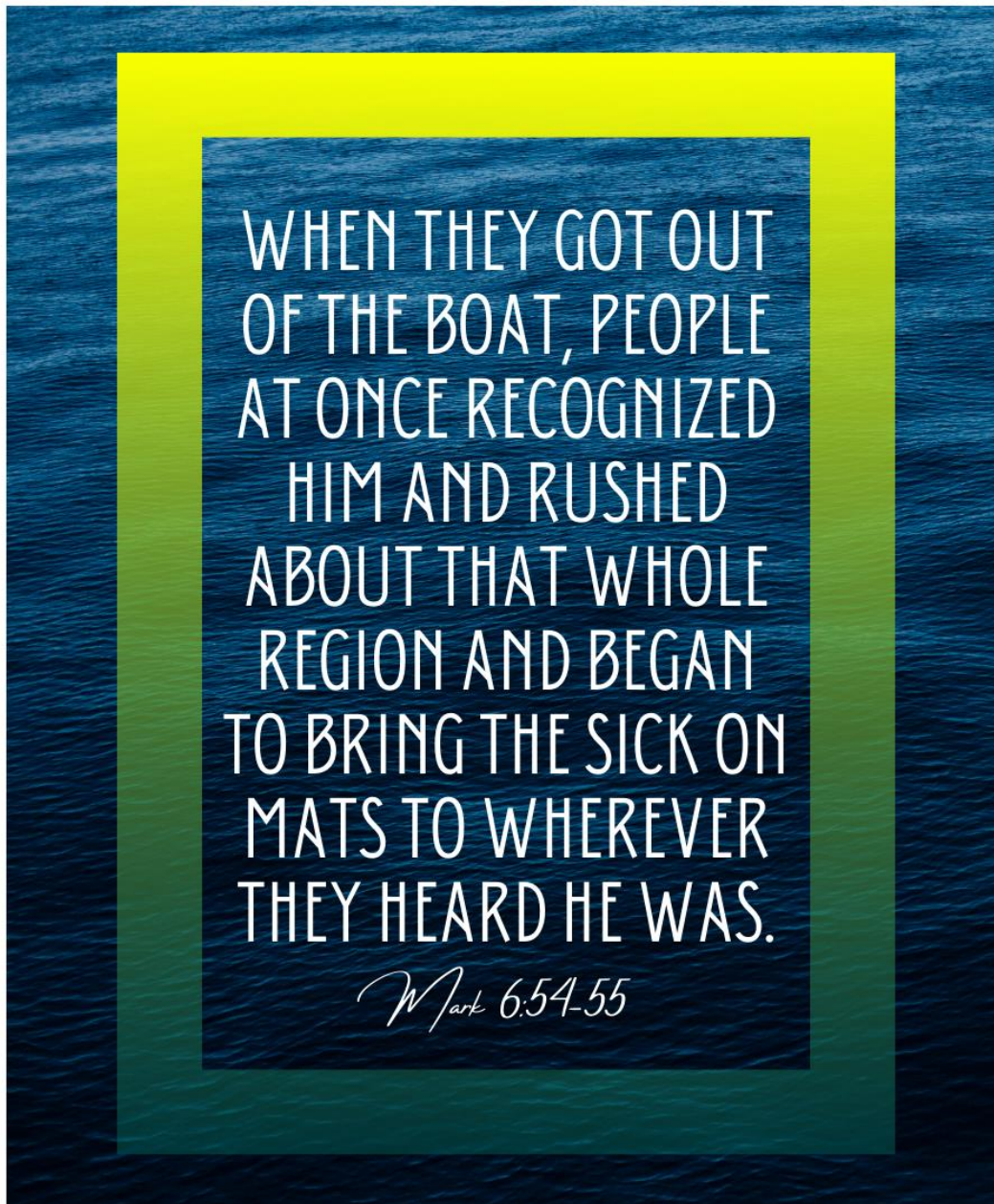


Welcome to
St. Paul's United Church of Christ

An Open and Affirming Congregation of the United Church of Christ

July 21, 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: Beth Lengel

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: Jody Biss, Corky Short, Wendy Hayden
Acolyte: Elsa Riesmeyer
Kids' Place:
Flower Preparation: Susan Gabriel
Flower Delivery: Winnie and Darryl Wentz
Counting Team:

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. Allyssa: allyssaboyer@outlook.com
ST. PAUL'S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
SERVICE OF WORSHIP

NINTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

July 21, 2024

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

THE WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE PRELUDE

CALL TO WORSHIP

*THE HYMN No. 28 "For the Beauty of the Earth"

***For the beauty of the earth, For the splendor of the skies,
For the love which from our birth Over and around us lies—***

Refrain:

God of all, to you we raise, this our hymn of grateful praise.

***For the wonder of each hour, Of the day and of the night,
Hill and vale, and tree and flow'r, Sun and moon, and stars of light— Refrain***

***For the joy of human love, Brother, sister, parent, child,
Friends on earth and friends above, For all gentle thoughts and mild— Refrain***

***For the good that love inspires, for a world where none exclude,
For a faith that never tires, and for every heart renewed -- Refrain***

*PRAYER OF INVOCATION (unison)

Gracious God, through Jesus' words and ways we witnessed how people are drawn to those who offer healing, hope, peace, and love. Though cultural beliefs and practices held that violence was an indicator of true power, Jesus demonstrated a different way. Guide us in following his way. Amen.

CALL TO CONFESSION

The Messiah was expected to embody God's power, and through violence and force bring about the restoration of Israel. The examples of human history showed that this was the way it happened. God does not act like human beings though. Some histories tell a different story. Change can happen in other ways. The question is whether we believe that is true and if we are willing to participate in change through non-violence and love. Let us join in the time of Silent Prayers of Confession.

SILENT PRAYERS OF CONFESSION

WORDS OF ASSURANCE (Responsive):

One: God forgives us and hopes we continue to review and embrace Jesus' words and ways of being in the world, embracing peace and love, and breaking down division.

**ALL: Let us consider seriously the ways we can interact in what is happening around us, for the world needs our attention, and let us do so in ways that follow Jesus' model.
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.

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

Jeremiah 23:1-8

THE PSALM READING

Psalms 23

*THE HYMN "O God, We Rage" (to the tune of "Our God, Our Help in Ages Past")

O God, we rage at hurtful things Beyond our own control,

Like all the pain that illness brings To body, mind and soul.

There's much we cannot understand; O Lord, we ask you, "Why?"

And yet in Christ you know firsthand The tears your people cry.

O Christ, your loving, saving touch Heals children, women, men.

We pray for ones we love so much; Lord, make them whole again.

Now work through those your Spirit sends To heal, restore and care.

May doctors, nurses, neighbors, friends Be answers to our prayer.

And when the journey seems too rough And you seem far away,

Remind us, Lord: You are enough To bring us through each day.

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THE RESPONSE:

One: God is Still Speaking.

All: Thanks be to God!

THE GOSPEL READING & MESSAGE:

Mark 6:30-37, 53-56

“Drawn to Peace and Healing”

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)

In - to my heart, in - to my heart, come
in - to my heart, Lord Je - sus; come in to - day, come
in to stay, come in - to my heart, Lord Je - sus.

THE OFFERTORY “Amazing Grace”

Traditional Hymn

Charles Ricedorf-Reed, soloist

Art Williams, guitarist

*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)

Receive our best, gracious God, as we offer ourselves along with these tokens of thanks. Establish Your rule in our midst so we may proclaim Your reign in the world. Send us where You need us most. Use our gifts to reduce alienation and to build community. Be to us a watchful Parent, and teach us to live as siblings who find You in one another and respond in love to each other's needs. Amen.

*THE HYMN “Be Kind to One Another” (to the tune of “The Church’s One Foundation.”)

***Be kind to one another, be tender-hearted too —
forgiving one another, as Christ has pardoned you.***

Refrain from any gossip, for gossip is a sin.

Be open to new friendships, and welcome people in.

Be kind in all your speaking and hear what others say.

Be open to Christ's teaching, and in all matters, pray.

Be gentle, loving, faithful and keep a humble mind.

Remember what is truthful. In everything be kind.

Be kind within your circle, but look past what you see;

Be kind to those in trouble — the poor, the refugee.

The world is filled with violence; write letters, call out sin!

Don't ever sit in silence and let the evil win.

O God of love, you've taught us. You've shown us what to do:

Be just, commit to kindness, walk humbly here with you.

Your Spirit gives us courage to truly live this way.

May love become our message; may kindness win the day.

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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

THE POSTLUDE

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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ALTAR FLOWERS

The Altar flowers are given to the Glory of God by

Martha and Vic Brown, “In honor of the wedding of Matt and Mary Ann.”

Martha and Gene Keith, “In honor of the July birthdays of Shirley Keith Knox, her son Benjamin,
and his daughter, Allison.”