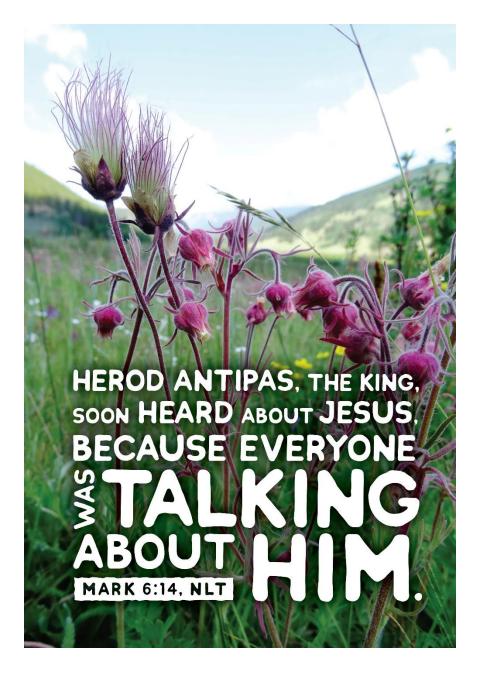
Welcome to St. Paul's United Church of Christ

An Open and Affirming Congregation of the United Church of Christ

July 14, 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 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: Paula Boyer Greeters: Fenton Fox, Megan Riesmeyer, Becky Thompson Acolyte: Elsa Riesmeyer Kids' Place: Flower Preparation: Susan Gabriel Flower Delivery: Nancy Richey 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 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

EIGHTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

The livestream starts with the Announcements. If you'd prefer not to be on camera, kindly choose a seat in the back three pews of the Sanctuary. Leave prayer requests in the bowl in the Common area or give them to the Lead Greeter.

*Those who are comfortable doing so are invited to stand.

THE RINGING OF THE CHIMES

THE WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE ORGAN PRELUDE "Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing"

Lani Smith

CALL TO WORSHIP

*THE HYMN No. 22 "Sing Praise to God, Who Has Shaped"

*PRAYER OF INVOCATION (unison)

God of Peace, guide us in being peacemakers, helping us to stand up to those who use or threaten violence to harm and intimidate. Amen.

CALL TO CONFESSION

People in authority often use violence, or threaten its use, to control others. Such violence can be extreme and directed at innocents as well as rivals. We who are not directly threatened often fail to protest, out of fear, or perhaps not recognizing the potential for the extension of such harm. Let us join in a time of Silent Prayers of Confession.

SILENT PRAYERS OF CONFESSION

WORDS OF ASSURANCE (Responsive):

- One: God forgives us and holds those who use violence in such ways accountable. And God continues to hope we will hold them accountable as well.
- ALL: Let us recognize how those in power have used violence in the past and in the present to harm and intimidate others and resist their efforts. 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)

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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, 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

THE PSALM READING

*THE HYMN No. 488 "Be Still, My Soul"

THE RESPONSE:

One: God is Still Speaking.

All: Thanks be to God!

THE GOSPEL READING & MESSAGE:

"Unchecked Power's Danger"

Mark 6:14-29

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.

Jesus Loves Me

Amos 7:7-15

Psalm 85:8-13

THE CHORAL RESPONSE (unison)



Please place your pew pad sheets in the Offering Plate.

THE OFFERTORY "O Lord Most Holy"

Franz Abt

*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)

With joyous praise and dancing spirits, we dedicate this offering, acknowledging our covenant responsibility to share Your word and love all your people. In gratitude for the gospel of salvation, we pledge our first loyalty and highest faithfulness as disciples of Jesus Christ. Thank You for the wisdom and insight we have received. Help us now to live according to the best we know, in Jesus' name. Amen.

*THE HYMN No. 473 "Blessed Assurance"

*THE BIDDING TO MISSION

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

The livestream ends after the Postlude. You're welcome to converse in the Narthex after the Three-fold Amen. However, if you choose to stay for the Postlude, please listen quietly until the conclusion.

THE ORGAN POSTLUDE "God's Blessing Sends Us Forth"

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. Songs, music, and lyrics used by permission. CCLI License #11380019 CSPL128945

ALTAR FLOWERS

The Altar flowers are given to the Glory of God by Janet Wotring, "In honor of my birthday."