

Welcome to St. Paul's United Church of Christ

An Open and Affirming Congregation of the United Church of Christ

March 17, 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: Nancy Richey

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: Fenton Fox, Rebecca Drazba
Acolyte: Elsa Riesmeyer
Kids' Place: Jonneke Dundore
Flower Preparation: Susan Gabriel
Flower Delivery: Melanie Shaver-Durham
Counting Team: Fenton Fox
Fellowship Time: Consistory

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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**ONLINE
GIVING**



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

FIFTH SUNDAY IN LENT
AFFIRMATION OF MINISTRIES, CONSISTORY

March 17, 2024

Please note: the livestream 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 "Beneath the Cross of Jesus"

David Paxton

CHORAL INTROIT

*THE HYMN No. 204 "'Take Up Your Cross,' the Savior Said"

*PRAYER OF INVOCATION (unison)

Gracious God, Jesus showed us that You offer all people the opportunity to serve You. Guide us in affirming the gifts for ministry of those who respond to Your calls, as we recognize the costs such responses can entail. Amen.

CALL TO CONFESSION

We confess fear stops us from responding to God's calls. We are concerned about our abilities to fulfill these calls or the personal costs we may need to endure. We forget that disciples through time, despite their doubts, have accomplished much, and that Jesus demonstrated we will never be alone, enduring with him, and emerging into new life. Still, we hesitate. Let us join in the time of Silent Prayers of Confession.

SILENT PRAYERS OF CONFESSION

WORDS OF ASSURANCE (Responsive):

One: God forgives us, and we hear in Scripture Jesus' repeated assurances that new life awaits us in the here and now and in eternity.

ALL: Let us hear Jesus' honesty, both the warnings and the promises, and let us respond. 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

ORDER FOR AFFIRMATION OF MINISTRY

INTRODUCTION

LEADER: Affirmation of ministry is the act whereby a local church of the United Church of Christ recognizes the diverse gifts of its members and celebrates the particular ministry of each person in the life of the church or in various settings in the life of the world. There are different kinds of spiritual gifts, but the same Spirit gives them.

PEOPLE: There are different ways of serving, but the same God is served.

LEADER: There are different abilities to perform service, but the same God gives ability to each of us for our particular service.

PEOPLE: The Spirit's presence is shown in some way in each person for the good of all.

LEADER: Christ is like a single body, which has many parts.

PEOPLE: It is still one body even though it is made up of different parts.

LEADER: If one part of the body suffers, all the other parts suffer with it; if one part is praised, all the other parts share its happiness.

PEOPLE: All of us are Christ's body, and each one is a part of it.

PRESENTATION

Invitation to Consistory members to please come forward.

LEADER: These people have been called by God, in accordance with the faith and order of this church, to serve among us. They have accepted their call and are before us in witness to their willingness to serve.

COVENANT

LEADER: *(addressing the people being affirmed)* Siblings in Christ, it is an honor to be entrusted with responsibility to serve as Consistory Members in the ministry of St. Paul's United Church of Christ, whether gathered or scattered. Having prayerfully considered the duties and responsibilities of your ministry, are you prepared to serve with the help of God in Christ's name and for the glory of God?

INDIVIDUALS: **I am.**

LEADER: Do you promise to exercise your ministry diligently and faithfully, showing forth the love of Christ?

INDIVIDUALS: **I do, relying on God's grace.**

LEADER *(addressing the congregation)* Members of St. Paul's United Church of Christ, you have heard the promises of our siblings in Christ who have answered God's call to service. Let us affirm our intention to live in covenant with them. Will those who are able rise and witness to the commitment we now make?

All who are able stand.

PEOPLE: We gather in celebration of the joy that is ours to be partners with you in the service of Jesus Christ. We promise to love you, honor your leadership, and assist you that together we may be a faithful church of Jesus Christ.

The congregation may be seated.

LAYING ON OF HANDS

PASTOR: The laying on of hands is the symbolic act whereby the church in every age recognizes God's call to ministry in the lives of faithful women and men and asks the Holy Spirit to confer upon them the gifts of ministry. We lay hands upon you for the position of *Member of Consistory*.

PASTOR: May the Holy Spirit strengthen you for the ministry of **Consistory Member** in Christ's church and equip you with everything good to do God's will. Receive authority to execute the office of **Consistory Member** in the name of Christ.

PEOPLE: Amen.

PRAYER

LEADER: Let us pray. Eternal God, You have called these people to serve You in this household of faith and in the world, which You have entrusted to our care and keeping. Send Your Holy Spirit on them that they may serve among us with honor and faithfulness. Help them to be diligent in their duties that Your church may prosper in the mission You place before it. May their example prove worthy for all of us to follow, as we are united in Christ's ministry, to the glory of Your name.

PEOPLE: Amen.

DECLARATION

LEADER: In the name of Jesus Christ, and on behalf of the people of St. Paul's United Church of Christ, I rejoice to announce: You are installed as Members of Consistory.

GREETING OF CHRISTIAN LOVE

LEADER: In accordance with the faith and order of this church, I extend to you the hand of Christian love.

PEOPLE: Thanks be to God.

THE HEBREW SCRIPTURE READING

Jeremiah 31:31-34

THE PSALM READING

Psalms 51:1-12

*THE HYMN "Every Seed that Grows Toward Glory"
(to the tune of no. 122, "Come, O Long-Expected Jesus")

*Every seed that grows toward glory First is buried in the ground.
So, our Lord, you told this story, Showing us where hope is found.*

*You once told the path you'd travel — How you would be glorified;
Hope would seem to come unraveled When you took your cross and died.*

*Yet you promised resurrection; Love wins out! New hope is born!
You who faced the world's rejection, Lead us into Easter morn.*

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THE RESPONSE:

One: God is Still Speaking.

All: Thanks be to God!

THE GOSPEL READING & MESSAGE:

John 12:20-33

“We Are Needed in this Hour”

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 “My Jesus, I Love Thee”

arr. McChesney

Hand Chimes

*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 dedicate these offerings to the proclamation of your word, the teaching of your ways, and the living of your will for all humankind. We reach out with joy and gladness to offer your love to the world. May these gifts enable the sharing of your presence with many who have not experienced a sense of their own value as your children. As we keep covenant with you, we would also share its joys and obligations with our neighbors. Amen.

*THE HYMN No. 485 “O Love That Will Not Let Me Go”

*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 “Lift High the Cross”

Lani Smith

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.

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