

Welcome to
St. Paul's United Church of Christ

An Open and Affirming Congregation of the United Church of Christ

September 10, 2023

"FOR WHERE TWO OR THREE ARE



GATHERED
IN MY NAME,
THERE AM I AMONG THEM."

MATTHEW 18:20, ESV

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: Beth Lengel

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, Nancy Richey, Dave Grice
Acolyte: Elsa Riesmeyer
Kids' Place:
Flower Preparation: Susan Gabriel
Flower Delivery: Dale Thorpe and Don Dupes
Counting Team: Mary Runkle

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

FIFTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

September 10, 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, We Praise You"

Lani Smith

CHORAL INTROIT

*THE HYMN No. 4 "Joyful, Joyful, We Adore You"

*PRAYER OF INVOCATION (unison)

God, our Mother and Father, You welcome us, call us to gather as Your Children. We are siblings in Faith. Help us toward greater understanding of the importance for our Community and for ourselves to gather in Your Name. Amen.

CALL TO CONFESSION

Part of the American myth teaches us that we must be independent from each other, not be dependent upon anyone else. Part of our cultural myth teaches us that we should put ourselves as individuals first. These myths stand in contrast to how our Faith has called us to live. We do not often acknowledge this. Let us join in time of Silent Prayers of Confession.

SILENT PRAYERS OF CONFESSION

WORDS OF ASSURANCE (Responsive):

One: God forgives us, calls on us to forgive one another out of love, and calls us into Community.

ALL: Let us continue to open ourselves to the value, the importance of gathering together. Let it not be guilt or fear that moves us to gather, but the desire to live more in harmony with God, who calls us into Community for our benefit and the benefit of all. Amen.

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 EPISTLE READING

Romans 13:8-12

THE PSALM READING

Psalms 119:33-40

*THE HYMN No. 393 “Blest Be the Tie That Binds”

THE RESPONSE:

One: God is Still Speaking.

All: Thanks be to God!

THE GOSPEL READING & MESSAGE:

Matthew 18:15-20

“Gathering Is Important”

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)

I In sol - i - tude, in sol - i - tude, I come to God in prayer.

In si - lence and sim - plic - i - ty, my spir - it blos - soms there.

The image shows a musical score for a choral response. It consists of two systems of music. Each system has a vocal line (treble clef) and a bass line (bass clef). The lyrics are written below the vocal line. The first system of music is for the first line of lyrics, and the second system is for the second line. The music is in 4/4 time and G major.

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

THE OFFERTORY “At the Feet of My Lord”
Chancel Choir

David N. Davenport

*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 these offerings help to free Your people, O God, from bondage to sin. Unite us in a community of mutual caring in which differences are resolved as we listen to one another and seek to offer understanding. May the light of Your love shine through all our efforts to share Your good news. Keep us in the light when we are tempted to ignore and violate Your commandments. With these prayers, we dedicate our gifts. Amen.

*THE HYMN No. 526 “We Are Marching In the Light of God”

*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 ‘America’”

Edward Broughton

References:

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

Sue and Dayne Miller, “In celebration of our 45th wedding anniversary.”

Candy LaRue, “In honor of our 36th year anniversary.”

Martha Keith, “In celebration of Gene and Martha Keith’s 69th wedding anniversary.”