

Welcome to
St. Paul's United Church of Christ

An Open and Affirming Congregation of the United Church of Christ

November 19, 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: Jane Leister

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: Jim Pirtle
Greeters: Paula Boyer
Acolyte: Elsa Riesmeyer
Kids' Place:
Flower Preparation: Susan Gabriel
Flower Delivery: Dale Thorpe and Don Dupes
Counting 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

TWENTY-FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

November 19, 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 PRELUDE "Now Thank We All Our God" Hand Chimes arr. Wagner

CHORAL INTROIT

*THE HYMN No. 422 "Come, O Thankful People, Come"

*PRAYER OF INVOCATION (unison)

**Most Holy God, You need nothing from us. What we can offer is our Thanks. May our
lives be clear witnesses of gratitude to You. Amen.**

CALL TO CONFESSION

We sometimes still get caught trying to "bribe" God. "If I am really good God, will You do this for me?" "If I sacrifice something, give something of myself, will You do what I want?" While being good and giving of ourselves is appropriate, and needed by the world around us, God's Care and Love for us is not dependent on that, it is not conditional. Rather it is freely given, continuously. If we believe this is true, will we still try to live as Jesus taught and showed us? Will we stop and say thanks? Let us join in Silent Prayers of Confession.

SILENT PRAYERS OF CONFESSION

WORDS OF ASSURANCE (Responsive):

One: God forgives us, even when we are so wrapped up in our own stuff that we fail to stop
 and offer our gratitude.

**ALL: During this time set aside for giving thanks, may we turn, may we return our
 attention to the One who has Blessed, is Blessing and will continue to Bless us all.
 And let us say: Thank You! 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.

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!

WHAT ARE YOU THANKFUL FOR?

Please write on your "leaves" and place them in the baskets as our young people come around.

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 HEBREW SCRIPTURE READING

Deuteronomy 8:11-18

THE PSALM READING

Psalms 65

*THE HYMN No. 28 "For the Beauty of the Earth"

THE RESPONSE:

One: God is Still Speaking.

All: Thanks be to God!

THE GOSPEL READING & MESSAGE:

Luke 17:11-19

"Gratitude Leads to Wholeness"

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

THE OFFERTORY “Grateful Songs of Praise”

Choplin

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)

For food and water, for all the blessings of the land You have given us, for family and friends who enrich our lives, our hearts overflow with thanksgiving to You, O God. We have been sheltered and educated and empowered by Your generosity. In Jesus Christ, we have been shown a way to the wholeness You intend for us. Receive these offerings as a joyous expression of our gratitude. Amen.

*THE HYMN “All of Life is Filled With Wonder”
(to the tune of no. 4, “Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee”)

*All of life is filled with wonder, so we thank you, God of love —
For the crash of evening thunder, clearing clouds, then stars above;
For the night that turns to glowing as we feel the morning mist,
God, we praise and thank you, knowing every day we're truly blessed.*

(Cont.)

*For the joy of daily waking, for the gift of each new day,
For the smell of fresh bread baking, for the sound of children's play,
For the ways we seek to serve you as we work and volunteer,
God, we humbly praise and thank you for your presence with us here.*

*For your love in times of trouble, for your peace when things are tough,
For your help when hardships double, for your grace that is enough,
For a stranger's gentle kindness, for a doctor's healing skill —
God, we thank you that you bless us, and you bless your world as well.*

*For your presence in our neighbors, for your love that claims and frees.
For our talents and our labors, for our faith communities.
For your daily great surprises — poor ones lifted, lost ones found —
God, we thank you! Hope still rises, as your gifts of grace abound.*

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*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 “With Might and Majesty”

Steven Scott

References:

The Prayer of Dedication is from “Taught by Love” by Lavon Bayler, 1998, United Church Press.

The Prayer of Blessing is by Janet Bristow, 2008, www.shawlministry.com

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

Melissa Cawley, “In memory of loved ones.”

Betsy Rushong, “In memory of Frank ‘Benny’ Rushong.”

Martha Keith, “In honor of Gene Keith’s 91st birthday.”