

Welcome to
St. Paul's United Church of Christ

An Open and Affirming Congregation of the United Church of Christ

October 6, 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: Shirley Keith Knox

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: Charles Ricedorf-Reed
Greeters: Steven Roush, Paula Boyer
Acolyte: Elsa Riesmeyer
Kids' Place:
Flower Preparation: Susan Gabriel
Flower Delivery: Gabi Schaeffer
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

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

TWENTIETH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY

October 6, 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

STEWARDSHIP MOMENT

THE ORGAN PRELUDE "Meditation on 'Ortonville'"

Franklin Ritter

CHORAL INTROIT

*THE HYMN No. 394 "In Christ There Is No East or West"

*PRAYER OF INVOCATION (unison)

Creator God, we are all Your Children. We come from a common starting point, and yet we continue to declare that some people are not Yours, or we believe they are of less value than us. Guide us in recognizing our common humanity and Your love equally given to all. Amen.

CALL TO CONFESSION

According to our Creation Story, we all come from one Earth Creature. And while over time diversities of development have created differences, they have not destroyed the common origin of humanity and our equality. Yet we have treated our siblings as "others", as "less than", as "undeserving of their equal place in God's Creation", and we still do. The words that teach this and emphasize such beliefs, and the actions taken to reinforce them are in direct contradiction to God's actions and hopes for humanity. Let us join in a time of Silent Prayers of Confession.

SILENT PRAYERS OF CONFESSION

WORDS OF ASSURANCE (Responsive):

One: God forgives us, and in the person of Jesus, displayed God's equal care and love for all.

ALL: Let us, as we join in the celebration of Holy Communion, envision that we are sitting down with people from all over the world. We are all siblings, and in the sharing of this

meal, we pledge to offer ourselves in service to God, who desires that all of us, through our words and actions, make known God’s great compassion, care, and love for one and for all. 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 GOSPEL READING

Mark 10:13-16

THE PSALM READING

Psalm 8

THE RESPONSE:

One: God is Still Speaking.

All: Thanks be to God!

THE HEBREW SCRIPTURE READING & MESSAGE:

Genesis 2:18-25

“We Are All Connected”

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

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 “There Is Room for the Stranger”
Chancel Choir

Dengler

*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)

As long ago You spoke through the prophets, speak now through us and through the fruits of our labor which we share. We dedicate to Your service all the good things we have received from your hand. May we proclaim Your name to our siblings in this congregation. May our gifts carry the good news throughout our community, making a difference in the quality of life experienced by many, near and far. Amen.

*THE HYMN “We Come to This Table” (to the tune of no. 421, “We Gather Together”)

***We come to this table, O God, with thanksgiving.
We lift up our hearts, we remember, we pray.
We hear Jesus’ welcome — inviting, forgiving;
We know your Spirit’s peace as we feast here today.***

***We dine at your table as sisters and brothers,
Diverse in our cultures, yet nourished as one.
The bread and the cup that we share here with others
Are gifts uniting all who are claimed by your Son.***

***We grieve for your world here; we cry, "How much longer?"
We pray for the cycles of violence to cease.
Yet here, in Christ broken, we're fed and made stronger
To labor in his name for a world filled with peace.***

***We rise from this table with new dedication
To feed the world's children, to free the oppressed,
To clear out the minefields, to care for creation;
We pray, O God of peace, that our work will be blest.***

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Please note: our ushers will be passing out the Communion Elements on trays to each individual or family unit. You do not need to pass the plates down.

THE SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION

THE INVITATION

One: It started last night, when we were sleeping. In Japan, New Zealand, and Siberia, people came.

Many: **As the sun stretches across the earth, more people are joining the table.**

One: In cathedrals made of marble and gold where mosaics glitter on the walls; in clapboard churches on vast and windswept plains,

Many: **In houses and shelters, in alleys and refugee camps, people are coming together.**

One: From India to Ukraine, Ethiopia to Portugal, Nova Scotia to Ecuador; running, rolling, walking, limping, we come to Your table, O God.

Many: **Hungering for your bread, we come;
thirsting for your wine and juice, we come;**

singing your song in every language,

speaking your name in every tongue,

in conflict and communion,

in trouble and tranquility, we come.

O God who remembers us, we come to remember You.

PASTORAL PRAYER AND 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.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

DISTRIBUTION OF THE ELEMENTS:

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. We are Blessed to have breads representing various countries from around the world this morning. Bread Bearers will pass you the piece of bread of your choice. There will be a gluten free option as well. Please then proceed to the right or the left and Rev. Allyssa or Rev. John will have both wine and grape juice that you may dip your bread in. You may then eat your Communion elements.

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

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

All are welcome to participate. Thank you.

THE PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING (Unison)

God, our Mother and Father, You have given us this earth rich and vibrant. Its renewing goodness nourishes us. Jesus, our Savior and Healer, You ate with friends and enemies. At a meal, you brought the gift of hope and gave the word of life. Spirit, our Comforter and Afflicter, You do not leave us on our own. Here are companions to know our joy. Here are companions to share our sorrow. Our companions have come to this table, and tables to our north and south, east and west. We are all Children of God, and You have saved us all a place at Your Table. We give you thanks for our human community, that we may all be one. Amen.

*THE HYMN "Christ Be With Us" (to the tune of no. 4, "Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee")

Christ be with us, Christ behind us, Christ before us — all around!

Christ in busy, noisy cities, Christ where hardly rings a sound.

Jesus, you're our Lord and Savior; On your love we can depend.

Help us see your presence clearly In each stranger and each friend.

Christ in lines of people fleeing, Praying that a war will cease;

Christ in battered women's shelters, Looking for a place of peace.

Christ with people sick or dying, Loved ones trying hard to cope

In this world of so much suffering, Christ, you give your people hope.

Christ with children who must struggle, Working hard for daily food;

Christ in classrooms, learning, growing, Asking questions, seeking good;

**Christ in diners, waiting tables; Christ in homes where children play
In this world of people working, Christ, you work through us today.**

**Christ with all who keep on struggling, Helping others to be free;
Christ with churches working, searching For a greater unity;
Christ, in bread and wine, be with us, Giving strength for each new day
In this world of daily crosses, Be our joyful, living Way.**

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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

*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 "Improvisation on 'Diademata'"

Robert J. Hughes

References:

The Communion Prayer is adapted from a prayer by the Lancaster Theological Seminary Worship Planning Team, 2016.

The Prayer of Thanksgiving is adapted from an Agape Liturgy: Prayer Offering Praise in "Gifts in Open Hands" by Maren Tirabassi and Kathy Wonson Eddy.

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
Melanie Shaver-Durham, "In loving memory of my parents, who were both October babies-
Marilyn L. Shaver, born October 5, and Dr. Hal C. Shaver, both October 19. Love and miss you,
mom and dad."
Raymond Krouch, "In memory of Theresa Krouch and Phyllis Hershey."

ANNOUNCEMENTS

NEIGHBORS IN NEED OFFERING

Today we will collect the Neighbors in Need Offering. Neighbors in Need (NIN) is a special mission offering of the United Church of Christ that supports ministries of justice and compassion in the United States. Checks can be made to St. Paul's UCC and placed in the offering plate

FALL STEWARDSHIP AUCTION

It's time to get creative.... we're preparing for another in-person auction at the Harvest Dinner on Nov 10! Gift cards and consumable items are always popular. But the most sought-after items are the unique experiences and homemade items you provide! We can't wait to hear your new ideas and we have a few to share as well. Check out the Time to Sign Up for 'Fall Basket Auction Donations' on our website. Donate a single item or two, sign up for a suggested theme or a creation of your own. Auction baskets are due at the church no later than Sunday, Oct 27. Contact Melissa (melissacawley@aol.com) or Victoria Velez (vmvluv@comast.net) with any questions.

EXTENDED MINISTRIES UPDATE

The Council for Extended Ministries is seeking a new Chair to coordinate its duties in 2025. Kathy Aumiller has served as the chair for more than 10 years and is stepping aside effective December 31, 2024. The chair of this council mainly reports on its activities each month to consistory and prepares an annual report to the congregation, as all of the sub-committee leaders are very dedicated to their areas of expertise. This Council is comprised of the following areas: Lee Jackson Memorial Community Garden, Ecumenical Food Pantry, New Hope Ministry Projects, Community Dinners, Welcome Team, Open & Affirming Initiatives, UCC Homes, as well as the support for our four special mission offerings. If you would be willing to chair this committee and want additional information, please contact Kathy Aumiller (717-580-6292; kaumiller56@gmail.com) or the church office.

TRUNK OR TREAT

St. Paul's will be hosting Trunk or Treat on Sunday October 27 from 5:00-7:00. THIS YEAR WE ARE INVITING OUR NEIGHBORS IN PEACHTREE AND TRINDLE STATION to come over for some treats. It's important that we have enough "trunks" to be hosts. If you would like to decorate your vehicle and provide treats for our church family as well as our neighbors, please sign up in the Common or online. We will need a minimum of 10 vehicles in order to hold this fun event. Setup in the upper parking lot would begin no later than 4:00.

Deadline for sign up is Sunday October 20 at 9:00 PM. Please consider being a part of this special annual event. Questions can be directed to Jonneke Dundore at 717-460-8303 or jonnekev@aol.com. COME OUT FOR A HOWLING GOOD TIME!!!!



Imagine Together: A World Made Whole

**The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad,
the desert shall rejoice and blossom;
like the crocus
it shall blossom abundantly,
and rejoice with joy and shouting.** (Isaiah 35: 1-2)

Isaiah 35 reflects on the intricate relationship between human activity and the environment, drawing parallels between the biblical narrative and contemporary ecological challenges. The passage emphasizes the profound impact of human actions on the landscape, illustrating how the expansion of deserts and ecological mismanagement contribute to famine and wildfires. Despite technological advancements, the text contends that human greed, indifference, and hopelessness impede necessary environmental healing. The theme of "A World Made Whole" calls for a collective responsibility to address ecological crises, urging a shift from destructive practices to stewardship.

Rev. Dr. Patricia K. Tull observes, "The apostle Paul pointed out once that 'hope that is seen is not hope' (Rom 8:24). If this is true, it is also true that hope that is left unseen, unimagined, undared, is not hope either... Underlying Isaiah 35's

dramatic imagery, hope is being expressed not simply for divine acts, but for those the prophet seeks to inspire from a small band of Judeans who could recultivate the burned land and push back the chaos, and thus strengthen their own weak hands, feeble knees, and fearful hearts."

How can we Imagine Together A World Made Whole? Can we be physicians of the environment? Caregivers of the land? Our collective stewardship and generosity can be healing. Together we can actively recreate healthy environments in our yards, churches, and towns. It is our collective effort that instills order in chaos and fosters hope in hearts that may be steeped in despair.

CONSIDER YOUR PLEDGE AS A PERCENT OF YOUR MONTHLY INCOME.

Annual Income	Monthly Income	2%	3%	4%	5%	10%
20,000	1,667	33	50	67	83	167
25,000	2,083	42	63	83	104	208
30,000	2,500	50	75	100	125	250
35,000	2,917	58	88	117	146	292
40,000	3,333	67	100	133	167	333
45,000	3,750	75	113	150	188	375
50,000	4,167	83	125	167	208	417
60,000	5,000	100	150	200	250	500
75,000	6,250	125	188	250	313	625
100,000	8,333	167	250	333	417	833
125,000	10,417	208	313	417	521	1042
150,000	12,500	250	375	500	625	1250
200,000	16,667	333	500	667	833	1667

On average, Americans give 2% of their income to charity. Giving even 1% more of annual income to charity would be transformative for our congregation and other organizations doing good in our community.

Imagine Together