

Welcome to St. Paul's United Church of Christ

An Open and Affirming Congregation of the United Church of Christ

March 10, 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: Kathy Aumiller

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: Don Dupes, Sherry Spencer, Fenton Fox
Acolyte: Elsa Riesmeyer
Kids' Place:
Flower Preparation: Susan Gabriel
Flower Delivery: Erin, Ben, Caroline and Alice Anderson
Counting Team: Sherry Spencer
Fellowship Time: Queer Bible Study

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

FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT

March 10, 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 "Alas! And Did my Saviour Bleed"

Juliet Calkins

CHORAL INTROIT

*THE HYMN No. 208 "God Loved the World"

*PRAYER OF INVOCATION (unison)

Loving God, You came into the world in the person of Jesus, not to condemn, but to save. Help us to lift up the light of Christ so that the world might follow You and receive the gift of new life: freeing us from the tomb of narrow beliefs and raising us into new understandings, opening our hearts and minds to Your wonders. We rejoice that You have come to redeem, to heal, to restore, and forgive, not just some of the world, but all of the world. May our worship embody the love and light You bring in Jesus, in whose name we pray. Amen.

CALL TO CONFESSION

When we offer God our confession, we join the beautiful work of reconciliation, which begins with our reconciling with God. Confession involves trust; we must be willing to open our hearts so that we can admit to God the fullness of our lives—that which is wonderful and good, and that which is bitter and hurtful. It is true that we do not always turn to God as the source of our healing. And yet we know God is the source of grace, a fathomless wellspring of forgiveness and restoration. Let us join in silent prayers of confession.

SILENT PRAYERS OF CONFESSION

WORDS OF ASSURANCE (Responsive):

One: Friends in Christ, know this: the mercy of God is from everlasting to everlasting. Let us

remember God's surpassing grace.

ALL: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. 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

Numbers 21:4-9

THE READING OF THE PSALM

Psalms 107:1-3, 17-22

*THE HYMN No. 223 "What Wonderful Love Is This"

THE RESPONSE:

One: God is Still Speaking.

All: Thanks be to God!

THE GOSPEL READING & MESSAGE:

John 3:14-21

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)

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 “God So Loved the World”
Chancel Choir

Stainer, arr. Harlan

*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)

For life-sustaining gifts that we so often take for granted—for shelter, food, and meaningful tasks to do; for Your steadfast love that awakens us and renews our spirits; for Your Word that guides and heals us—we give You thanks, gracious God. As we invest a part of all You entrust to us to further the ministries of the church, may we show to others the immeasurable riches of Your grace in Jesus Christ. Make this church a beacon of hope for the world. Amen.

*THE HYMN No. 190 “Beneath the Cross of Jesus”

*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 “All Glory, Laud, and Honor”

Lani Smith

References:

Cover Image, Christ our Light, from Art in the Christian Tradition, a project of the Vanderbilt Divinity Library, Nashville, TN. <https://diglib.library.vanderbilt.edu/act-imagelink.pl?RC=54167> [retrieved March 5, 2024]. Original source: <http://www.flickr.com/photos/35409814@N00/2105918430/>.

The Prayer of Invocation is adapted from a prayer written by the Rev. Dr. Chad Abbott for “Worship Ways,” Local Church Ministries, United Church of Christ.

The Call to Confession and Words of Assurance are adapted from prayers written by Beth Merrill Neel on her blog, ‘Hold Fast to What Is Good’. Used with permission.

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

TODAY WE WILL COLLECT OFFERINGS TOWARD THE ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING (OGHS). One Great Hour of Sharing is one of four special mission offerings of the United Church of Christ. This Lenten Offering supports the disaster, refugee, and development ministries of the United Church of Christ within Love of Neighbor.

You’re here to be light, bringing out the God-colors in the world. Matthew 5:14-15 (The Message) “This little light of mine, I’m gonna let it shine...Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine... “If Jesus had a playlist of music, surely this familiar hymn would be among the Top Five. Jesus teaches that faith calls for action. Sharing our light, as the diverse and colorful expression of God’s love here on earth, leads to making blankets, staffing food pantries, cooking meals, building houses and schools, signing petitions for worthy causes, and protesting injustices. A simple song with a simple message—our light is on a light stand, for all to see—shine and share. On any given day, light is shining because we are there through our gifts to OGHS. Your contributions make a difference. Your dollars count. Give generously. Share the light.