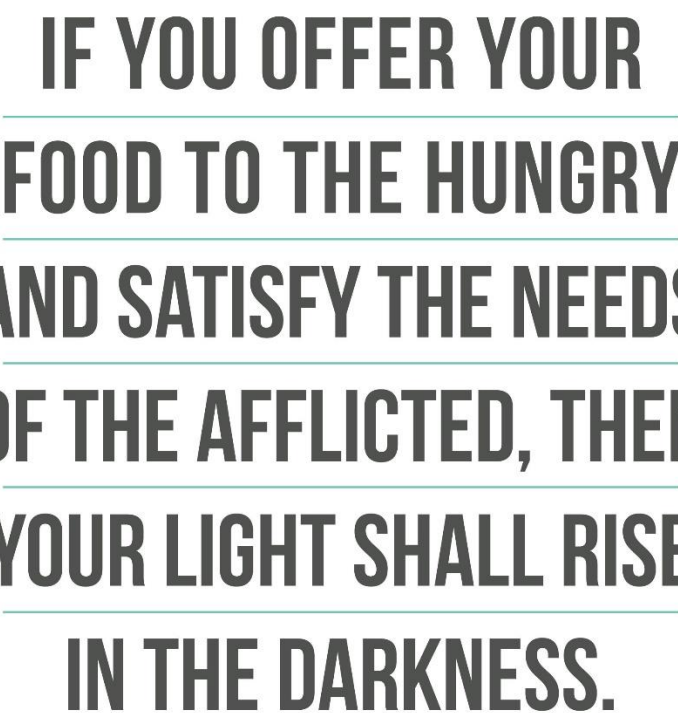


Welcome to St. Paul's United Church of Christ

An Open and Affirming Congregation of the United Church of Christ

February 5, 2023



**IF YOU OFFER YOUR
FOOD TO THE HUNGRY
AND SATISFY THE NEEDS
OF THE AFFLICTED, THEN
YOUR LIGHT SHALL RISE
IN THE DARKNESS.**

ISAIAH 58:10, NRSV

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: 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: Sherry Spencer
Worship Welcome Team: Christine Grice, Fenton Fox, Wendy Hayden, Nancy Richey
Kids' Place: Jonneke Dundore
Flower Delivery: Jonneke Dundore

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.

ONLINE GIVING



St. Paul's United Church of Christ
626 Williams Grove Road
Mechanicsburg, PA 17055
717-766-7931

saintpaulsucc-mech.org

Office: stpaulstaff@outlook.com

Rev. John: revjohnwd@outlook.com

Rev. Allyssa: allyssaboyer@outlook.com

SPIRITUAL ROYALTIES INITIATIVE

MAKE A DONATION



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

FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

February 5, 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

SPIRITUAL ROYALTIES INITIATIVE

Eric Dundore

CONGREGATIONAL PLEDGE (unison)

please see back of bulletin

THE ORGAN PRELUDE "Let Us Break Bread Together"

Traditional Spiritual arr. Marianne Kim

CHORAL INTROIT

*THE HYMN No. 310 "The Old Ship of Zion"

*PRAYER OF INVOCATION (unison)

**Oh God of justice, freedom, and compassion, guide us in serving You that we may help
bring Your love further into being for all people. Embolden us to fight injustice,
oppression, and greed. Amen.**

CALL TO CONFESSION

Our religious and spiritual practices are intended to bring us closer to God and strengthen us to do God's work to end injustice and oppression. When we fail to take action, to engage in such work, God is disappointed and angry. Let us join in the time of Silent Prayers of Confession.

SILENT PRAYERS OF CONFESSION

WORDS OF ASSURANCE (Responsive):

Minister: God forgives us and continues to tell us, remind us, we are to act in ways that end injustice and oppression, that care for those in need rather than casting them aside.

**ALL: Let us remember we carry God's Spirit within us, which strengthens us so we
might overcome our fears and hesitations that prevent us from doing God's
varied work of justice. 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 5:13-16

THE READING OF THE PSALM

Psalms 112

THE RESPONSE:

One: God is Still Speaking.

All: Thanks be to God!

THE HEBREW SCRIPTURE READING & MESSAGE:

Isaiah 58:1-12

“Acceptable Actions”

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

THE CHORAL RESPONSE (unison)

Prayer Response



Thru Christ our ear-nest prayers are said with words we scarce can frame; Our
5
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 “My Lord, What a Morning”
Hand Chimes

Traditional Spiritual, arr. Krug

*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)

Use our offerings, O God of glory, to break yokes and free the oppressed. We give them that the hungry may be fed, the homeless find shelter, and the naked covered. Along with our money, we give ourselves, trusting in You to empower our witness. We dedicate all that we have and are to Your glory. Amen.

*THE HYMN No. 330 “Let Us Break Bread Together”

THE SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION

THE INVITATION

One: God be with you.

Many: And also with you.

One: Lift up your hearts.

Many: We lift them up to God.

One: Let us give thanks to God.

Many: It is good to give God thanks and praise.

PASTORAL PRAYER AND 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.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

DISTRIBUTION OF THE ELEMENTS

We gather both in person and in Spirit. Ushers will pass out bread and gluten-free crackers, and red wine and white grape juice. They will bring the trays to you.

For those of you joining us via livestream, we hope you have some bread and wine or juice of your choice before you. We trust that God is powerful enough to extend God's Blessing upon these Communion elements, even as we and they are scattered in geographic space.

Please hold the elements until all have been served; we will eat and drink them together. All are welcome to participate. Thank you.

THE PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING (Responsive)

Holy God, we give You thanks for the miracle and wonder of this meal. We give You thanks for Your coming to us in the person of Jesus and for Jesus' willingness to offer his whole self for our benefit. We can see how we can best live our lives. We can believe all "deaths", those losses, endings and struggles in this life, and the ones at the end of our physical lives, are not the final word. We can trust that Your Spirit is within all of us, and always will be. May the gifts of this table always remind us of the gifts You have given us all. Amen.

*THE HYMN No. 525 "This Little Light of Mine"

*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 “Jacob’s Ladder” Based on a Spiritual, arr. Randolph Johnston

References:

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 white rose on the altar today is in memory of John Layne who died on Saturday, January 28th. Please continue to keep his wife Jean, son Craig, and all John’s family and friends in your prayers.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Membership Informational Meeting: following worship today in the Welcome Lounge.

Bingo! B8 – Open the Garden Gate! I29 – Rise and Shine! G55 – Snakes Alive, all the fives!

Join us for a Yankee Swap version of Bingo on Saturday, February 11 at 7pm. How does it work? Bring a gender-neutral small, wrapped gift to be used as Bingo prizes. (Max value \$5; you can also re-gift that tacky Christmas present you received!) The winner of each Bingo game selects a prize from the wrapped pile OR swaps it with one somebody else has already selected. Don’t worry; we’ll re-explain it that night! We’ll have light snacks; if you want to bring something to share, that’s great but not necessary. All ages are welcome; kids should be accompanied by an adult. Sign-up online!

QUESTIONS: Contact Jenn Martek (jennmartek50@gmail.com) or Kim Pirtle (kimpirtle20@gmail.com)

The UCC Homes 27th Annual Helping Hands will again offer both an in-person experience and an online option! The Helping Hands Auction supports the Benevolent Endowment Trust Fund which enables UCC Homes to underwrite residents who are no longer able to pay for the cost of their care and who are not deemed eligible for governmental assistance programs. If you would like to contribute a monetary donation towards an auction basket from St. Paul’s, please have your donation to the church office or deposited in the offering plate no later than March 5th. Please make checks out to St. Paul’s. Contact Melissa Cawley (melissacawley@aol.com) with any questions.

Pollyannas will be having their next lunch meeting 11:30 am, Tuesday, Feb 28th at Perkins on Erford Rd. We’ll be in the small back room. If you are planning to attend, please contact Bonnie Plymette (591-8471).

Spiritual Royalties Initiative Congregational Pledge

We, the Congregation of St. Paul's UCC, Mechanicsburg, acknowledge the history and significance of the Negro Spirituals sung in worship today:

The Old Ship of Zion

Let Us Break Bread Together

This Little Light of Mine

My Lord, What a Morning

We affirm their artistic and spiritual worth in the life of the world today.

With great respect and deep gratitude for the tremendous musical contributions made to American music by Black people, we offer our thanks and praise to God for the creators of the Negro Spiritual and their descendants.

We pledge that each time we sing Negro Spirituals in our worship we will sing them with holy reverence and open hearts.

Through our prayers, we will honor the unnamed enslaved people who composed them. We will pay royalties from the funds collected to the Capital Area Music Association and Sankofa Theater Company, both organizations dedicated to promoting the advancement of young Black artists and musicians, and to preserve Negro Spirituals in the Black community.

We understand that the debt owed to Black musicians and artists can never be fully repaid. Through our prayers, our gifts, and our actions, we will keep striving to end systemic racism in America.