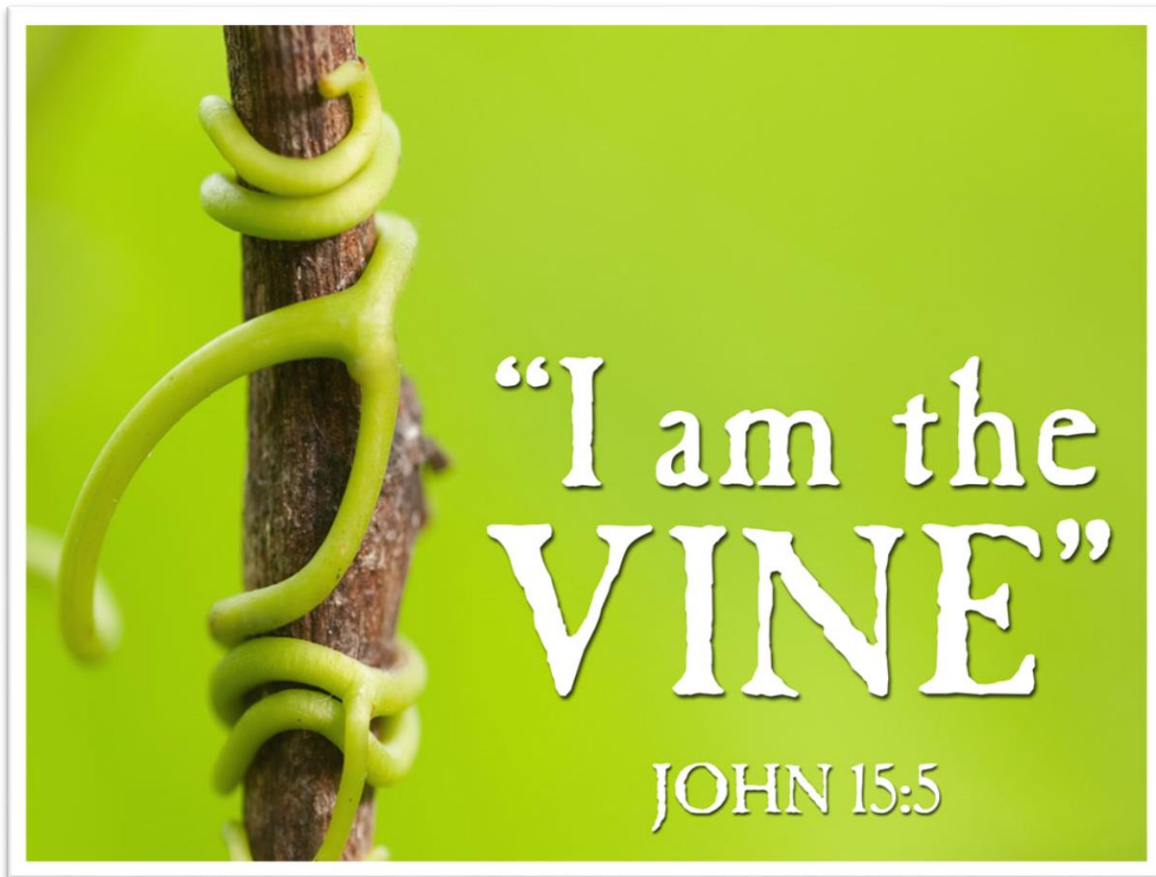


**Welcome to**  
**St. Paul's United Church of Christ**

*An Open and Affirming Congregation of the United Church of Christ*

May 5, 2024



**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: Kathy Aumiller

## **Ministry of Music**

Minister of Music: Eric R. 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: Nancy Richey  
Greeters: Paula Boyer, Jeff Leister, Steve Roush  
Acolyte: Elsa Riesmeyer  
Kids' Place: Bonnie Plymette  
Flower Preparation: Susan Gabriel  
Flower Delivery: Bonnie Plymette  
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**

626 Williams Grove Road  
Mechanicsburg, PA 17055  
(717)766-7931

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Rev. Allyssa: [allyssaboyer@outlook.com](mailto:allyssaboyer@outlook.com)



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

SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER  
HOLY COMMUNION

May 5<sup>th</sup>, 2024

*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 ORGAN PRELUDE "Fugue in C Major"

George F. Handel

CHORAL INTROIT

\*THE HYMN No. 459 "Come, O Fount of Every Blessing"

\*PRAYER OF INVOCATION (unison)

**God of Love, we pray You will keep reaching out to us, teaching us how to love as Jesus loved, as You would have us love. Learning to live like this is a process, we know. Guide us through it. Amen.**

CALL TO CONFESSION

Living with love as Jesus did is not easy. It requires of us a commitment to live differently than many people around us. It requires of us a rejection of acting purely out of self-centered, self-serving ways. As hard as it is to choose to live this way, such living offers us joy and deeper and deeper connections with God. Let us join in a time of Silent Prayers of Confession.

SILENT PRAYERS OF CONFESSION

WORDS OF ASSURANCE (Responsive):

**One:** God forgives us, continues to support us, and reminds us of God's call to love one another as Jesus showed us how to love.

**ALL:** **May we seek the strength God offers us to choose to love, recognizing we are surrounded by a Community of Faith that is seeking to do the same, supporting one another in our efforts. Amen.**

*If you are able, please rise and greet one another with 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 NEW TESTAMENT READING

Acts 10:44-48

THE PSALM READING

Psalm 98

THE RESPONSE:

One: God is Still Speaking.

**All: Thanks be to God!**

THE GOSPEL READING & MESSAGE:

John 15:9-17

“Commanded To Love One Another”

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

THE CHORAL RESPONSE (unison)

Hal-le, hal-le, hal - le - lu - ja. Hal-le, hal-le, hal - le - lu - ja.

Hal-le, hal-le, hal - le - lu - ja. Hal-le - lu-ja, hal - le - lu - ja.

*Please place your pew pad sheets in the Offering Plate.*

THE OFFERTORY “Like a River in My Soul”

Osiek

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)

**Generous and loving God, we dedicate to Your service the work of our hands, the earnings of our time and efforts, and our vision for the future. May faith sustain us as we offer our best to You in praise and thanksgiving and joyous dedication. We seek to work for the reign of Your truth and extension of the friendship granted to us in Jesus Christ. Let our offering bear fruit in the lives of all who are helped by it. Amen.**

\*THE HYMN No. 349 "I Come with Joy"

## THE SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION

### THE INVITATION

**One:** God be with you.

**All:** **And also with you.**

**One:** Lift up your hearts.

**All:** **We lift them up to God.**

**One:** Let us give thanks to God.

**All:** **It is good to give God thanks and praise.**

### PASTORAL PRAYER AND LORD'S PRAYER

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed by 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.**

### WORDS OF INSTITUTION

#### DISTRIBUTION OF THE ELEMENTS

We gather both in person and in Spirit. For those of you present in the Sanctuary, greeters will pass out bread and gluten-free crackers, and then red wine and white grape juice. They will bring the trays to you. Please hold the elements until all have been served; we will eat and then drink them together. All are welcome to participate. Thank you.

For those of you joining us via livestream, we hope you have some bread and wine or juice of your choice before you. We trust that God is powerful enough to extend God's Blessing upon these Communion elements, even as we and they are scattered in geographic space.

#### THE PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING (unison)

**Holy God, we give You thanks for the miracle and wonder of this meal. We give You thanks for your coming to us in the person of Jesus, and for Jesus' willingness to offer his whole self for our benefit. We can see how we can best live our lives. We can believe all "deaths," those losses, endings, and struggles in this life, and the ones at the end of our physical lives, are not**

**the final word. We can trust that Your Spirit is within all of us, and always will be. May the gifts of this table always remind us of the gifts You have given us all. Amen.**

\*THE HYMN No. 393 “Blessed Be the Tie That Binds”

\*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 “Sing To The Lord A New And Glorious Song”

Lani Smith

References:

The Prayer of Dedication is from “Led by Love” by Lavon Bayler, 1996, 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.

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### **ALTAR FLOWERS**

The Altar flowers are given to the Glory of God by  
Kevin and Karen Allison, “In honor of Charlie Harrison McNeese’s 2<sup>nd</sup> birthday.”  
Susan and Edward Thorn, “In celebration of our 50<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary.”