

**Welcome to**  
**St. Paul's United Church of Christ**

*An Open and Affirming Congregation of the United Church of Christ*

October 16<sup>th</sup>, 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: Nancy Richey

## **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: Chris Grice

Worship Welcome Team: Sherry Spencer, Paula Boyer

Nursery: Sherry Spencer

Flower Delivery: Nancy Richey

## **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 Online Giving

## **ST. PAUL'S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**

**626 Williams Grove Road**

**Mechanicsburg, PA 17055**

**717/766-7931**

**Website: [www.saintpaulsucc-mech.org](http://www.saintpaulsucc-mech.org)**

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**Allyssa's email: [allyssaboyer@outlook.com](mailto:allyssaboyer@outlook.com)**

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

NINETEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST;  
CHILDREN'S SABBATH

October 16, 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 "Sun of My Soul"

Garrett Parker

CHORAL INTROIT

\*THE HYMN No. 43 "Love Divine, All Loves Excelling"

\*CHILDREN'S SABBATH PRAYER (Responsive)

One: O God, by faith, like Abraham, let us obey Your call to leave our comfortable homes and set out for strange places although we do not know for certain where we are going.

**All: Embolden us to venture to our legislators' offices, struggling schools, and communities burdened by poverty to seek justice and strengthen children.**

One: By faith, like Noah, let us heed Your signs and warnings and build sturdy arks to rescue our children from current and coming floods.

**All: Mobilize us now to respond to the rising tide of poverty in which too many children are drowning, and the achievement gap tsunami that swallows up millions of poor and minority children.**

One: By faith, like Isaac and Jacob, let us seek Your blessings on our children's futures.

**All: Open our eyes now to see how we can assure all children the gift of a good education so they can realize their promise.**

One: By faith, like Moses, let us leave Pharaoh's house and head across the wilderness to lead our oppressed children to freedom.

**All: Help us to improve early childhood experiences and education so that every child's potential is unlocked.**

One: By faith, like Joseph, let us turn evil into good and welcome our erring brothers and kin with a spirit of reconciliation and love.

**All: Help us to cherish each child and never give up on a single one.**

(cont. on the next page)

One: By faith, like the child David, let us go out without fear to face the Goliaths of our day.  
**All: With slingshots of righteousness and justice, may we be confident of Your divine guidance and protection. Amen.**

#### CALL TO CONFESSION

God does not tire of our prayers. Rather, God feels neglected when we fail to pray. God does not write us off when we are careless. Instead, God's care of us summons us into new caring relationships. Let us join in the time of Silent Prayers of Confession.

#### SILENT PRAYERS OF CONFESSION

#### WORDS OF ASSURANCE (Responsive):

One: Our God proclaims: "I will forgive your iniquity and remember your sin no more. I will be your God and you will be my people. I will put my law within you; I will write it on your hearts."

**All: We give thanks for the new life God offers.**

*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. 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 GOSPEL READING

Luke 18:1-8

THE READING OF THE PSALM

Psalms 119:97-104

\*THE HYMN “Lord, Hear the Cries of Children”  
(to the tune of no. 493, “O Jesus, I Have Promised”)

*Lord, hear the cries of children who struggle every day,  
Caught up in failing systems that steal their hope away.  
Some find they're lost to violence, then lost in foster care.  
They long for life's abundance! Lord, hear their pleading prayer.*

*Lord, hear the cries of children who long to laugh and dance,  
Yet from their very naming, don't seem to stand a chance.  
When people all around them have egos, budgets, plans —  
We pray you'll hear and save them, O God who understands!*

*Lord, hear the cries of children who simply ask for bread  
Yet find the world around them provides a stone instead.  
When wars are fully-funded and schools are running bare,  
When benefits are ended — Lord, hear your children's prayer!*

*Lord, hear the cries of children — and hear the voices, too,  
That seek to offer welcome, that seek a world that's new,  
That work to change the system, that sing sweet lullabies.  
May we, with love and wisdom, respond to children's cries.*

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THE RESPONSE:

One: God is Still Speaking.

All: **Thanks be to God!**

THE HEBREW SCRIPTURE READING & MESSAGE:

Jeremiah 31:27-34

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.*

## ANTHEM "Train Up a Child"

Choplin

Chancel Choir

*Train up a child in the way that he should go That he will never depart.  
Train up a child in the way and she will grow With the Word in her heart.*

*Feed them truth, guide the way, Teach them promises God has made  
That they may live in God's love and grace.*

*Train up a child as you teach him right from wrong As he follows the Word.  
Train up a child as you lead her to be strong, Be strong in the Lord.*

*Feed them truth, guide the way, Teach them promises God has made  
That they may live in God's love and grace.*

*Many voices call, many things may draw them far away  
Though their paths may go far away from home  
The Word shall remain - the Word will remain in their hearts.*

*Train up a child ... Your rewards will go Beyond the days you live.  
Raise them in love ... Generations will be blessed By the love that you give.*

*Feed them truth, show the way, Teach them promises God has made  
That they will carry on ... to train up a child. And they will live in God's love ..... forever.*

**\*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)**

**God, on this Children's Sabbath, we give thanks for the children you have placed in our midst: in our congregation and in the wider world. May we always regard them as your highest blessing and commit to their care. May these resources help us to stay true to that commitment. Amen.**

**\*THE HYMN "Do Not Turn Away the Children"**  
(to the tune of no. 4, "Joyful, Joyful, We Adore You")

*Do not turn away the children; let them come to me instead.  
For to them belongs the kingdom. Make them welcome!" Christ, you said.  
As we hear your words of blessing that you spoke when they drew near,  
Can we hear your love addressing needs of children we see here?*

*Do not turn your back on children who know violence, pain and war.  
Give them justice, food and welcome, make their homes and lives secure.  
Don't neglect the world of children who have AIDS and HIV,  
For to them belongs the kingdom, give them health care that they need.*

*Do not tell the nation's children, "schools are what we can't afford!"  
Give them all good education; teach them well, both rich and poor.  
Do not hurry past the children longing for your love this day;  
For to them belongs the kingdom; give them time, don't turn away.*

*Do not miss the faith of children who have questions deep inside,  
For to them belongs the kingdom wonder with them, be their guide.  
Jesus, as we hear your blessing for those ones you welcomed in,  
May our deeds reflect your caring as we welcome them again!*

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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 “Let Your Light So Shine”**

Tom Birchwood

References:

The Children’s Sabbath Prayer is adapted from Guide My Feet: Prayers and Meditations on Loving and Working for Children by Marian Wright Edelman.

The Prayer of Dedication is adapted from the 2022 Children’s Sabbath Manual by the Children’s Defense Fund. The Call to Confession and Words of Assurance are adapted 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  
Debra Kassahun, “In honor and memory of my parents, Carl and Margaret Yohn.”

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

**NEW HOPE THANKSGIVING BASKETS**

New Hope Ministries is seeking donations of traditional Thanksgiving meal items to fill baskets that will be distributed to needy families in our area. Suggested items include stuffing, gravy, cranberry sauce, vegetables, fruit, yams, pie ingredients, etc. Donated items should be placed in the box in the hallway by Fellowship Hall no later than Sunday November 6th. Donated turkeys and other perishable items may be taken directly to New Hope at 5228 East Trindle Road, Mechanicsburg. Any questions please contact Karen or Kevin Allison.

**ANNIVERSARY CARD SHOWER**

Please help us shower George and Betsy Bingaman with cards to celebrate their 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary (October 21). Cards can be mailed to: The Bingamans, 3118 Brookwood St. Harrisburg, PA 17111. Matthew Bingaman will bring the cards to George and Betsy.