

Welcome to
St. Paul's United Church of Christ

An Open and Affirming Congregation of the United Church of Christ

November 17, 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: Patrice Miller

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: Steven Roush
Greeters: Paula Boyer, Rebecca Drazba
Acolyte: Elsa Riesmeyer
Kids' Place:
Flower Preparation: Susan Gabriel
Flower Delivery: Jonneke Dundore
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

REIGN OF CHRIST SUNDAY
TRANSGENDER REMEMBRANCE

November 17, 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 "Love Divine, All Loves Excelling"

Marc Jordan

CHORAL INTROIT

*THE HYMN No. 301 "Crown with Your Richest Crowns"

*PRAYER OF INVOCATION (unison)

God of all creation, Your wisdom, Your love, and Your mystery are boundless. You have many names, which are beyond all gender expressions. We give You thanks for the gift of diverse gender identity, expression, and sexuality. We acknowledge the times we deny that gift by holding too tightly to expectations of conformity and norms. We have created these divisions and use them against one another. We know this is not Your will or Your way. Help us to act mercifully and show grace to all of Your people, as You have done for us.

God of love, You weep with us in our grief and fear. Enfold in Your loving embrace all those in our Trans community lost to death this year. You know their names, Divine Creator, even when they are misnamed or misgendered as a last act of violence and erasure. You see each one as Beloved and call them by their chosen name. You claim them as Your Children. Amen.

CALL TO CONFESSION

We acknowledge the harm, that prejudice and ignorance has knowingly and unknowingly caused. We need help so we might soften hearts, and give wisdom and understanding, that in the sight of God, all are equally beloved simply because of our existence. We still need to be visible examples of open hearts and minds that embrace and support one another, so that all may let their light shine before others by living out their truth. 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 call us to stand with all who are oppressed, particularly those who are threatened with more and more violence.

ALL: Challenge us, O Holy One, to speak out for those who are silenced, to stand with those who are bullied, and to go with those who face danger. May all those in the

Trans-Community, and their parents, spouses, friends, loved ones and medical professionals know of our unwavering support. 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

2 Samuel 23:1-7

THE PSALM READING

Psalm 132:11-18

*THE HYMN No. 575 "O for a World"

THE RESPONSE:

One: God is Still Speaking.

All: Thanks be to God!

THE GOSPEL READING & MESSAGE:

John 18:33-37

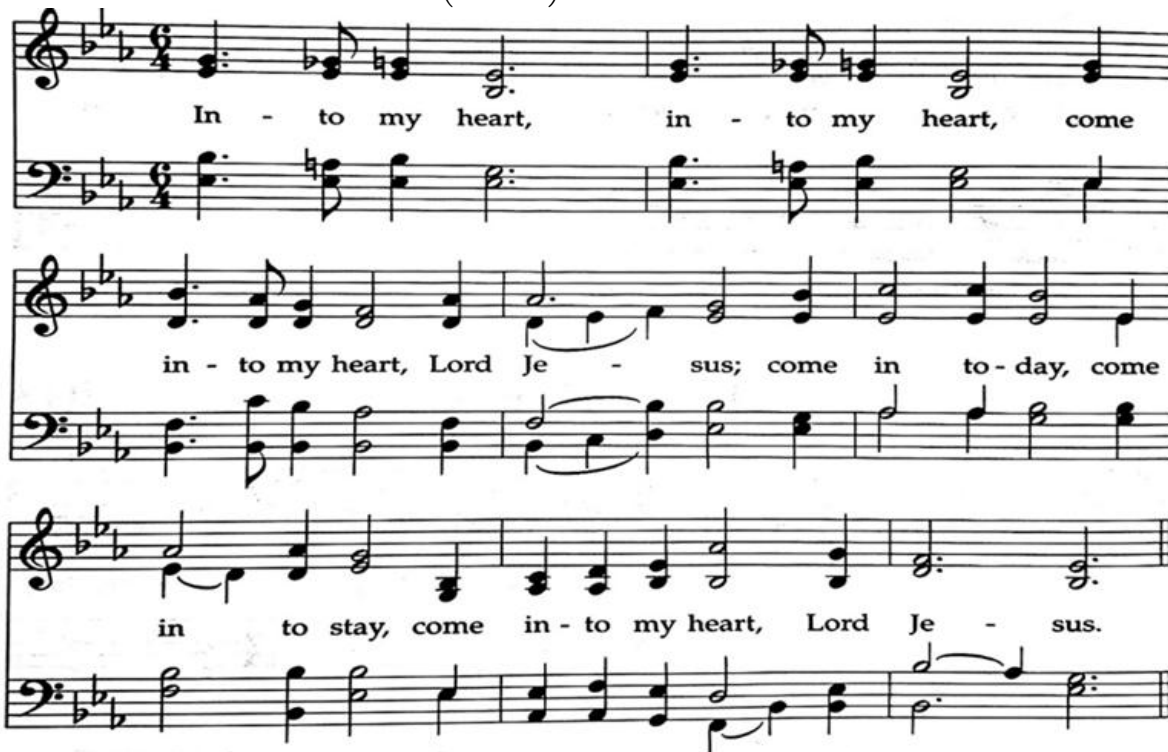
"What Kind of King? What Kind of Kingdom?"

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 “Jesus Shall Reign”

arr. Carl Nygard

Chancel Choir with Sarah Myers on Organ and Mary Ann Morse on Piano

*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)

Our hearts are glad and our souls rejoice in the opportunity to share. Here are the fruits of Your generosity and our hard work. In thanks for the perfect offering of Jesus Christ, we bring ourselves with our gifts. Show us how to combine our efforts to build wholesome relationships, extend Your church, and minister in Your name throughout the world. Amen.

*THE HYMN No. 573 “Lead On Eternal Sovereign”

*THE BIDDING TO MISSION (unison)

We hold in love and prayer all Transgender people, so many of whom live under the weight of violence, fear, and intolerance. We hold in love and prayer all the ways that Transgender people have survived and thrived in a hostile world. We hold in love and prayer all who recognize the significance of gender justice for all people.

We who believe in freedom will not rest until it comes. We pray for the dawn of a new day when the very humanity of Trans people is no longer called into question or ignored. We pray that physical, emotional, and spiritual violence will come to an end. We pray that a spirit of compassion and care will fill us to overflowing, that we may have the capacity to listen, learn, and grow not only in our awareness but also in our willingness to act. We pray for teachers, spiritual leaders, social workers, lawyers, and all people who heed the call to support Trans-liberation, Trans-leadership, and Trans-visibility. May they ultimately lean into the Light of truth and justice, offering hope to Trans and gender nonconforming youth and adults.

On this day, we commit and recommit to creating a world where people of all genders know peace, love, and justice. We commit and recommit to living lives of compassion and care for all of humanity. We commit and recommit to the healing work of relationship-building that will help every person know, no matter their gender or sexuality, that they are loved and valued. Blessed be and Amen.

***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 "Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God Almighty" Hugh S. Livingston, Jr.

References:

The unison Prayer of Invocation is made up from parts of Jenn Luong's A Prayer for the Trans Day of Remembrance, Augsburg University, 2020, and Leo Bancroft's A Prayer for Transgender Day of Remembrance, Reconciling Works, 2016.

The Call to Confession is made up from a part of Jenn Luong's A Prayer for the Trans Day of Remembrance, Augsburg University, 2020.

The Assurance of Forgiveness includes a part of Leo Bancroft's A Prayer for Transgender Day of Remembrance, Reconciling Works, 2016.

The unison Bidding to Mission is by The Transforming Hearts Collective, Transgender Remembrance Prayer.

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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ALTAR FLOWERS

The Altar flowers are given to the Glory of God by
Don and Merikay Wood, "In memory of the Fleck and Kanour Family."
Martha Keith, "In honor of Eugene Keith's 92nd birthday on the 22nd of November."