

Welcome to St. Paul's United Church of Christ

An Open and Affirming Congregation of the United Church of Christ

October 29, 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: Patrice Miller

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: Patrice Miller, Joan Moyer
Acolyte: Elsa Riesmeyer
Kids' Place: Susan Ward-Diorio, Kim Pirtle
Flower Preparation: Susan Gabriel
Flower Delivery: Dale Thorpe and Don Dupes
Counting Team: Fenton Fox, Joan Moyer
Fellowship Time Sponsors: Welcome 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

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

ALL SAINTS' DAY
TWENTY-SECOND SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

October 29, 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 "Adagio" (from "Piano Sonata No. 1)

L. Van Beethoven

CHORAL INTROIT

*THE HYMN No. 305 "You Servants of God, Your Sovereign Proclaim"

ALL SAINTS DAY CANDLE LIGHTING

***Prayer of Invocation (Responsive)**

One: We remember the great ancestors of our faith, from Abraham and Sarah to Paul and Priscilla:

All: Ancestors of our faith, we remember you.

One: We remember the prophets and priests, the ministers and teachers who have taught us the way of God:

All: Teachers of our faith, we remember you.

One: We remember our grandparents and parents, aunts, and uncles; those who have gone before us in our lifetime:

All: Family of our faith, we remember you.

One: We lift up the memories of children and grandchildren, brothers and sisters, husbands and wives, parents, and friends whose lives ended too soon:

All: Those we hold close in our heart, we remember you.

One: We gather now to celebrate the gift of grace in the lives of those who have died from St. Paul's community throughout the years and in particular, those who have died in the past year. We celebrate their lives, even as we continue to grieve.

(As each name is spoken, a candle will be lit. Family members of the deceased may take their loved one's candle home with them after the Service or during the following week.)

We remember members of St. Paul's throughout our history together, and we remember Rev. Richard Gordon, Frances Wolford, Marshall Bender, JoAnn Bender, and John Layne, and all our loved ones who have passed into new life, but whose names and memories we have not forgotten.

One: Let us pray. We give thanks, O God, for all who have gone on to join with You beyond this life. We trust in the hope of resurrection and the promise of new life in Christ. We know that in our grief and celebration, O God, You are with us through it all, and we are not left alone.

All: Family of God, we remember you, and we honor you. We know you are with us in the spirit of worship, and our daily lives, and you will not be forgotten. In the name of Christ, in whom love lives forever, we pray. Amen.

CALL TO CONFESSION

In the rush and disconnection of modern life, we can forget to honor those who have gone before us, what they taught us, what they left for us, the love they shared with us. When we have been hurt by some in the past, any recalling of those who have died threatens to bring up pain. And sometimes in our grief, we find it hard to call up the memories of loved ones. Despite both the real pain and the potential pain, remembering those who have loved us is healing and important. Let us join in the time of Silent Prayers of Confession.

SILENT PRAYERS OF CONFESSION

WORDS OF ASSURANCE (Responsive):

One: God forgives us and seeks to heal us, calling us along to places and moments of healing.

ALL: Let us engage in the sacred act of remembering, so in our rush and disconnection we do not miss the importance of connections present and past; so in our pain we might find healing; so in our grief we might find greater peace. 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 2 Timothy 4:6-8

THE PSALM READING Psalm 34:1-10

*THE HYMN “Blessed Are the Poor In Spirit”
(to the tune of no. 459 “Come, O Fount of Every Blessing”)

*Blessed are the poor in spirit; all God's realm is surely theirs.
Those in mourning will find comfort as an answer to their prayers.
Meek ones whom this world despises will inherit everything.
God, your kingdom still surprises; may we seek the reign you bring.*

*Blessed, too, are those who hunger and who thirst for what is right.
They will not be prone to wander, for your will is their delight.
Those who show God's care and mercy will receive that mercy too.
God, in Christ you show us clearly of the joy we have in you.*

*Those who share the peace God gives them will find blessings as God's own.
Those oppressed for faithful living will call heaven's kingdom Home.
When the world's ways seem distressing and we feel life's painful sting,
God, remind us of the blessings of the wondrous life you bring.*

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THE RESPONSE:

One: God is Still Speaking.

All: **Thanks be to God!**

THE GOSPEL READING & MESSAGE:

Matthew 5:1-12

“Blessed Are...”

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 “The Great Cloud”

Martin

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)

As we give ourselves and our offerings, we pray, O God, that they may reveal Your love in such a way that many will respond. Awaken in us a love for You and for one another that is contagious. Remove from us all apathy, pretension, and greed that we may grow in holiness and compassion, living joyously in communion with You. Amen.

*THE HYMN No. 299 “For All the Saints”

*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 “Rise, Go Joyously Into Life”

Lani Smith

References:

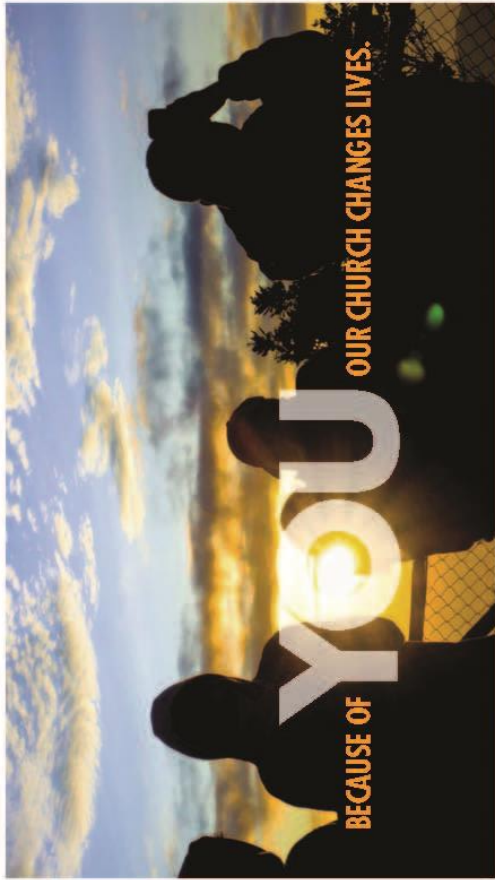
The All Saints’ Day Candle Lighting litany is adapted from a worship resource by Rev. Mindi Welton-Mitchell, rev-o-lution.org.

The Prayer of Dedication is from “Taught by Love” by Lavon Bayler, 1998, 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
Kathy and Mike Aumiller, “In honor of Zarya Lee Chandler’s 1st birthday.”
Jonneke Dundore, “In memory of Roger Dundore.”



Stewardship for a Thriving Planet

by **Dr. Carol Frances Johnston**

At each stage of creating in Genesis 1, God “saw that it was good.” When human beings were created last, “God saw everything that he had made, and indeed, it was very good.” There are two crucial aspects of this to notice here: First, not only that everything created is “good”, but also that it is the whole together that is “very good”. Second, it is crucial to consider the importance of God seeing that it is good. One of my students once asked about this, and together our class unpacked it. We soon realized that God “seeing” and so noticing (and knowing) God’s creatures, and how the whole is greater than the sum of the parts (“very good”) is a crucial element of life. Everyone needs to be seen and understood by others and learning that God “sees” and understands them as individuals and how they are connected to everything else can be transformative.

A few years ago, I interviewed about 75 faithful, creative, and generous church and community leaders across the U.S. Gradually I noticed that they shared an experience that comes before gratitude, generosity, and

learning how to practice stewardship, and makes them possible. What I saw in those congregations was attention and care to helping people – often very wounded, anxious, and fearful people – to **receive** God’s love into their lives in a variety of tangible ways through the preaching, worship, teaching, and above all the sharing of that love in the practice of a form of hospitality that included seeing and accepting each person as a beloved child of God and valued member of God’s family. This hospitality, grounded in the experience of God’s love through Christ, was far more than friendliness – it was intentional about affirming each person as one with needed gifts to bring as well as needs to be met, so that the life of the church became one of mutuality that extended far beyond into effective mission. I heard many stories about how the church leaders, especially the pastors, saw potential in each person that they themselves had not realized they had, and invited them to bring it to share with others: the very kind of stewardship we have seen in the Genesis accounts.

This way of inviting people in and grounding them has proven to be transformative and frees up potential that exists in every person and every community in remarkable ways.

Questions to Consider:

1. How does your spiritual practice of generosity connect you to other people?
2. When has someone deeply “seen” you?
3. How does generosity reflect what you “see” in our community and beyond?

