

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

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

June 9, 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. Dr. Laura Ramsey  
The Rev. John J. Ward-Diorio  
Lector: Beth Lengel

### **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: Mel Shaver-Durham  
Greeters: Fenton Fox, Becky Thompson, Don Dupes  
Consistory Communion Server: Nancy Richey  
Acolyte: Elsa Riesmeyer  
Kids' Place: Sherry Spencer  
Flower Preparation: Susan Gabriel  
Flower Delivery: Dale Thorpe, Don Dupes  
Counting Team: Fenton Fox, Sherry Spencer

### **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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**ONLINE  
GIVING**



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

THIRD SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST  
HOLY COMMUNION

June 9, 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 "Be Still, My Soul"

Roger C. Wilson

\*THE HYMN No. 573 "Lead On Eternal Sovereign"

CALL TO WORSHIP (responsive)

One: From many lands, we gather as a people. With diverse homelands, backgrounds, and experiences shaping who we are today:

**Many: Out of many, we are one.**

One: Of different ages and abilities, we gather as a people. Wearing different clothing, filling different roles, speaking many languages, singing different songs:

**Many: Out of many, we are one.**

One: With diverse hopes and dreams, we gather as a people. Of different personality types and interests, with multiple ministries and callings:

**Many: Out of many, we are one.**

One: Each carrying within us many voices, we gather as a people, holding happiness alongside hurt, often in the same moment. Inside every one of us, a crowd of ideas, feelings, and questions:

**Many: Out of many, we are one.**

One: In Christ, we come together and find a deeper unity. People of God, come and worship, that out of many, all may be one!

**Many: Come to worship our God!**

UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION (unison)

**Many: God, we confess that sometimes we close windows  
against the fresh air of new ideas,  
against the noise of other people's worries  
against the winds of change.**

**God, we confess that we often draw the curtains  
against people who are different,  
against world news or community concerns.**

**Forgive us our insulation in our own homes,  
our shuttered churches,  
the security systems on our hearts.**

**Open up our lives. Amen.**

WORDS OF GRACE (Responsive):

One: Forgiveness is the threshold. First, we look out, then we are sent out...

**ALL: Thanks be to 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.**

*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 Corinthians 4:13-5:1

**Rebirth**

Change comes  
Sweeping  
Like the winds of hurricanes  
Flooding waters rising high  
taking with them →

doubt  
fear  
In the midst of change  
my heart races  
my pulse a staccato beat

my feet cemented  
fear a reckoning  
not to be forgotten  
nothing to hold on to  
I sink into the water  
I am carried on the winds

I am lifted  
carried on the highs  
of harsh winds  
tumbling into heights  
unknown

spiraling into newness  
I am reborn.

I am new  
there is a vision  
for this time and space

I rest  
renewed  
I am in this present  
I am in this newness  
full of Spirit  
I am free

THE RESPONSE:

One: God is Still Speaking.

All: Thanks be to God!

THE GOSPEL READING & MESSAGE:

John 17:21-23(NRSVUE)

21 ...that they may all be one. As you, Father, are in me and I am in you, may they also be in us, so that the world may believe that you have sent me. 22 The glory that you have given me I have given them, so that they may be one, as we are one, 23 I in them and you in me, that they may become completely one, so that the world may know that you have sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me.

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

THE CHORAL RESPONSE (unison)

304

Into My Heart

The musical score for 'Into My Heart' is presented in three systems, each with a vocal line and a piano accompaniment line. The key signature is B-flat major (two flats) and the time signature is 4/4. The lyrics are: 'In - to my heart, in - to my heart, come in - to my heart, Lord Je - sus; come in to - day, come in to stay, come in - to my heart, Lord Je - sus.'

WORDS and MUSIC: Harry D. Clarke, 1924

INTO MY HEART  
LM

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

THE OFFERTORY “You Raise Me Up”

Words and music by Brendan Graham and Rolf Lovland  
Sung by Beth and Azure Lengel, accompanied by The Rev. Dr. Laura Ramsey

\*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)

**Thank you, God, for Your faithfulness. We bring ourselves and some of what we have accumulated to praise You and do the work You call us to do. Fulfill your purpose for this church as you enlist our offerings and our lives. In amazement at the work of Your hands, we reach out our hands to help others and invite them to join us. In our labors for You, we will not lose heart. Help us to do Your will. Amen.**

\*THE HYMN No. 336 “Here, O My Lord, I See You Face to Face”

THE SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION

THE INVITATION TO THE TABLE

He was always the guest. In the homes of Peter and Jairus, Martha, and Mary, Joanna and Susanna, he was always the guest. At the meal tables of the wealthy where he pled the case of the poor, he was always the guest. Upsetting polite company befriending isolated people, welcoming the stranger, he was always the guest.

But here, at this table, he is the host. Those who wish to serve him must first be served by him, those who want to follow him must first be fed by him, those who would wash his feet must first let him make them clean. For this is the table where God intends us to be nourished; this is the time when Christ can make us new. So come, you who hunger and thirst for a deeper faith, for a better life, for a fairer world. Jesus Christ, who has sat at our tables, now invites us to be guest at his.

THE GREAT PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

One: God be with you.

**Many: And also with you.**

One: Lift up your hearts.

**Many: We lift them to God.**

One: Let us give thanks to God Most High.

**Many: It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

One: Eternal God—God of our ancestors, God of our Savior Jesus Christ, and our God— we witness to your mighty acts and saving love.

You called the worlds into being.

You breathed the breath of life into your creation.

You raised humankind from the dust and fashioned us in your own image.

You claimed us as beloved and have never been less than that in your sight.

One: Even in the times when we turned from you and chased after gods of our own making, you sought us out and called us back into right relationship with you.

No matter how far we wander, in holy love you enter into the chaos of the journey to bring us home.

We witness to your creative power and your steadfast devotion.

Holy God, we are witnesses to your relentless grace. When the distance between us had grown too great, you entered fully into creation to redeem what you had made.

In Jesus of Nazareth you came to us—bone of our bone and flesh of our flesh—and shared our common lot.

Through his teachings and example, through his death and resurrection, you conquered sin and death and reconciled creation to yourself.

Redeeming God, we are witnesses of your Holy Spirit.

You have sent us into the world to voice give to your love and power as made known in Jesus Christ. You gift us with his Spirit's presence that empowers us to be the Church: sharing the hope of your life-giving life,

meeting the challenges of our world with justice and courage,

serving others with the strength of your compassion,

witnessing to your word and work in our midst.

Blessing and honor, glory and power be unto you, gracious God, now and always. Amen.

## THE WORDS OF INSTITUTION

What we do here, we do in imitation of what Christ first did. To his followers in every age, Jesus gave an example and command rooted in the experience he shared with his disciples in an upstairs room in Jerusalem.

On the night on which he was betrayed, and as they were sitting at a meal, Jesus took a piece of bread and broke it. He gave it to the disciples saying, 'This is my body. It is broken for you. Do this to remember me.'

Later, after they had eaten, he took a cup and said, 'This cup is the new relationship with God made possible because of my death. Drink this all of you, to remember me.'

So now we do as Jesus did.

We take this bread and this cup, the produce of the earth and fruit of human labor. In these Jesus has promised to be present; through these, Christ can make us whole.

#### THE PRAYER OF CONSECRATION

One: We pray, Holy God, for the fullness of your Spirit to bless this moment where your people come together at this table graced with bread and cup. Transform these ordinary provisions into extraordinary gifts of your sustaining grace. Through sharing in this meal, we ask we may be drawn more deeply into relationship with you and may receive the vision to glimpse how we are to be your body today. All praise and glory in the highest heaven be yours, Almighty God, now and always.

#### THE LORD'S PRAYER (unison)

**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.**

#### DISTRIBUTION OF COMMUNION ELEMENTS (INTINCTION)

We gather both in person and in Spirit. For those of you present in the Sanctuary, if you are able, we invite you to come forward. When you come forward, a piece of bread will be given to you. There are gluten free broken crackers and white grape juice on a table between the servers. Once you have received your bread, please proceed to the right or the left and servers will have both wine and grape juice that you may dip your bread in. You may then eat your Communion Element and proceed back to your pew.

If you prefer not to come forward, remain in your pew and a Greeter will bring you the Elements. Please raise your hand if you believe Greeter did not see 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)

**Almighty God, we give you thanks for the gift of our Savior's presence in the simplicity and splendor of this holy meal. Unite us with all who are fed by Christ's body and blood that we may faithfully proclaim the good news of your love and that your universal church may be a rainbow of hope in an uncertain world; through Jesus Christ our Redeemer. Amen.**

\*THE HYMN No. 394 "In Christ There is no East or West"

\*THE BIDDING TO MISSION

**Lessons**

we come into this world  
ready

we come knowing  
we come with purpose  
we are  
ready

knowing is of the self  
knowledge of our power  
awareness of the wisdom  
traveling with us  
instinct aligning our journey

purpose is present  
the peace that we are  
we are courageous  
we are open  
we are a part of the Universe

we encounter a world  
unaccepting  
our opinions grate  
our certainty wavers  
we lose purpose

we hide our gifts  
the pain of living  
like water flowing changing rock  
wears us down  
tearing us at the core

we are ready  
our aches and pains  
a sign of restlessness  
calling us back  
to brilliance

the weariness in our spirits  
a reminder  
purpose awaits  
pulling at our center  
willing us to remember

we came  
into this world ready  
we are enough  
we are brilliant  
we are ready

\*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 “God of All Nations”

Esther S. Higgins

### References:

The Call to Worship is by Rev. Audrey deCoursey who is ordained in the Church of the Brethren. She has served in congregational and hospital ministry in Elgin, Illinois, and Portland, Oregon. She is currently the pastor of a new online church, the Living Stream Church of the Brethren.

The Unison Prayer of Confession is by Maren C. Tirabassi on page 123 of Before the Amen (Pilgrim Press, 2007)

The Poem “Rebirth” is by The Rev. Dr. Karen Georgia Thompson, General Minister and President of the United Church of Christ, 22 February 2017, Lakewood, OH

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The Prayer of Consecration was inspired the UCC’s Statement of Faith and written by Rebecca Hoover.

The Prayer of Thanksgiving is from the UCC Book of Worship.

The Bidding to Mission poem “Lessons” is by The Rev. Dr. Karen Georgia Thompson, General Minister and President of the United Church of Christ, 3 December 2020, 7:16, Olmsted Township, OH

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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