

Welcome to
St. Paul's United Church of Christ

An Open and Affirming Congregation of the United Church of Christ

September 17, 2023



**NATION SHALL
NOT LIFT UP
SWORD AGAINST
NATION**

**NEITHER SHALL
THEY LEARN WAR
ANY MORE**

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

The Rev. Allyssa A. Boyer

Lector: Pam Smith

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: Patrice Miller, Sherry Spencer

Acolyte: Elsa Riesmeyer

Kids' Place: Susan Ward-Diorio

Flower Preparation: Susan Gabriel

Flower Delivery:

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

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

**ONLINE
GIVING**



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

SIXTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

September 17, 2023

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.***

A Note on the Sermon: Today is Just Peace Sunday in the United Church of Christ, a day commemorating our Church's commitment to seeking peaceful solutions to conflicts, both near and far. As part of our recognition of Just Peace Sunday, we have the opportunity to participate in a dialogue about war, oppression, violence, justice and peace. Today, the sermon will be a dialogue—a conversation between the pastors and the congregation. Rev. Allyssa and Rev. John will speak about God's call for us to live in ways that seek justice for all and promote peace, and they will ask questions to which members of the congregation may respond. Our hope is that this will be a real conversation and we are eager for your participation. If you wish to speak, we ask that you raise your hand and a greeter will bring a microphone to you. In this dialogue, we can model listening, reflection, and respectful conversation regardless of agreement or disagreement. A sermon dialogue is new for us; we hope you will extend grace to one another as we try something new. Thank you for your participation.

THE RINGING OF THE CHIMES

THE WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE ORGAN PRELUDE "Beautiful Savior"

Paul Davis

CHORAL INTROIT

*THE HYMN "Lord, What Is All Our Fighting For?" (to tune of no. 300, "Jesus Shall Reign")

Lord, what is all our fighting for?

We train our young to go to war.

Each day more little ones are lost;

May we seek truth and count war's cost.

(Cont.)

*What can we for repentance bring?
You do not want an offering.
"Do what is just," you simply say;
"Love what is kind and seek my way."*

*Lord, what is all our silence for?
Now make us bold to say, "No more!"
The world need not be what it's been;
Your peace will reign! Your love will win!*

Text: Copyright © 2005 by Carolyn Winfrey Gillette. All rights reserved.

*PRAYER OF INVOCATION (unison)

O God, You are a God of Life to us. You are our source of compassion as we struggle for relationships of peace, justice, and wholeness in our homes, our communities, our nation, and our world. We recognize Your presence among us in our life and worship, and ask Your gentle Spirit to constantly open our hearts to the ways of justice and peace. Amen.

CALL TO CONFESSION

We gather as disciples of the Prince of Peace. We gather in humility, for we stand on the shoulders of faithful Christians who sought to follow Jesus's peaceful Way, and yet our world seems no less violent than it was two-thousand years ago. We see evidence of this violence all around us—in constant warfare around the world, in mass shootings with no effective end in sight, in an epidemic of disproportionate police violence against People of Color, in the violence of economic exploitation, and the violence inflicted upon the Earth and all its non-human inhabitants. And we see the evidence of this violence in ourselves—our apathy, our cynicism, the fear and anger we feel inside. We are trapped in cycles of violence. We know we are a part of this world, and yet often we feel powerless to change. Let us join in silent prayers of confession.

SILENT PRAYERS OF CONFESSION

WORDS OF ASSURANCE (Responsive):

One: Hear the good news: In compassion, God forgives us, enabling us to turn from the ways of violence and death. God shows us how to choose and cherish justice and peace.

ALL: **Our sins are forgiven. Let us forgive one another, and give ourselves to one another in the joyful community of the risen Christ. 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*

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 GOSPEL READING John 14:15-21, 25-27

THE READING OF THE PSALM Psalm 34:4-18

*THE HYMN No. 571 "O God of Love, O God of Peace"

THE RESPONSE:

One: God is Still Speaking.

All: **Thanks be to God!**

THE HEBREW SCRIPTURE READING AND MESSAGE Micah 4:1-5

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.

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

THE OFFERTORY "You Are My All in All"
Youth Choir

Jernigan

*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 honor You, O God, as we give. We realize we are part of a large community, linked in ways beyond our full knowing. We are accountable to You and share responsibility for one another and for the care of our planet. Therefore, we dedicate our resources and our lives to You for the work of peace and justice in Your world. Receive our gifts and draw us to Yourself. Amen.

*THE HYMN “The Peace That We Share”
(to the tune of no. 1, “Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise.”)
*The peace that we share when we turn and shake hands
Is simply the peace that our Savior commands.
As Christ reigns in heaven, he calls us to live
As people forgiven, with God's peace to give.*

*Peace grows through the diplomats forging a deal
And building a treaty so nations can heal.
Peace grows when our fears don't control what we do—
When we see that others are God's children, too.*

*Peace grows when our leaders are brave to spend funds
On schools and on students, not weapons and guns.
Peace grows when all citizens work for the good
So all will have housing and health care and food.*

*When all use their talents so conflicts will cease,
Imagining, working and risking for peace,
When peoples negotiate rather than fight
Then justice is possible! Peace is in sight!*

Text: Copyright © 2015 by Carolyn Winfrey Gillette. All rights reserved.

*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 “Praise Him! Praise Him!”

Charity Boyles

References:

The Prayer of Invocation is adapted from “Just Peace Sunday - Opening Prayers/Calls to Worship” by the Rev. Denise Anderson, ucc.org/just-peace-Sunday-2023/
The Call to Confession is adapted from “Litany for a Just Peace (based on Psalm 34:14b)” by the Rev. Bob Moore, ucc.org/just-peace-Sunday-2023/
The Words of Assurance are adapted from “The United Church of Christ Book of Worship,” United Church of Christ Office for Church Life and Leadership: New York, NY, 1986.
The Prayer of Blessing is by Janet Bristow, 2008, www.shawlministry.com
The Prayer of Dedication is 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, also prayed daily by Roman Catholic Benedictine nuns.

ALTAR FLOWERS

The Altar flowers are given to the Glory of God by
Paula and Mark Boyer, “In memory of our parents, Domenica & James Alfano
and Nadine & Carroll Boyer.”
Susan Gabriel, “In honor of Ron and Susan’s 30th wedding anniversary.”

BAZAAR

The 54th Annual Bazaar is almost here, AND WE NEED YOU!!
Friday, October 6, 9am-6pm. Lots of help is needed!

Kitchen helper’s signup:

<https://www.timetosignup.com/stpaulsucc/sh eet/1347898>

All other helpers’ signups:

<https://www.timetosignup.com/stpaulsucc/sh eet/1347897>



Signup sheets are also available on the bulletin board in the Commons.

We are accepting donations for the Flea Market up until Wednesday, October 4th.

Baked goods, candies, canned goods, etc. donations are also needed. Please drop off Thursday October 5 or early Friday morning October 6. Cookies, brownies, and other finger foods bagged and priced to sell for \$1.00 each. We do understand that some items need to be priced higher. Help us out and price your items prior to dropping off.