

Welcome to
St. Paul's United Church of Christ

An Open and Affirming Congregation of the United Church of Christ

September 1, 2024

SO THE PHARISEES AND THE SCRIBES ASKED HIM,

**"WHY DO YOUR
DISCIPLES NOT WALK
ACCORDING TO THE
TRADITION OF THE
ELDERS BUT EAT WITH
DEFILED HANDS?"**

MARK 7:5

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: Patrice Miller

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: Don Dupes
Greeters: Paula Boyer, Becky Thompson, Chris Grice, Charles Ricedorf-Reed, Sherry Spencer
Acolyte: Elsa Riesmeyer
Kids' Place:
Flower Preparation: Susan Gabriel
Flower Delivery: Becky Thompson
Counting Team: Sherry Spencer

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

FIFTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
HOLY COMMUNION

September 1, 2024

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 "All Things Bright and Beautiful"

Steven Scott

CALL TO WORSHIP "What's in the Temple"

Tom Barrett

*THE HYMN No. 12 "I Sing The Mighty Power of God"

*PRAYER OF INVOCATION (unison)

God of the past and the present, guide us in examining our traditions. May we not just hold on to them without considering their appropriateness and value today, and may we not just toss them aside because they are old and must therefore be outdated. Help us to find the balance. Amen.

CALL TO CONFESSION

We can dig in our heels and insist on doing things the same way they have always been done. Or, we can just discard things because new is always better. Neither of these approaches is wise or faithful, yet we can easily get into a space where we do not even consider the opposite option. We need to discern what God is saying to us today, what God is speaking. Let us listen as we enter into a time of Silent Prayers of Confession.

SILENT PRAYERS OF CONFESSION

WORDS OF ASSURANCE (Responsive):

One: God forgives our entrenched reactions that do not consider the value of what has been or could be. God calls us to be present in the present, discerning how we might best incorporate previous traditions and new ones.

ALL: Let us remember we are called to be actively involved with our Faith. There is still much for us to learn, to understand better and to be open to. Let us seek to bring our Faith alive, as our ancestors did by following their particular callings. 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 NEW TESTAMENT READING

James 1:22-27

THE PSALM READING

Psalm 15

THE RESPONSE:

One: God is Still Speaking.

All: Thanks be to God!

THE GOSPEL READING & MESSAGE:

Mark 7:1-8, 14-23

“Which Traditions Do We Hold On To and Why”

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

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 "There Is an Everlasting Kindness"

arr. Larson

Jonneke and Eric Dundore, vocalists

*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)

Our hearts overflow with thanksgiving for all the bounty You entrust to our stewardship, O God of light. You have reached into the shadows, where we often flee, to rescue us and give us Your work to do. As You have freed us from the chains of sin, we seek to offer healing to others as we listen and share. Bless our offering of self and substance, we pray. Amen.

*THE HYMN No. 207 "Just As I Am"

THE SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION

THE INVITATION

One: God be with you.
All: **And also with you.**

One: Lift up your hearts.
All: **We lift them up to God.**
One: Let us give thanks to God.
All: **It is good to give God thanks and praise.**

PASTORAL PRAYER AND LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed by 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.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

DISTRIBUTION OF THE ELEMENTS

We gather both in person and in Spirit. For those of you present in the Sanctuary, greeters will pass out bread and gluten-free crackers, and then red wine and white grape juice. They will bring the trays to you. Please hold the elements until all have been served; we will eat and then drink them together. All are welcome to participate. Thank you.

For those of you joining us via livestream, we hope you have some bread and wine or juice of your choice before you. We trust that God is powerful enough to extend God's Blessing upon these Communion elements, even as we and they are scattered in geographic space.

THE PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING (unison)

Holy God, we give You thanks for the miracle and wonder of this meal. We give You thanks for your coming to us in the person of Jesus, and for Jesus' willingness to offer his whole self for our benefit. We can see how we can best live our lives. We can believe all "deaths," those losses, endings, and struggles in this life, and the ones at the end of our physical lives, are not the final word. We can trust that Your Spirit is within all of us, and always will be. May the gifts of this table always remind us of the gifts You have given us all. Amen.

*THE HYMN "The Well-Loved Traditions
(to the tune of no. 1, "Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise")

***"The well-loved traditions have gotten us through,
Yet see your disciples — the things that they do!"
Some leaders told Jesus, ""They have no respect!
The old ways we follow are what they reject!"***

***Forgive us, Lord Jesus, for caring too much
For rules and traditions and standards and such.
For while they are useful and good in their place,
In keeping them, sometimes we overlook grace.***

***Our worship is proper, yet some feel left out.
We celebrate faith, then pass by those who doubt.
We pray at our tables yet sometimes ignore
The hungry and homeless, the outcast and poor.***

***O Lord, may appearances match what's inside.
Take all our hypocrisy, hatred and pride.
Lord, fill us with good things from heaven above,
Till old ways and new ways are bursting with love.***

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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 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 remain silent until the conclusion.*

THE ORGAN POSTLUDE "Festive Trumpet Tune"

David German

References:

The Call to Worship is the poem "What's in the Temple" by Tom Barrett found on pages 70-71 in the book Poetry of Presence: An Anthology of Mindfulness Poems, edited by Phyllis Cole-Dai and Ruby R. Wilson, 2017, Grayson Books.

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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The white rose on the altar today, is in loving memory of Charles Miller who died on Tuesday. Please continue to keep all Charles' family and friends in your prayers.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

NEXT SUNDAY, HOMECOMING SUNDAY

Many people from our congregation have been traveling throughout the summer, while others have enjoyed leisure time closer to home. Regardless of where you've been this summer, we are eager to welcome you back home to St. Paul's UCC. Our Homecoming celebration will kick-off on September 8 at 9:15 AM in Fellowship Hall as we celebrate the start of our new Sunday school year. Sunday school classes are available for children in preschool up to and including adults. We hope you'll join us for Homecoming Sunday, and for Sunday school throughout the year!

Following Worship be sure to stay for our All-Church Picnic. Celebrate the return of our fall schedule by signing up for our Homecoming All-Church Picnic on Sunday, September 8th. The picnic will take place in the Fellowship Hall following the 10:30 worship service. The church will provide the place settings for the picnic, as well as hot dogs, buns and beverages.

After sharing a picnic lunch together, we will be entertained by the Carlisle Brass Band in the sanctuary, where we can relax and enjoy the music. There will be a free-will offering to help compensate the band members for entertaining us. Attenders are encouraged to sign up to bring a potluck dish to share. Sign-up sheets are available online or on the table in the lobby outside of the sanctuary.

Beginning next Sunday, our fall Sunday school and worship times begin: Sunday school at 9:15AM and Worship at 10:30AM. Beginning in October, we will also resume holding an early worship service, at 8:30 AM, on Holy Communion Sundays, the first Sunday of each month.

MOVIE SHOWING

The PFLAG of Greater Harrisburg which meets monthly on the second Monday here at St. Paul's invites you to a presentation of the movie "1946: The Mistranslation That Shifted Culture". The presentation is scheduled for Monday, September 9, beginning at 7:00 P.M. with discussion afterwards.

PFLAG was involved with the production of the movie through its SKAGIT chapter located in Burlington, Washington and the Chapter of Greater Harrisburg presents this showing in their honor.

There are several St. Paul members who either are currently serving or were serving for many years on the chapter's board and welcomes you to be part of this special event.

Your questions may be directed to me, but you do not need to RSVP. Steve Roush