

Welcome to
St. Paul's United Church of Christ

An Open and Affirming Congregation of the United Church of Christ

June 26, 2022



GOD IS STILL SPEAKING



*NO MATTER WHO YOU ARE, OR WHERE YOU ARE ON LIFE'S
JOURNEY YOU ARE WELCOME HERE!*

Worship Leadership

The Rev. John J. Ward-Diorio
Preacher: Pastor Allyssa A. Boyer
Lector: John Layne

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

Worship Welcome Team Leader: Wendy Hayden
Worship Welcome Team: Paula Boyer, Steven Roush, Jody Biss
Nursery:
Flower Delivery: Dale Thorpe and Don Dupes

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, Welcome Team, 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

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

THIRD SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
OPEN AND AFFIRMING SUNDAY

June 26, 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 Welcome Team Leader. 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 King of Love My Shepherd Is"

Lani Smith

CALL TO WORSHIP

"Jesus at the Gay Bar," a poem by Jay Hulme

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

*THE HYMN "Christ, You Offer Us Your Welcome"
(to the tune of no. 332, "As We Gather at Your Table")

***Christ, you offer us your welcome; it's a precious gift you give!
You bring reconciliation and you show us how to live.
You call poor ones from their sadness, you call rich ones from their pride.
You call people who are outcast, telling all to "Come inside!"***

***In a world that's often fearful, where so many stand alone,
you invite us to your table and you welcome people home.
Then you point us to the strangers that, it seems, nobody sees,
and you say, "These are your neighbors. I am here, in each of these."***

***May we set a welcome table, may we find a common ground
where no one will feel they're labeled, where acceptance can be found.
We don't need to entertain there, or to do things that impress —
just to hear folks' joy and pain there, and to love so all are blest.***

***Christ, your call to offer welcome is an urgent, mighty call;
you have given us a vision of your Way that welcomes all.
May we seek to meet our neighbors in their vast diversity.
As your loved and welcomed people, may we build community.***

***PRAYER OF INVOCATION (Unison)**

Creator God, we rejoice in Your love, shown to us through all sexual orientations, all gender identities and expressions, and all ways of being family. We celebrate nonbinary, trans, lesbian, gay, bisexual, asexual, intersex, and all queer people everywhere, knowing that many are still not safe to come out, to be free, to live life abundantly. Bind up all wounds and provide adequate care. Extinguish any stigma people are enduring. We are Your body on earth. May Your Spirit spill out through our actions to all in need of Your abundant love. Amen.

CALL TO CONFESSION

Every day, we witness a little of the violence of the world, too often targeting the most vulnerable. This is an opportunity for us to open ourselves to God, so that we may ask for forgiveness for breaking our covenants, for those moments when we should have spoken but we stayed silent, for those times we witnessed harm and did not intervene. This is a chance for us to seek forgiveness for the moments when we did not act in love for our siblings. Let us join in silent prayers of confession.

SILENT PRAYERS OF CONFESSION

WORDS OF ASSURANCE (Responsive):

Minister: God hears the confession of our hearts. Through Jesus Christ we are forgiven all our sins, and by the Holy Spirit we are empowered for new life.

ALL: We believe the good news of Jesus Christ. 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*

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!

THE GOSPEL READING

Matthew 5:13-16

THE PSALM READING

Psalms 77:1-2, 11-20

*THE HYMN No. 575 "O, For a World"

THE RESPONSE:

One: God is Still Speaking.

All: Thanks be to God!

THE HEBREW SCRIPTURE READING & MESSAGE:

Genesis 1:1-27, 31

THE REAFFIRMATION OF OUR OPEN & AFFIRMING COVENANT (Unison)

This covenant was adopted by vote of the congregation on May 18, 2003.

Terms revised and covenant reaffirmed by the congregation on May 20, 2018.

One: The people of God at St. Paul's United Church of Christ in Mechanicsburg, Pennsylvania, affirm our regard for the worth and dignity of all persons as beloved children of God. We recognize, celebrate, and give thanks for the many diverse gifts of God among us.

All: We declare ourselves to be an Open and Affirming congregation, welcoming into full membership and participation in the Body of Christ persons of every race, language, age, gender identity or expression, sexual orientation, physical or mental ability, and economic status.

One: We acknowledge that throughout history, the Christian church has often condemned and excluded gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender, and non-heteronormative people from the community of faith, or has condoned such condemnation and exclusion by its silence.

All: We hold that such discrimination is incompatible with the gospel of Jesus Christ.

One: We commit ourselves to work diligently to end all oppression and discrimination that afflict God's people in our society.

All: We commit ourselves to nondiscrimination in the full life, ministry, and sacraments of this church, including membership, leadership, and employment practices.

One: We will condemn all acts of harassment, discrimination, and violence against God's people.

All: We will seek to include and support those, who, because of fear and prejudice, find themselves in exile from a spiritual community.

One: We affirm all relationships founded on the principles of God's love and justice.

All: We pledge ourselves to be a wellspring of faith for a diverse people. Amen.

THE CHORAL RESPONSE



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.

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.

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.

SPECIAL MUSIC “I Know that God Loves Me”

Klinedinst

Jonne and Mark Dundore

***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)**

Thank you, God, for this family of faith, which enriches our lives and enables us to share. Thank you for making us aware that some people live in fear and others dwell in hopelessness. We are grateful that you show us ways to help lift their burdens. May our offerings further this ministry, among us and beyond our community. Amen.

***THE HYMN “There is Room in God’s Great Welcome”
(to the tune of no. 59, “Come, O Fount of Every Blessing”)**

*There is room in God's great welcome; See! The doors are open wide!
Here on earth as in God's heaven, hear the call to come inside!
There is so much room for difference — men and women, gay and straight.
In God's love, the rooms are countless, but there is no room for hate.*

*There is room in our good nation if we stand on justice-ground.
God has made a good creation; colors, cultures all abound.
Welcome, sister! Welcome, brother! All those yearning to breathe free!
There is room for one another but no room for bigotry.*

*There is room for understanding, for the outcast and the poor;
For the Christian, Jew and Muslim — there is room for these and more.
For the people on the fringes, for the ones with long career,
There is room for building bridges, but there is no room for fear.*

*There is room in faithful churches for the wounded and oppressed:
Women who've been told they're worthless, refugees who feel distressed,
Immigrants who fear the future, people scorned and pushed and shoved.
God, may we seek what you treasure: may we all make room for love.*

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

THE ORGAN POSTLUDE “Give Thanks Unto God”

Michael Ryan

References:

The Call to Worship is a poem by Jay Hulme in “The Backwater Sermons,” London: Canterbury Press, 2021. Jay Hulme is an award-winning transgender poet, performer, educator, and speaker. In late 2019, his fascination with old church buildings turned into a life-changing encounter with the God he had never believed in, and he was baptized in the Anglican church.

The Prayer of Invocation is adapted from Mak Kneebone, “Worship for Pride Month and ONA Sunday,” Open and Affirming Coalition of the United Church of Christ, 2020.

The Call to Confession is adapted from Kimi Floyd Reisch, “Worship for Pride Month and ONA Sunday,” Open and Affirming Coalition of the United Church of Christ, 2020.

The Prayer of Dedication is adapted from Lavon Bayler, “Gathered By Love,” Cleveland: The Pilgrim Press, 2001. 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
Darryl and Winnie Wentz, “In memory of loved ones.”

#575 – O, For a World

O for a world where everyone respects each other's ways,
Where love is lived and all is done with justice and with praise.

O for a world where goods are shared and misery relieved,
Where truth is spoken, children spared, equality achieved.

We welcome one world family and struggle with each choice
That opens us to unity and gives our vision voice.

The poor are rich, the weak are strong, the foolish ones are wise.
Tell all who mourn, outcasts belong, who perishes will rise.

O for a world preparing for God's glorious reign of peace,
Where time and tears will be no more, and all but love will cease.