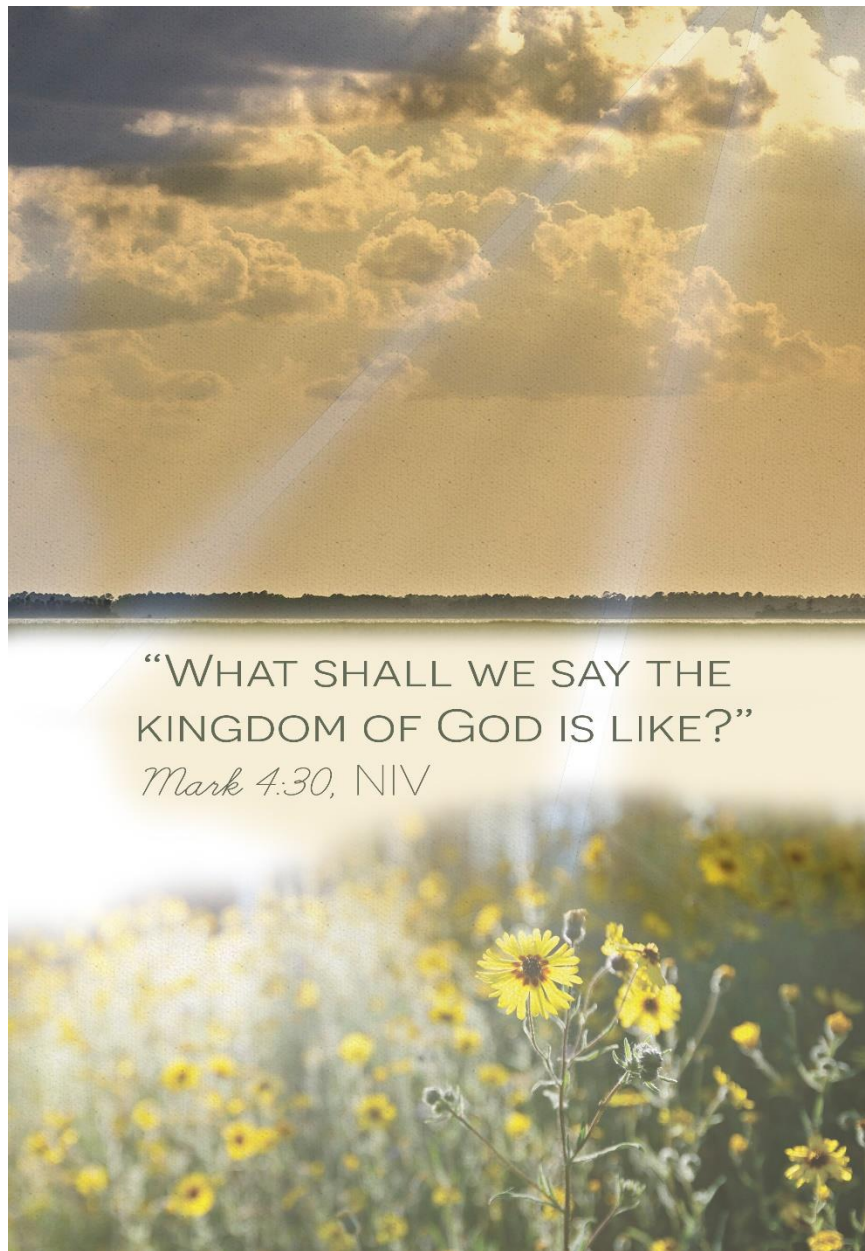


Welcome to St. Paul's United Church of Christ

An Open and Affirming Congregation of the United Church of Christ

June 16, 2024



“WHAT SHALL WE SAY THE
KINGDOM OF GOD IS LIKE?”

Mark 4:30, NIV

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: Paula Boyer

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: Don Dupes, Sherry Spencer, Fenton Fox
Acolyte: Elsa Riesmeyer
Kids' Place: Becky Thompson, Dale Thorpe
Flower Preparation: Susan Gabriel
Flower Delivery: Patrice Miller
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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Mechanicsburg, PA 17055
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Rev. Allyssa: allyssaboyer@outlook.com



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

FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

June 16, 2024

The livestream starts with the Announcements. If you'd prefer not to be on camera, kindly choose a seat in the back three pews of the Sanctuary. Leave prayer requests in the bowl in the Common area or give them to the Lead Greeter.

****Those who are comfortable doing so are invited to stand.***

THE RINGING OF THE CHIMES

THE WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE ORGAN PRELUDE "Thank Be To Thee"

G.F. Handel

CALL TO WORSHIP "Hope"

Mohammad Ali Maleki

There was a seed,
fresh and beautiful –
it knew nothing
of the outside world.
This beautiful seed
was stuck between
two walls in a village.
The sun and the moon,
the rain, the white snow
and the blue sky were unknown to it.
Because this seed was living
in darkness.

Still, it had a good feeling
about the outside world.
It continued to say,
Behind this wall
there is something better.
Its heart beat
with each passing day,
beating faster and faster,
yearning to see the outside
until it couldn't take it anymore!
Its heart cracked,
grew a stem

and then a bud.
Its pretty stem
punched the wall
and, shaking with fear,
it poked its head out into the sun.

Afraid at first
it shrunk back into the wall,
not even knowing
it had seen the light.
But soon it got restless
and returned, longingly, to look at the sky.
The sky rained on the bud
making it clean and cold,
then the sun warmed its body
and the bud inspired itself to keep growing
until it burst into a beautiful flower.

No one had ever seen such a flower!
But between the two walls,
standing steady,
the flower just said –
We can carry on,
in any circumstances.
All we need is patience.

*THE HYMN No. 304 "All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name"

*PRAYER OF INVOCATION (unison)

Meet us here, Holy God, to search our hearts and strengthen our spirits. Plant Your Word among us that it may spring up in nurturing, inviting ways for the sake of all creation. May we find in these moments of worship the assurance we need to live hopefully in the face of loss, discouragement, and suffering. Lead us, by the teaching and example of Jesus Christ, to trust You and Your will for us. Amen.

CALL TO CONFESSION

Each of us is charged by God to give our best and bear fruit for God's Kingdom, what we often call the Beloved Community here on earth. We who gather in God's house are called to be a faithful community in which all are motivated by the love of Christ. This is a time to examine ourselves before our Creator. Let us join in silent prayers 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.**

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!

Children are invited to the front. 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

Ezekiel 17:22-24

THE READING OF THE PSALM

Psalm 92:1-4, 12-15

*THE HYMN No. 425 “For the Fruit of All Creation”

THE RESPONSE:

One: God is Still Speaking.

All: **Thanks be to God!**

THE GOSPEL READING & MESSAGE:

Mark 4:26-34

“Scattering the Seeds”

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)

304 Into My Heart

The musical score for 'Into My Heart' is presented in three systems. Each system consists of a vocal line (treble clef) and a piano accompaniment line (bass clef). 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 “Tender Melody”

Jean-Baptiste Lully

*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)

The gift of Your realm is precious to us, O God. It is worth our greatest efforts and our caring sacrifice. As we search for the best in life, we also want to share our faith discoveries with friends and neighbors. We do that personally and with our giving. May our outreach proclaim to all that nothing can separate us from Your love. We give You thanks that You have entrusted to us all that we are privileged to share. Amen.

*THE HYMN No. 433 "In the Bulb There Is a Flower"

*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

*The livestream ends after the Postlude. You're welcome to converse in the Narthex after the Three-fold Amen.
However, if you choose to stay for the Postlude, please remain silent until the conclusion.*

THE ORGAN POSTLUDE "We Plow the Fields, and Scatter"

Robert J. Hughes

References:

The Call to Worship is a poem titled "Hope" by Mohammad Ali Maleki, translated from Farsi by Mansoor Shoushtari, and edited by Michele Seminara. Mohammad Ali Maleki is an Iranian poet and avid gardener living in detention on Manus Island, in one of several offshore Australian immigration detention facilities.

The Prayer of Invocation and Prayer of Dedication are adapted from "Taught by Love" by Lavon Bayler, United Church Press: Cleveland, OH, 1998.

The Call to Confession and Words of Assurance are adapted from "Led by Love" by Lavon Bayler, United Church Press: Cleveland, OH, 1996.

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.

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ALTAR FLOWERS

The Altar flowers are given to the Glory of God by
Dale Thorpe and Don Dupes, "In memory of our friend, Lisa."