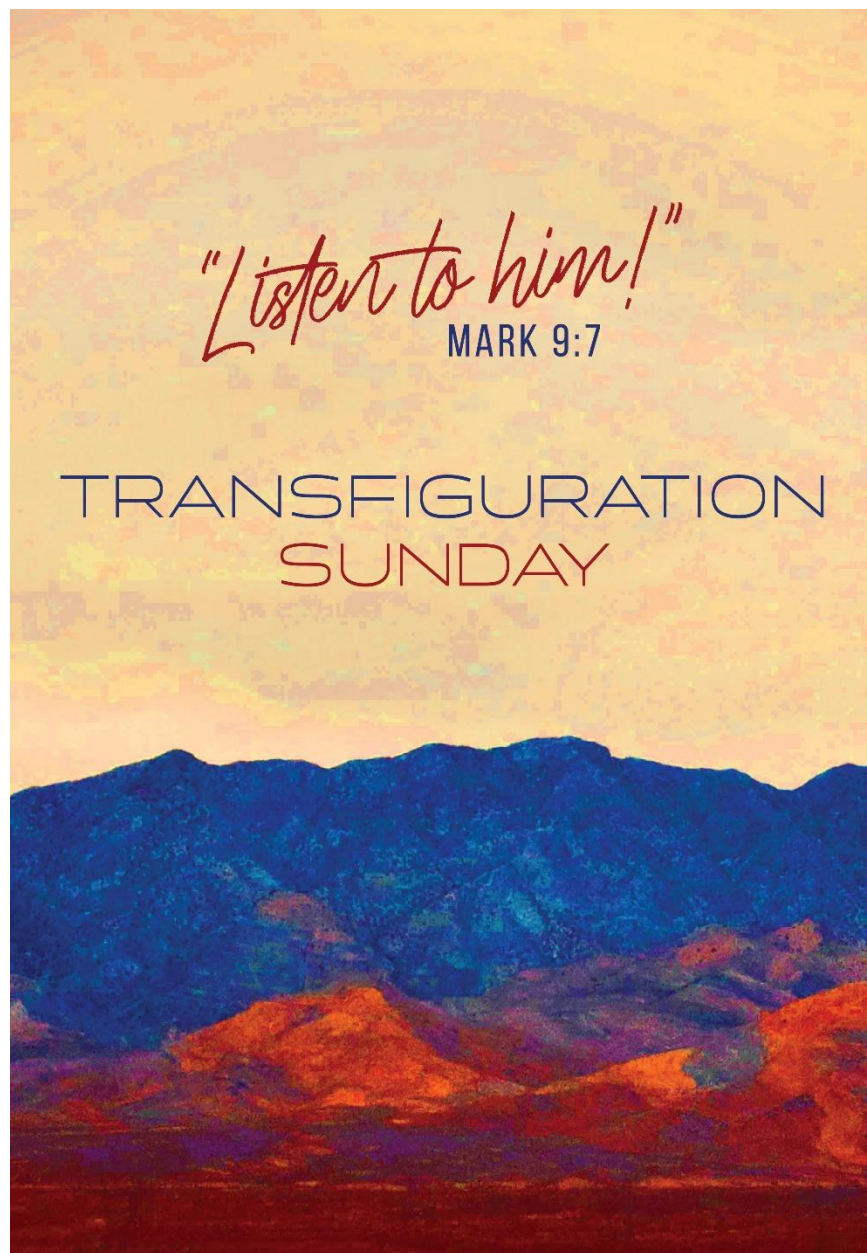


Welcome to St. Paul's United Church of Christ

An Open and Affirming Congregation of the United Church of Christ

February 11, 2024



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: Shirley Keith 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: Sherry Spencer
Greeters: Corky Short, Fenton Fox, Candy LaRue
Acolyte: Elsa Riesmeyer
Kids' Place: Susan Ward-Diorio
Flower Preparation: Susan Gabriel
Flower Delivery: Jane Leister
Counting Team:
Fellowship Time: Parish Ministries, Jonneke Dundore

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



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

TRANSFIGURATION SUNDAY

February 11, 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 "Open My Eyes"

Tom Birchwood

CHORAL INTROIT

*THE HYMN No. 514 "Over My Head"

*PRAYER OF INVOCATION (unison)

Incarnate God, guide us in seeking to establish deep connections with You, with our faith, and with those around us. We recognize the lengths You have gone to show us their importance. May we trust You are there as we enter these depths. Amen.

CALL TO CONFESSION

We can be fearful of connecting on a deeper level with God, and others. We are afraid of being vulnerable. We are afraid of what might be asked of us. We fear where we might be led. Yet within us, God's Spirit is present, awaiting attention and commitment. We continue to hesitate. Let us join in a time of Silent Prayers of Confession.

SILENT PRAYERS OF CONFESSION

WORDS OF ASSURANCE (Responsive):

One: God forgives us and continues to call us: deep to deep.

ALL: Let us acknowledge that we have held back, and then commit to entering those places of deeper connection. 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

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 2 Kings 2:1, 6-12

THE PSALM READING Psalm 50:1-3, 19-23

*THE HYMN No. 599 “Steal Away to Jesus”

THE RESPONSE:

One: God is Still Speaking.

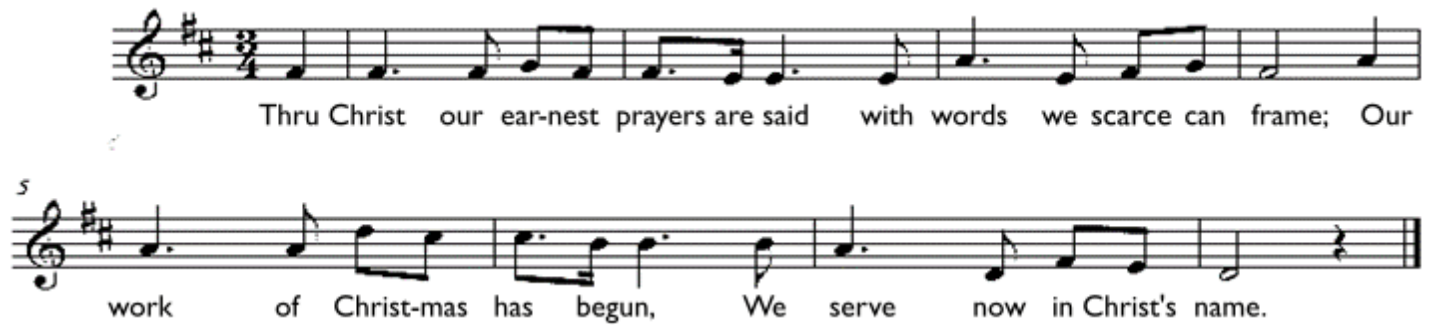
All: Thanks be to God!

THE GOSPEL READING & MESSAGE: Mark 9:2-9
“Deeply Connected”

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)



Thru Christ our ear-nest prayers are said with words we scarce can frame; Our
work of Christ-mas has begun, We serve now in Christ's name.

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

THE OFFERTORY “Do Lord, Remember Me”

Spiritual arr. Maudlin

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! Amen.*

*THE PRAYER OF DEDICATION (Unison)

Use our gifts, mighty God, to bring light where there is gloom, hope where there is despair, peace where there is turmoil. May Jesus Christ be proclaimed among us and around Your world. May righteousness and justice prevail in spite of differences. May we inherit a double portion of the prophets' spirit to discern clearly the ways You would have us go. We dedicate ourselves and our offering to these ends. Amen.

*THE HYMN No. 454 “Lord, I Want to Be a Christian”

*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
Don and Merikay Wood, “In appreciation and memory of friends.”

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:

Over My Head

Steal Away to Jesus

Lord, I Want to Be a Christian

Do Lord, Remember Me

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.

Pot Pie orders are due TODAY, February 11th.

Orders can be placed in the lobby or on the church website.

SOUPER BOWL OF CARING

Help St. Paul’s youth turn our nation’s great day of football into a great day of caring!

Following our worship service today, our youth group will be stationed at the doors of the sanctuary to collect monetary donations for local organizations that help fight food insecurity in our community. Use your dollars to support your team and tackle hunger in Central PA! Thank you for your generosity.