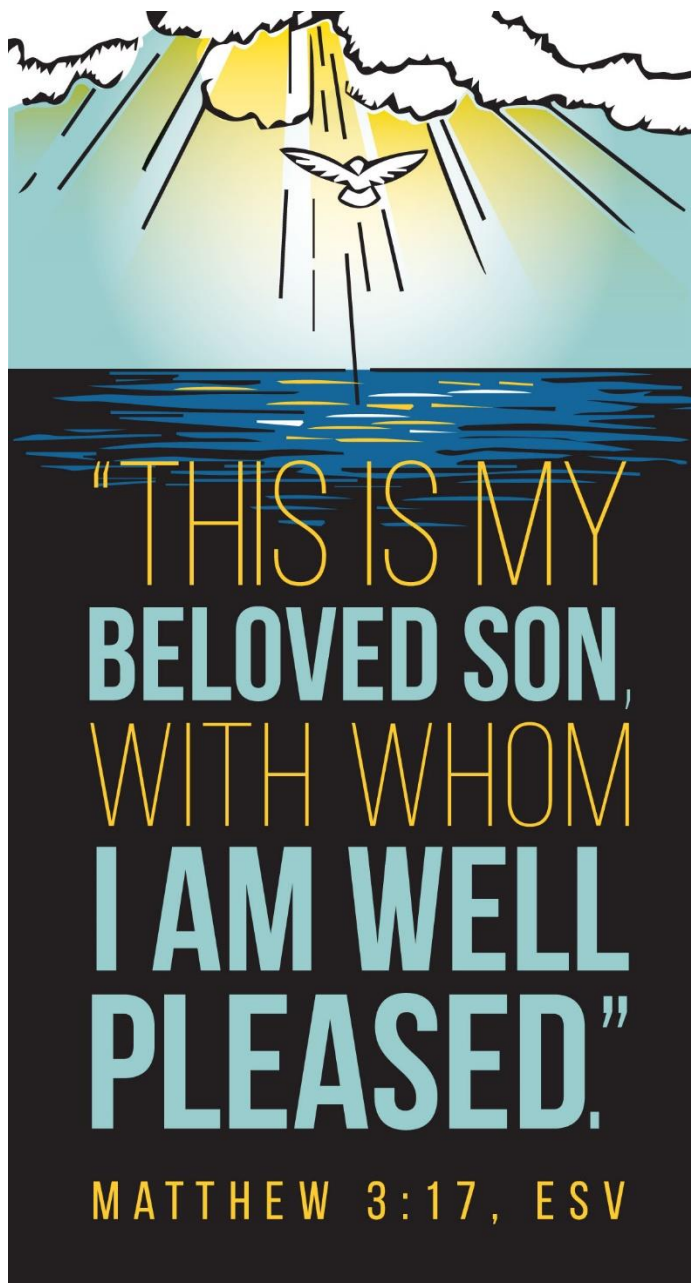


# Welcome to St. Paul's United Church of Christ

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

January 15, 2023



**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  
The Rev. 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: Chris Bowers  
Worship Welcome Team: Becky Thompson, Sherry Spencer, Fenton Fox  
Kids' Place: Sue Ward-Diorio, Jonneke Dundore  
Flower Delivery: Jill Morell

## **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 Kids' Place, Deliver the Altar Flowers, Counting Team and/or Sponsor the Altar Flowers. You will find the sign-up sheets under the "Sign Up" menu heading.*



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)**  
**Office email: [stpaulstaff@outlook.com](mailto:stpaulstaff@outlook.com)**  
**Rev. John's email: [revjohnwd@outlook.com](mailto:revjohnwd@outlook.com)**  
**Rev. Allyssa's email: [allyssaboyer@outlook.com](mailto:allyssaboyer@outlook.com)**

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

SECOND SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY; BAPTISM OF CHRIST

January 15, 2023

*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 "Prelude on 'New England'"

Colin Curtis

CHORAL INTROIT

\*THE HYMN "Down By the Jordan"

(to the tune of no. 22, "Praise Ye the Lord, the Almighty")

***Down by the Jordan, a prophet named John was baptizing,  
Preaching a message the people found bold and surprising:  
"God will forgive! Show that you'll change how you live!  
Surely God's new day is rising!"***

***Jesus, you went to be baptized along with the others,  
Taking your place among sinners, God's lost sons and daughters.  
Then with great love, God's Spirit came as a dove!  
Your work began in those waters.***

***Here in the Church, we are baptized and filled with God's Spirit.  
Freed and forgiven, we're welcomed with joy! Can you hear it?  
This is God's sign! This is how God says, "You're mine!"  
Let's take the good news and share it!***

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\*PRAYER OF INVOCATION (unison)

**Loving God, You have created all that is, all people, and You love us all. Help us to remember this reality, so we too might love You, ourselves, and our neighbors as ourselves. Amen.**

## CALL TO CONFESSION

Sometimes we limit who we love, including loving ourselves. In doing so, we not only fail to follow the Great Commandment, but we minimize the love God has for all Creation and all people. Let us join in the time of Silent Prayers of Confession.

## SILENT PRAYERS OF CONFESSION

### WORDS OF ASSURANCE (Responsive):

Minister: God forgives us and reminds us that we are each and all Beloved Children of God.

**ALL: Let us believe this, and act in ways that demonstrate we believe this is true for all Creation, ourselves and all people. 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!**

*Children are invited to the front at this time.  
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 NEW TESTAMENT READING

Acts 10:34-43

\*THE HYMN No. 328 “Wonder of Wonders, Here Revealed”

THE RESPONSE:

One: God is Still Speaking.

**All: Thanks be to God!**

THE GOSPEL READING & MESSAGE:

Matthew 3:13-17

## **REMEMBERING OUR BAPTISMS**

*All are invited to come forward and receive a Cowrie shell (or Puka shell as they are known in Hawaii) that has been resting in the water of the Baptismal Font. The water will be blessed by our prayers. As you are given a shell by either Rev. Allyssa or Rev. John, we will anoint you with the water, making the sign of the Cross. Each of us will also be reminded that we are a Beloved Child of God. We encourage you to take your shell home and place it in a location you can see. By looking upon the shell each day, we will be reminded daily of our Belovedness. Everyone is invited to come forward, whether you remember your Baptism or not, whether you have been Baptized or not. Baptism is the recognition of that which is already true and true for all: We are Beloved Children of God.*

*If you are uncomfortable coming forward, please let one of the Welcome Team Members know and one of our Pastors will come to you.*

## **QUESTIONS FOR THOSE REMEMBERING OUR BAPTISM**

Pastor: Do you desire to remember your Baptism into the faith and family of Jesus Christ?

**All (silently): I do.**

Pastor: Do you renounce the powers of evil and desire the freedom of new life in Christ?

**All(silently): I do.**

Pastor: Do you profess Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior?

**All(silently): I do.**

Pastor: Do you promise, by the grace of god, to be Christ’s disciple, to follow the Words and in the Way of our Savior, to resist oppression and evil, to show love and justice, and to witness to the work and word of Jesus Christ as best as you are able?

**All(silently): I promise, with the help of God.**

Pastor: Do you promise, according to the grace given you, to grow in the Christian Faith and to be a faithful member of the church of Jesus Christ, celebrating Christ’s presence and furthering Christ’s mission in all the world?

**All(silently): I promise, with the help of God.**

Pastor: Let us pray. Loving God, we pray that Your Holy Spirit might uniquely be in this water, blessing it, and thereby allowing it to be a blessing we are marked with, so we might carry such blessing with us wherever we are. Amen.

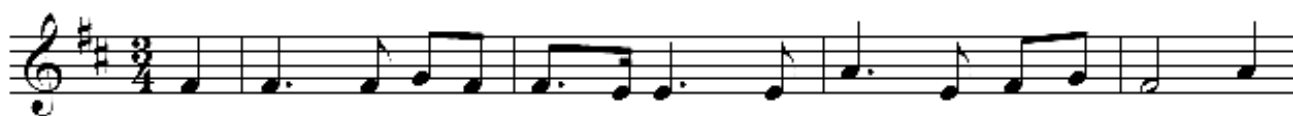
Now would all who are willing and able, please come forward.

#### 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)

### Prayer Response



Thru Christ our ear- nest prayers are said with words we scarce can frame; Our



work of Christ- mas now be- gun, We serve them in Christ's name.

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

#### THE OFFERTORY "O Worship the King"

Helman

Hand Chimes

#### \*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 pray, O God, that our offerings delight You. We bring them to encourage all who work for justice and peace on our behalf, that they may not grow faint or be crushed by opposition. May the oppressed find healing, the discouraged receive hope, and those who are bound discover freedom, through and beyond our efforts. Amen.**

\*THE HYMN “Creator of the Water” (to the tune of no. 245 “The Day of Resurrection”)

*Creator of the water that makes the world so green,  
That satisfies the thirsty, and keeps us cool and clean,  
We take from your creation this gift we use each day;  
You call us now to use it in this most holy way.*

*As in the time of Noah, the sea engulfed the land,  
And through the Red Sea, Moses led Israel 'cross the sand,  
And to the Jordan waters, Christ went and was baptized —  
Your water has a power: it changes all our lives.*

*May this your gift of water, long springing from the earth,  
Become for all new Christians their fountain of rebirth.  
Lord, wash away their sinning, and give them life anew —  
Pour out your Spirit on them, that they may follow you.*

*God, through your gift of water, your family we become;  
You take away divisions; in Christ you make us one.  
Now send your Spirit on us and give us work to do  
That we may share with others the love we have from you.*

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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 “Ye Holy Angels Bright”

Franklin Ritter

References:

The Prayer of Dedication is from “Taught by Love” by Lavon Bayler, 1998, 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  
The Called to Care Team, "In honor of Martha Keith."

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

**SPARCC - St. Paul's Against Racism, Creating Change** is meeting on Thursday, January 19th and is starting a new book to deepen our understanding of the impact of racism and oppression. All are welcome! Our new book is "Dear Denise: Letters to the Sister I Never Knew" by Lisa McNair. Lisa McNair was born in 1964, one year after her older sister, Denise, was murdered in the bombing of the 16th Street Baptist Church in Birmingham, Alabama. Dear Denise is a collection of forty letters from Lisa addressed to the sister she never knew, but in whose shadow of sacrifice and lost youth she was raised. These letters offer an intimate look into the life of a family touched by one of the most heinous tragedies of the Civil Rights Movement.

The letters are accompanied by 29 black-and-white photographs, most of them from the McNair family collection, many of them taken by her father, a professional photographer who documented the Civil Rights Movement in Alabama both before and after Denise's murder. An unswervingly candid, gentle, and nuanced book, Dear Denise is a testament to one singular life lived bravely and truthfully (if sometimes confusedly or awkwardly), during decades of bewildering social change and in the shadow of one life never fully lived.

Questions: Contact Rev. John Ward Diorio, Rev. Allyssa Boyer, or Shirley Keith Knox.

If you want the church to place your book order, please notify Shirley Keith Knox at skeithknox@comcast.net ASAP. The cost is about \$20.00.

Next Meeting: Thursday, January 19th, 2023, from 6 - 8 PM. We will be meeting at the church. We will be eating together, and all are invited to bring their own dinner.

### **KIDS' PLACE**

We cherish our kids at St. Paul's. We are committed to helping them learn and grow in a loving community of faith. Children are welcome to participate in worship on Sunday mornings; we love having them in the sanctuary! We have activity bags with books and coloring pages for children to use if they wish. Still, we recognize that sometimes kids need to move around, to shift focus, and to play. Our nursery is now called the Kids' Place, located in room 13. If you like to play and make crafts, the Kids' Place is the place for you! You don't have to worry about changing diapers... the people who use the Kids' Place aren't babies, they're kids. Adults with Safe Church clearances can sign up to help supervise in the Kids' Place on the worship participant sign-up sheet on our website. If you are interested in shadowing another adult before you sign-up, please contact Rev. Allyssa. Thank you for helping us create a safe, fun space for our kids during worship!