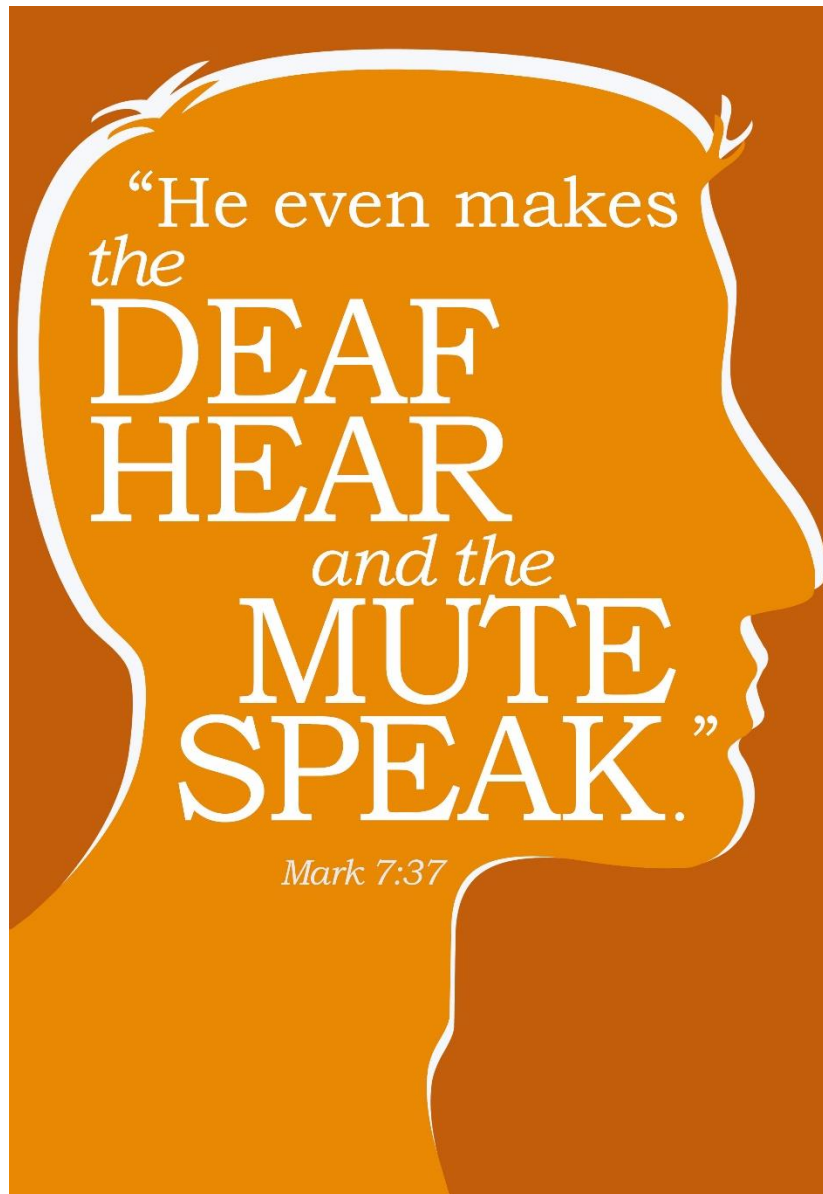


Welcome to
St. Paul's United Church of Christ

An Open and Affirming Congregation of the United Church of Christ

September 8, 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: Paula Boyer

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: Rebecca Drazba, Sherry Spencer, Nancy Richey
Acolyte: Elsa Riesmeyer
Kids' Place:
Flower Preparation: Susan Gabriel
Flower Delivery: Nancy Richey
Counting Team: Sherry Spencer, Rebecca Drazba

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

SIXTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
HOMECOMING SUNDAY

September 8, 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 "Children of the Heavenly Father"

Robert J. Hughes

CHORAL INTROIT

*THE HYMN No. 395 "In Christ There Is No East or West"

*PRAYER OF INVOCATION (unison)

Gracious God, guide us in accepting those we would shut out. Help us to remember inclusion can lead to the healing of others and ourselves. So healed, empower us to seek the healing of those such divisions would have us ignore. Amen.

CALL TO CONFESSION

When we divide people into groups we associate with and those we do not, we find it easy to make excuses not to reach across the divide and help. When we ignore the "icky" reality needed to connect with some others, real healing can take place. Let us join in the time of Silent Prayers of Confession.

SILENT PRAYERS OF CONFESSION

WORDS OF ASSURANCE (Responsive):

One: God forgives us and pushes us to expand our circle of care to include those we call "other."

ALL: Let us note how even Jesus learns and grows in acceptance, so we might recognize we need to as well. 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 EPISTLE READING

James 2:1-17

THE PSALM READING

Psalm 146

*THE HYMN No. 487 “Surely No One Can Be Safer”

THE RESPONSE:

One: God is Still Speaking.

All: Thanks be to God!

THE GOSPEL READING & MESSAGE:

Mark 7:24-37

“Being Healed 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.

Please place your pew pad sheets in the Offering Plate.

THE OFFERTORY "The Day is Coming"
Chancel Choir

Miller

The lands in longing call out your name; the tongues are different, the prayer the same.

With humble spirits, can we believe that God is bigger than we conceive?

The day is coming, the Lord will move with the hand of justice and the heart of love.

The will of heaven on this earth be done; the day is coming, oh, let it come.

With willing spirits, Lord let us dare to kneel with strangers and join in prayer.

Grant in your mercy the hope that heals, the law of love your word reveals.

The day is coming, the Lord will move with the hand of justice and the heart of love.

The will of heaven on this earth be done; the day is coming, oh, let it come.

A barren wasteland we must reclaim, with hearts for bearing each other's pain.

Give us the courage to make a place to plant tomorrow's seed of peace.

The day is coming, the Lord will move with the hand of justice and the heart of love.

The will of heaven on this earth be done; the day is coming, oh, let it come.

*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 give because You have been generous to us, gracious God. We give because we need to give in order to realize Your image within us. We give to feed the hungers of body and soul that are all around us and deep within. May the ministries of this church meet the needs of our members, our community, and our world. Help us to love our neighbors as ourselves. Amen.

*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 HYMN "Siyahambe (We Are Marching in the Light of God)"

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

Mary Runkle, "In honor of Audrey's birthday."

Eugene and Martha Keith, "In honor of our 70th wedding anniversary on September 11th."