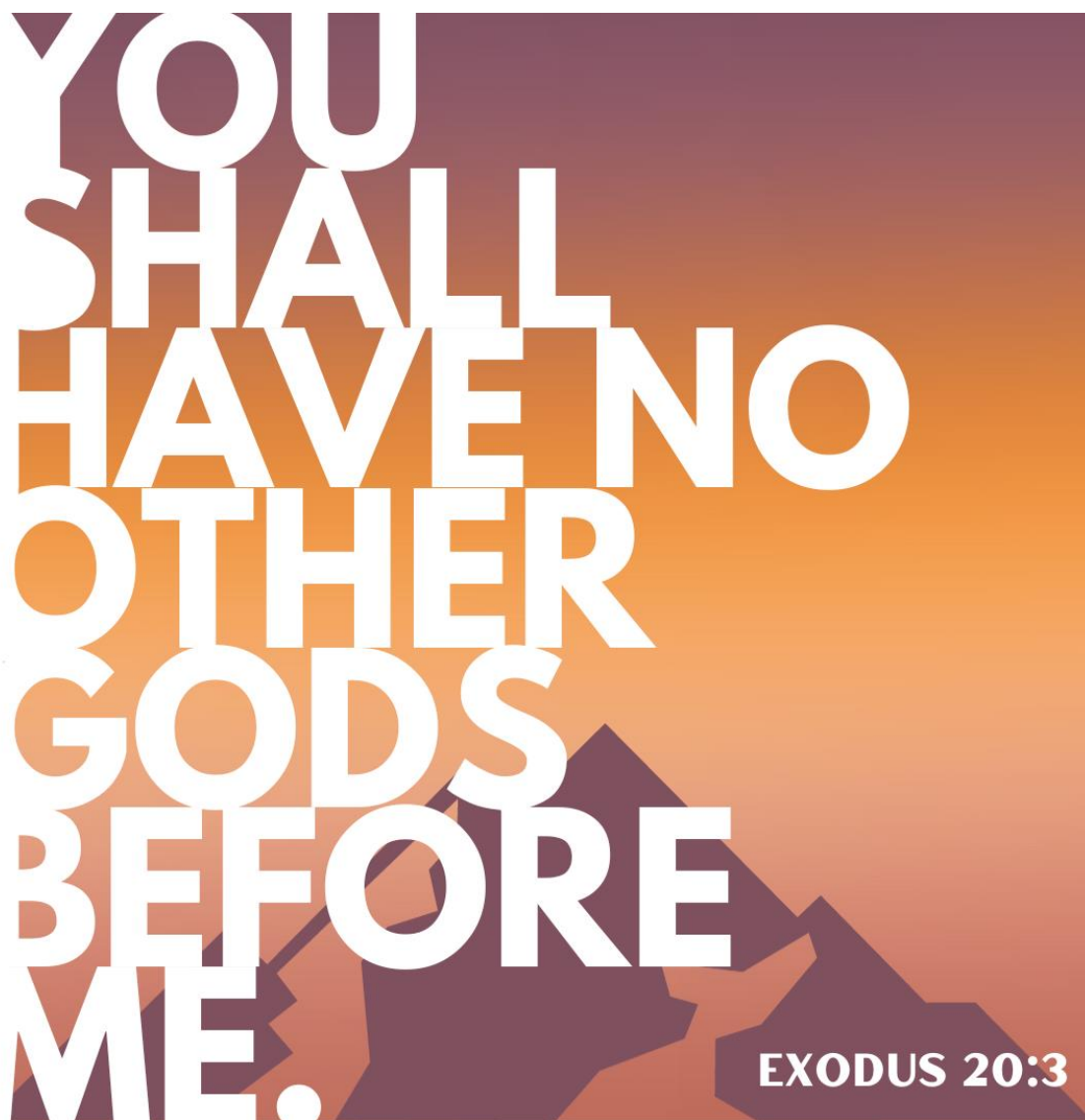


Welcome to
St. Paul's United Church of Christ
An Open and Affirming Congregation of the United Church of Christ
October 8, 2023



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

Ministry of Audio and Video

Jeffrey A. Dundore

Ministry of Service

Lead Greeter: Rebecca Drazba
Greeters: Jeff Leister, Sherry Spencer, Sue and Dayne Miller
Acolyte: Elsa Riesmeyer
Kids' Place: Don Dupes
Flower Preparation: Susan Gabriel
Flower Delivery: Wendi Taylor
Counting Team:
Fellowship Time Sponsors: Finance Team

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



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

NINETEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
ACCESS SUNDAY

October 8, 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 Lead Greeter. 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 "O That Will Be Glory"

Gerald Peterson

CALL TO WORSHIP (Responsive)

One: Accessible, inclusive, multi-sensory God, in celebration of You and Your Creation today, we give thanks for all.

All: We give thanks for people of all experiences, disabilities, and abilities.

One: God, you invite us to learn more, to connect more, to offer helpful accommodations; so people of all abilities and disabilities, minds and bodies, can thrive.

All: God, all minds and bodies echo Your reflection.

One: God, You are accessible to all. Opening our awareness to You on this Access Sunday, together may Your Creation be joyful and reflective. There is work to celebrate and work to continue in making Your world fully accessible.

All: Amen.

*THE HYMN No. 400 "Christ Is Made the Sure Foundation"

*PRAYER OF INVOCATION (unison)

God of all of our senses and all abilities and disabilities, we come before You, preparing our bodies, hearts, and minds for Worship. Whether having a singular or multiple focus; whether comfortable, uncomfortable, or somewhere in between; feeling included, excluded, or somewhere in between: we are celebrating the ways that our minds and

bodies experience the world, and reflect and echo Your love, truth, and grace. God, we thank You for diversity in abilities, which we celebrate today. Amen.

PRAYER TO CONFESSION (Unison)

Holy God, we confess that we have not always been inclusive, even though we try to be. That when we have observed difference, we have failed to marvel at the way that each person we meet is created in Your Image. We admit that we have much to learn when it comes to loving our neighbor as we love You and as we love ourselves. We are even skirting around the use of the word disability as we say this prayer, because as we move toward full inclusion it requires us to unlearn biases, including which words we should* use, and this is uncomfortable work, God. Help us to value one another's humanity over our own discomfort over and over and over again. Amen.

*Disabled is preferred by the disabilities community over euphemisms that center ability such as "differently abled" or "handicapped." This varies from person to person because no disability is a monolith, but in general it is a best practice to use "disabled."

WORDS OF ASSURANCE (Responsive):

One: God is with us in every unlearning. God is guiding us through every slip of the tongue, every 'oops, I shouldn't use that term,' in every moment when we catch ourselves in the middle of an outdated way of being, and the Holy Spirit gently nudges us toward the loving Kin-dom that Christ calls us to co-create here on earth.

ALL: May the Spirit of grace-in-the-awkwardness continue to forgive and bless our journey to full inclusion of all of God's Beloveds. 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 GOSPEL READING

Matthew 21:42-43

THE PSALM READING

Psalm 19:1-4, 11-14

*THE HYMN “When Hands Reach Out” (to the tune of no. 362, “Though I May Speak”)

*When hands reach out and fingers trace The beauty of a loved one's face,
We thank you, God, that love relies On gifts of grace not seen with eyes.*

*When fingers spell and signs express Our prayer and praise and thankfulness,
We thank you, God, that hands can sing; You bless the silent songs we bring.*

*When broken bodies will not mend, We thank you, God, for Christ our Friend.
In him, our healing can begin: He welcomes all the wounded in.*

*And when the ways we learn and grow Are not the ways that others know,
We thank you, God, that we have learned Your love's a gift, and never earned.*

*Your Spirit gives us differing ways To serve you well and offer praise.
When all are joined as one, we'll be Your able, strong community.*

Text: Copyright © 2001 by Carolyn Winfrey Gillette. All rights reserved.

THE RESPONSE:

One: God is Still Speaking.

All: **Thanks be to God!**

THE HEBREW SCRIPTURE READING & MESSAGE:

Exodus 20:1-21

“Beware What We Idolize”

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 “Every Eye Is Different”

Kantor

Chancel Choir

***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)**

Holy one, You are the source of all that we are and all that we have. While You are more desired than gold, and sweeter than honey, we bring You these gifts that they may be used to revive the souls and meet the needs of those in this faith community and in the wider world. Bless these gifts and this community of faith that we may be instruments of Your peace and ambassadors of Your love so that all those we meet may know that You are accessible to them and present for them. Amen.

***THE HYMN No. 475 “God’s Eye Is on the Sparrow”**

***THE BIDDING TO MISSION**

“St. Paul’s UCC Mechanicsburg - ONA Covenant” (To be spoken in unison)

The people of God at St. Paul’s United Church of Christ in Mechanicsburg, Pennsylvania, affirm our regard for the worth and dignity of all persons as Beloved Children of God. We recognize, celebrate, and give thanks for the many diverse gifts of God among us. We

declare ourselves to be an Open and Affirming congregation, welcoming into full membership and participation in the Body of Christ persons of every race, language, age, gender identity or expression, sexual orientation, physical or mental ability, and economic status.

We acknowledge that throughout history, the Christian church has often condemned and excluded gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender, and non-heteronormative people from the community of faith, or has condoned such condemnation and exclusion by its silence. We hold that such discrimination is incompatible with the gospel of Jesus Christ.

(Pause: Rev. John shares...)

We commit ourselves to work diligently to end all oppression and discrimination that afflict God's people in our society. We commit ourselves to nondiscrimination in the full life, ministry, and sacraments of this church, including membership, leadership, and employment practices. We will condemn all acts of harassment, discrimination, and violence against God's people. We will seek to include and support those who, because of fear and prejudice, find themselves in exile from a spiritual community. We affirm all relationships founded on the principles of God's love and justice. We pledge ourselves to be a wellspring of faith for a diverse people.

This covenant was adopted by vote of the congregation on May 18, 2003.

Terms revised and Covenant reaffirmed by the congregation on May 20, 2018.

***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 "High Praise"

Rachel Sawyer

References:

The Call to Worship and Prayer of Invocation by Stephanie Niemela, the Prayer of Confession and Assurance of Forgiveness by Kim Williams and the Prayer of Dedication by Gayle McGlaufflin are adapted from “Access Sunday 2023, Year A, by United Church of Christ Disabilities Ministries’ (UCCDM). These and other resources can be found on the United Church of Christ Disabilities Ministries website: www.uccdm.org.

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.

TRUNK OR TREAT

Instead of going door to door, kids can go “trunk to trunk” in this new Halloween tradition. Decorate the trunk/tailgate of your vehicle and pass candy out to the kids who visit. Be as elaborate or as simple as you’d like. Costumes are encouraged for people of all ages. Trunk or Treat will take place in our upper parking lot on Saturday, October 28th. Set-up begins at 5:00 PM; the event will be held at 6:00 PM. We’ll have a wicked good time! (Rain date: Sun. 29th.)

LITURGICAL ART PROJECT, JOIN US!

On Sunday October 29th our church we will be celebrating All Saints Day by lighting a candle and sharing the names of those members who died this past year. Scripture reminds us that we are “surrounded by a cloud of witnesses” who continue to be a part of our lives. This year the Creative Worship Team would like to create our own visual cloud of witnesses to be hung in our sanctuary. It is a liturgical art piece created with the images of our loved ones who have died. And so we invite ALL to bring a picture of your loved one the next few weeks to church. Rev Alyssa will scan the pictures into the church computer and return your picture to you. Or if you have the ability to send your loved one’s picture by email attach it to stpaulstaff@outlook.com

Then.... We will gather in the Fellowship Hall on Saturday October 14th at 10 am to project, trace and paint the images on a special fabric which will be hung in the sanctuary on All Saints Day. A sample of this project will be available for you to see. Any questions please contact Rev Alyssa or Brian Medkeff-Rose. Pabuckoe@aol.com

POLLYANNAS

Pollyannas will be having their next lunch meeting 11:30 am, Tuesday, Oct 24 at Perkins on Erford Rd. We will be meeting in the small back room. Please contact Bonnie Plymette If you are planning to attend.