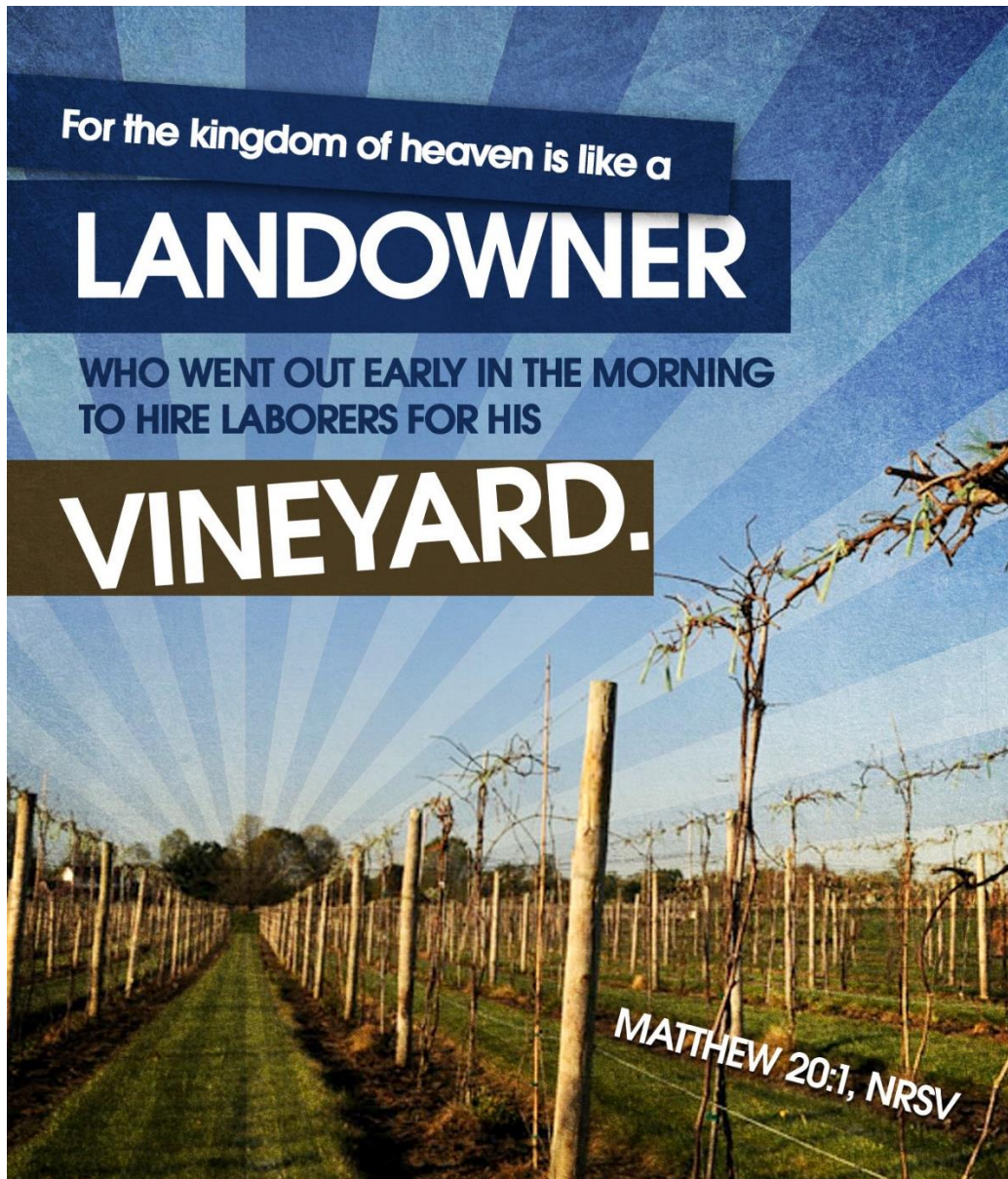


Welcome to
St. Paul's United Church of Christ
An Open and Affirming Congregation of the United Church of Christ



GOD IS STILL SPEAKING

9

*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: Shirley Knox

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

Lead Greeter: Chris Grice
Greeters: Corky Short, Candy LaRue, Jeff Leister
Acolyte: Elsa Riesmeyer
Kids' Place: Ivonne McFarland, Don Dupes
Flower Preparation: Susan Gabriel
Flower Delivery: Patrice Miller
Counting Team:
Fellowship Time Sponsors: Consistory

Pastor Emeritus

The Rev. Dr. Thomas E. Herrold

Ministers

The Entire Congregation

*Visit the church website, under the 'Sign Up' menu heading, to help
as a Sunday volunteer or Worship Participant.
We're grateful for your generosity.*

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

**ONLINE
GIVING**



ST. PAUL'S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
SERVICE OF WORSHIP
SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
AFFIRMATION OF MINISTRIES

September 24, 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 "Peace Like a River"

arr. Young

Hand Chimes

CHORAL INTROIT

*THE HYMN No. 18 "Guide Me, O My Great Redeemer"

*PRAYER OF INVOCATION (unison)

Empowering God, You have called us all, to various types of ministries. Help us to recognize and honor those calls and the skills You have given us to fulfill them. May we honor too, each other's ministries, working together to be Your Body here in Mechanicsburg. Amen.

CALL TO CONFESSION

Sometimes we do not respect the different skills people have. Sometimes we believe we must do everything ourselves. Sometimes we believe we do not have any useful or important gifts and skills. All this can prevent us from being all we were created to be by God as individuals and as a Congregation. Let us join in the time of Silent Prayers of Confession.

SILENT PRAYERS OF CONFESSION

WORDS OF ASSURANCE (Responsive):

One: God forgives us and continues to stir our spirits so that we might live into and fulfill our callings.

ALL: Let us remember and celebrate that we are all ministers with the opportunity to offer our gifts and talents in service to others, which is service to God. May we embrace these opportunities. Amen.

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

AFFIRMATION OF MINISTRIES

As Members and Friends of the United Church of Christ, we believe in the Priesthood of all Believers. We each have unique gifts and talents that we can and are called to use to serve God by serving others. Let us affirm these ministries.

***Ministries of Education**

Teachers; Students; Staff;
Youth Leaders; Small group
leaders and participants in
such groups as Queer Bible
Study, PFLAG, SPARCC,
Advent & Lent Reading,
Caregivers' Support Group,
etc.

***Ministries of Leadership & Service**

Consistory; Staff; All
Committee Chairs &
Members; Called to Care;
Welcome Team Members and
Movers; Community
Gardener workers; Open and
Affirming Team and
Consultant; SPOM: Bazaar
helpers & supporters; Child
Sponsorships; Drivers; Meal
makers; Altar Flower
preparers; Flower deliverers
and sponsors; Prayer Chain;
Prayer Shawl Ministry;
Technology people;
Pollyanna's; Meals on Wheels
helpers, Stewards of our
buildings and grounds;
Fellowship Time sponsors;
Offering counters; SPOOF,
Volunteers for Community
Meals, New Hope Ministries
and Ecumenical Food Pantry;
etc.

***Ministries of Worship & Music**

Choir members; Staff;
Creative Worship Team;
Lectors; Word for the Young;
Lead Greeter and Greeters;
Acolytes; Communion
Preparers; Kids' Place
Volunteers; People who offer
special music; Spiritual
Royalties' Initiative; People
who join in Worship in-
person and virtually etc.

THE LITANY OF COMMITMENT:

One: Sisters, Brothers and Siblings, you have been called by God to fulfill the responsibilities of your ministry. Will you commit yourselves by giving enough time to fulfill this ministry?

Many: We will, with the help of God.

One: Do you understand that by responding to God's call to this ministry you are becoming agents of the work of this church and the realm of God?

Many: We do understand.

One: Will you share your love, peace and Christian joy with everyone so people may see in you the life of Christ?

Many: We will, with the help of God.

One: God has called us to special ministries in the church. We have accepted God's call and stand before each other in witness to our willingness to serve. We have heard the promises we have made. Let us affirm our intention to live in covenant with each other.

All: We gather in celebration of the joy that is ours to be partners in the service of Jesus the Christ. We promise to love one another, honor each other's leadership, pray for all and assist one another that together we may be a faithful church. Amen.

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 HEBREW SCRIPTURE READING

Exodus 16:12-30

THE PSALM READING

Psalms 105:1-6

*THE HYMN No. 493 "O Jesus, I Have Promised"

THE RESPONSE:

One: God is Still Speaking.

All: Thanks be to God!

THE GOSPEL READING & MESSAGE:

Matthew 20:1-16

"Taking Care of All"

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)



1 In sol - i - tude, in sol - i - tude, I come to God in prayer.

In si - lence and sim - plic - i - ty, my spir - it blos - soms there.

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

THE OFFERTORY “Kum Ba Yah”

arr. Raney

Hand Chimes, Youth and Chancel Choirs

*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)

All the world is Your vineyard, O God, and we are laborers therein. The fruits of our labors are Yours, but You allow us to manage them for You. Most we use for our own benefit, but today we bring a portion to help others, as you have commanded. We do so joyfully, asking You to bless the work of Your church here and everywhere. Help us to be more faithful stewards. Amen.

*THE HYMN “All the Music Sung and Played Here”
(to the tune of no. 459, “Come, O Fount of Every Blessing.”)

*All the music sung and played here is a gift, O God, from you.
For as long as we have prayed here, we've been blessed by music, too.
By your Spirit, each musician finds new depths of faith to share.
Music is a gift you've given and becomes our thankful prayer.*

*All creation sings your glory; in the Psalms are pain and praise.
Mary sang your saving story in her long, expectant days.
Through the years, with great emotion, some have reached to you in song.
May we sing with such devotion; music helps your church grow strong!*

*You give hymns and songs for singing, toes for tapping your good news,
Organ sounding, hand chimes ringing, faithful hearers in the pews.
With percussion and the trumpet, with guitar and violin,
Faith is found here and rekindled; hearts are lifted, once again.*

*Bless the talents we are bringing, for we offer you our best.
If our gifts are not in singing, may our joyful noise be blest.
If our world is ever silent, may we sign to you above.
Touched by grace, may each one present offer back your song of love.*

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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.

References:

The Prayer of Dedication is from “Led by Love” by Lavon Bayler, 1996, 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
Mary Runkle, “In honor of my mother, Elizabeth Randolph.”
Melissa Cawley, “In honor of Joseph’s Birthday.”

BAZAAR

The 54th Annual Bazaar is almost here, AND WE NEED YOU!!
Friday, October 6, 9am-6pm. Lots of help is needed!
Signup sheets are available on the bulletin board in the Commons.

We are accepting donations for the Flea Market up until Wednesday, October 4th.

Baked goods, candies, canned goods, etc. donations are also needed. Please drop off Thursday October 5 or early Friday morning October 6. Cookies, brownies, and other finger foods bagged and priced to sell for \$1.00 each. We do understand that some items need to be priced higher. Help us out and price your items prior to dropping off.

Last year over 30 people helped to set-up for the Bazaar, getting our rooms ready to host this wonderful fundraiser. This year, we hope everyone can stay after worship on October 1st and join in this gratifying work. We will meet in Fellowship Hall and move tables and chairs to several different rooms in the church. We will also help to move donated items from the stage to the Flea Market area. With everyone’s help, this should not take more than half an hour. Many hands make light work...please join us!

CHURCH OFFICE

The church office will be closed Friday, September 29th and Monday, October 2nd.

WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY

The first Sunday of October is a time when Christians in every culture break bread and share the cup to affirm Christ as the Head of the Church, and to remember that we are part of the Church Universal. Whether shared in a grand cathedral, a mud hut, outside on a hilltop, in a meetinghouse, or in a storefront, Christians celebrate communion in as many ways as there are congregations. World Communion Sunday can be both a profound worship experience and a time for learning more about our wider community of faith. We invite you to join us for World Communion Sunday on October 1st, at 10:30 AM worship, as we celebrate our connection as one whole Body of Christ, united. There will also be an 8:30AM abbreviated Communion Service that day.