



Saint Paul's United Methodist Church

*"A Compassionate Community Led
and Transformed by the Spirit."*

Sunday, August 3rd, 2025 - 10:30 AM Service

Eighth 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.*

Gathering as The Beloved Community

Gathering Music

"I Feel Something Dawning on Me"
by William H. Brewster

Molly MacMillan, piano

Greeting & Welcome

Pastor Alicia Wood

***Sharing Love and Peace with All**

Centering Music

"Open Your Eyes, You Can Fly"
by Chick Corea

*Molly MacMillan, vocals
Alejandro Bernard-Papacryssanthou
piano*

***Call to Worship (in unison)**

**Creating God,
you called forth all that exists
in a moment of divine brilliance.
Open us again to that spark which you ignited
in each of us at our creation
so that we might generate more life-giving energy in this world.
Draw us into your story of hope.
Give us the courage to dream.
Amen.**

***Singing Together**

"God Who Stretched the Spangled Heavens"

UMH #150

A Message for All God's Children

Pastor Alicia Wood

Special Music

"Center of My Joy"
by Richard Smallwood

*Alejandro Bernard-Papacryssanthou
vocals
Molly MacMillan, piano*

Encountering God Through the Word

Contemporary Reading

"There is a Vitality"
by Martha Graham

David McElrath

**"There is a vitality, a life-force, an energy, a quickening,
that is translated through you into action.**

**And because there is only one of you in all of time, this expression is unique
And if you block it... the world will not have it.**

**It is not your business to determine how good it is, nor how valuable nor how it compares with other
expressions**

It is your business to keep it yours clearly and directly, to keep the channel open...

whether you choose to take an art class, keep a journal, record your dreams, dance your story
or live each day from your own creative source.
Above all else, keep the channel open!"

Scripture Reading

Luke 4: 13-21 (CEB)

David McElrath

Jesus returned in the power of the Spirit to Galilee, and news about him spread throughout the whole countryside. He taught in their synagogues and was praised by everyone. Jesus went to Nazareth, where he had been raised. On the Sabbath he went to the synagogue as he normally did and stood up to read. The synagogue assistant gave him the scroll from the prophet Isaiah. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it is written:

*The Spirit of the Lord is upon me,
because the Lord has anointed me.
He has sent me to preach the good news to the poor,
to proclaim the release of prisoners,
and recovery of sight to the blind,
to liberate the oppressed,
and to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor.*

He rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the synagogue assistant, and sat down. Every eye in the synagogue was fixed on him. He began to explain to them, "Today, this scripture has been fulfilled as you heard it."
Hear What the Spirit is Saying to the Church!

Thanks be to God!

Message

Pastor Alicia Wood

Responding with Joy and Generosity

***Hymn of Response**

"Be Thou My Vision"

UMH #451

Prayers of the People

Jami Breedlove-Crouch

Offering Our Gifts to God

Offertory

"Gentle Rain" *Molly MacMillan, alto recorder*
by Louis Bonfa *Alejandro Bernard-Papacryssanthou, piano*

Doxology

"Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow"

UMH #94

Prayer of Dedication

Pastor Alicia Wood

Sacrament of Holy Communion

Holy Holy Creating God! **Holy Holy Creating God!**
Everywhere we see your glory! **Everywhere we see your glory!**
Blessed are they who are drawn in. **Blessed are they who are drawn in.**
Singing the heart song of love! **Singing the heart song of love!**

Your creativity knows no bounds and in the fullness of time
you came to us fashioned in our own flesh and blood.

In sending Jesus you created human and holy connection
and showed us what love looks like in public:

preaching good news to the poor,
proclaiming release to the captives
recovering sight to the blind,
setting at liberty those who are oppressed.

Jesus promised to continue this work
through a new covenant of creativity—
sending his Spirit to remain and move in and through us.

On the night in which he gave himself up for us,
he took bread, gave thanks to you,

broke the bread,
gave it to his disciples, and said:
“Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you.
Do this in remembrance of me.”

When the supper was over, he took the cup,
gave thanks to you, gave it to his disciples, and said:
“Drink from this, all of you;
this is my blood of the new covenant,
poured out for you and for many
for the forgiveness of sins.
Do this, as often as you drink it,
in remembrance of me.”

And so, what shall *we* do?

Pour out your Holy Spirit upon us in this moment
so that we might know your presence and power in our lives.
Make us one so that we can co-create your reign on earth as it is in heaven.

Let this bread and fruit of the vine fill us with your Spirit
for the work and play of loving creation and each other fully.

Amen!

The Lord’s Prayer

Invitation to Christ’s Table

Sharing the Bread and Cup

All are invited and welcome to receive the sacrament of Holy Communion.

The common bread is gluten free and vegan.

The common cup contains no sugar added juice.

If you are unable to come forward, the elements may be brought to you at your seat.

Prayer After Communion

Going Forth to Serve and Bless

***Closing Hymn**

“Loving Spirit”

FWS #2123

Announcements

***Dismissal with Blessing**

***Postlude**

“Solfeggio”
by J.C.F Bach

Molly MacMillan, piano

St. Paul’s Ministries ~ Week of August 3rd, 2025

Sunday, August 3rd

10:30am – Worship with Communion - Sanctuary

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

Monday, August 4th

Tuesday, August 5th

10:00am – Staff Meeting - ZOOM

Wednesday, August 6th

6:30pm – Commemoration of Dropping the A Bomb –
DeWitt Park

Thursday, August 7th

Friday, August 8th

Church offices closed

Saturday, August 9th

Sunday, August 10th

10:30am – Worship - Sanctuary

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

-----PRAYERS-----

For **Prayer Chain Requests**, confidential concerns seen only by those who participate in the Prayer Chain, please contact Jami Breedlove-Crouch at: lovingcare@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.

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 “Faith Explorers,” which will resume in September.**

“Ask the Pastor” – Lunch and Conversation, Sunday Aug. 17th

Want to know more about our new Pastor Alicia? For example: What’s her favorite summertime activity? What keeps her up at night? Better yet, what are *your* questions? Stay after church on **Sunday, August 17** and join Pastor Alicia for lunch and conversation in the downstairs (air conditioned!) dining room from **12-1:30pm**. A light lunch (sandwich fixings, veggies, sweets) will be provided by the Lay Leadership Team. No need to make a reservation; just come—and don’t forget your questions! Hope to see you there.

Concert for a Good Cause

Rock Voices, a rock music chorus (featuring our very own Jackson Robinson) will be giving a concert to raise money for the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation on **Saturday, August 16th at 7pm** at the First Unitarian Society (306 N. Aurora St., Ithaca). This year they’ll be singing all "One Hit Wonders," so if you haven't heard A-Ha's "Take on Me" or Bobby Day's "Rockin' Robin" for awhile, you might want to check out this show! Tickets available at the door and at Eventbrite Tickets: @20/\$15/\$10 (Children 12 and under are free). Further info at www.Rockvoices.com.

Commemoration of Dropping the Atomic Bomb This Wednesday

The Ithaca Catholic Worker and the Society of Friends (Quakers) invite you to a gathering in DeWitt Park (102 E. Court Street) **this Wednesday, August 6th at 6:30pm** to commemorate the 80th anniversary of the bombings of Hiroshima (Aug. 6th, 1945) and Nagasaki (Aug. 9th, 1945). There will be prayer, song, silent reflection, and sharing. The gathering is to remember, to ask for forgiveness, to work for nuclear abolition, and to pass on our desire for peace for future generations. Arrive at 5:30 PM to make origami peace cranes and posters. Bring a chair if you would like.

Our Staff

Rev. Alicia (Pastor Alicia) Wood / Senior Pastor / pastor@stpaulsithaca.org

Jami Breedlove-Crouch / Loving Care Ministries Coordinator /

lovingcare@stpaulsithaca.org

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

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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 United Methodist Church, A Reconciling Congregation

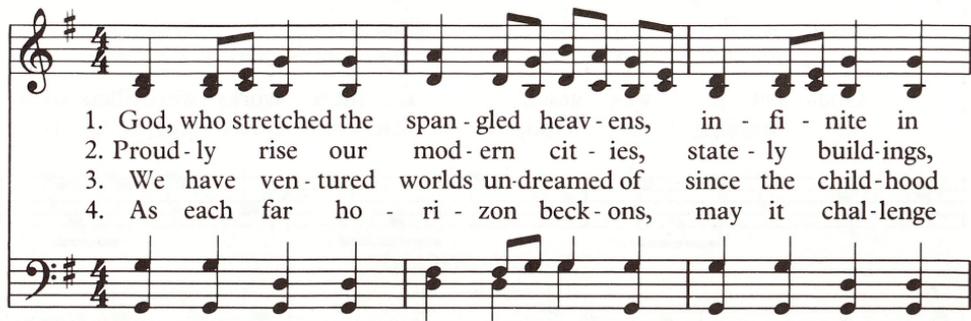
402 North Aurora Street, Ithaca, NY

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

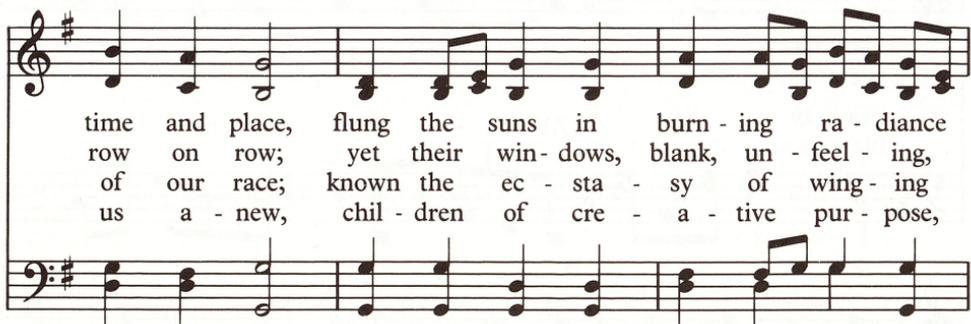
Church Office Hours are 9:00 AM-12:00 PM Sunday – Thursday

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

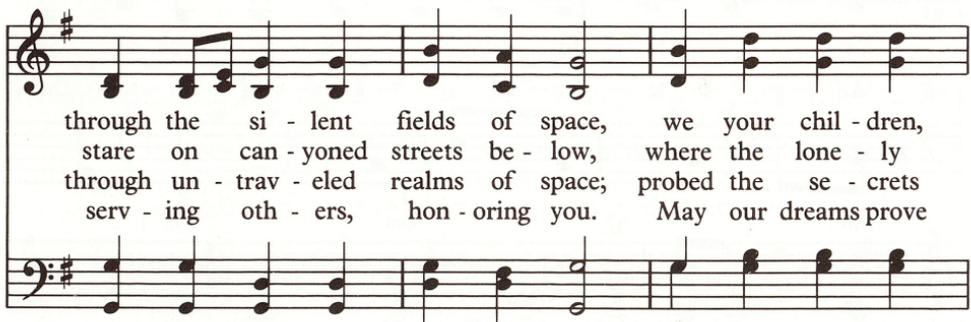
150 God, Who Stretched the Spangled Heavens



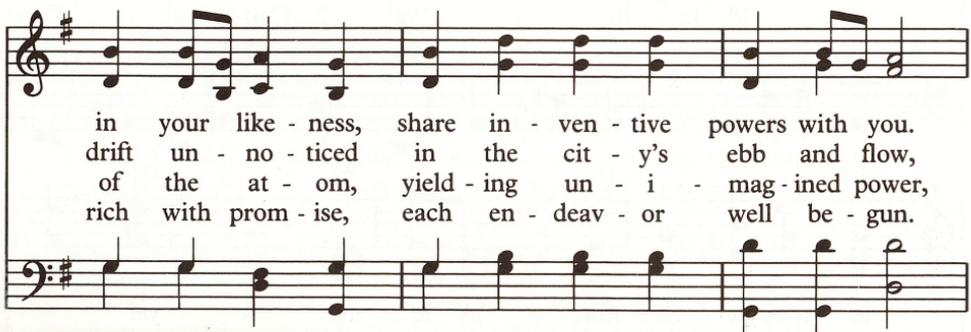
1. God, who stretched the span-gled heav-ens, in-fi-nite in
2. Proud-ly rise our mod-ern cit-ies, state-ly build-ings,
3. We have ven-tured worlds un-dreamed of since the child-hood
4. As each far ho-ri-zon beck-ons, may it chal-lenge



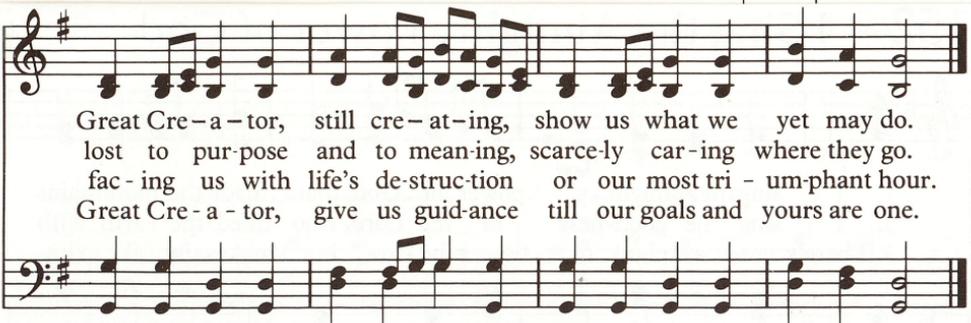
time and place, flung the suns in burn-ing ra-diance
row on row; yet their win-dows, blank, un-feel-ing,
of our race; known the ec-sta-sy of wing-ing
us a-new, chil-dren of cre-a-tive pur-pose,



through the si-lent fields of space, we your chil-dren,
stare on can-yoned streets be-low, where the lone-ly
through un-trav-eled realms of space; probed the se-crets
serv-ing oth-ers, hon-oring you. May our dreams prove



in your like-ness, share in-ven-tive powers with you.
drift un-noticed in the cit-y's ebb and flow,
of the at-om, yield-ing un-i-mag-ined power,
rich with prom-ise, each en-deav-or well be-gun.



Great Cre-a-tor, still cre-at-ing, show us what we yet may do.
lost to pur-pose and to mean-ing, scarce-ly car-ing where they go.
fac-ing us with life's de-struc-tion or our most tri-um-phiant hour.
Great Cre-a-tor, give us guid-ance till our goals and yours are one.

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.
 still be my vi - sion, O Rul - er of all.

94 Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow

Unison

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise

Harmony

God, all creatures here below: Alleluia! Alleluia!

Unison

Alleluia! Praise God, the source of all our gifts! Praise

Harmony

Jesus Christ, whose power uplifts! Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit!

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

Loving Spirit

2123

1., 5. Lov - ing Spir - it, lov - ing Spir - it, you have
 2. Like a moth - er you en - fold me, hold my
 3. Like a fa - ther you pro - tect me, teach me
 4. Friend and lov - er, in your close - ness I am

cho - sen me to be — you have drawn me to your
 life with - in your own, feed me with your ver - y
 the dis - cern - ing eye, hoist me up up - on your
 known and held and blessed: In your prom - ise is my

won - der, you have set your sign on me.
 bod - y, form me of your flesh and bone.
 shoul - der, let me see the world from high.
 com - fort, in your pres - ence I may rest.

WORDS: Shirley Erena Murray

MUSIC: V. Earle Copes

KINGDOM

87.87

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