



**St. Paul's
United Methodist Church
March 7, 2021 - 10:30 AM Service
3rd Sunday of Lent**

*We welcome you, trusting that this time of worship will open our hearts to experience the Spirit's movement among us.
Together, we seek peace, health, and wholeness as we gather in God's presence.*

*Please let us know you're here by signing in on our [Virtual Friendship Pad](#) at www.stpaulsithaca.org/streaming or make
a comment on the Facebook Live video!*

*Visit our Giving page at www.stpaulsithaca.org/giving to learn about how you can continue to support the ministries of
St. Paul's from home.*

*We are Shown the Way
Again & Again: A Lenten Refrain*
A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org

Gathering Music

Caleb Bates

Welcome and Announcements

Pastor Teresa Sivers

Please sign in using the [Virtual Friendship Pad](#) on the streaming page of our website!

Time of Greeting & Call to Silent Prayer

“Flipping Tables” by Sarah Are

I woke up and realized I was sitting at a table that oppression built.
The patriarchy made the food.
Cheap labor sewed the table cloth.
The guest list was exclusive.
Fear was the host.

And the people seemed happy,
but the food tasted awful.
Because milk and honey
are reserved for God's promised day.

So hold onto your silverware,
because now that I see it,
I can't unsee it.

This table is about to be flipped.

Centering Music

Introduction to Worship

Singing Together

“Be Thou My Vision”

Hymnal, #451

Be Thou My Vision

451

Unison

1. Be thou my vi - sion, O Lord of my heart;
 2. Be thou my wis - dom, and thou my true word;
 3. Great God of heav - en, my vic - to - ry won,

naught be all else to me, save that thou art.
 I ev - er with thee and thou with me, Lord;
 may I reach heav - en's joys, O bright heaven's Sun!

Thou my best thought, by day or by night,
 thou and thou on - ly, first in my heart,
 Heart of my own heart, what - ev - er be - fall,

wak - ing or sleep - ing, thy pres - ence my light.
 great God of heav - en, my trea - sure thou art. *-Mal J.*
 still be my vi - sion, O Rul - er of all. *C.*

WORDS: Ancient Irish; trans. by Mary E. Byrne, 1905; versed by Eleanor H. Hull, 1912, alt.
 MUSIC: Trad. Irish melody; harm. by Carlton R. Young, 1963

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Alt. © 1989 The United Methodist Publishing House; harm. © 1964 Abingdon Press

Confessing Together

Pastors Debbie and Teresa

Science tells us that a person makes about 35,000 choices in a day.
 35,000 choices each and every day!

In the prayer of confession, we pause to take a moment to think and to ask:

How many of our decisions are choices God would have us make?
How many are not?

So let us pray together, knowing that we need guidance, and trusting that even if we fall, God is showing us the way.

God of Justice,
We are guilty of building tables.
**We have built tables that oppression dines on,
sexism thrives on, and racism lives on.**

God of Justice,
we are guilty of forgetting where we are,
**of turning faith into a negotiation tool
and the church into a place for insiders.**

God of Justice,
We are guilty of ignoring the point;
**for you taught that the temple was for worship
and your message was for all.**

God of our hearts,
Be in our decision making.
Draw near to our choices.
Forgive our mistakes.
And as you do,
Flip every table, habit, belief or point of view that needs adjusting.
With hope we pray for a better day. Amen.

Words of Forgiveness

First Reading

1 Corinthians 1:18-25 (NRSV)

Melissa Gould

¹⁸ For the message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. ¹⁹ For it is written,

*“I will destroy the wisdom of the wise,
and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart.”*

²⁰ Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? ²¹ For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, God decided, through the foolishness of our proclamation, to save those who believe. ²² For Jews demand signs and Greeks desire wisdom, ²³ but we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, ²⁴ but to those who are the called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. ²⁵ For God’s foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God’s weakness is stronger than human strength.

Gospel Reading

John 2:13-22 (NRSV)

¹³ The Passover of the Jews was near, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. ¹⁴ In the temple he found people selling cattle, sheep, and doves, and the money changers seated at their tables. ¹⁵ Making a whip of cords, he drove all of them out of the temple, both the sheep and

the cattle. He also poured out the coins of the money changers and overturned their tables. ¹⁶ He told those who were selling the doves, "Take these things out of here! Stop making my Father's house a marketplace!" ¹⁷ His disciples remembered that it was written, "Zeal for your house will consume me." ¹⁸ The Jews then said to him, "What sign can you show us for doing this?" ¹⁹ Jesus answered them, "Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up." ²⁰ The Jews then said, "This temple has been under construction for forty-six years, and will you raise it up in three days?" ²¹ But he was speaking of the temple of his body. ²² After he was raised from the dead, his disciples remembered that he had said this; and they believed the scripture and the word that Jesus had spoken.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church!
Thanks be to God!

Children's Message

Special Music

"Though I Take the Wings of Morning" Op. 152

Robert Spence (1877-1961)
Amy Beach (1867-1944)

Sung by Cynthia Lunine, accompanied by Caleb Bates

Though I take the wings of morning
To the utmost sea,
Yet my soul hath no sojourning to outdistance Thee.
Though I climb to highest heaven,
'Tis Thy dwelling high;
Though to Death's dark chamber given,
Thou art standing by.

If I say, the darkness hides me,
Turns my night to day;
For with Thee no dark can find me,
Shadows must away!

Even so, Thy hand shall lead me,
Flee Thee as I will;
And Thy strong right arm shall hold me;
Bid me, then, be still,
Bid me, then. . . bid me, then, be still.

Opening Hearts & Minds

Call to Give

The Offering

You may participate in an online offering by clicking the DONATE button on the streaming page of our website or you may mail your offering (402 North Aurora St., Ithaca, NY 14850).

Affirmation of Faith with Holy Communion

Sung Response

"I Have Decided to Follow Jesus" v.1

Faith We Sing, #2129

I Have Decided to Follow Jesus

1. I have de - cid - ed to fol-low Je - sus, I have de -

cid - ed to fol-low Je - sus, I have de - cid - ed to fol-low

Je - sus — no turn-ing back, no turn-ing back.

Optional choral ending

I have de - cid - ed to fol - low Je - sus. _____

- 2. The world behind me, the cross before me ...
- 3. Though none go with me, still I will follow ...

The Lord's Prayer

The Sharing of the Bread and Cup

Singing Together

"Sent Out in Jesus' Name" (sing 3 times)

Faith We Sing, #2184

2184

Sent Out in Jesus' Name
(Enviado Soy de Dios)



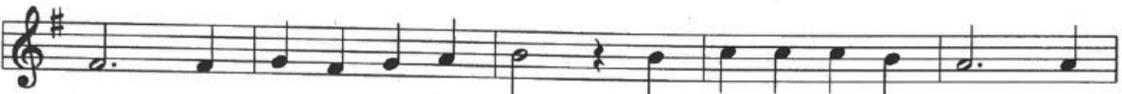
Sent out in Je - sus' name, our hands are rea - dy now to
En - via - do soy de Dios, mi ma - no lis - ta es - tá pa - ra



make the earth the place in which the king - dom comes. Sent comes. The
cons - tru - ir con El un mun - do fra - ter - nal. En - nal. Los



an - gels can - not change a world of hurt and pain in - to a world of
án - ge - les no son en - via - dos a cam - biar un mun - do de do -



love, of jus - tice and of peace. The task is ours to do, to
lor por un mun - do de paz. Me ha to - ca - do a mí ha -



set it real - ly free. O help us to o - bey and car - ry out your will.
cer - lo rea - li - dad; a - yú - da - me, Se - ñor, a ha - cer tu vo - lun - tad.

Benediction

As we leave this time and space,
May our mouths speak God's goodness.
May our arms hold those in need.
May our feet walk toward justice.
May our heart trust its worth.
May our soul dance in God's grace,
and may this be our rhythm—
again and again and again,
until God's promised day.
In the name of the Lover, the Beloved, and Love itself,
let us go with courage, go with heart, go in peace.
Amen.

Postlude

-----PRAYERS-----

For **Prayer Chain Requests**, confidential concerns seen only by those who participate in the Prayer Chain, please contact Pastor Debbie Allen, dallen@stpaulsithaca.org.

Prayer Requests: A.J. Sapp; Allan Turner (Anne Horst's father-in-law); Andrea Downing Zheng; Ann Shumate (friend of Nancy Potter); Ben Rachlinski (friend of the Chatrchyans); Cindy Garver (Bob and Alice McCune's daughter); Danny Scott; Eliesha Lovell (Nancy and Jeff Lovell's daughter); Gina Bakota (Teresa Yatsko's sister); Jackie Warren; Karen Kaufmann; Kathleen Jacklin; LaVerne Snyder; Margaret, Kate and John Malarney (friends of Anne Horst); Mary Boardman; Matthew Boardman (Mary's son); Raymond Snyder (LaVerne's uncle); Robert Deming (Melissa Gould's nephew); Sara Youngkin (Sara Jane Hymes's cousin); Sheila Hall; and Shirley Snyder (LaVerne's mother); pray for healing within the United Methodist Church, especially for those who are excluded because of sexual orientation and gender identification.

Our **sympathies** to the family and friends of Rev. Junius B. Dotson, top executive of the General Board of Discipleship in the UMC, who passed away on February 24 after a brief illness.



DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME BEGINS ON SUNDAY, MARCH 14 AT 2:00 AM ET!

Remember to set your clocks 1 hour AHEAD on Saturday evening (3/13).

LENTEN OPPORTUNITIES

Check the weekly emails and our [website](#) for details on Lenten devotionals and special services.

LENTEN DEVOTIONAL GROUP THURSDAYS, FEBRUARY 25 – MARCH 25 ZOOM, 7:00 – 8:00 PM ET

The theme and refrain for Lent this year is *Again & Again* and it refers to our lament over the suffering and brokenness we experience in our lives and in the world *again & again*. But it also points to the ways in which God repeatedly breaks the cycle of suffering and offers a path forward.

During Lent 2021, you are invited to participate in a Lenten Devotional Group led by Pastor Debbie. Together, we will work our way through the season of Lent using art, scripture, poetry, and reflections found in a Lenten Devotional booklet as the basis for sharing our experience of how God is meeting us, *time and again, along the way*. The booklet is free and will be sent or delivered to those who request a copy. If you are interested, please contact Pastor Debbie at dallen@stpaulsithaca.org. All are welcome!

ALWAYS IMPROVING OUR WORSHIP CONNECTIONS

Please share with us how your online worship streaming is working through this very short and important survey: [CLICK HERE!](#)

Check our [Upcoming Events](#) webpage for more!

For Reflection:

The African Akan Tribe's principle of Sankofa (see image below) holds that it is not wrong to go back to get what you need from the past in order to move forward. This week let us take inventory: Where have we let other values encroach upon our spiritual identity? What everyday miracles and lessons do we need to revisit before we ask for new ones? Do we welcome the Savior's authority even if it upends everything around us, and us as well?



Our Staff

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Sue Orzel / Custodian

Rev. Dr. Robert J. McCune / Pastor Emeritus

"St. Paul's is a compassionate community led and transformed by the Spirit."

www.stpaulsithaca.org

