

Updated Safety Protocols:

- ***Everyone must wear masks inside the building.** Please cover your mouth and nose at all times.
- *Two seating options: **Safely Distanced**, for those needing more space such as unvaccinated and family; and **Sit Where You Like**, for those no longer requiring distancing such as fully vaccinated.
- *Everyone may sing hymns softly with masks (not at full voice just yet).
- *Exiting: Hospitality Ministers will guide worshipers; Socially Distanced will leave first, then Sit Where You Like.
- *Fellowship Time on the Playground! Enjoy the playground for chatting with members and visitors. Unvaccinated need to wear masks, unless sipping.

Thank you for keeping one another safe & for loving your neighbor!

Church Office Hours 9:00 AM-12:00 PM Sunday through Thursday

Office Phone: 607-273-5971

Pastoral Care Phone: 607-269-5509

Please call ahead if you plan to visit the church in person.

Our Staff

Rev. Rebekah (Pastor Beckie) Sweet / Senior Pastor / pastor@stpaulsithaca.org

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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."



St. Paul's United Methodist Church A Reconciling Congregation

402 North Aurora Street, Ithaca, NY 14850

607-273-5971

www.stpaulsithaca.org

Find us on Facebook & Twitter @StPaulsIthaca

St. Paul's Wireless Network: **SPUMC-Guest** password: **guest402**



**St. Paul's
United Methodist Church
August 15, 2021 - 10:30 AM Service
Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost**

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.
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**Indicates a standing portion of the service. Please stand as you are able.*

*The Prayer of Jesus
"How Can I Keep from Praising"*

Gathering as The Beloved Community

Gathering Music

Caleb Bates

Welcome & Announcements

Pastor Beckie Sweet

***Sharing Love and Peace with All**

Centering Music

***Call to Worship**

Come, and praise God!
In the company of the God's people, let us give thanks to our God.
Great are the works of God, full of glory and majesty.
Our God is gracious and compassionate;
our God is merciful and forgiving
our God is faithful and trustworthy,
our God is just and good.
So come, let's worship God together.
God's praise will endure forever!

***Singing Together**

"Praise the Lord Who Reigns Above"

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Opening Prayer

Encountering God Through the Word

Scripture Readings

Psalm 111 *(paraphrase by Nan C. Merrill)*

Gary Rith

I will give thanks to You with my whole heart,
to all who listen, I will tell of your goodness.
Wondrous is Creation, Great Builder;
I take pleasure in pondering your Work.
Full of honor and integrity are your teachings;
those who follow them will find new life.
You lift the hearts of those who suffer;
You come to them in their need.
Your steadfast Love is food for the soul, nourishment in times of fear.
You are every-mindful of your covenant,
a very presence to the weary and afflicted.
Your Voice is truth to those with ears to hear, your precepts are sure;
Written on the hearts of your people, they are to be lived forever
with faith-filled love and assurance.
You bring new life to the world;
Yes! life in abundance is your gift to us.
Holy and glorious is your Name!
Reverence for You, O Holy One, is the beginning of wisdom;
a good understanding have all who practice it.
Your Spirit endures for ever!

Luke 4:38-44 *(Inclusive Bible, First Egalitarian Edition)*

On leaving the synagogue, Jesus entered the house of Simon and his family. Simon's mother-in-law was in the grip of a high fever, and they asked him to help her.

Jesus stood over her and rebuked the fever, and it left. She got up immediately and went about her work.

At sunset, all who had people sick with a variety of diseases brought them to Jesus, and he laid hands on each and cured them. Demons departed from many, crying out as they did so, "You are the Firstborn of God!" Jesus rebuked them and forbade them to speak for they knew who the Messiah was.

The next morning, Jesus left the house and went to a lonely place. The crowds followed and, when they found Jesus, they tried to keep him from leaving them. But Jesus said, "I must proclaim the Good News of God's reign to the other towns too, because that is what I was sent to do." And he continued preaching in the synagogues of Judea.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church!

Thanks be to God!

A Message for All God's Children (Children's Time)

Special Music

"Salt and Light"
Performed by Alexa Allman

Lauren Daigle

Message

"How Can I Keep from Praising"

Responding with Joy and Generosity

***Hymn of Response**

"Sing Praise to God Who Reigns Above"

#126

Prayers of the People

Josephine Allen

The Lord's Prayer

Offering our Gifts to God

Offertory

*Doxology

“Praise God From Whom All Blessings Flow”

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*Prayer of Dedication

O Holy One, we make our offerings at this time both in gratitude and in seeking, in both remembering and hoping, in both fear and faith. As you embrace all that is going on in our lives right now, receive these gifts as our way of praising you. Amen.

Going Forth to Serve and to Bless

*Closing Hymn

“Praise to the Lord, the Almighty”

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*Dismissal with Blessing

Postlude

-----PRAYERS-----

For **Prayer Chain Requests**, confidential concerns seen only by those who participate in the Prayer Chain, please contact Pastor Beckie at pastor@stpaulsithaca.org.

Prayer Requests: A.J. Sapp; Ann Mathews; Ann Shumate (friends of Nancy Potter); Anya Kyong; Ardie Bennett; Bob McCune; Daniel Minor (son of Betty Windstein's neighbor); David Hall (brother of Joyce Turner and Sheila Hall); David McElrath; Eliesha Lovell (Nancy and Jeff Lovell's daughter); Gina Bakota (Teresa Yatsko's sister); Jackie Warren; John Salzman (LaVerne Snyder's friend); Katherine Herrala (LaVerne Snyder's aunt); Kathleen Jacklin; LaVerne Snyder; Margaret, Kate and John Malarney (friends of Anne Horst); Mary Boardman; Matthew Boardman (Mary Boardman's son); Marilynn Peterson (Lynn Martin's mother); Nelson Reppert; Randy Hausner; Raymond Snyder (LaVerne's uncle); and Robert Deming (Melissa Gould's nephew).

Pray for healing within the United Methodist Church, especially for those who are excluded because of sexual orientation and gender identification.

Our hearts go out to LaVerne Snyder's family for the loss of his mother, Shirley Snyder.

For Your Reflection

In her book [Praying the Psalms](#), Nan C. Merrill paraphrases these ancient faith songs using a variety of ascriptions for God. Each day this week, meditate on how these ascriptions have informed your faith and your relationship with God: Beloved; Great Builder; Teacher; Love; Voice; Holy One; Spirit.



The beautiful altar flowers this Sunday are from the garden of Glenna Margaris.