



**Saint Paul's United Methodist Church**  
"A Compassionate Community Led and Transformed by the Spirit."  
**Sunday, August 31st, 2025 - 10:30 AM Service**  
**Twelfth 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.*

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

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**Gathering as The Beloved Community**

- Gathering Music** "Everything's Alright" *Molly MacMillan, piano*  
by Andrew Lloyd Webber/Tim Rice
- Greeting & Welcome** *Pastor Alicia Wood*
- \*Sharing Love and Peace with All**
- Centering Music** "Musette" *Molly MacMillan, piano*  
by J.S.Bach
- \*Opening Prayer** (in unison)  
**Active and Restful God,**  
**your heart is our heart, your rhythm is our rhythm.**  
**Open us to the place of rest and celebration in the rhythm of our lives.**  
**Draw us into delight.**  
**Give us the courage to breathe deeply.**  
**Amen.**
- \*Singing Together** "This is A Day of New Beginnings" *UMH #383*
- A Message for All God's Children** *Pastor Alicia Wood*
- Special Music** "Summertime" *Molly MacMillan, piano*  
by George Gershwin/Dubose Heyward *Max Kuhnel, vocals*

**Encountering God Through the Word**

- Contemporary Reading** *Linda Yetter*  
**"Take It In" by Marcia McFee**  
It is time  
time to take it in  
take in the beauty  
take in the wonder  
take in the consequences

take in the meaning

it is time

when work has worn us

before its torn us

before we quit

it is time

take it in

to our heart

our lives

our longing

take it in and rock it

love it

let it go

all this making, creating, anticipating

it is time

it takes time

so now is the time

to rest

### **Scripture Reading**

**Exodus 20: 8-11 (CEB)**

*Linda Yetter*

“Remember the sabbath day, and keep it holy. Six days you shall labor and do all your work. But the seventh day is a sabbath to the Lord your God; you shall not do any work—you, your son or your daughter, your male or female slave, your livestock, or the alien resident in your towns. For in six days the Lord made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them, but rested the seventh day; therefore the Lord blessed the sabbath day and consecrated it.”

Hear What the Spirit is Saying to the Church!

**Thanks be to God!**

### **Message**

“Rest”

*Pastor Alicia Wood*

### **Responding with Joy and Generosity**

#### **\*Hymn of Response**

“Great is Thy Faithfulness”

UMH #140

#### **Prayers of the People & The Lord’s Prayer**

*Jami Breedlove-Crouch*

#### **Offering Our Gifts to God**

#### **Offertory**

“Come and Rest”

*Molly MacMillan, piano*

by Dwan Hill, Jessica Ray Langdon, & Taylor Loenhardt

#### **\*Doxology**

“Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow”

UMH #94

#### **Prayer of Dedication**

### **Going Forth to Serve and Bless**

#### **\*Closing Hymn**

“Love Divine, All Loves Excelling”

UMH #384

## Announcements

### \*Dismissal with Blessing

### \*Postlude

“Take Five”  
by Dave Brubeck

*Molly MacMillan, piano*

### -----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](mailto:lovingcare@stpaulsithaca.org).

**Prayer Requests:** Linda Yetter; William Deming (nephew of Melissa Gould); 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](mailto:lovingcare@stpaulsithaca.org) or 607-269-5509. Please remember that we also need permission from the person listed.

### ***Festival Chimes Rehearsals Resume September 4th***

Interested in spending an hour each week making beautiful music on handbells? Festival Chimes will be resuming rehearsals **this Thursday, September 4th from 6-7p.m in the Sanctuary**. The Chimes play at services once each month, and are always looking for additional ringers and subs. If you can read music, we can teach you the necessary techniques! Please contact Dorothy Preston at [dpreston@stpaulsithaca.org](mailto:dpreston@stpaulsithaca.org) or 607-539-6293 if you're interested in joining the group or would like further information.

### ***St. Paul's Ministries ~ Week of August 31st, 2025***

#### **Sunday, August 31st**

10:30am – Worship - Sanctuary

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

#### **Monday, September 1st-Labor Day**

Office closed for Labor Day

#### **Tuesday, September 2nd**

10:00am – Staff Meeting - ZOOM

#### **Wednesday, September 3rd**

7:00pm – SPRC - ZOOM

#### **Thursday, September 4th**

6:00pm – Festival Chimes – Bell Room Choir

7:15pm – Chancel Choir - Sanctuary

#### **Friday, September 5th**

Church offices closed

#### **Saturday, September 6th -Trustees Day**

9:00am – Trustees Day – St. Paul's

#### **Sunday, September 7th**

10:30am – Worship w/Communion - Sanctuary

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

11:45am – Faith Explorers Planning Picnic – Dining 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 “Faith Explorers,” which resumes on September 21<sup>st</sup>.**

### **Chancel Choir Resumes Rehearsals This Week**

The Chancel Choir welcomes new members! Rehearsals are on **Thursdays from 7:15-8:30pm starting this week on September 4**, with performances 2-3 times a month at services. Singers of all ability levels are invited to join. If you're interested in raising your voice in song or have any questions, please email Maia Finkel at [choirdirector@stpaulsithaca.org](mailto:choirdirector@stpaulsithaca.org).

### **Grab a Rake—Trustees Work Day is Next Saturday**

Volunteers are needed to assist with the landscaping around the church before the cooler weather arrives. We also want St. Paul's looking as beautiful as possible before Porchfest on September 21<sup>st</sup>! If you can help, grab your garden gloves and come along to St. Paul's **next Saturday, Sept. 6<sup>th</sup> from 9am-12pm**. Many hands make light work, so the more help we get, the better! Thanks in advance.

### **OAM Dinner to Learn About Lifelong**

The St. Paul's Older Adult Ministry (OAM) team invites you to join them on **Tuesday, Sept. 9 from 4-6pm** in the Community Room at Library Place (Corner of Cayuga & Court Street-Use Cayuga St. entrance) for a light sandwich supper and to learn about the many activities and opportunities at Lifelong. A tour of Library Place will be offered after the program. Free parking is available in the Lifelong parking lot. Please look for an Evite or contact Dee in the church office (607-273-5971) by September 7<sup>th</sup> if you'd like to attend.

### **Our Staff**

**Rev. Alicia (Pastor Alicia) Wood** / Senior Pastor / [pastor@stpaulsithaca.org](mailto:pastor@stpaulsithaca.org)  
**Jami Breedlove-Crouch** / Loving Care Ministries Coordinator / [lovingcare@stpaulsithaca.org](mailto:lovingcare@stpaulsithaca.org)  
**Dee Levine** / Church Administrative Assistant & Communications / [office@stpaulsithaca.org](mailto:office@stpaulsithaca.org)  
**Michelle Eells** / Business & Building Ministries Coordinator / [business@stpaulsithaca.org](mailto:business@stpaulsithaca.org)  
**Maia Finkel** / Choral and Ensembles Director / [choirdirector@stpaulsithaca.org](mailto:choirdirector@stpaulsithaca.org)  
**Molly MacMillan** / Pianist / [pianist@stpaulsithaca.org](mailto:pianist@stpaulsithaca.org)  
**David Kingsley** / Technical Director / [dkingsley@stpaulsithaca.org](mailto:dkingsley@stpaulsithaca.org)  
**Dorothy Preston** / Festival Chimes Director / [dpreston@stpaulsithaca.org](mailto: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](http://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

# This Is a Day of New Beginnings 383

*Unison*

1. This is a day of new be - gin - nings,  
 2. For by the life and death of Je - sus,  
 3. Then let us, with the Spir - it's dar - ing,  
 4. Christ is a - live, and goes be - fore us  
 \*5. In faith we'll gath - er round the ta - ble

time to re - mem - ber and move on,  
 God's might - y Spir - it, now as then,  
 step from the past and leave be - hind  
 to show and share what love can do.  
 to taste and share what love can do.

time to be - lieve what love is bring - ing,  
 can make for us a world of dif - ference,  
 our dis - ap - point - ment, guilt, and griev - ing,  
 This is a day of new be - gin - nings;  
 This is a day of new be - gin - nings;

1-3

4 or 5

lay - ing to rest the pain that's gone.  
 as faith and hope are born a - gain.  
 seek - ing new paths, and sure to find.  
 our God is mak - ing all things new.  
 our God is mak - ing all things new.

*\*Alternate text for Holy Communion*

WORDS: Brian Wren, 1978; alt. 1987 (Rev. 21:5)

MUSIC: Carlton R. Young, 1984

BEGINNINGS

98.98

Words © 1983, 1987 Hope Publishing Co.; music © 1987 Hope Publishing Co.

## Great Is Thy Faithfulness

1. Great is thy faith-ful-ness, O God my Fa-ther; there is no  
 2. Sum-mer and win-ter and spring-time and har-vest, sun, moon, and  
 3. Par-don for sin and a peace that en - dur-eth, thine own dear

shad - ow of turn - ing with thee; thou chang-est not, thy com -  
 stars in their cours - es a - bove join with all na - ture in  
 pres - ence to cheer and to guide; strength for to - day and bright

pas-sions, they fail not; as thou hast been, thou for - ev - er wilt be.  
 man-i - fold wit-ness to thy great faith-ful-ness, mer-cy, and love.  
 hope for to - mor-row, blessings all mine, with ten thou-sand be - side!

*Refrain*

Great is thy faith-ful-ness! Great is thy faith-ful-ness! Morn-ing by

morn-ing new mer-cies I see; all I have need-ed thy

hand hath pro-vid-ed; great is thy faith-ful-ness, Lord, un-to me!

## 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), and the time signature is 4/4. 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, a key signature of one flat, and a common time signature. The melody starts on a G4 note and moves through various intervals, including a half note, a quarter note, and a dotted quarter note. The second staff begins with a bass clef, a key signature of one flat, and a common time signature. The bass line starts on a G3 note and moves through various intervals, including a half note, a quarter note, and a dotted quarter note. The piece concludes with a double bar line at the end of the second staff.

## 384 Love Divine, All Loves Excelling

1. Love di - vine, all loves ex - cell - ing, joy of heaven, to  
 2. Breathe, O breathe thy lov - ing Spir - it in - to ev - ery  
 3. Come, Al - might - y to de - liv - er, let us all thy  
 4. Fin - ish, then, thy new cre - a - tion; pure and spot - less

earth come down; fix in us thy hum - ble dwell - ing;  
 trou - bled breast! Let us all in thee in - her - it;  
 life re - ceive; sud - den - ly re - turn and nev - er,  
 let us be. Let us see thy great sal - va - tion

all thy faith - ful mer - cies crown! Je - sus, thou art  
 let us find that sec - ond rest. Take a - way our  
 nev - er - more thy tem - ples leave. Thee we would be  
 per - fect - ly re - stored in thee; changed from glo - ry

all com - pas - sion, pure, un - bound - ed love thou art; vis - it  
 bent to sin - ning; Al - pha and O - me - ga be; end of  
 al - ways bless - ing, serve thee as thy hosts a - bove, pray and  
 in - to glo - ry, till in heaven we take our place, till we

## REBIRTH AND THE NEW CREATURE



us with thy sal - va - tion; en - ter ev - ery trem - bling heart.  
faith, as its be - gin - ning, set our hearts at lib - er - ty.  
praise thee with - out ceas - ing, glo - ry in thy per - fect love.  
cast our crowns be - fore thee, lost in won - der, love, and praise.

