

Welcome to St. Paul's United Church of Christ

An Open and Affirming Congregation of the United Church of Christ

February 25, 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: Eric Dundore

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: Don Dupes, Joan Moyer, Nancy Richey
Acolyte: Elsa Riesmeyer
Kids' Place:
Flower Preparation: Susan Gabriel
Flower Delivery: Patrice Miller
Counting Team: Fenton Fox, Joan Moyer
Fellowship Time: Parish Ministries

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. John: revjohnwd@outlook.com

Rev. Allyssa: allyssaboyer@outlook.com

**ONLINE
GIVING**



**SPIRITUAL
ROYALTIES
INITIATIVE**

MAKE A DONATION



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

SECOND SUNDAY IN LENT
THE INSTALLATION OF REV. ALLYSSA BOYER

February 25, 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 "Be Still and Know"

Richard A Williamson

CHORAL INTROIT

*THE HYMN No. 572 "When Israel Was in Egypt's Land"

CLERGY PROCESSION FOR INSTALLATION

*PRAYER OF INVOCATION (unison)

**Empowering God, guide us in setting our minds on divine things and not human things.
Whether we are called to serve as Ordained Pastors or as disciples ministering in Your
Name, help us to choose Your Way and not the self-centered ways that govern so much of
our world. Amen.**

CALL TO CONFESSION

We feel torn. So much that we hear, are taught, see, experience encourages us to live in ways that put the pursuit of our opinions and desires first, regardless of the negative impact that can have on those around us. We recognize our faith, the Words and Ways of Jesus, teaches us a different way to live, but it is hard for us to make such choices. 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 come to us, speak to us and through us, so we might model faithful ways of speaking and living.

**ALL: Let us focus our minds, hearts, and spirits on divine things, on God's Ways,
particularly as we have come to know them through Jesus. Amen.**

If you are able, please rise and greet one another with 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

— THE ORDER FOR INSTALLATION OF A PASTOR —

Participants: Rev. Anna Thompson (representative of St. Paul's UCC and Mercersburg Association mentor), Sherry Spencer (President of Consistory, St. Paul's UCC), Jerry Thomason (representative and Treasurer of the Mercersburg Association), Martha Keith (representative of St. Paul's UCC and Mercersburg Association Committee on Ministry), Shirley Keith Knox (representative of St. Paul's UCC and Vice-President of the Mercersburg Association), Rev. John Ward-Diorio (Senior Pastor, St. Paul's UCC), Rev. Allyssa Boyer (Associate Pastor, St. Paul's UCC), the congregation of St. Paul's UCC, members of the Mercersburg Association.

GREETING

Rev. Anna: We greet you in the name of Jesus Christ, the head of the church in heaven and on earth. Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us.

All: To God, who by the power at work within us is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think, be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations, for ever and ever. Amen.

PRESENTATION

Sherry: St. Paul's United Church of Christ, under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, has called the Rev. Allyssa A. Boyer as its Associate Pastor and teacher and respectfully requests that the Mercersburg Association install her in this ministry among us, according to the faith and order of the United Church of Christ.

Jerry: The Mercersburg Association has reviewed the request of St. Paul's United Church of Christ. We have prayerfully examined Allyssa, and we are pleased to install her as your Associate Pastor and teacher. Allyssa, servant of God, we invite you to come forward as a sign of your acceptance of the call to this office.

Martha: Installation is the action of an association of the United Church of Christ in cooperation with a local church. Installation confirms and celebrates the covenantal relationship among a local church, its pastor and teacher, and the United Church of Christ. Installation is a sign that these covenantal partners are committed to share mutually in the mission of the United Church of Christ and of the ecumenical church.

EXHORTATION

Shirley: (*addressing the congregation*) Hear these words from the apostle Paul: We appeal to you, our brothers and sisters, to pay proper respect to those who work among you, who guide and instruct you in the Christian life. Treat them with the greatest respect and love because of the work they do. Be at peace among yourselves.

Shirley: (*addressing Allyssa*) We urge you, our sister, warn the idle, encourage the timid, help the weak, be patient with all.

Shirley: (*addressing all*) See that no one pays back wrong for wrong, but at all times make it your aim to do good to one another and to all people. Be joyful always, pray at all times, be thankful in all circumstances. This is what God wants of you, in your life in Christ Jesus. Amen.

COVENANT

Jerry: (*addressing the congregation*) Friends in Christ, St. Paul's United Church of Christ has declared that, having gathered under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, it has called Allyssa to minister in this place as Associate Pastor and teacher, and that it now receives her as appointed by God for this ministry. The Mercersburg Association of the United Church of Christ has declared that she has met all the necessary conditions for installation to this office.

Jerry: (*addressing Allyssa*) Allyssa, seeing that you are called to ordained ministry by the grace of God and that St. Paul's United Church of Christ has been led to call you as Associate Pastor and teacher, are you willing to enter this covenant with its members who are one in Christ with us in the Mercersburg Association?

Allyssa: I am willing, and I promise to serve this church faithfully, preaching and teaching the word of God, administering the sacraments, and fulfilling the pastoral office, according to the faith and order of the United Church of Christ.

Jerry: (*addressing the congregation*) Members of St. Paul's United Church of Christ, will those who are able rise and affirm your covenant with your Associate Pastor and teacher, speaking the words of the covenant found in the worship bulletin?

***St. Paul's members: We, the members of St. Paul's United Church of Christ, receive Allyssa as our Associate Pastor and teacher, promising to work with her in the ministry of the gospel and to give her due honor and support. We gather with her and with the United Church of Christ as a sign of our mutual ministry in Christ's name.**

Jerry: *(addressing association members)* Members of the Mercersburg Association, including St. Paul's members and your delegates Steven Roush and Jeff Leister, will those who are able rise and affirm your covenant with St. Paul's United Church of Christ and its Associate Pastor and teacher?

***Association members and St. Paul's members: We, the members of the Mercersburg Association of the United Church of Christ, gather with you as a sign of our covenant, and in celebration of our mutual ministry in Christ's name.**

PRAYER OF INSTALLATION

Rev. John: Let us pray. Almighty God, you have called your servants to make promises before you; now enable us to keep our vows that we may remain steadfast in faith and fruitful in every good work. Bless, we pray, your servant Allyssa to whom the care of your people in this church is committed. Pour out your Holy Spirit upon her, on the people of St. Paul's United Church of Christ, and on all the churches of the Mercersburg Association, that our mutual ministry may be served with all faithfulness, diligence, and courage. Grant us the spirit of power and love and of a sound mind. Make our ministry a means of awakening the careless, strengthening the faithful, comforting the afflicted, building up your church, and drawing those who are separated from you near. Guard us against the snares of temptation that we may be kept pure in heart, fervent in spirit, and valiant against evil. And at the last, by your grace, receive us in your eternal home, where, with you and the Holy Spirit, Christ reigns in glory, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

DECLARATION

Jerry: In the name of Jesus Christ, and on behalf of the Mercersburg Association of the Penn Central Conference of the United Church of Christ, I declare you duly installed as Associate Pastor and teacher of St. Paul's United Church of Christ.

All: Thanks be to God.

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

Genesis 17:1-5, 15-19

THE PSALM READING

Psalms 22:1-11, 23-26

*THE HYMN No. 500 "We Are Climbing Jacob's Ladder"

THE RESPONSE:

One: God is Still Speaking.

All: Thanks be to God!

THE GOSPEL READING & MESSAGE:

Mark 8:31-38

“Our Minds on Divine Things”

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)

The musical score is written for a unison choral response in 3/4 time, featuring a treble and bass staff. The melody is simple and repetitive, with lyrics: "Re - mem - ber me, re - mem - ber me, O Je - sus, re - mem - ber me." The score includes a key signature of one flat (B-flat) and a common time signature of 3/4. The lyrics are written below the notes, with hyphens indicating syllables across notes. The final note of the second phrase is a half note, followed by a double bar line.

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

THE OFFERTORY “Jesus Is a Rock in a Weary Land”
Chancel Choir

Traditional Spiritual, arr. Johnson

*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)

Glorious God, we dedicate these gifts as an expression of our faith. You alone know how much we share and how much we withhold. You know the extent of our trust and the depth of our commitment. May this act of giving draw us closer to You and extend a blessing to all who are helped through our sharing. Amen.

*THE HYMN No. 593 “Life Every Voice and Sing”

*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 “Faith of Our Fathers”

David H. Hegarty

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

Melissa Cawley, “In memory of Max and Miriam McFarland.”

Becky and Layne Thompson, “In memory of our grandparents.”

Mark and Paula Boyer, “In honor of Rev. Allyssa’s installation.”

Rebecca Scott and Julie Lantis, “In memory of Barbara Bell.”

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:

When Israel Was in Egypt’s Land

We Are Climbing Jacob’s Ladder

Jesus Is a Rock in a Weary Land

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.