

Welcome to St. Paul's United Church of Christ

An Open and Affirming Congregation of the United Church of Christ

November 13, 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

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: Craig Martek
Worship Welcome Team: Clarence Solt Jr., Fenton Fox
Nursery: Jonneke Dundore
Flower Delivery: Patrice Miller

Pastor Emeritus

The Rev. Dr. Thomas E. Herrold

Ministers

The Entire Congregation

Please visit the church website at <http://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

**626 Williams Grove Road
Mechanicsburg, PA 17055
717/766-7931**

Website: www.saintpaulsucc-mech.org

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

TWENTY-THIRD SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

November 13th, 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 PRELUDE "My Shepherd Will Supply My Need"
Hand Chimes

Edwards

CHORAL INTROIT

*THE HYMN No. 565 "God, Whose Giving Know No Ending"

*PRAYER OF INVOCATION (unison)

God of Hope, through Your true Prophets and Teachers, You have offered a vision of what life will be like. We look forward to that day when Your Love and Peace so fill the earth that all of humanity and creation will live with joy and abundance. We commit to helping that day come into being. Amen.

CALL TO CONFESSION

Jesus, through his words and ways, gave us a glimpse of what God's Reign will be like, as the Prophets before him describe it. He showed us how we can make it happen in the here and now. Yet there is much evidence that we have forgotten or ignored those teachings and examples. Let us join in the time of Silent Prayers of Confession.

SILENT PRAYERS OF CONFESSION

WORDS OF ASSURANCE (Responsive):

Minister: God forgives us and celebrates when we are good stewards of God's gifts.

ALL: Let us continue to be examples and models of what God's Reign is like, expanding our witness further and further amongst ourselves and into our communities and the wider world. 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.

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!

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 CHORISTERS

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 21:13-19

THE PSALM READING

Psalm 98

*THE HYMN No. 562 "Take My Gifts"

THE RESPONSE:

One: God is Still Speaking.

All: Thanks be to God!

THE HEBREW SCRIPTURE READING & MESSAGE:

Isaiah 65:17-25

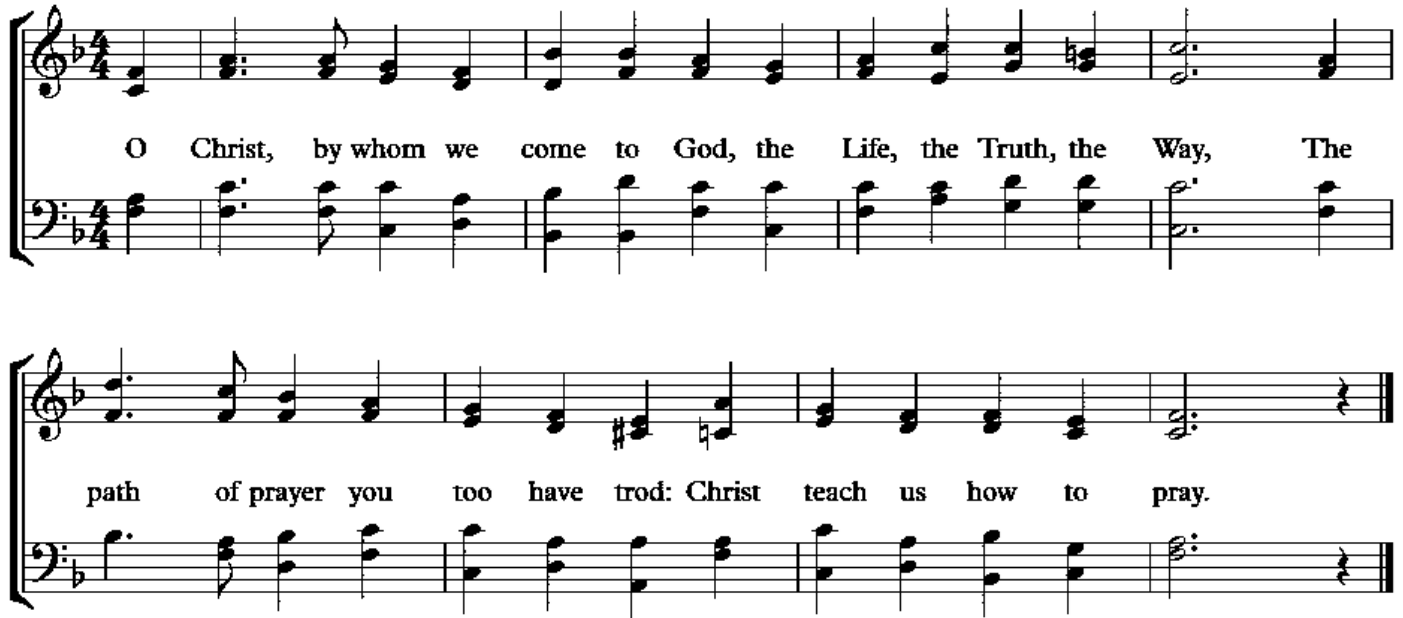
"Modeling God's Reign"

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 place your pew pad sheets in the Offering Plate. Thank you.

THE OFFERTORY “Evidence of Grace”

Williams

Youth Choir

BRINGING FORWARD OUR PLEDGES AND TIME AND TALENT SHEETS: The Congregation is invited, if you are able, to bring your Pledges forward and place them in the basket. If you are unable to come forward, you may give your Pledge to another member, or have placed them in the Offering Plates. Thank you.

*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)

We rejoice, O God, in the new world You are creating around us and within us. We give thanks for the joy we find in the church as we draw water from the wells of salvation. It is our intention to share the joy, to proclaim Your Word among all nations, to work quietly and enthusiastically for a world where Your love reigns. To these ends, we dedicate our offerings. Amen.

*THE HYMN “God, We See What You Have Given”
(to the tune of no. 459, “Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing”)

*God, we see what you have given; Signs of grace are everywhere!
All around are gifts from heaven — Gifts enough for all to share.
We are stewards of your bounty, Called to give as we've received;
And your blessings have been plenty From the day we first believed.*

*We are stewards of your welcome That you showed through Christ the Son.
In his living and his teaching, Jesus welcomed everyone.
To the outcast and the stranger, He showed hospitality!
By your Spirit, may we also Give the welcome we've received.*

*We are stewards, sent out sharing, Offering you our very best.
Through our serving and our caring May we give as we've been blessed.
God of love, may faithful living Be much more than Sunday talk.
Send us loving, serving, giving; Help us daily walk your walk!*

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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 “Festive Trumpet Tune”

David German

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
Jonneke Dundore, “In memory of Roger and Pat Dundore and in memory of Leah van Olden.”

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

CHRISTMAS BLESSING EXPRESS

New Hope Ministries will soon host their "Christmas Blessing Express," providing clients the opportunity to select gifts for their family members. These general items are always appreciated: Winter clothing and pajamas for all sizes and all ages, toddler-adult; Books, toys and games for all ages, toddler-adult. For more specific gift ideas, grab a tag off the Christmas tree in The Commons. Please consider donating \$20 or \$25 gift cards to Target, Kohl's or Wal-Mart. These are used to supplement the program in categories where donations are lowest. Gift cards should be marked for "New Hope" and placed in the offering plate. New, unwrapped gifts may be placed in the marked boxes in the Commons. The deadline for donations is Thursday Nov 30. A full wish list from New Hope can be found on their website: <https://nhm-pa.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/06/Christmas-Wish-List-2021.pdf>. Thank you for your generous support of this ministry!

POINSETTIA'S FOR CHRISTMAS

Slips to sign-up to purchase POINSETTIAS are on the table in the Commons. The cost this year for a 6" pot (5 + blooms) is \$10.00 each and we will be getting them from Stauffer's.

Colors available are Red, White, Pink, or Marble. The completed slip along with payment (cash or checks made payable to St. Paul's United Church of Christ) should be dropped off at the Church Office or placed in the offering plate no later than Tuesday, November 22nd.

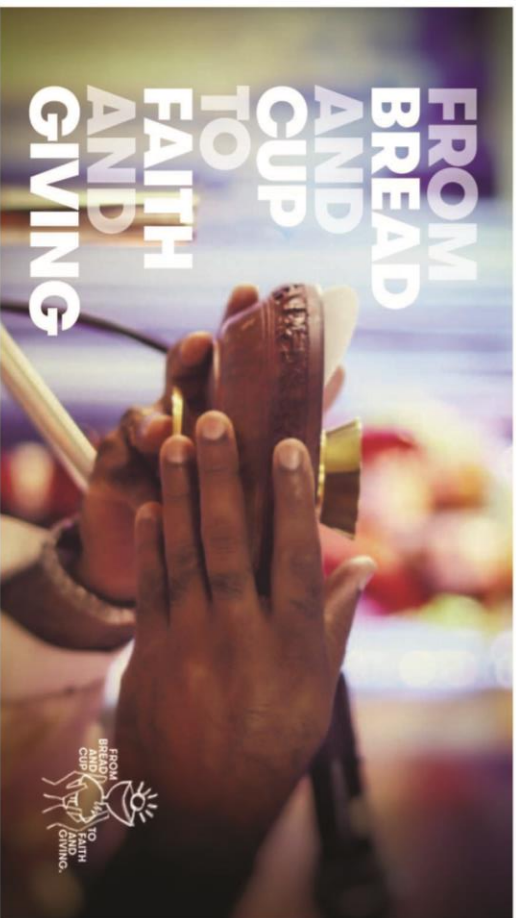
ADVENT DEVOTIONALS

"Life happens in the dark."

Copies of the 2022 Advent Devotionals are available for purchase in the Common for \$4.50/ea.

ADVENT BOOK GROUP

Our Advent book this year is All Creation Waits: The Advent Mystery of New Beginnings, by Gayle Boss. For each day of Advent, there is a quote and then a reflection on how a creature miraculously lives in the colder days of winter. There are beautiful woodcuts by David G. Klein of each creature. We are encouraged to employ a Lectio Divina approach; What catches my attention in this reading today? Sharing our meditations will help us move even deeper into Advent together. You can review a copy of the book at the Harvest Dinner on November 14. **We will meet on Mondays starting November 28th, from either 1:00 to 2:30 PM or 6:30 to 8:00 PM.** You can attend either session, but we do ask you to sign-up on Time-to-Sign-Up or the sheet in the Common Area so we know how many to expect and whether you would like for us to purchase a book for you. **The cost will be \$20.00 for this new hardcover edition.** We recognize this is a higher cost. If you could use some help with your purchase, please let Pastor Allyssa or myself know. We have funds that can help, and we do not want the cost to prevent anyone from participating. November 16th is the deadline to sign up.



God Widens the Narrow Door

Luke 13: 22-30

Rev. James D. Ross II (he, him, his)
 Minister for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion
 Southern New England Conference UCC

The frequent human inclination to operate as though resources and opportunities are scarce presents itself in the question of someone Jesus encountered during his journey to the Passover in Jerusalem.

“Lord, will only a few be saved,” the man asked.

Many scholars agree the man was someone who felt certain of his own salvation – whether because he was following the rules, because of his connection to the lineage of Abraham, or for other reasons. But how many would be saved along with him?

Jesus responded with a parable about people arriving at a house for a party and being denied entry by the owners, who said they did not know the visitors, despite the visitors’ claims of a friendship with them. The message, perhaps, is that none of us should assume that our connection to God is stronger or that our relationship with God is more special than that of anyone else.

Jesus follows the parable with the promise that far from “a few” being saved, “people will come from east and west, from north and south, and will eat in the kingdom of God.”

Our God is one of abundance. Just as God welcomes people from all directions to the kingdom (and kingdom) of God, so has God created the earth with enough resources for us all. We need only remember that everyone is deserving of them.

How is your stewardship reflected in this parable? Do you operate as though there is only enough for you, or do you model generosity and gratitude for God’s provision?

CONSIDER YOUR PLEDGE AS A PERCENT OF YOUR MONTHLY INCOME.

Annual Income	Monthly Income	2%	3%	4%	5%	10%
20,000	1,667	33	50	67	83	167
25,000	2,083	42	63	83	104	208
30,000	2,500	50	75	100	125	250
35,000	2,917	58	88	117	146	292
40,000	3,333	67	100	133	167	333
45,000	3,750	75	113	150	188	375
50,000	4,167	83	125	167	208	417
60,000	5,000	100	150	200	250	500
75,000	6,250	125	188	250	313	625
100,000	8,333	167	250	333	417	833
125,000	10,417	208	313	417	521	1042
150,000	12,500	250	375	500	625	1250
200,000	16,667	333	500	667	833	1667

On average, Americans give 2% of their income to charity. Giving even 1% more of annual income to charity would be transformative for our congregation and other organizations doing good in our community.

