

## Worship Series for September 12-October 3: The Tie That Binds

One of the most treasured hymns of Christianity in the last century is “Blest Be the Tie That Binds.” It reminds us that relationships form us, inspire us, heal us. As we gather for worship, we will be invited to consider how our relationships with the Holy and with each other form and transform us. And we will affirm the power of God’s presence in our worshiping community to inspire us to “go and do likewise” in relationship to the world.

### Updated Safety Protocols:

- **Please cover your mouth and nose with a mask at all times inside the building.**
- Two seating options: **Safely Distanced**, for the unvaccinated and those needing more space such as family; and **Sit Where You Like**, for the fully vaccinated and those no longer in need of distancing.
- 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!



**Cornell GCF Bible study** for graduate students and young professionals from Ithaca on Mondays at 7:30pm in Anabel Taylor auditorium. All are welcome. Contact Vivian at [hz524@cornell.edu](mailto:hz524@cornell.edu) or Sara Beth at [sbl84@cornell.edu](mailto:sbl84@cornell.edu) for details.

### 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](mailto:pastor@stpaulsithaca.org)

**Maude Rith** / Church Administrative Assistant / [office@stpaulsithaca.org](mailto:office@stpaulsithaca.org)

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**Dorothy Preston** / Festival Chimes Director / [dpreston@stpaulsithaca.org](mailto:dpreston@stpaulsithaca.org)

**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  
September 5, 2021 - 10:30 AM Service  
Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost**

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*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.*  
*Permission to reprint, podcast, and/or stream the music in this service obtained from ONE LICENSE with license # A-728210.*  
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*\*Indicates a standing portion of the service. Please stand as you are able.*

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*Summer Psalms  
"Creation at Its Best"*

**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 into this sacred space to worship God  
**whose teaching is perfect; whose directions are sure.**  
Come into this holy place to worship God  
**whose standards are right; whose commandment is clear;  
whose judgements are true.**  
Come with awe – to be given life, and made wise,  
to have your heart stirred and your eyes opened wide.  
Come — let us worship God.  
**Let the words of our mouths and the whispering of our hearts  
be according to your will, O God. Amen.**

**\*Singing Together**

"Let's Sing unto the Lord"

#149

**Opening Prayer**

**Encountering God Through the Word**

**Scripture Readings**

**Psalms 19:1-10** (paraphrase by Nan C. Merrill)

Bill Highland

The heavens declare the glory of the Creator;  
The firmament proclaims the handiwork of Love.

Day to day speech pours forth  
and night to night knowledge is revealed.  
There is no speech, nor are there words;  
their voice is not heard;  
Yet does their music resound through all the earth,  
and their words echo to the ends of the world.

In them a tent for the sun is set,  
which is like a bride and groom on their wedding night  
as they sing love's song and celebrate the dance of life.  
Its rising is in eternity, and its circuit to infinity;  
Nothing is hidden from the sunlight.

The law of Love is perfect, reviving the soul;  
The testimony of Love is sure, making wise the simple;  
The precepts of Love are right, rejoicing the heart;  
The authority of Love is pure, enlightening the eyes;  
The spirit of Love is glorious, enduring forever;  
The rites of Love are true, awakening compassion.

More to be desired are they than gold, even much fine gold;  
Sweeter also than honey and drippings of the honeycomb.  
Moreover, by them are the loving guided;  
in keeping them there is great reward.

**Luke 12:22-28** (*Inclusive Bible, First Egalitarian Edition*)

Then [Jesus] said to the disciples, "That's why I tell you, don't worry about your life and what you are to eat. Don't worry about your body and what you are to wear. For life is more than food, and the body is more than clothing. Take a lesson from the ravens. They don't sow or reap. They have neither a food cellar nor a barn, yet God feeds them. And how much more valuable are you than birds? Can any of you, for all your worrying, add a single hour to your life? If even the smallest things are beyond your control why worry about all the rest?"

Notice how the flowers grow. They neither labor nor weave, yet I tell you, not even Solomon in all his splendor was robed like one of these! If that is how God clothes the grass of the field – which is here today and thrown into the fire tomorrow – how much more will God look after you! You have so little faith!

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**

"For the Beauty of the Earth"

Chancel Choir

**Message**

"Creation at Its Best"

**Responding with Joy and Generosity**

**\*Hymn of Response**

"Let All Things Now Living"

FWS # 2008

**Offering our Gifts to God**

**Offertory**

## The Sacrament of Holy Communion

### The Great Thanksgiving

God be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

...

Therefore, with your people in all ages, in communion with the saints,  
and with the whole company of heaven,  
we join the glad song of unceasing praise:

**Holy, holy, holy God, Our life, our mercy, our might.**

**Heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

**Hosanna in the highest.**

**Blessed is the One who comes in your name.**

**Hosanna in the highest.**

...

as we proclaim the mystery of faith:

**Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again!**

...

Through Christ, with Christ, and in Christ,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
all honor and glory and blessing is yours, Almighty God,  
now and forever. **Amen.**

## The Lord's Prayer

## Sharing the Lord's Supper

### \*Prayer after Communion

### Going Forth to Serve and to Bless

### \*Closing Hymn

"God of the Sparrow, God of the Whale"

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### \*Dismissal with Blessing

## Postlude

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### -----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](mailto: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 Bell; David Hall (brother of Joyce Turner and Sheila Hall); David Hays (Barbara Wernham's son-in-law); 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, Mary Boardman; Matthew Boardman (Mary Boardman's son); Marilyn Peterson (Lynn Martin's mother); Michael Russell (Sue Orzel's neighbor); Nelson Reppert; Randy Hausner; Raymond Snyder (LaVerne's uncle); and Robert Deming (Melissa Gould's nephew) Sheila Hall.

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