

Welcome to St. Paul's United Church of Christ

An Open and Affirming Congregation of the United Church of Christ

August 21, 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: Karin Stork-Whitson

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: Ernie Moyer

Worship Welcome Team: Candy LaRue, Corky M. Short

Nursery: Jonneke Dundore

Flower Delivery: Jonneke Dundore

Pastor Emeritus

The Rev. Dr. Thomas E. Herrold

Ministers

The Entire Congregation

Please visit the church website at <https://saintpaulsucc-mech.org/> to sign up for Acolyte, Welcome Team, Lector, Volunteer in the Nursery, Offering Counting Team, 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

ELEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

August 21, 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 "Just As I Am"

Tom Birchwood

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

*THE HYMN "That Woman in the Crowd"
(to the tune of no. 24, "The God of Abraham Praise")

***That woman in the crowd — she could not stand up tall;
Her back was bent, her head was bowed — and Jesus saw!
That Sabbath day of rest, he saw her misery;
He told her, "Woman, from your ailment you are free!"***

***A leader said, "You're wrong!" for sin was what he saw.
He could not understand this One who broke the law.
The Sabbath rules were strict and work was not allowed —
Not even when it healed a woman bent and bowed.***

***Christ said, "What matters most? What rules will you obey?
You care for ox and donkey on the Sabbath day!"
For Jesus knew the truth — that people matter more,
And God loves things that heal, encourage and restore.***

***What barriers do we build to God's abundant grace?
Do we want church to be a perfect, law-filled place?
Or will we dare to love — to see what Jesus saw —
That God's great welcome matters more than rule and law.***

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*PRAYER OF INVOCATION (unison)

Healing God, we know You long for the well-being of all people. Guide us so we might better allow You to work through us to bring such healing to one and all. Amen.

CALL TO CONFESSION

We know laws, rules and commandments most often have the intention of helping a community. We also know in human hands, such rules can be manipulated or adhered to in ways that cause harm rather than creating well-being. We do not always see this or wish to confront those who are engaged in such manipulation. 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 call us to offer healing, peace, and love, particularly to those most in need.

ALL: Let us be willing to break unjust or improperly applied laws if that is what is needed to demonstrate how God's love is for all and can work through 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 HEBREW SCRIPTURE READING

Isaiah 58:9b-14

THE PSALM READING

Psalms 103:1-8

*THE HYMN "O God, We Rage at Hurtful Things"
(to the tune of no. 547, "Amazing Grace")

*O God, we rage at hurtful things Beyond our own control,
Like all the pain that illness brings To body, mind and soul.*

*There's much we cannot understand; O Lord, we ask you, "Why?"
And yet in Christ you know firsthand The tears your people cry.*

*O Christ, your loving, saving touch Heals children, women, men.
We pray for ones we love so much; Lord, make them whole again.*

*Now work through those your Spirit sends To heal, restore and care.
May doctors, nurses, neighbors, friends Be answers to our prayer.*

*And when the journey seems too rough And you seem far away,
Remind us, Lord: You are enough To bring us through each day.*

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THE RESPONSE:

One: God is Still Speaking.

All: Thanks be to God!

THE GOSPEL READING & MESSAGE:

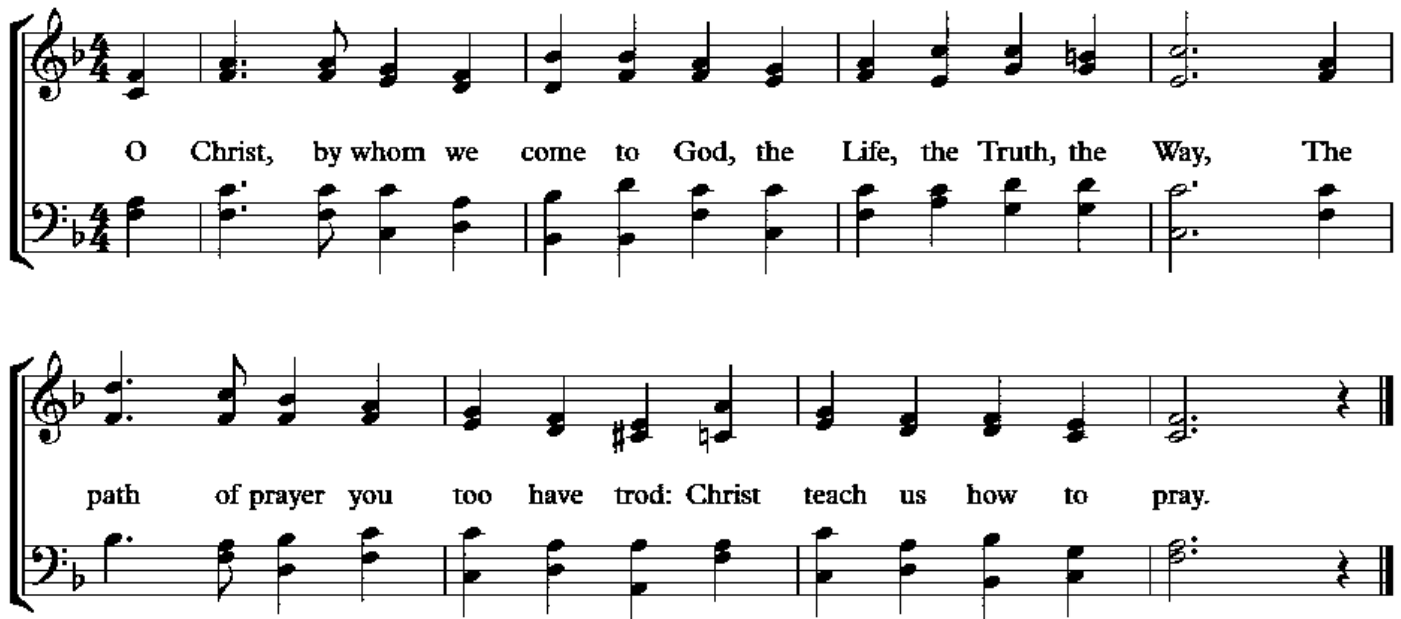
Luke 13:10-17

"Understanding the Teachings"

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



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 SPECIAL MUSIC “Simple Gifts”

Traditional Folk Tune, arr. Strommen

Women’s Sextet – Lois Ritter, Mary Runkle, Becca Anderson, Wendy Hayden,
Kathy Williams, and Winnie Wentz

*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!*

*THE PRAYER OF DEDICATION (Unison)

O God, we cannot forget all Your benefits. Accept our offerings as expressions of praise and acts of true worship. We pour out our thanks for all You have given us and for all You do for us. We are grateful for the opportunities You grant us to help others. May healing come to all who suffer, and freedom be granted to those weighed down and bent over with heavy burdens. Use us and our gifts to bring the changes for good that You intend for our world. Amen.

*THE HYMN “We Yearn, O Christ, for Wholeness”
(to the tune of no. 245, “The Day of Resurrection”)

*We yearn, O Christ, for wholeness and for your healing touch;
Too long have we felt helpless; our burdens seemed too much.
Forgetting all pretenses we make our pleadings heard,
In hope and expectation await your gracious word.*

*We long to have companions who travel by our side,
Strong friends to call and answer with whom we are allied;
As we lift up each other when struggles lay us low,
Community will flourish; our faith and caring grow.*

*We need your living presence, O Christ of Galilee,
A presence that revives us and sets our spirits free.
No longer are we fearful, your love pervades each place.
Empower us with courage to claim your healing grace.*

*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 “How Firm a Foundation”

Edward Broughton

References:

Cover Image: Tissot, James, 1836-1902. Woman with an Infirmity of Eighteen Years, from Art in the Christian Tradition, a project of the Vanderbilt Divinity Library, Nashville, TN. <https://diglib.library.vanderbilt.edu/act-imagelink.pl?RC=57031> [retrieved August 17, 2022]. Original source:

<https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:HealWomanSabbath.jpg>.

The Prayer of Dedication is from “Gathered by Love” by Lavon Bayler, 1994, 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
Barbara Wightman-Freeman, "In memory of Glenn C. Wightman"
Susan Gabriel, "In memory of friend, Raquel and mother, Joyce Carpenter"

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

NEW MEMBER INFORMATIONAL MEETING

Join us following the service today, for an informational meeting about membership with St. Paul's. These are casual meetings with an opportunity to learn more and ask questions. If you can't make a group meeting, but would still be interested in joining, please contact Rev. John.

NEW HOPE NEWS

A big thank you to all who contributed to the 99 lbs. of school supplies we delivered to New Hope for their School Daze Craze! The event was held August 10th and 160 backpacks full of school supplies were handed out. Pizza and snacks were provided for all who came, haircuts were available, and each child was able to pick out books and other free items. There were many thank you's expressed and a good time was had by all! Thanks for your continued support of New Hope.

Karen and Kevin Allison

BLESSING OF THE BACKPACKS AND ICE CREAM SOCIAL

Plan to join us **next Sunday, August 28th**. Bring your briefcase, bookbag, backpack, purse, lunchboxes, or any other baggage you use for school or work to worship. We will offer a blessing of the bags as a reminder that God's peace and presence will be with all people as they go to work and school.

Following worship, cool off with something sweet and creamy as we celebrate summer and gear up for back-to-school... with a cherry on top!

SAVE THE DATE

Rally Day will be held on September 11th, 2022. Mark your calendars and be sure to join us.