

Welcome to
St. Paul's United Church of Christ

An Open and Affirming Congregation of the United Church of Christ

June 5th, 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: Paula Boyer

Psalm Readers: Kathy Williams (Spanish), Daniella Benfer (Arabic), Tom Herrold (German), Sue Mullin (French), Jonneke Dundore (Dutch), Kateri Grice (Spanish), Herb Bomberger (German), John Chripczuk (Ukrainian), Karin Stork-Whitson (Hebrew).

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: Wendy Hayden

Ushers: Steve Roush, Paula Boyer, Jim Pirtle, Sherry Spencer

Nursery:

Flower Delivery: Joanne Miller

Pastor Emeritus

The Rev. Dr. Thomas E. Herrold

Ministers

The Entire Congregation

Please visit the church website at <http://www.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 sign-up sheets under the "Sign Up" menu heading. Thank you.



ST. PAUL'S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

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St. Paul's Online Giving

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

PENTECOST; HOLY COMMUNION

June 5th, 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 "The Breath of God"

Ray Landis

CHORAL INTROIT

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

*THE HYMN No. 261 "Let Every Christian Pray"

*PRAYER OF INVOCATION (unison)

Empowering God, we give You thanks for the gift of Your Holy Spirit. May we each recognize Your Presence within us, allowing You to guide us, encourage us, and empower us. Amen.

CALL TO CONFESSION

We are grateful for God's Presence within us. We look for and are thankful for the Peace that Presence can offer us. Less often, we accept the fire, the flame God's Presence seeks to stir in us, as we are guided towards the pursuit of God's justice and love in the world. Let us offer our Silent Prayers of Confession.

SILENT PRAYERS OF CONFESSION

WORDS OF ASSURANCE (Responsive):

Minister: God forgives us. God continues to stir our spirits with God's Spirit.

ALL: Let us pay attention to this stirring, receiving God's Peace and God's Fire which emboldens us. 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 PSALM READING

Psalm 104:24-34, 35b

THE GOSPEL READING

John 14:12-17, 25-27

THE RESPONSE:

One: God is Still Speaking.

All: Thanks be to God!

THE NEW TESTAMENT READING & MESSAGE:

Acts 2:1-21

“The Spirit Is Given To Us All”

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

THE CHORAL RESPONSE (unison)

O Christ, by whom we come to God, the Life, the Truth, the Way, The
path of prayer you too have trod: Christ teach us how to pray.

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 “Holy Spirit, Descend on Us”
Chancel Choir

Pote

*Holy Spirit, Descend on us we pray.
Spirit creative, inspire and enable. Kindle among us the spark of new birth.
Shape us and change us, be in our growing, help us establish your kingdom on earth.
Spirit of power provide us with strength. Grant us the courage our goals to fulfill.
Guide us, provoke us in challenges we’re facing. Lead us and help us discover your will.
Spirit of Love fill our hearts with compassion. Give us awareness of neighbors in need.
Open our eyes to their hurt and their suffering. Move us to action from thought into deed.
Holy Spirit, descend on us we pray.*

*DOXOLOGY

*THE PRAYER OF DEDICATION (Unison)

God of wind and fire, may new life be breathed into the world because of these gifts we return to You. Grant us enhanced capacity to carry Your revelation to others in ways they can understand. We seek to be to one another channels of Your love and peace, both in person and through the outreach of our offerings. Amen.

*THE HYMN No. 270 “Like the Murmur of the Dove’s Song”

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: God Be with You.

Many: And Also With You.

One: Lift Up Your Hearts.

Many: We Lift Them Up to God.

One: Let Us Give Thanks to God.

Many: It Is Good to Give God Thanks and Praise.

PASTORAL PRAYER 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.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

DISTRIBUTION OF THE ELEMENTS:

Today we gather both in person and in Spirit.

For those of you present in the Sanctuary, our ushers will be passing out the bread and gluten-free crackers and the wine and white grape juice. They will bring the trays to you. Unless you are sitting with a family unit, please do not pass the trays down but rather give them back to the usher.

For those of you joining us via livestream, we hope you have some bread 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.

Please hold the elements until all have been served. We will eat and drink them together.

All are welcome to participate. Thank you.

THE PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING (Responsive):

Holy God, we give You thanks for the miracle and wonder of this meal. We give You thanks for Your coming to us in the person of Jesus and for Jesus' willingness to offer his whole self for our benefit. We can see how we can best live our lives. We can believe all "deaths", those losses, endings and struggles in this life, and the ones at the end of our physical lives, are not the final word. We can trust that Your Spirit is within all of us, and always will be. May the gifts of this table always remind us of the gifts You have given us all. Amen.

*THE HYMN “God, Our Nation Feels the Loss” (to the tune of No. 596, “Rock of Ages”)

*God, our nation feels the loss as our children pay the cost
For the violence we accept, for the silence we have kept.
Rachel weeps for children gone; God of love, this can't go on!*

*Jesus, Lord, we hear you say, "Don't turn little ones away!"
May we build a kinder land where our children understand:
Every child here matters more than the guns we clamor for.*

*Holy Spirit, wind and flame, send us out in Jesus' name.
May we shout and say, "Enough!" May we build a world of love —
Till the sounds of weapons cease, till our young can grow in peace.*

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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 “Unto All the World”

Christopher Neal

References:

The Prayer of Dedication is from “Gathered by Love” by Lavon Bayler, 1994, United Church Press.

Hymn Note for "God, Our Nation Feels the Loss"

This hymn was written in remembrance of the beloved children of God who died in the school shooting at Robb Elementary School in Uvalde, Texas. Many of us, as individuals, do not accept violence, keep silence, or clamor for guns. Yet, as a nation, we do these things, and as a nation, we need to repent; we need to turn around and live a different way. All of us are called to do more than sing and pray; please work for gun safety laws in your community and state.

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 Don and Merikay Wood, “In Honor of Our Friends.”

ANNOUNCEMENTS

STRENGTHEN THE CHURCH OFFERING

Today, we will collect the UCC Special Offering: Strengthen the Church, which reflects the shared commitment of people across the United Church of Christ to cooperatively build up the UCC. The funds raised support leadership development, new churches, youth ministry, and innovation in existing congregations.

CONGREGATIONAL CONVERSATION today, following worship. All are welcome to stay and participate.

JOIN US FOR A COMMUNITY GARDEN WORKDAY

Join us Saturday, June 18th, starting at 9AM, to help with weeding, harvesting, planting and other needed work. All are welcome to help! Make sure you wear your work clothes, bring your garden gloves and dress for the weather. We have garden tools for you to use. Also, we will have bottled water and snacks. Sign up on the church website, under the ‘Sign Up’ heading.

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, volunteers from the St Paul’s Safety & Security committee will be set up at a table in the Common area after the service 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.

#261 – Let Every Christian Pray

Let every Christian pray, this day and every day,
Come, Holy Spirit, come!
Was not the church we love commissioned from above?
Come, Holy Spirit, come!

The Spirit brought to birth the church of Christ on earth
To seek and save the lost:
God never has withdrawn, since that tremendous dawn,
The gifts at Pentecost.

Only the Spirit's power can fit us for this hour:
Come, Holy Spirit, come!
Unite, instruct, inspire, and fill us with your fire:
Come, Holy Spirit, come!

#270 - Like the Murmur of the Dove's Song

Like the Murmur of the dove's song, like the challenge of her flight,
Like the vigor of the wind's rush, like the new flame's eager might:
Come, Holy Spirit, come.

To the members of Christ's body, to the branches of the vine,
To the church in faith assembled, to our midst as gift and sign:
Come, Holy Spirit, come.

With the healing of division, with the ceaseless voice of prayer,
With the power to love and witness, with the peace beyond compare:
Come, Holy Spirit, come.