

Welcome to St. Paul's United Church of Christ

An Open and Affirming Congregation of the United Church of Christ

January 29, 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: Becky Thompson

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: Steven Roush

Kids' Place:

Flower Delivery: Martha Keith

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 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: saintpaulsucc-mech.org

Office email: stpaulstaff@outlook.com

Rev. John's email: revjohnwd@outlook.com

Rev. Allyssa's email: allyssaboyer@outlook.com

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

FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

January 29, 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 "Fairest Lord Jesus"

David J. Hegarty

CHORAL INTROIT

*THE HYMN No. 451 "Be Now My Vision"

*PRAYER OF INVOCATION (unison)

Guiding God, show us how we can best do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with you. Amen.

CALL TO CONFESSION

Knowing exactly what God is calling us to do and how to be in the world is hard. We have many questions, as we should, because such questions keep us engaged with God and with our faith. And yet, we also forget, or ignore, the foundational pieces God has laid down for us, that we build our living and service upon. 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 through the words of the Prophets and Jesus, and Jesus' actions what is required of us.

ALL: Let us strive to do justice, love kindness and walk humbly with God. 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.

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

Matthew 5:1-12

THE READING OF THE PSALM

Psalm 12

*THE HYMN “Blessed Are the Poor In Spirit”

(to the tune of No. 459, “Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing”)

*Blessed are the poor in spirit; all God's realm is surely theirs.
Those in mourning will find comfort as an answer to their prayers.
Meek ones whom this world despises will inherit everything.
God, your kingdom still surprises; may we seek the reign you bring.*

*Blessed, too, are those who hunger and who thirst for what is right.
They will not be prone to wander, for your will is their delight.
Those who show God's care and mercy will receive that mercy too.
God, in Christ you show us clearly of the joy we have in you.*

*Those who share the peace God gives them will find blessings as God's own.
Those oppressed for faithful living will call heaven's kingdom Home.
When the world's ways seem distressing and we feel life's painful sting,
God, remind us of the blessings of the wondrous life you bring.*

Text: Copyright © 2009 by Carolyn Winfrey Gillette. All rights reserved.

THE RESPONSE:

One: God is Still Speaking.

All: Thanks be to God!

THE HEBREW SCRIPTURE READING & MESSAGE:

Micah 6:1-8

“Start Here and Ask Questions”

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 "Offertory"

Beck

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!***

***THE PRAYER OF DEDICATION (Unison)**

Thank you, God, for hungers satisfied and dreams fulfilled. Thank you for the inheritance of faith, which blesses our life on earth. We trust you to accomplish good among us through the sharing of these gifts and the recommitment of our lives. Help us to do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with You. Amen.

***THE HYMN "O God, You Call for Justice"**

(to the tune of No. 386, "The Church's One Foundation")

***O God, you call for justice — for goodness, never greed!
You seek a world of fairness where all have what they need —
Where all have food and water and homes in which to thrive,
Where all have hope and laughter and joy to be alive!***

***O God, you call for kindness instead of keeping score;
You seek a world that welcomes the hungry and the poor.***

(cont.)

*Lord, where there is injustice may we work to protect
The struggling ones, the voiceless that others would reject.*

*You call us to walk humbly, for we are not our own;
We all are poor and needy; we need the grace you've shown.
May we respond to others reflecting what you give —
Compassion, kindness, justice — so all may gladly live.*

*O God, may our great nation seek justice, as we should,
and work with dedication to seek the common good.
We're blessed to be a blessing; may we within our law
Seek justice and compassion that reaches out to all.*

Text: Copyright © 2012 by Carolyn Winfrey Gillette. All rights reserved.

***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 “Rejoice, The Lord Is King”

James Mansfield

References:

Cover Image. James, Laura. Sermon on the Mount, from Art in the Christian Tradition, a project of the Vanderbilt Divinity Library, Nashville, TN. <https://diglib.library.vanderbilt.edu/act-imagelink.pl?RC=57891> [retrieved January 24, 2023]. Original source: Laura James, <https://www.laurajamesart.com/collections/religious/>.
The Prayer of Dedication is from “Fresh Winds of the Spirit, Book 2” by Lavon Bayler, 1992, 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.

*The red rose on the altar table is in honor of Isaac Xavier Johnson, born on January 10th, and
of his parents, Elizabeth Royer Johnson and Xavier Johnson, and grandparents, Elaine Daly,
and Chris Royer.*

ALTAR FLOWERS

The Altar flowers are given to the Glory of God by
Erin, Ben, Caroline and Alice Anderson, “In honor of Ben Anderson’s birthday.”