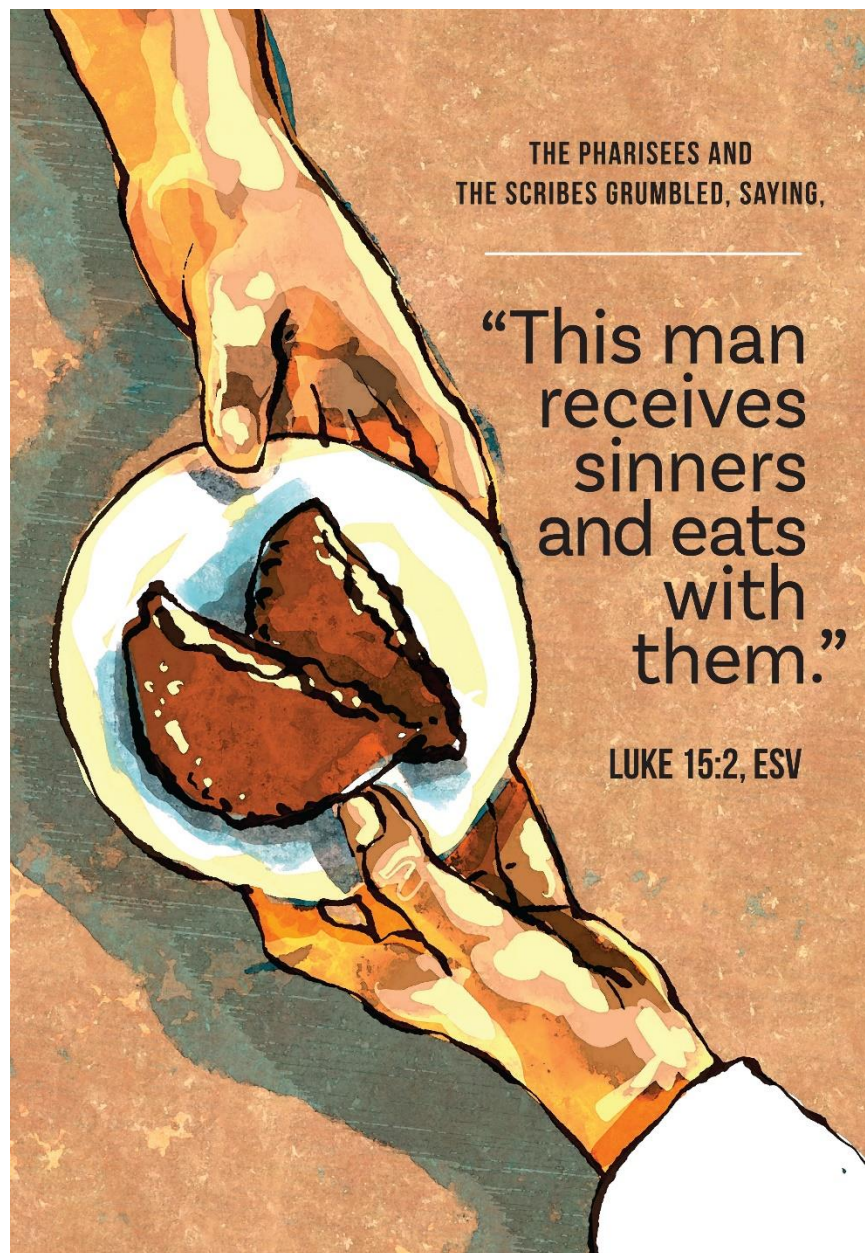


Welcome to St. Paul's United Church of Christ

An Open and Affirming Congregation of the United Church of Christ

September 11, 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: Patrice Miller

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: Paula Boyer

Worship Welcome Team: Candace LaRue, Corky Short

Nursery: Bonnie Plymette

Flower Delivery: Bonnie Plymette

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, 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 UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

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Mechanicsburg, PA 17055

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Office email: stpaulstaff@outlook.com

John's email: revjohnwd@outlook.com

Allyssa's email: allyssaboyer@outlook.com

St. Paul's Online Giving

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

FOURTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

September 11, 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 “Arioso” G.F. Handel/Rebecca James

THE CHORAL INTROIT

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

*THE HYMN #459 – Come, O Fount of Every Blessing

*PRAYER OF INVOCATION (Unison)

Shepherd God, You are our Caregiver and Protector. We are grateful You find us when we feel lost, comfort us when we are threatened. Guide us in allowing Your Spirit to work through us, as we too seek out those who feel lost and need comfort. Amen.

CALL TO CONFESSION

God never loses track of us. We cannot wander off to some place where God cannot find us. But we can resist the ways God reaches out to us, causing ourselves and others to *feel* lost. Let us join in the time of Silent Prayers of Confession.

SILENT PRAYERS OF CONFESSION

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS (Responsive):

Minister: God forgives us, is always with us, and never gives up on us.

ALL: Let us open ourselves to the many ways God seeks to connect with us, and may we help others to do the same. 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

Exodus 32: 7-14

THE PSALM READING

Psalm 51: 1-12

*THE HYMN #252 – “Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us”

THE RESPONSE:

One: God is Still Speaking.

All: Thanks be to God!

THE GOSPEL READING & MESSAGE

Luke 15: 1-10

“No One Is Lost in God’s Eyes”

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)



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 "Gathered in God's Love"

Pethel

Chancel Choir

*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)

Because we have been blessed by You, O God, we are delighted to share. Because there are many who do not enjoy Your bounty, we search for ways to help them. Thank you for showing us the way of mercy and patient example, the way of generosity and self-forgetful service, the way of faithfulness and joyous celebration. Bless us and our offerings, we pray. Amen.

*THE HYMN #526 – “Siyahamba”

*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 “Celebrate Life”

Lani Smith

References:

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
Gary and Carol Fleisher, “In memory of our parents.”

Candy LaRue, “In honor of our 35th anniversary”

Martha Keith, “In honor of Martha and Gene Keith’s 68th wedding anniversary”

ANNOUNCEMENTS

All Church Picnic will be held following our service today in the Pavilion.

Youth Fellowship will meet this evening from 5:30 – 7:30. Youth Fellowship aims to create a supportive environment for youth to grow in relationship with God, to provide a space where they can be themselves and discern their gifts, and opportunities to make friends while helping to serve the community. YF is open to youth in grades 6-12. We meet bi-monthly. Questions? Contact Pastor Allyssa.

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING CALLED

We will be having a Congregational Meeting on Sunday, September 25th following the Worship Service to vote on Calling Pastor Allyssa Boyer to the Ordained Ministerial position of Associate Pastor.

HYMN #459 - Come, O Fount of Every Blessing

**Come, O Fount of every blessing, tune my heart to sing your grace;
Streams of mercy, never ceasing, call for songs of loudest praise.
Teach me some melodious sonnet, sung by flaming tongues above.
Praise the mount I'm fixed upon it mount of God's unfailing love.**

**Here I pause in my sojourning; giving thanks for having come;
Come to trust at every turning, God will guide me safely home.
Jesus sought me when a stranger, wandering from the fold of God;
Came to rescue me from danger, blessed body, precious blood.**

**Oh, to grace how great a debtor daily I am drawn anew!
Let that grace now, like a fetter, bind my wandering heart to you.
Prone to wander, I can feel it, wander from the love I've known;
Here's my heart, O take and seal it; seal it for your very own.**

***Hymn: #252 – Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us**

**Savior, like a shepherd lead us, much we need your tender care;
In your pleasant pastures feed us, for our use your folds prepare.
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, you have bought us, yours we are;
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, you have bought us, yours we are.**

**We are yours, in love befriend us, be the guardian of our way;
Keep your flock, from sin defend us, seek us when we go astray.
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, hear your children when we pray;
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, hear your children when we pray.**

**Let us always seek your favor; let us always do your will;
Jesus Christ, our only Savior, with your love our spirits fill.
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, you have loved us, love us still;
Blessed Jesus, blessed Jesus, you have loved us, love us still.**