

Welcome to
St. Paul's United Church of Christ
An Open and Affirming Congregation of the United Church of Christ
October 15, 2023



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
Preacher: The Rev. Allyssa A. Boyer
Lector: Paula Boyer

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: Chris Grice, Sherry Spencer
Acolyte: Elsa Riesmeyer
Kids' Place: Art Williams, Jonneke Dundore
Flower Preparation: Susan Gabriel
Flower Delivery: Chris Grice
Counting Team: Sherry Spencer
Fellowship Time Sponsors: PRISM

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

TWENTIETH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
CHILDREN'S SABBATH

October 15, 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

STEWARDSHIP MOMENT

THE ORGAN PRELUDE "He Leadeth Me"

Thomas Bliss

CHORAL INTROIT

***THE HYMN "God of Generations"**

(to the tune of no. 277, "Holy, Holy, Holy! Lord God Almighty!")

***God of generations, we are all your children;
To your church we bring our gifts, our worship and our song.
Young and old we follow, hand in hand together:
In your great love, together we are strong.***

***Christ, you welcomed children, called us to be like them,
And received a boy's small gift to feed a hungry crowd.
In our church's children, may we see you working:
More than "our future"! They are faithful now.***

***Spirit, freely moving, giving youth a vision,
By your grace young Jeremiah heard your loving call;
Mary was a young one when she learned her mission:
Through faithful youth, you offer truth to all.***

***Abraham and Sarah trusted in your promise:
Age was no condition when you gave them work to do.
Old and young we follow, hand in hand together;
At every age, Lord, we belong to you.***

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***PRAYER OF INVOCATION (responsive)**

One: When the disciples tried to keep children from Jesus,

All: Jesus said, “Let the children come to me!”

One: When the disciples wanted to send hungry people away, saying there were too many to feed,

All: Jesus said we can feed them!

One: When a parent whose child was in terrible trouble came to Jesus,

All: Jesus said he would help.

One: When a woman in poverty gave what she could,

All: Jesus honored her generosity.

One: Holy God, we gather in the name of your child, Jesus, who welcomed children, fed hungry people, helped children in trouble, and recognized the gifts of those in poverty.

All: On this Children’s Sabbath day, guide us as we seek to follow You in word and in deed. Amen.

CALL TO CONFESSION

If we are honest with ourselves, we recognize that we often fail to hear the voices of those who are young, impoverished, and hurting. We ignore the voices of those who speak in other languages, come from other communities, or have different life experiences than our own. We tune out voices that call us to account, or to make commitments, or to sit with their pain. We privilege the voices of those in positions of power, with status and wealth, or who tell us what we’re already comfortable hearing. Let us join in the time of Silent Prayer of Confession.

SILENT PRAYERS OF CONFESSION

WORDS OF ASSURANCE (Responsive):

One: Listen, I have good news to share: God is for us. God never gives up on us. God will always love us.

All: Let us live our lives with love and joy in that knowledge. Thanks be to God.

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 10:40-42

THE READING OF THE PSALM

Psalm 23

*THE HYMN "Do Not Turn Away the Children"
(to the tune of no. 332, "As We Gather At Your Table")

*Do not turn away the children; let them come to me instead.
For to them belongs the kingdom. Make them welcome!" Christ, you said.
As we hear your words of blessing that you spoke when they drew near,
Can we hear your love addressing needs of children we see here?*

*Do not turn your back on children who know violence, pain and war.
Give them justice, food and welcome, make their homes and lives secure.
Do not hurry past the children longing for your love this day;
For to them belongs the kingdom; give them time, don't turn away.*

*Do not miss the faith of children who have questions deep inside,
For to them belongs the kingdom wonder with them, be their guide.
Jesus, as we hear your blessing for those ones you welcomed in,
May our deeds reflect your caring as we welcome them again!*

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THE RESPONSE:

One: God is Still Speaking.

All: **Thanks be to God!**

THE HEBREW SCRIPTURE READING & MESSAGE:

Genesis 22:1-14

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 "God Is So Good"

arr. Burrows

Choristers and Youth 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)

We bring our offering because we are grateful. We give because it is such a privilege and joy to share. We dedicate these gifts to enable a ministry that meets basic human needs with the good news of the gospel. May Your people be empowered to give as each moment requires, that all Your children may have what they need to grow and thrive, and to know Your abundant love. Amen.

*THE HYMN No. 426 “O God, Whose Steadfast Love”

*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 “Go Out With Praise”

David Paxton

References:

The Prayer of Invocation is adapted from resources for The National Observance of Children’s Sabbath, The Children’s Defense Fund, 2018.

The Call to Confession and Words of Assurance are adapted from Christian Worship Resources for The National Observance of Children’s Sabbath, The Children’s Defense Fund, 2021.

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

Anna Thompson, “In honor of grandchildren; Tyler, Caleb, Logan, Ethan, Conner, Olivia, Travis, Hayley, Margaret, and William.”

NEW HOPE THANKSGIVING BASKETS

New Hope Ministries is seeking donations of traditional Thanksgiving meal items to fill baskets that will be distributed to needy families in our area. Suggested items include stuffing, gravy, cranberry sauce, vegetables, fruit, yams, pie ingredients, etc. Donated items should be placed in the boxes in the commons by Wednesday, November 8th. Donated turkeys and other perishable items may be taken directly to New Hope at 5228 East Trindle Road, Mechanicsburg. Any questions please contact Karen Allison.

PRISM

This fall PRISM will be collecting warm clothes, blankets and sleeping bags for people who are un-housed. Please place your donations of gently used items in the box in the collections area outside the Fellowship Hall. To learn more, contact Carol Sizemore.

STEWARDSHIP FALL AUCTION

We are excited to return to in-person bidding at the Fall Stewardship Auction during the Harvest Dinner on Sunday, Nov 12!! We need your creative donations of themed baskets or other specialty items to make this event a success. Gift cards and consumable items are often the most popular. Do you have a unique talent or gift to share as part of the auction? We'd love to hear about it! Donations are needed in the church office no later than Sunday, October 29th. Reach out to tell us what you're planning or if you'd like ideas. We can't wait to see what amazing creations you come up with! Melissa Cawley (melissacawley@aol.com) and Victoria Velez (vmvluv@comcast.net)

ADULT VOLUNTEERS FOR YOUTH FELLOWSHIP

Youth group...it's not just for kids! Our youth group gathers to spend time together, have fun, engage in service, and be themselves. This is your chance to help them out by serving as an adult chaperon. To volunteer, sign up on our website. Adult volunteers must have Safe Church clearances. To obtain clearances, or to check if your previous clearances are still valid, please contact Rev. Allyssa. Thank you for helping us create a safe, fun space for our youth!