

**Welcome to**  
**St. Paul's United Church of Christ**

*An Open and Affirming Congregation of the United Church of Christ*

July 28, 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  
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: Nancy Richey  
Greeters: Melanie Shaver-Durham, Corky Short, Candy LaRue  
Acolyte: Elsa Riesmeyer  
Kids' Place: Don Dupes  
Flower Preparation: Susan Gabriel  
Flower Delivery: Melanie Shaver-Durham  
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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ST. PAUL'S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST  
SERVICE OF WORSHIP

TENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST  
RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBERS

July 28, 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 "Jesus Loves Me"

David Paxton

CALL TO WORSHIP

Anger is  
the bastard child,  
black sheep,  
danger to the flock.  
This I know,  
for I've been told.

she says. Her eyes are  
impossibly wide, lit  
by my flashlight's glare.  
Her eyes overflow  
with fear, longing,  
and love.

But by night,  
when the world is still,  
I slip out of the back door  
to find anger huddled  
at the edge of the yard,  
shrouded in darkness.

Instinct opens  
my arms. I take her small,  
dark figure into myself and  
she settles there and sighs,  
like a worn-out child.

"What do you want?"  
I ask, approaching with caution.

"Something was wrong,"  
she murmurs, drifting off  
to sleep. "I wanted  
you to know."

"Something is wrong,"

*Anger* by Kelly Chripczuk

\*THE HYMN No. 276 "Holy God, We Praise Your Name"

\*PRAYER OF INVOCATION (unison)

**God of Love, we believe You view everyone as a Beloved Child of Yours. When You observe people using and abusing others for their gain, particularly people with great power, You weep and take note. You call upon people of faith to raise their voices in protest, to remind even the**

**most powerful, that their words and actions need to reflect Your Love for All. Guide us in our efforts. Amen.**

#### CALL TO CONFESSION

History is filled with accounts of kings and others with unlimited power abusing individuals and ordering the abuse and deaths of whole groups of people, and then rationalizing it or trying to hide the consequences of their actions. When we look back, we see just how horrific such actions were and are. God sees in the here and now, and calls on us to hold accountable those who are abusing others in the here and now. We cannot wait until later, until someone else does something. Let us join in the time of Silent Prayers of Confession.

#### SILENT PRAYERS OF CONFESSION

#### WORDS OF ASSURANCE (Responsive):

**One:** God forgives us, and shows us in Scripture, speaks to us in prayer, touches us through music, that God abhors the abuse of others, even when, and perhaps most especially when it is perpetrated by someone God has called to lead, or someone who has been chosen by others to lead.

**ALL:** **Let us not be fooled by tradition, rhetoric, fear or lies that any human has been granted the right by God to abuse others. Some will claim such authority. God is having none of that, and neither should we. 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*

## RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBERS

### INVITATION

Friends in Christ, we are all received into the wider church through the sacrament of baptism. This person has found nurture and support in the midst of the family of Christ. She wishes to establish a special covenantal relationship with Christ and the members of this church. In our mutual journeys, let us find support as we attempt to serve Jesus Christ, using the gifts that the Holy Spirit bestows.

### QUESTIONS OF THE CANDIDATES

**Pastor:** Do you Gabi profess Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior?

**Candidate:** **I do.**

**Pastor:** Do you promise, by the grace of God, to be Christ's disciple, to follow in the way of our Savior, to resist oppression and evil, to show love and justice, and to witness to the work and word of Jesus Christ as best as you are able?

**Candidate:** **I promise, with the help of God.**

**Pastor:** Do you promise, according to the grace given you, to grow in the Christian faith, and to be a faithful member of the church of Jesus Christ, celebrating Christ's presence and furthering Christ's mission in all the world?

**Candidate:** **I promise, with the help of God.**

**Pastor:** Do you promise to participate in the life and mission of this family of God's people, sharing regularly in the worship of God and enlisting in the work of this local church as it serves this community and the world?

**Candidate:** **I promise, with the help of God.**

### \*CONGREGATIONAL ASSENT

**Pastor:** This congregation is part of the body of Christ in this time and place. We are Christ's hands, ears, and eyes. We are called to serve Christ as best as we are able and in accordance with the gifts we have been given. Let us say the Congregational Assent together.

**Members:** **We, as members of St. Paul's United Church of Christ, of Mechanicsburg, Pennsylvania, and the Church Universal, hear your promises with joy and gladly welcome you as a sister in Christ into the family of faith. We covenant with you to share in the hopes, labors, and joys of the Christian life, supported by God's love through this congregation. We will weep with you when you weep, rejoice with you**

**in your rejoicing, and encourage your growth in the new life Christ gives. These things we promise in the name and spirit of Jesus, our Savior. Amen.**

#### PRAYER

Eternal God, we praise You for calling us to be Your servant people, and for gathering us into the body of Christ. We thank You for sending to us this believer: Gabi — Your child — that we may work together in serving the needs of others. Confirm in us the power of Your covenant that we may live in Your Spirit, share regularly in worship, and so love each other that we may have among us the same mind which was in Christ Jesus, to whom be all honor and glory. Amen.

#### WELCOME & RECEPTION

In the name of Jesus Christ, and on behalf of the congregation of St. Paul's United Church of Christ, of Mechanicsburg, Pennsylvania, we extend to you Gabi the right hand of Christian love, welcoming you into the company of this local church and the saints of light.

#### THE GOSPEL READING

John 6:15-21

#### THE PSALM READING

Psalm 14

\*THE HYMN "A Woman Named Bathsheba"  
(to the tune of no. 190, "Beneath the Cross of Jesus")

***A woman named Bathsheba was bathing by her home;  
King David saw her from his roof and took her for his own.  
A mighty ruler, he was sure he could do anything;  
yet actions have their consequences, even for a king.***

***For soon she was expecting, and soon he was distressed.  
He called her husband home from battle, hoping for the best.  
Uriah, loyal to his king and faithful to the land,  
confounded what the king hoped for and what the king had planned.***

***King David used his power to take another's wife;  
one sin led to another one, with no concern for life.  
King David sent Uriah back into the battle ground;  
from lust to lies to murder David spiraled deeper down.***

***What David did was evil — a sin, Lord, in your eyes.  
May we confess the times when we accept such compromise,  
the times we misuse strength to hurt, the times we look away;  
Create in us clean hearts, O God, that we may seek your Way.***

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THE RESPONSE:

One: God is Still Speaking.

All: Thanks be to God!

THE HEBREW SCRIPTURE READING & MESSAGE:

2 Samuel 11:1-15

“What Unrestrained Rulers Do”

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.

*Please place your pew pad sheets in the Offering Plate.*

THE OFFERTORY “Simple Gifts”

Traditional Shaker Hymn

Jonne Dundore, Kathy Williams, Beth Lengle, vocal trio

\*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 join with Jesus in giving thanks for the little things we can see, that our eyes may be opened to the great possibilities we had not imagined. May our efforts be multiplied by Your**

**grace so there is more than enough for all-more comfort in sorrow, more relief from pain, more mercy to meet our treachery, more sense of presence amid our loneliness, more strength to overcome our weakness, more joy and enthusiasm to erase our apathy. Amen.**

\*THE HYMN No. 403 “My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less”

\*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 “Fantasy on ‘Holy Manna”

Hugh S. Livingston, Jr.

References:

Leighton of Stretton, Frederic Leighton, Baron, 1830-1896. David, from Art in the Christian Tradition, a project of the Vanderbilt Divinity Library, Nashville, TN. <https://diglib.library.vanderbilt.edu/act-imagelink.pl?RC=55615> [retrieved July 25, 2024]. Original source: [http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Frederick\\_Leighton\\_-\\_David.jpg](http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Frederick_Leighton_-_David.jpg).

The Call to Worship “Anger” is a poem by Kelly Chripczuk found in her book The Courage It Takes (a collection) , 2021 Kelly Chripczuk.

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  
Sara Weiser, “In memory of Catherine Walter & Mary Bentley.”  
Patrice and Gregory Miller, “In honor of our 47<sup>th</sup> Anniversary.”