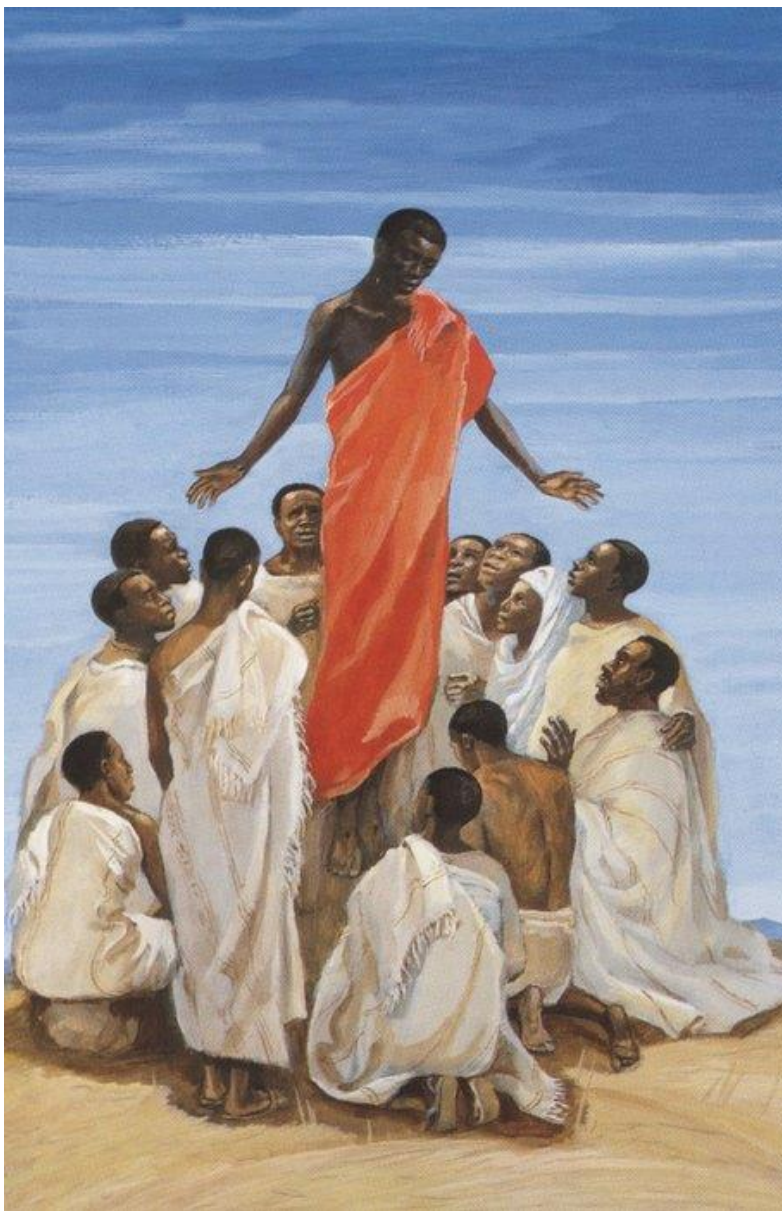


Welcome to St. Paul's United Church of Christ

An Open and Affirming Congregation of the United Church of Christ

May 29th, 2022



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

Pastor Allyssa A. Boyer

Lector: Michael Gray

Ministry of Music

Minister of Music: Eric R. Dundore

Choristers' Director: Jonneke A. 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

Head Usher: Jim Pirtle

Ushers: Steven Roush, Shirley Knox

Nursery: Susan Ward-Diorio, Jonneke Dundore

Flower Delivery: Mary Runkle

Pastor Emeritus

The Rev. Dr. Thomas E. Herrold

Ministers

The Entire Congregation

Please visit the church website at <http://saintpaulsucc-mech.org/> to sign up for Acolyte, Usher, Lector, Volunteer in the Nursery, Deliver the Altar Flowers, and/or Sponsor the Altar Flowers. You will find the individual signup sheets under the "Sign Up" menu heading. Thank you.



St. Paul's Online Giving

ST. PAUL'S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

626 Williams Grove Road

Mechanicsburg, PA 17055

717/766-7931

Website: www.saintpaulsucc-mech.org

Office email: stpaulstaff@outlook.com

John's email: revjohnwd@outlook.com

Allyssa's email: allyssaboyer@outlook.com

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

ASCENSION SUNDAY

May 29th, 2022

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 Head Usher. 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 "God Will Take Care of You"

Robert J. Hughes

CHORAL INTROIT

Please note: we will be singing with our masks in place.

*THE HYMN No. 257 "Alleluia! Gracious Jesus!" (vs. 1-3)

*PRAYER OF INVOCATION (unison)

Almighty God, we give our first allegiance to You. Guide us in sensing Your Presence, as You lead us through our daily lives. Amen.

CALL TO CONFESSION

Perhaps because we often think of God in human terms, we perceive God and Jesus as above us, both in power and therefore location. Such boundaries have caused some to question all the tenets of Christianity. Let us confess where we have ignored some of the implications of unexamined beliefs. Let us join in the time of Silent Prayers of Confession.

SILENT PRAYERS OF CONFESSION

WORDS OF ASSURANCE (Responsive):

Minister: God forgives us and continues to hope we break down the limits and boundaries we place upon God.

ALL: Let us acknowledge God's power, without cloaking God in the trappings of human power. Amen.

Please note: we will not be shaking hands or hugging.

If you are able, please rise and greet one another with other 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. They may sit on the chancel steps, they may sit in the front pews, or they may remain seated with their families. Remember, 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

Ephesians 1:15-21

THE GOSPEL READING

Luke 24:44-53

*THE HYMN No. 40 “You Are the Way”

THE RESPONSE:

One: God is Still Speaking.

All: Thanks be to God!

THE NEW TESTAMENT READING & MESSAGE:

Acts 1:1-11

“Up, Down, and All Around”

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)

Joyful Eastertide

O Je - sus, Sa - viour, Gen - tle One, come take our hearts to be your own. And
now, O Christ, with us a - bide in this, our joy - ful Eas - ter - tide!

The image shows two staves of musical notation in treble clef, key of D major (one sharp), and 3/4 time. The first staff contains the melody for the first line of lyrics, and the second staff contains the melody for the second line. The lyrics are printed below the notes.

Please note: you can leave your offerings in the plate in the Narthex on your way in or on your way out after Service. You may also place your pew pad sheets in that Offering Plate. Thank you.

THE ANTHEM “We Are One, Lord”

Pethel

Youth Choir

*DOXOLOGY

*THE PRAYER OF DEDICATION (Unison)

Loving God, You have melted our hardness of heart and penetrated our unbelief with Your forgiveness and Your commission. We believe You are sending us and our resources to do Your work of peacemaking and salvation. May the programs and outreach of this church be worthy of our support and may each of us be faithful bearers of Your good news. Amen.

*THE HYMN “O Christ, When You Ascended”

(to the tune of no. 245, “The Day of Resurrection”)

*O Christ, when you ascended, you took your rightful throne;
Your time on earth had ended — yet we weren’t left alone.
You reign o’er earth and heaven; your Spirit guides our way.
Your prayers uphold your people; you lead your church each day.*

*We look at earthly rulers and see what they command:
We note their years of power, the borders of their land.
Yet, Lord, you are not bounded by things like time and space;
Your reign is never-ending, you rule in every place.*

(continued on the next page)

*It's often quite a challenge to follow in your Way;
We're easily distracted! It's hard, Lord, to obey.
Sometimes we give you Sundays — an hour, maybe two —
But your ascension means, Lord, all life belongs to you.*

*One day, O Lord, we'll know you, as we are fully known;
One day this world of sinners will bow before your throne.
One day, God's whole creation will sing and praise your name;
On earth as now in heaven, we'll celebrate your reign.*

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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

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.*

*Do remember you may be visible and audible on the livestream as you exit early.
If you choose to remain, please be seated and listen quietly to the Postlude.*

THE ORGAN POSTLUDE “Crown Him With Many Crowns”

David H. Hegarty

References:

Cover Image: JESUS MAFA. The Ascension, from Art in the Christian Tradition, a project of the Vanderbilt Divinity Library, Nashville, TN. <https://diglib.library.vanderbilt.edu/act-imagelink.pl?RC=48398> [retrieved May 24, 2022]. Original source: <http://www.librairie-emmanuel.fr> (contact page: <https://www.librairie-emmanuel.fr/contact>).

JESUS MAFA is a response to the New Testament readings from the Lectionary by a Christian community in Cameroon, Africa. Each of the readings was selected and adapted to dramatic interpretation by the community members. Photographs of their interpretations were made, and these were then transcribed to paintings.

In this beautiful rendering of the ascension, Jesus holds out his hands in blessing as he begins to rise to the heavens. The disciples, among whom is one of the women, gaze up at him. Their faces express mixtures of adoration, amazement, curiosity, fear, sadness, and joy. The disciples are finally beginning to realize and understand Jesus' mission. May we too realize that we can embody the risen Christ in the world—loving extravagantly, living abundantly, and promoting justice and peace for all peoples.

The Prayer of Dedication is from “Refreshing Rains of the Living Word” by Lavon Bayler, 1988, 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.

ALTAR FLOWERS

The Altar flowers are given to the Glory of God by William Cashman, “In Honor of Rachel Hersh’s Birthday.”

ANNOUNCEMENTS

We Would Like to Present YOU with The KEYS to the Church!

Just over half of regular Sunday attendees at St. Paul’s currently have a key to the main doors of our building. We would like for more members to have access to the building during the week for regular church business and evening meetings, etc.

To help out, volunteers from the St Paul’s Safety & Security committee will be set up at a table in the Common area after service today and next Sunday to issue key-fobs to any church member who wishes to have one. These fobs work every day from 6am to 10pm. A voluntary \$10 deposit is requested (but not required), payable when you pick up your key-fob, or any time at the church office.

Members can also sign out a key-fob any regular business day by stopping by the church office.

Thanks to Flower Bed Volunteers!

Thanks to the folks who are tending our flower beds this year.

We put out the word for new volunteers, and folks stepped up, and also many folks agreed to continue to tend the beds they cared for in years past.

Thanks to the 2022 flower gardeners:

Front of Sanctuary: Sarah Myers

Driveway side of Sanctuary: Jenn Martek and Elaine Daly/Royer

Driveway side of Christian Ed: Becky & Lane Thompson & family

Driveway side of Fellowship Hall: Kathy Aumiller

Columbarium: Eric Dundore

MLC Entrance: Don & Merikay Wood

Front Sign & Pollinator Habitat: Floyd Gouse, Mary Runkle, Kim Pirtle, Bradley Thomas

Vacation Bible School

Save the dates! St. Paul’s UCC will hold VBS July 5th-8th. Kids in preschool through 5th grade are invited to participate; stay tuned for ways to sign-up! Adults and youth, there are many ways to help: we need enthusiastic volunteers who are willing to lead VBS stations, act out Bible stories, take photos, and guide our kid crews. If you are interested in volunteering, please let Pastor Allyssa know. Thank you!

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Strengthen the Church Offering Sunday June 5th, 2022

“The last two years have told a remarkable story about the resilience of our churches and their leaders.

This has been hard.

Leaders are tired.

Leaders are anxious.

Leaders are beleaguered.

Leaders are traumatized.

But every day, and in countless ways, leaders in the church demonstrate the power of faith in the risen Christ as they embody the spirit of Paul himself who wrote that we will 'rejoice in all circumstances' and 'we do not grieve as those who have no hope.' Two years into this pandemic, we struggle to name a more devastating season through which we have all lived. And yet still we see signs of life and resilience and ingenuity and growth and enduring hope.

There are stories of how college students left for college and for the first time since anyone can remember they were still able to worship every week with their home church.

...

Many of our settings are reporting that their giving rose in 2021, a sign that even in the midst of deep sorrow our better angels

emerge with a desire to support those who suffer and those who care for the suffering.

Churches that feared losing all their members when we all quarantined learned how to connect virtually for pastoral visitation, prayer, worship, and fellowship. They not only didn't lose their members, many grew by finding an audience who were only ever going to be found in the virtual spaces they occupy and find safe.

Our churches remain strong in the Lord.

All that we do to Strengthen Our Churches extends the kingdom of God. Preaching the gospel is our collective calling. Even a raging global pandemic cannot suppress either our desire or ability preach that gospel, nor the Spirit's ability to change lives when we do.

Won't you please help sustain the mission of the risen Christ, and Strengthen the Church with your offering of love, prayer, and generosity?"

John C. Dorhauer
General Minister and President
All Together!
United Church of Christ

Summer Worship Schedule

Beginning on Sunday, June 5, we will hold one worship service starting at 9:15 AM each Sunday morning. There will be no Sunday school; enjoy your summer break! Sunday school will resume on Rally Day, September 11, 2022.

#257 - Alleluia! Gracious Jesus!

Alleluia! Gracious Jesus! Yours the scepter, yours the throne!
Alleluia! Yours the triumph, yours the victory alone!
Hark! the songs of peaceful Zion thunder like a mighty flood:
Jesus out of every nation you've redeemed us by your blood.

Alleluia! Not as orphans are we left in sorrow now.
Alleluia! You are near us; faith believes, nor questions how.
Though the cloud from sight received you, when the forty days were o'er,
shall our hearts forget your promise, "I am with you evermore."

Alleluia! Bread of angels, you on earth our food, our stay.
Alleluia! Here the sinful flee to you from day to day.
Intercessor, friend of sinners, earth's Redeemer, plead for me,
and the songs that sound in heaven will repeat your gracious plea.

#40 – You Are the Way

You are the way; through you alone can we the Father find;
In you, O Christ, is now revealed God's heart and will and mind.

You are the truth; your Word alone true wisdom can impart;
You only can inform the mind and purify the heart.

You are the life; the open tomb proclaims God's love anew,
and God will ne'er forsake the one who trusts, O Christ, in you.

You are the way, the truth, the life; grant us that way to know,
That truth to keep, that life to win, whose joys eternal flow.