIC

Join us after morning worship for a Picnic on Homecoming Sunday, September 10th. Bring a potluck dish to share. Drinks and place settings will be provided. After our meal, stay to enjoy the amazing Carlisle Brass Band. Bring a chair or blanket. Please sign up in the Common.

SUMMER WORSHIP SCHEDULE ENDING

Next Sunday, September 3rd, is our final summertime worship service at 9:15AM. On September 10th we will begin our normal worship times. Please plan accordingly.