

¹¹ As they were walking along and talking, suddenly a chariot of fire appeared, drawn by horses of fire. It drove between the two men, separating them, and Elijah was carried by a whirlwind into heaven. ¹² Elisha saw it and cried out, “My father! My father! I see the chariots and charioteers of Israel!” And as they disappeared from sight, Elisha tore his clothes in distress.

¹³ Elisha picked up Elijah’s cloak, which had fallen when he was taken up. Then Elisha returned to the bank of the Jordan River. ¹⁴ He struck the water with Elijah’s cloak and cried out, “Where is the Lord, the God of Elijah?” Then the river divided, and Elisha went across.”

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church!

Thanks be to God!

A Message for All God’s Children

Special Music

“You’ve Got a Friend”
by Carole King

Dr. John White, piano
Maia Finkel, vocals

Epistle Reading

Galatians 5: 1,13-25

Lorraine Miner

“So, Christ has truly set us free. Now make sure that you stay free, and don’t get tied up again in slavery to the law...¹³ For you have been called to live in freedom, my brothers and sisters. But don’t use your freedom to satisfy your sinful nature. Instead, use your freedom to serve one another in love. ¹⁴ For the whole law can be summed up in this one command: “Love your neighbor as yourself.” ¹⁵ But if you are always biting and devouring one another, watch out! Beware of destroying one another.

¹⁶ So I say, let the Holy Spirit guide your lives. Then you won’t be doing what your sinful nature craves. ¹⁷ The sinful nature wants to do evil, which is just the opposite of what the Spirit wants. And the Spirit gives us desires that are the opposite of what the sinful nature desires. These two forces are constantly fighting each other, so you are not free to carry out your good intentions. ¹⁸ But when you are directed by the Spirit, you are not under obligation to the law of Moses.

¹⁹ When you follow the desires of your sinful nature, the results are very clear: sexual immorality, impurity, lustful pleasures, ²⁰ idolatry, sorcery, hostility, quarreling, jealousy, outbursts of anger, selfish ambition, dissension, division, ²¹ envy, drunkenness, wild parties, and other sins like these. Let me tell you again, as I have before, that anyone living that sort of life will not inherit the Kingdom of God.

²² But the Holy Spirit produces this kind of fruit in our lives: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, ²³ gentleness, and self-control. There is no law against these things! ²⁴ Those who belong to Christ Jesus have nailed the passions and desires of their sinful nature to his cross and crucified them there. ²⁵ Since we are living by the Spirit, let us follow the Spirit’s leading in every part of our lives.”

Message

Rev. Penni Farrington

Responding with Joy and Generosity

***Hymn of Response**

“Of All the Spirit’s Gifts to Me”

UMH #336

Prayers of the People & The Lord’s Prayer

Jami Breedlove-Crouch

Offering Our Gifts to God

Offertory

“Andantino”
by Flor Peters

Dr. John White, organ

***Doxology**

“Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow”

UMH #94

***Prayer of Dedication**

May these gifts offer a feast to those who hunger, kindness to those treated cruelly by the world, hope to those who have lost their way, and life to all who long for healing and peace. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

Going Forth to Serve and Bless

***Closing Hymn**

“Go Forth for God”

UMH #670

Announcements

***Dismissal with Blessing**

As we go, may we go as those who belong to Christ Jesus. We will:

Love our neighbor.

Find joy in simplicity.

Make peace with all.

Practice patience and kindness in our homes.

Offer goodness to those who don't deserve it; and allow our actions and words be guarded by self-control.

So, we go, bearing the fruit of the Spirit into all the world. **Amen.**

***Postlude**

“Trumpet Tune, called *Bonduca*”
by Henry Purcell

Dr. John White, organ

-----**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: Ruth Lovelace; Andrea Downing Zheng and family; Larry Roberts; Mary and Matthew Boardman. Pray for healing within the United Methodist Church as we live into the new reality of being a fully inclusive denomination.

Prayer requests will be published in the bulletin for four weeks. If you would like someone to remain on the list, contact Jami Breedlove-Crouch at lovingcare@stpaulsithaca.org or 607-269- 5509. Please remember that we also need permission from the person listed.

St. Paul's Ministries ~ Week of June 29th, 2025

Sunday, June 29th

10:30am – Worship – Sanctuary

11:30am – Coffee/Fellowship Time – Memorial Room

Monday, June 30th

Tuesday, July 1st

10:00am – Fiber Arts Group – Durham Room

Wednesday, July 2nd

6:00pm – Summer Sing Rehearsals - DR

Thursday, July 3rd

Friday, July 4th – Fourth of July

Church offices closed

Saturday, July 5th

Sunday, July 6th

10:30am – Worship with Communion

11:30am – Coffee/Fellowship Time – Memorial Room

Children and Worship – Children are always welcome in worship! To help keep small hands busy, we have books and toys on the black cart near the main sanctuary door. **Children ages 4-11 are invited to attend “Justice Explorers,” which will resume in September.**

Updates from Pastor Transition Team

During this time of transition, we're grateful for our guest pastors who are leading worship for us until Pastor Alicia's first Sunday, July 13. If there are needs for pastoral care during this transition time, there are local pastors providing on-call coverage; they can be accessed by contacting Jami Breedlove-Crouch at the church office. Pastor Alicia will be in the office starting July 7. The transition team will be planning small group “Meet & Greet” so that Pastor Alicia can get to know everyone in the congregation. Sign-up sheets will be available starting next Sunday, July 6, and the small group sessions will begin the week of July 14. If you would like to host a session in your home, there will be an opportunity to sign up for this as well. Initially, the sessions will be held at the church. We're excited for everyone to meet and welcome Pastor Alicia! If you have any questions about the transition, feel free to talk to, or email, Alice Meilman, Transition Team Chair, alicemeilman@gmail.com.

Reception for Pastor Alicia Following July 13th Service

Please come welcome our new Pastor Alicia Wood to our congregation by attending our picnic themed reception in the dining room downstairs after church. As usual, fun and fellowship will be the order of the day!

Celebration of Dick Tenney's Life to be Held July 19th

Please join friends and family in celebrating the life of Richard (Dick) Tenney on **Saturday, July 19th at 1:00pm** here at St. Paul's. If you're unable to attend, the service will be livestreamed at: <https://vimeo.com/event/3966326/77dc7ffe73>.

Our Staff

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

Jami Breedlove-Crouch / Loving Care Ministries Coordinator / lovingcare@stpaulsithaca.org

Deirdre Levine / Church Administrative Assistant & Communications / office@stpaulsithaca.org

Michelle Eells / Business & Building Ministries Coordinator / business@stpaulsithaca.org

Maia Finkel / Choral and Ensembles Director / choirdirector@stpaulsithaca.org

Molly MacMillan / Pianist / pianist@stpaulsithaca.org

David Kingsley / Technical Director / dkingsley@stpaulsithaca.org

Dorothy Preston / Festival Chimes Director / dpreston@stpaulsithaca.org

Sue Orzel / Custodian

“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

Find us at www.stpaulsithaca.org, Facebook and Instagram

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

Office Phone: 607-273-5971 Pastoral Care Phone: 607-269-5509

152 I Sing the Almighty Power of God

1. I sing the al-might - y power of God, that made the moun-tains
 2. I sing the good-ness of the Lord, who filled the earth with
 3. There's not a plant or flower be-low, but makes thy glo - ries

rise, that spread the flow-ing seas a-broad, and built the loft - y skies.
 food, who formed the crea-tures thru the Word, and then pro-nounced them good.
 known, and clouds a - rise, and tem-pests blow, by or - der from thy throne;

I sing the wis-dom that or-dained the sun to rule the day;
 Lord, how thy won-ders are dis-played, wher - e'er I turn my eye,
 while all that bor-rows life from thee is ev - er in thy care;

the moon shines full at God's com-mand, and all the stars o - bey.
 if I sur-vey the ground I tread, or gaze up - on the sky.
 and ev - ery-where that we can be, thou, God, art pres - ent there.

336

Of All the Spirit's Gifts to Me

1. Of all the Spir - it's gifts to me, I
 2. The Spir - it shows me love's the root of
 3. The Spir - it shows if I pos - sess a
 4. Though what's a - head is mys - ter - y, and
 5. We go in peace, but made a - ware that,

pray that I may nev - er cease to take and
 ev - ery gift sent from a - bove, of ev - ery
 love no e - vil can de - stroy; how - ev - er
 life it - self is ours on lease, each day the
 in a need - y world like this, our clear - est

treasure most these three: love, joy, and peace.
 flower, of ev - ery fruit, that God is love.
 great is my dis - tress, then this is joy.
 Spir - it says to me, "Go forth in peace!"
 pur - pose is to share love, joy, and peace.

94 Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow

Unison

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise

Harmony

God, all creatures here below: Al-le-lu-ia! Al-le-

Unison

lu-ia! Praise God, the source of all our gifts! Praise

Harmony

Je-sus Christ, whose power uplifts! Praise the Spir-it, Ho-ly Spir-it!

WORDS: Thomas Ken, 1674; adapt. by Gilbert H. Vieira, 1978

MUSIC: *Geistliche Kirchengesänge*, 1623; harm. by Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1906

LASST UNS ERFREUEN

88.44.88 with Refrain

Unison

Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

The image shows a musical score for a unison setting of 'Alleluia'. It consists of two staves: a treble clef staff on top and a bass clef staff on the bottom. The key signature is one flat (B-flat major or D minor). The melody is written in a simple, homophonic style. The lyrics 'Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!' are centered between the two staves. The first staff begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat. The second staff begins with a bass clef and the same key signature. The music is written in a single system, with the two staves connected by a brace on the left. The lyrics are aligned with the notes of the melody. The first staff has a treble clef and a key signature of one flat. The second staff has a bass clef and the same key signature. The music is written in a single system, with the two staves connected by a brace on the left. The lyrics are aligned with the notes of the melody.

Go Forth for God

1. Go forth for God, go to the world in peace;
 2. Go forth for God, go to the world in love;
 3. Go forth for God, go to the world in strength;
 4. Go forth for God, go to the world in joy,

be of good cour - age, armed with heaven - ly grace,
 strength - en the faint, give cour - age to the weak;
 hold fast the good, be ur - gent for the right;
 to serve God's peo - ple ev - ery day and hour,

in God's good Spir - it dai - ly to in - crease,
 help the af - flict - ed; rich - ly from a - bove
 ren - der to no one e - vil; Christ at length
 and serv - ing Christ, our ev - ery gift em - ploy,

till in the king - dom we see face to face.
 God's love sup - plies the grace and power we seek.
 shall o - ver - come all dark - ness with his light.
 re - joic - ing in the Ho - ly Spir - it's power.

WORDS: John R. Peacey, 1975

MUSIC: *Genevan Psalter*, 1551; harm. by C. Winfred Douglas, 1940, alt.GENEVA 124
10 10.10 10.10

