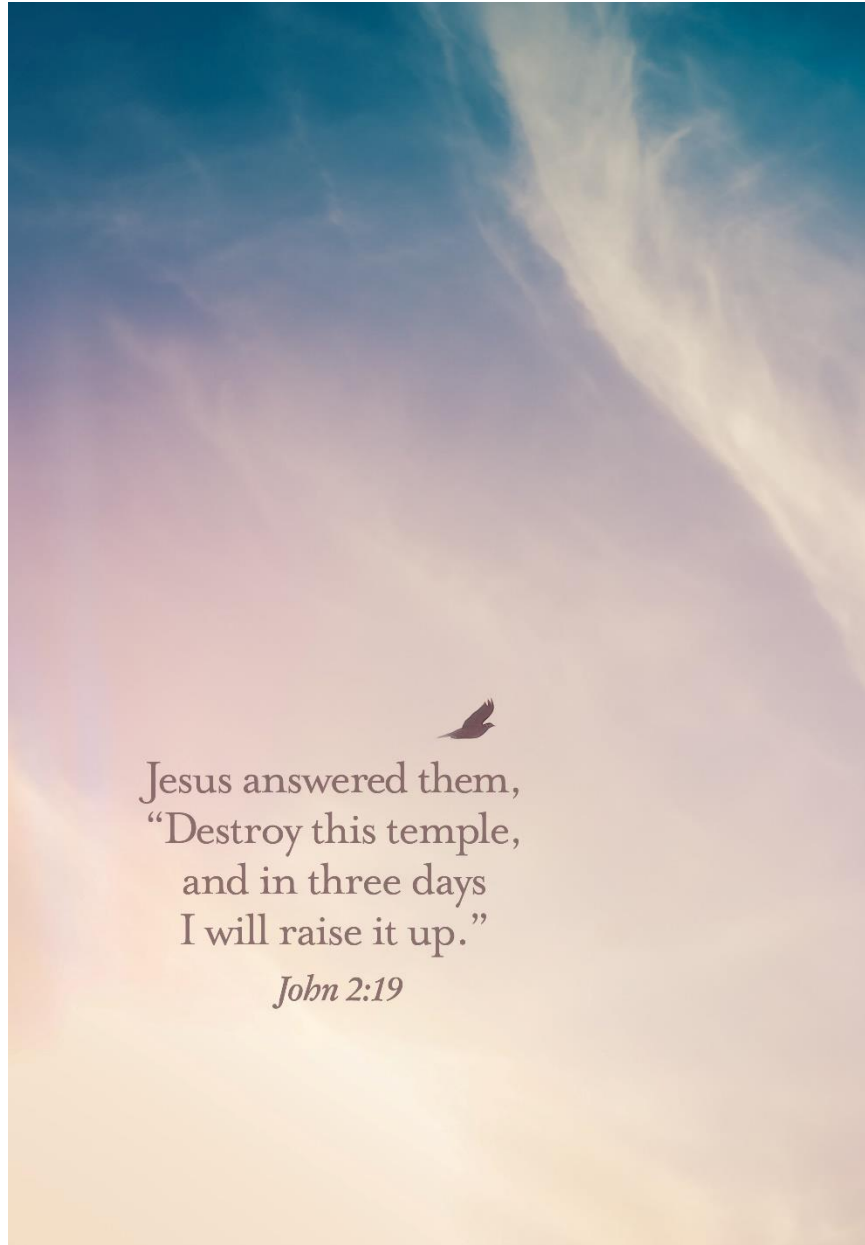


Welcome to St. Paul's United Church of Christ

An Open and Affirming Congregation of the United Church of Christ

March 3, 2024



Jesus answered them,
“Destroy this temple,
and in three days
I will raise it up.”

John 2:19

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: Jane Leister

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: Becky Thompson
Greeters: Nancy Richey, Rebecca Drazba, Chris Grice, Steven Roush
Acolyte: Elsa Riesmeyer
Kids' Place:
Flower Preparation: Susan Gabriel
Flower Delivery: Dale Thorpe and Don Dupes
Counting Team: Fenton Fox

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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Office: stpaulstaff@outlook.com

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Rev. Allyssa: allyssaboyer@outlook.com

**ONLINE
GIVING**



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

THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT
HOLY COMMUNION

March 3, 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 "Now All The Woods Are Sleeping"

Johann Sebastian Bach

CHORAL INTROIT

*THE HYMN No. 193 "In the Cross of Christ I Glory"

*PRAYER OF INVOCATION (unison)

Holy God, help us to understand that while Your Presence is within all things and all places, You have set aside spaces where our focus is to be primarily on You and our connection with You. Help us to make sure we do nothing to obscure that connection. Amen.

CALL TO CONFESSION

Rather than recognizing God's Presence in all things and honoring that, we try and fence God into only certain spaces. Then we attempt to treat those "Holy" spaces and the people who gather there, in the same competitive and transactional ways we treat folks in "marketplaces." This angers God. Let us join in a time of Silent Prayers of Confession.

SILENT PRAYERS OF CONFESSION

WORDS OF ASSURANCE (Responsive):

One: God forgives us and seeks to teach us the fulfillment of God's Dream means everyone, and everything is precious and loved by God, and should be respected and treated as such.

ALL: Let us seek to expand God's compassion, justice and love out into the world rather than seeking to impose the world's ways on all our work, our gatherings, our lives.
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

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

Zechariah 14:9, 20-21

THE PSALM READING

Psalm 69:4-13

THE RESPONSE:

One: God is Still Speaking.

All: Thanks be to God!

THE GOSPEL READING & MESSAGE:

John 2:13-22

"God's Space Is Where? For What?"

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

THE CHORAL RESPONSE (unison)

Re - mem - ber me, re - mem - ber me,

O Je - sus, re - mem - ber me.

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

THE OFFERTORY “You Are Mine”

Haas

Beth and Azure Lenge, vocal duet

*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)

We bring our offerings, O God, not to buy Your favor, but to express our gratitude, not to support an institution, but to further Your mission. We support the church in its efforts to challenge the false wisdom that pervades our culture. We seek to make this community of faith a center of values that are consistent with Your will. May we be zealous in your service, willing to sacrifice for love's sake, and eager to embrace Your word in our everyday living. Amen.

*THE HYMN No. 346 “Bread of the World, in Mercy Broken”

THE SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION

THE INVITATION

One: God be with you.
All: And also with you.
One: Lift up your hearts.

All: We lift them up to God.
One: Let us give thanks to God.
All: It is good to give God thanks and praise.

PASTORAL PRAYER AND LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed by 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. For those of you present in the Sanctuary, greeters will pass out bread and gluten-free crackers, and then red wine and white grape juice. They will bring the trays to you. Please hold the elements until all have been served; we will eat and then drink them together. All are welcome to participate. Thank 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.

THE PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING (unison)

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 "When Christ Went to the Temple"
(to the tune of no. 573, "Lead On, Eternal Sovereign")

*When Christ went to the Temple to worship God one day,
He entered through the courtyard where anyone could pray.
That court was for the nations — and all could enter in.
But Jesus found a market, a shameful robbers' den.*

*There, cattle, sheep and pigeons were sold for sacrifice,
And moneychangers shouted of quality and price.
Outsiders could not enter the inner courts for prayer.
Their only place to worship was in the courtyard there.*

*When prayer gave way to profit, and pride closed many doors,
The Lord cried out in anger and made a whip of cords.
He shooed the sheep and cattle and scattered pigeons, too.
God's house was for all people — not for a chosen few.*

*O God, you love the nations and call us all to pray.
Forgive us when our worship turns other folk away.
As Christ, in loving protest, fought prejudice and pride,
May we who follow Jesus now welcome all inside.*

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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.

THE ORGAN POSTLUDE “Lamb of God”

Twila Paris arr. Mark Hayes

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
Tania Pineo, “In honor of Blanch Adam’s 80th birthday.”

Thank you to Laura Ramsey, guest organist and accompanist today. Laura is a member of St. Paul's. She is married to Jesse, and they have two children, Sophie, and Sage, who sing in the children's choir. Laura is also an ordained UCC pastor and board-certified chaplain who is currently called to Hershey Medical Center as a Staff Chaplain supporting staff. She also happens to have an undergraduate music degree from Susquehanna University and is happy to be here playing the organ and piano for this service today.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PALM CROSSES

Join us Wednesday, March 20—anytime between 3:00-6:30 PM—to make palm crosses to distribute to the congregation on Palm Sunday. If you would like to see how we do this, the directions will be on the welcome table in the Common throughout March. No experience is necessary! Folding the palm fronds can be a little challenging at first, but once you get the hang of it, it's very easy. We would love for you to join us; come when you can and stay for however long you'd like. This is a great opportunity for fellowship! If you have any questions, please contact Chris Bowers, Bonnie Plymette, or Anna Thompson. Thank you!

SPRING STEWARDSHIP AUCTION

The Spring Stewardship Auction will be here soon, with something to look forward to right after Easter! We can't wait to hear about your creative ideas and we have a few to share as well. Check out the Time to Sign Up for 'Spring Auction Donations'. Sign up to donate a single gift card, a basket with our suggested theme, or a creation of your own. Questions? Contact Melissa Cawley (melissacawley@aol.com) or Victoria Velez (vmvluv@comcast.net).

UCC HOMES HELPING HANDS AUCTION

St. Paul's will once again be donating a basket to the UCC Homes Annual Helping Hands Auction. If you would like to contribute a monetary donation towards our basket, please have your donation to the church office or deposited in the offering plate no later than Sunday March 3rd. Please make checks out to St. Paul's. Contact Melissa Cawley (melissacawley@aol.com) with any questions.

YOUTH IMPACT DAY

Youth (grades 6-12) are invited for a day of fun, fellowship, and service in our community! On Saturday, March 16, we will volunteer at The Lodge on Saw Mill, an animal shelter and rescue farm in Fairview Twp. We'll get to help care for goats, sheep, rabbits, pigs, and many other animals in need! To sign up, please let Rev. Allyssa know. We also need adults to help supervise; please let Rev. Allyssa know if you are willing to help.