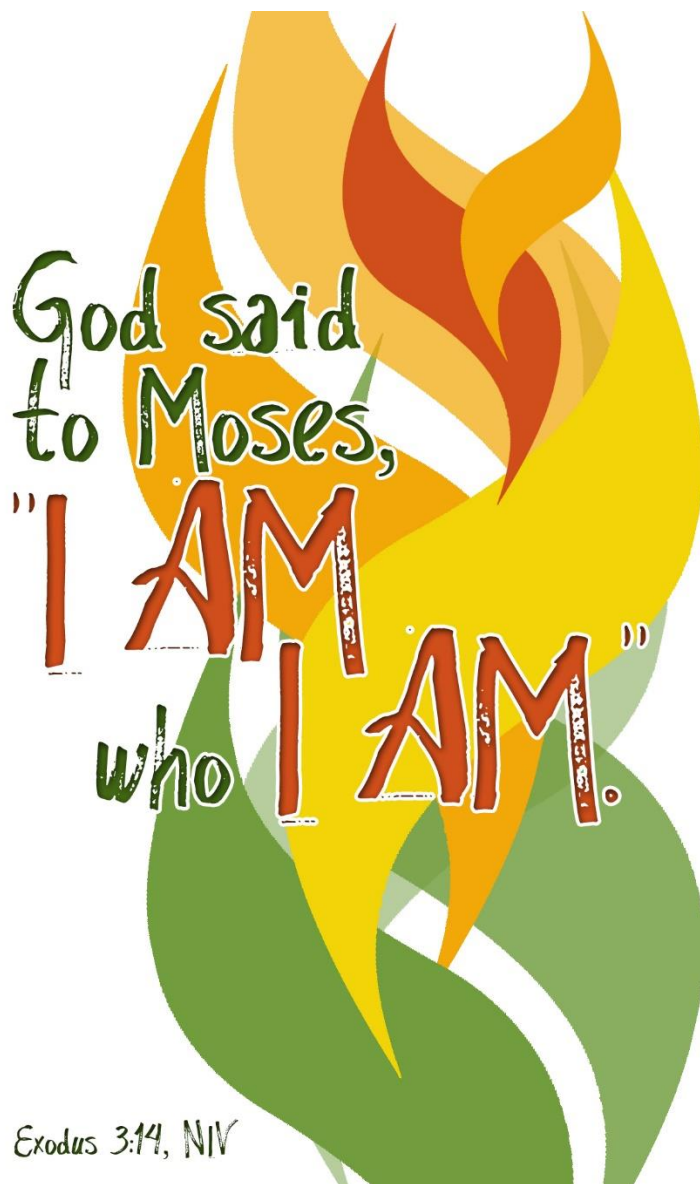


Welcome to St. Paul's United Church of Christ

An Open and Affirming Congregation of the United Church of Christ

September 3, 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: Dennis Plymette

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: Chris Grice
Greeters: Paula Boyer, Shirley Knox, Sherry Spencer, Steven Roush
Acolyte: Elsa Riesmeyer
Kids' Place: Bonnie Plymette
Flower Preparation: Susan Gabriel
Flower Delivery: Bonnie Plymette
Counting Team: Dennis Plymette, 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

FOURTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
HOLY COMMUNION

September 3, 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 "God Leads Us Along"

George A. Young

CALL TO WORSHIP

As a Community of Faith, we claim belief in God Incarnate in the person of Jesus; we claim belief in the Holy Spirit which resides in all people; we claim belief in God who names Godself: I Am Who I Am. The unexplainable, the seemingly impossible, the uncharacterizable, are therefore a part of our Faith DNA. Let us then enter a space and time of connection with each other and the ever-revealing mystery that is God.

*THE HYMN No. 24 "The God of Abraham Praise"

*PRAYER OF INVOCATION (unison)

Holy and Mysterious God, remind us again, as we hear Your self-naming, that our claims that we know exactly who You are, are false. Guide us in our never-ending but crucial search to know You with greater and greater depth. Amen.

CALL TO CONFESSION

Ah, what do we call You God? Yahweh, God, Allah? We want to control You through such knowledge, rather than be subjects of the mystery of I Am Who I Am, I Am What I Am, I Will Be What I Will Be. Let us join in our Silent Prayers of Confession.

SILENT PRAYERS OF CONFESSION

WORDS OF ASSURANCE (Responsive):

One: God forgives us and continues to be what God will be.

ALL: Let us commit to the on-going study, work and Worship which leads deeper into understanding of who and what I Am is, of who and what I Am will be, knowing we will never reach complete knowledge. 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 GOSPEL READING

Matthew 16:21-28

THE PSALM READING

Psalm 105:1-6

THE RESPONSE:

One: God is Still Speaking.

All: Thanks be to God!

THE HEBREW SCRIPTURE READING & MESSAGE:

Exodus 3:1-15

“I Am Who I Am”

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 “Here I Am, Lord”

Schutte

Jonne and Eric Dundore

*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)

May our offerings be an expression of genuine love that reflects Your love for us, O God. We seek to honor You as we serve one another in Christ's name. We reach out to overcome evil with good. Direct our use of the resources You entrust to us that we may not only contribute to the needs of the saints but also devote our lives to the building of a peaceable worldwide community in which all are valued. Amen.

*THE HYMN No. 573 “Lead On Eternal Sovereign”

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. For those of you present in the Sanctuary, if you are able, we invite you to come forward. When you come forward, a piece of bread will be given to you. There are gluten free broken crackers and white grape juice on a table between the servers. Once you have received your bread, please proceed to the right or the left and servers will have both wine and grape juice that you may dip your bread in. You may then eat your Communion Element and proceed back to your pew.

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

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 "Our God, You Called to Moses"

(to the tune of no. 582, "Lead On, Eternal Sovereign")

Our God, you called to Moses to set your people free.

What wrongly some suppose is: he answered easily.

"I'm not the one you're seeking!" he seemed instead to say.

"My strength is not in speaking; God, find another way!"

*And yet, O Lord, you told him to trust in what you said.
Your strength would surely hold him through all those days ahead
Though many would oppose him, by your own name he'd know:
You were the one who chose him to help your people go.*

*You call each congregation to serve those lost and poor.
We doubt our own vocation; we ask, "Lord, are you sure?"
Yet you give gifts for sharing, you show us what to say.
Your Spirit gives us daring to serve Christ every day.*

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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 "Give Thanks Unto God"

Michael Ryan

References:

The Prayer of Dedication is from "Taught by Love" by Lavon Bayler, 1993, 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
Nancy and Tom Richey, "In celebration of our 38th Wedding Anniversary."
Mary Runkle, "In honor of Audrey's birthday."

ANNOUNCEMENTS

HOMECOMING SUNDAY

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 17 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

Today is our final summertime worship service at 9:15AM. Next week, on September 10th we will begin our normal worship times. Please plan accordingly.

BAZAAR SIGN UP

There are many ways to help with the annual Bazaar. Check out the sign-up sheets in the Common or on the church website. Also, share the event on social media if you're able.

ALL CHOIRS BEGIN THIS WEEK

Everyone is invited to come to our first choir rehearsals this coming Wednesday, September 6th at the following times:

- Choristers (Kindergarten – 5th grade) – 6:30 to 7:00 pm
- Youth Choir (6th -12th grades) – 6:30 to 7:15 pm
- Hand Chimes – 6:30 to 7:00 pm
- Chancel Choir (post-high school adults) – 7:15 to 8:30 pm

Come and sing with us as we prepare to present music for our services together. Your voice is definitely needed and welcomed – no matter the previous experience! Contact Eric Dundore (717-460-8301) with any questions or concerns.