

Welcome to St. Paul's United Church of Christ

An Open and Affirming Congregation of the United Church of Christ

January 21, 2024



GOD IS STILL SPEAKING



*NO MATTER WHO YOU ARE, OR WHERE YOU ARE ON LIFE'S
JOURNEY YOU ARE WELCOME HERE!*

Worship Leadership

The Rev. John J. Ward-Diorio
Preacher: 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

Lead Greeter: Chris Bowers
Greeters: Patrice Miller, Sherry Spencer, Fenton Fox
Acolyte: Elsa Riesmeyer
Kids' Place: Jonneke Dundore
Flower Preparation: Susan Gabriel
Flower Delivery: Melanie Shaver-Durham
Counting Team: Fenton Fox, Sherry Spencer

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

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Rev. Allyssa: allyssaboyer@outlook.com

**ONLINE
GIVING**



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

THIRD SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

January 21, 2024

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 “Larghetto”

G.F. Handel

CHORAL INTROIT

*THE HYMN No. 504 “You Walk along Our Shoreline”

*PRAYER OF INVOCATION (unison)

You call us, Wanderer of seashores and sidewalks, inviting us to sail out of our snug harbors into the uncharted waters of faith; to wander off from our predictable paths to follow You into the unpredictable footsteps of the kingdom; to leave the comfort of our homes and accompany You into the uncomfortable neighborhoods we usually avoid. Give us ears to hear Your call, and hearts to follow You. Amen.

CALL TO CONFESSION

If we say we have no sin—actions and inaction that separate us from God—we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive us, and restore us. Let us join in silent prayers of confession.

SILENT PRAYERS OF CONFESSION

WORDS OF ASSURANCE (Responsive):

One: God hears the confession of our hearts. Through Jesus Christ we are forgiven all our sins, and by the Holy Spirit we are empowered for new life.

ALL: We believe the good news of Jesus Christ. 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.

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!

THE CHORISTERS

"I'm Gonna Live So God Can Use Me"

Mayo

THE HEBREW SCRIPTURE READING

Jonah 3:1-5, 10

THE READING OF THE PSALM

Psalm 62:5-12

*THE HYMN No. 172 "Jesus Calls Us, o'er the Tumult"

THE RESPONSE:

One: God is Still Speaking.

All: **Thanks be to God!**

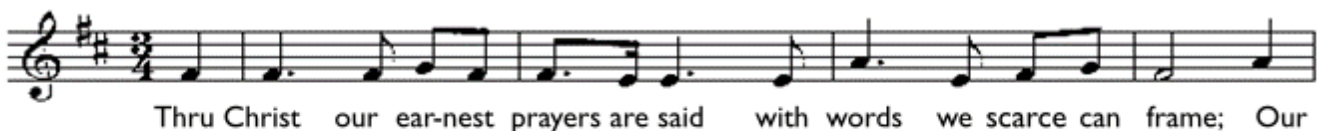
THE GOSPEL READING & MESSAGE:

Mark 1:14-20

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)



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

THE OFFERTORY “I Am Not Alone”

Thornhill

Youth 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! Amen.

*THE PRAYER OF DEDICATION (Unison)

God of steadfast love, we pray that You will love the world through the offerings we dedicate today. We pray that Your work of transformation will be carried forward by our gifts. As a church, we seek to follow where Jesus leads; we heed the call to discipleship. Bless our efforts to fish for people, that we may all be part of the coming of Your Beloved Community. Amen.

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

*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 “Praise and Thanks for the New Year”

Franklin Ritter

References:

The Prayer of Invocation is adapted from a worship order prepared by Rev. Bob Gibson for the London Conference of the United Church of Canada.

The Call to Confession and Words of Assurance are adapted from “Book of Worship,” 1986, the United Church of Christ Office for Church Life and Leadership.

The Prayer of Dedication is adapted from “Led by Love” by Lavon Bayler, United Church Press: Cleveland, OH, 1996.

The Prayer of Blessing is by Janet Bristow, 2008, www.shawlministry.com

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

Allyssa Boyer, in memory of godfather George Tutino & in honor of godmother Carol Tutino.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

B8 - OPEN THE GARDEN GATE! I29 - RISE AND SHINE! G55 - SNAKES ALIVE, ALL THE FIVES! BINGO!

Last year was tons of fun, so we’re doing it again this year! Join us for a Yankee Swap version of Bingo on Saturday, February 10 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! <https://ttsu.me/7tpmh2>

QUEER BIBLE STUDY

Are you wondering what all the buzz is about? Don’t let the ‘Q’ word scare you, Queer Bible Study is open to all people who wish to go deeper into scripture. You are invited to join us as we explore scripture in relation to sexuality and gender. We welcome older teenagers and adults of every gender and sexual orientation. We meet on select Tuesdays from 6:30-8:00 PM. Our upcoming meetings are January 23 and January 30. For more information, contact Rev. Allyssa or call the church office. We would love for you to join us!

CHILD SPONSORSHIP

Your gifts through Global Ministries Child Sponsorship make a difference! Collaborating with partners, your gifts to Child Sponsorship provide food, basic health care, clothing and in some cases housing, school fees, uniforms, books and training. The cost to sponsor a child in 2024 is \$35.00 per child per month. Head to our church website to sign up. Checks can be made out to St. Paul’s UCC. We currently have 21 openings for sponsorship.

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

Please plan to join us following the worship service next Sunday, January 28th, for a Congregational Meeting. We will continue discussing the proposed 2024 Budget. We thank you for your participation.