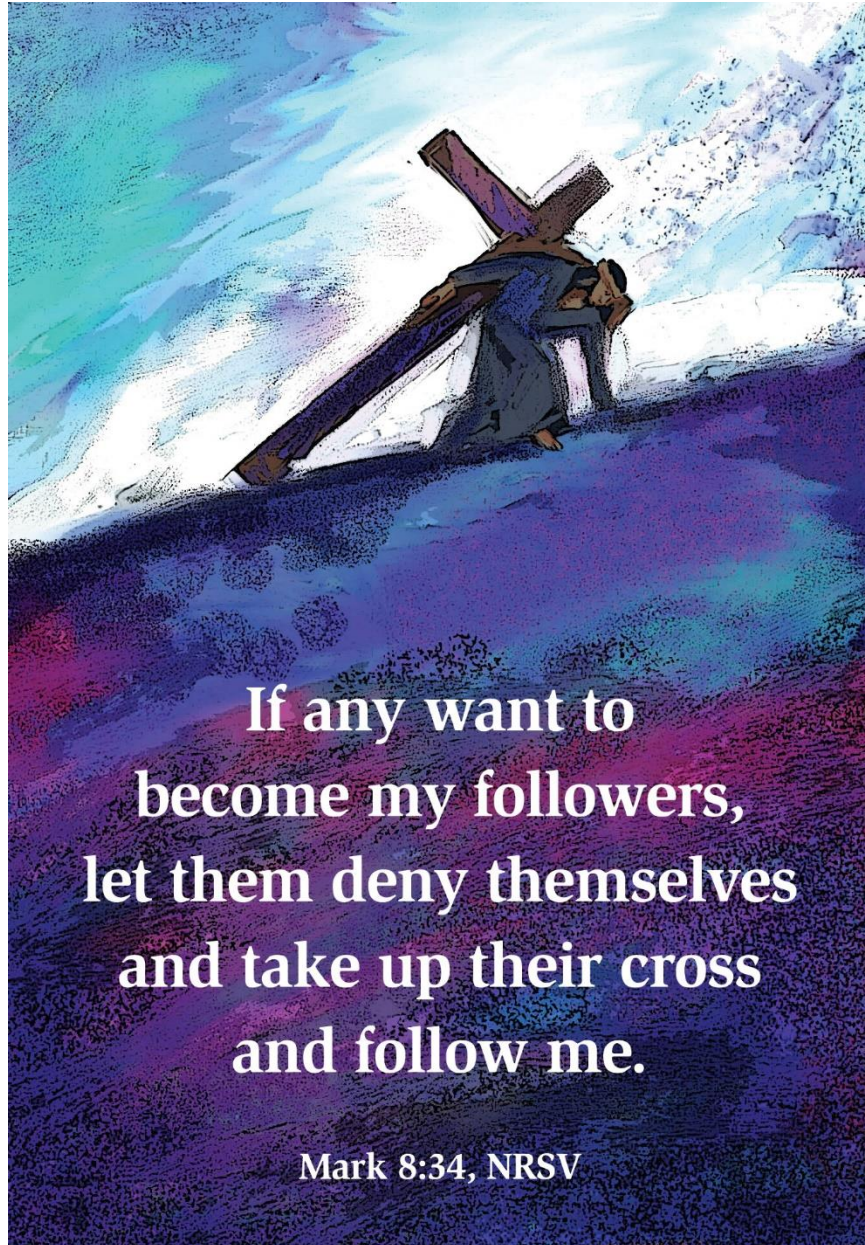


Welcome to St. Paul's United Church of Christ

An Open and Affirming Congregation of the United Church of Christ

September 15, 2024



**If any want to
become my followers,
let them deny themselves
and take up their cross
and follow me.**

Mark 8:34, NRSV

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: 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: Don Dupes
Greeters: Patrice Miller, Fenton Fox
Acolyte: Elsa Riesmeyer
Kids' Place: Sherry Spencer, Jonneke Dundore
Flower Preparation: Susan Gabriel
Flower Delivery: Sherry Spencer
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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Rev. Allyssa: allyssaboyer@outlook.com



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

SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
JUST PEACE SUNDAY

September 15, 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 "The Old Rugged Cross"

William Barnett

CHORAL INTROIT

*THE HYMN "God, Your Gift of Peace is Precious" (to the tune of no. 18, "God of Grace and God of Glory.")

**God, your gift of peace is precious in this world of sin and loss:
You have given joy and gladness, making peace through Jesus' cross.
God, in love you came to save us, giving freedom from our sin —
In you, gifts of peace begin.**

**Jesus, you are God's example in the life on earth you lived.
Help us see your face in others, teach us freely to forgive.
When, in all your children's conflicts, hate and violence increase —
Blest are those who work for peace.**

**Spirit, help us work for justice in each challenge that we face.
Each one needs to have the other: righteousness and peace embrace.
Children hungry? People homeless? Missiles flying through the air?
You seek peace with justice there.**

**So we pray and work together toward a world of your shalom.
May all people share your bounty, and all have both feast and home.
Wolf and lamb shall feed together: In your kingdom war shall cease
And your people live in peace.**

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*PRAYER OF INVOCATION (unison)

"Come, Christ Jesus. We have turned our backs on you. We have turned our backs on one another. We have structured our community so as to oppose one another and to do violence.

Come, Christ Jesus. Let us hear your word of peace. Let our hostile communities experience the surprise of your suffering love. Come, Christ Jesus.” Amen.

CALL TO CONFESSION

“We affirm the United Church of Christ to be a Just Peace church that defines Just Peace as the interrelation of friendship, justice, and common security from violence.” While “Just Peace is grounded in the reconciling activity of Jesus Christ, human sin is the rejection of the covenant of friendship with God and one another and the creation and perpetuation of structures of evil. Through God’s own suffering love on the cross, the power of these structures has been broken and the possibility of relationship restored. The coming of Christ is the seal of our friendship with God, when God speaks peace to the people.” We have not always listened. We have not always followed. Let us join in the time of Silent Prayers of Confession.

SILENT PRAYERS OF CONFESSION

WORDS OF ASSURANCE (Responsive):

One: God forgives us and continues to speak to us, calling on us to be witnesses to God’s Peace.

ALL: **Let us remember, “the church is the Body of the Risen Christ: through this vessel of the Spirit, we bear witness to the realm of God. Through the church, we gather in community to build a Just Peace, our understanding of God’s will for creation. While Just Peace has not completely evidenced itself in the world today, it is our calling as individuals and as the church to act and pray for its full presence.” Let us exhibit “courage in the struggle for justice and peace.” 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.

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 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

Isaiah 50:4-9a

THE PSALM READING

Psalm 116:1-9

*THE HYMN No. 571 "O God of Love, O God of Peace"

THE RESPONSE:

One: God is Still Speaking.

All: **Thanks be to God!**

THE GOSPEL READING & MESSAGE:

Mark 8:27-38

"Witnessing to Peace"

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)

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.

Please place your pew pad sheets in the Offering Plate.

THE OFFERTORY “Put Peace into Each Other’s Hands”
Youth Choir

Holstein

*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)

We offer the treasures of this world as a way of recalling all of us to a right relationship with you, O God, the source of all wisdom and truth. Your design for life is more to be desired than the finest gold. To learn from You and to serve You is our highest joy. May our offerings and our daily lives communicate this message. Amen.

*THE HYMN No. 581 “Lead Us from Death to Life”

*THE BIDDING TO MISSION

*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 “The Joy of the Lord”

Gregg Sewell

References:

The Prayer of Invocation, the Call to Confession and the Assurance of Forgiveness are quotes found in A Just Peace Church, edited by Susan Thistlethwaite, 1986, United Church Press. The Prayer of Invocation is a Prayer found on page 153; the Call to Confession is an Affirmation found on page 152; the Assurance of Forgiveness is part of the Summary of the General Synod XV: Pronouncement and Proposal found on page 133 and the “Our Life” section of the “Structuring the United Church of Christ for a Just Peace” chapter found on page 124, and a line from the United Church of Christ Statement of Faith quoted on page 1 of A Just Peace Church.

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

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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The red rose on the altar today is in honor of Walker Clark, born Sunday, September 8th to parents Julie (Scott) and Rowdy Lantis. Walker is the grandson of Dave and Patty Scott and nephew to proud aunt, Rebecca. Congratulations to the family.

ALTAR FLOWERS

The Altar flowers are given to the Glory of God by
Don and Merikay Wood, “In appreciation and memory of our church family.”