

Welcome to
St. Paul's United Church of Christ

An Open and Affirming Congregation of the United Church of Christ

May 12, 2024



ACTS 1:8

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: Eric Dundore

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: Don Dupes, Chris Grice, Fenton Fox
Acolyte: Elsa Riesmeyer
Kids' Place: Jonneke Dundore
Flower Preparation: Susan Gabriel
Flower Delivery: Chris Grice
Counting Team: Fenton Fox

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

SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER
ASCENSION DAY

May 12, 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 "How Can I Keep From Singing"

Tim Birchwood

CHORAL INTROIT

*THE HYMN No. 257 "Alleluia! Gracious Jesus!"

*PRAYER OF INVOCATION (unison)

Appear to us again, risen Savior, for we have lost sight of You. We have come to find You here. We seek wisdom to cope with the confusion we face every day amid competing claims. We are here to remember the power with which You spoke, so we may walk amid the rulers of our day, speaking in Christ's name. May our minds be open, and our hearts empowered, so we may once more embrace hope and know Your joy. Amen.

CALL TO CONFESSION

If the people of Galilee spent too much time looking up toward heaven, perhaps our problem is that we spend too little. In our hectic lives, we do not examine our busyness. Are we about God's business? Are we on a spiritual quest in the midst of all our doing? Let us confess the way things are between ourselves and God. Let us join in the Silent Prayer of Confession.

SILENT PRAYERS OF CONFESSION

WORDS OF ASSURANCE (Responsive):

One: Forgiveness is ours to receive and proclaim. The power of God, at work in Christ, is offered to us: the power of love to make a difference among us.

ALL: Let us give thanks that we are restored as beloved children of the Living God.

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.

THE CHORISTERS “A Wonderous Circle of Love”

Taylor

THE GOSPEL READING

Luke 24:44-53

THE READING OF THE PSALM

Psalm 93

*THE HYMN No. 42 “O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing”

THE RESPONSE:

One: God is Still Speaking.

All: **Thanks be to God!**

THE NEW TESTAMENT READING & MESSAGE:

Acts 1:1-11

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)

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 “Speak, O Lord”

arr. Larson

Hand Chimes

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***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)**

May our offerings leave no doubt that You are head of our church and the inspiration for our lives. Empower our ministries so that we may be inclusive in our outreach, and effective as teachers and healers. Help us to find joy in our praying and in our serving. For these purposes and to the glory of Your name, we dedicate our money and our lives. Amen.

***THE HYMN "O Christ, When You Ascended" (to the tune of no. 245, "The Day of Resurrection")**

***O Christ, when you ascended, you took your rightful throne;
Your time on earth had ended — yet we weren't left alone.
You reign o'er earth and heaven; your Spirit guides our way.
Your prayers uphold your people; you lead your church each day.***

***We look at earthly rulers and see what they command:
We note their years of power, the borders of their land.
Yet, Lord, you are not bounded by things like time and space;
Your reign is never-ending, you rule in every place.***

***It's often quite a challenge to follow in your Way;
We're easily distracted! It's hard, Lord, to obey.
Sometimes we give you Sundays — an hour, maybe two —
But your ascension means, Lord, all life belongs to you.***

***One day, O Lord, we'll know you, as we are fully known;
One day this world of sinners will bow before your throne.
One day, God's whole creation will sing and praise your name;
On earth as now in heaven, we'll celebrate your reign.***

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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 Trumpets and Horns”

G.F. Handel

References:

The Prayer of Invocation, Call to Confession, Words of Assurance, and Prayer of Dedication are adapted from “Led by Love” by Lavon Bayler, United Church Press: Cleveland, OH, 1996. 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
Kasey Shell, “For all the love you’ve given me before my graduation & after.”
Becky and Layne Thompson, “In memory of Margo Thompson.”