



Saint Paul's United Methodist Church
"A Compassionate Community Led and Transformed by the Spirit."
Sunday, September 14th, 2025 - 10:30 AM Service
Fourteenth 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.

*Permission to reprint, podcast, and/or stream the music in this service obtained from ONE LICENSE with license # A-728210.
Movie and video permission with CVLI License #504298777.*

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

Gathering as The Beloved Community

Gathering Music

"Hope"
by Dave Davies

Molly MacMillan, piano

Greetings and Welcome

Pastor Alicia Wood

***Sharing Love and Peace with All**

Centering Music

"Psalm 14, Let Deliverance Come Out of Zion" *Maia Finkel, vocals*
by Karl Kohlhase *Molly MacMillan, piano & vocals*

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

We come seeking refuge in a world where goodness and good news can feel far away.

God is our hope and our refuge.

We come searching for safety in a world that often calls foolishness wisdom and wisdom foolishness.

God is our hope and our refuge.

We come longing for rest in a world that bombards us with all the ways people work against the abundant life and flourishing of their neighbors.

God is our hope and our refuge.

Come, children of God, to find refuge and hope in God who delivers and restores us.

May God teach us and guide us to find refuge and be refuge with and for our neighbors today and every day. Amen.

Written by Dr. Lisa Hancock, Discipleship Ministries, April 2025.

***Singing Together**

"God Weeps"

FWS #2048

A Message for All God's Children

Pastor Alicia Wood

Special Music

"Hope is a Thing with Feathers"
by Penny Rodriguez

Chancel Choir

Encountering God Through the Word

Scripture Reading

Psalm 14 (CEB)

David McElrath

Fools say in their hearts, There is no God.
They are corrupt and do evil things;
not one of them does anything good.

² The Lord looks down from heaven on humans
to see if anyone is wise,
to see if anyone seeks God,

³ but all of them have turned bad.
Everyone is corrupt.
No one does good—
not even one person!

⁴ Are they dumb, all these evildoers,
devouring my people
like they are eating bread
but never calling on the Lord?

⁵ Count on it:^[a] they will be in utter panic
because God is with the righteous generation.

⁶ You evildoers may humiliate
the plans of those who suffer,
but the Lord is their refuge.

⁷ Let Israel's salvation come out of Zion!
When the Lord changes
his people's circumstances for the better,
Jacob will rejoice;
Israel will celebrate!

Hear What the Spirit is Saying to the Church!
Thanks be to God!

Message

“Hope”

Pastor Alicia Wood

Responding with Joy and Generosity

*Hymn of Response

“Now Praise the Hidden God of Love”

FWS #2027

Prayers of the People & The Lord's Prayer

Karen Kaufmann

Offering Our Gifts to God

Offertory

“Saraband”
by Jason Sifford

Molly MacMillan, piano

*Doxology

“Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow”

UMH #94

*Prayer of Dedication (in unison)

Steadfast and sheltering God, you are our refuge in every age, our hope when foolishness abounds and justice seems far off. Even when the world disappoints,

you call us to faithfulness, to community, to generosity that reflects your own heart. Receive these offerings as signs of our trust in you and our desire to live differently, to live redemptively, and to live hopefully. Use them—and us—for the good that ripples outward, for the healing of hearts and the strengthening of your people. We give not because all is well but because you are good. Amen.

Going Forth to Serve and Bless

***Closing Hymn**

“Amazing Grace”

UMH #378

Announcements

***Dismissal with Blessing**

***Postlude**

“Corrente”
by Jason Sifford

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.

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 or 607-269-5509. Please remember that we also need permission from the person listed.

St. Paul's Ministries ~ Week of September 14th, 2025

Sunday, September 14th

10:30am - Worship - Sanctuary
11:30am – Coffee/Fellowship Time – Memorial Room
11:45am – Faith Explorers Fall Family Gathering -
Parsonage

Monday, September 15th

Tuesday, September 16th

10:00am – Staff Meeting – ZOOM
7:00pm – Church Council - ZOOM

Wednesday, September 17th

Thursday, September 18th

10:00am – Crafter's Group – Durham Room
6:00pm – Festival Chimes Rehearsal – Sanctuary
7:15pm – Chancel Choir Rehearsal – Dining Room

Friday, September 19th

Church offices closed

Saturday, September 20th

Sunday, September 21st

10:30am – Worship - Sanctuary
10:45am – Faith Explorers – Room 115, Main
Floor
11:30am – Coffee/Fellowship Time – Memorial
Room
12:00pm – 6:00pm – Porchfest and Ministry Fair!

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 next Sunday, September 21st following the “Message for Children” portion of worship.**

Porchfest and Ministry Fair Next Sunday!

Ithaca’s Annual Porchfest will be held **next Sunday, September 21, from 12-6pm**. We’re looking for volunteers to hand out water as well as monitor our building’s restrooms which will be open to the public. To volunteer, contact Jami Breedlove Crouch at lovingcare@stpaulsithaca.org. Not coincidentally, St. Paul’s will also be hosting its **Ministry Fair from 12-1pm**. Display tables will be set up in the hallways highlighting each unique area of ministry and will remain on display from 12-6pm so that anyone wandering in during Porchfest can check out what we’re all about. Volunteers are needed to greet guests as well as host tables. Contact Jami Breedlove-Crouch at lovingcare@stpaulsithaca.org for more info and/or to sign up as a volunteer.

Come Get Your Animals Blessed on September 27th

We’ll be offering the community the opportunity to have their pets blessed by Pastor Alicia on **Saturday, September 27th from 9:30am-10:30am** at the corner of N. Aurora and E. Court Streets. Pets are precious members of our families. We celebrate these creatures who give us so much affection, love, and comfort by offering a special blessing and prayer. All creatures great and small are welcome! Volunteers are needed to help distribute critter treats, take-home blessings, and special information about St. Paul’s Church and its ministries. Contact Pastor Alicia to sign up to help.

New Artwork Display in Welcome Room

Please stop by the Welcome Room to check out our latest exhibit, a collection of beautiful oil paintings by fellow SPUMC’er Carolyn Beyers. Carolyn and her husband Steve have been attending St. Paul’s since 2001. The works are eclectic, including everything from early impressionist pieces to family inspired outings to family pets. Don’t miss it!

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
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 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

2048

God Weeps



1. God weeps at love with - held, at strength mis -
 2. God bleeds at an - ger's fist, at trust be -
 3. God cries at hun - gry mouths, at run - ning
 4. God waits for stones to melt, for peace to



used, at chil - dren's in - no - cence a - bused,
 trayed, at wom - en bat - tered and a - fraid,
 sores, at crea - tures dy - ing with - out cause,
 seed, for hearts to hold each oth - er's need,



and till we change the way we love, God weeps.
 and till we change the way we win, God bleeds.
 and till we change the way we care, God cries.
 and till we un - der - stand the Christ, God waits.

WORDS: Shirley Erena Murray

MUSIC: Carlton R. Young

HIROSHIMA

64.8 10

2027 Now Praise the Hidden God of Love



1. Now praise the hid - den God of love, in whom we
2. Who chal - lenged us, when we were young, to storm the
3. Who bids us nev - er lose our zest, though age is



all must live and move, who shep - herds us at ev - 'ry
cit - a - dels of wrong; in care for oth - ers taught us
urg - ing us to rest, but proves to us that we have



stage, through youth, ma - tur - i - ty, and age:
how God's true com - mun - i - ty must grow:
still a work to do, a place to fill.

WORDS: Fred Pratt Green (Acts 17:23-28)

MUSIC: English folk melody

Words © 1982 Hope Publishing Co.

© WALY WALY
LM

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

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 and a B-flat key signature. The second staff begins with a bass clef and the same key signature. The music is written in a unison style, with the same notes appearing on both staves. The lyrics are: 'Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!'. The first two phrases are followed by a long dash, and the third phrase is followed by a long dash and 'ia!'. The music ends with a double bar line.

Amazing Grace

1. A - maz - ing grace! How sweet the sound that
 2. 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, and
 3. Through man - y dan - gers, toils, and snares, I
 4. The Lord has prom - ised good to me, his
 5. Yea, when this flesh and heart shall fail, and
 6. When we've been there ten thou - sand years, bright

saved a wretch like me! I once was lost, but
 grace my fears re - lieved; how pre - cious did that
 have al - read - y come; 'tis grace hath brought me
 word my hope se - cures; he will my shield and
 mor - tal life shall cease, I shall pos - sess, with -
 shin - ing as the sun, we've no less days to

now am found; was blind, but now I see.
 grace ap - pear the hour I first be - lieved.
 safe thus far, and grace will lead me home.
 por - tion be, as long as life en - dures.
 in the veil, a life of joy and peace.
 sing God's praise than when we'd first be - gun.

Cherokee

OOH NAY THLA NAH, HEE OO WAY GEE.
 E GAH GWOO YAH HAY EE.
 NAW GWOO JOE SAH, WE YOU LOW SAY,
 E GAH GWOO YAH HO NAH.

Navajo

NIZHÓNÍGO JOOBA' DIITS' A'
 YISDÁSHÍINÍGÍ,
 LAH YÓÓFYÁ, K'AD SHÉNÁHOOSDZIN,
 DOO EESH'ÍÍ DA NT'ÉÉ.

Kiowa

DAW K'EE DA HA DAWTSAHY HE TSOW'HAW
 DAW K'EE DA HA DAWTSAHY HEE.
 BAY DAWTSAHY TAW, GAW AYM OW THAH T'AW,
 DAW K'EE DA HA DAWTSAHY H'EE.

Creek

PO YA FEK CHA HE THLAT AH TET
 AH NON AH CHA PA KAS
 CHA FEE KEE O FUNNAN LA KUS
 UM E HA TA LA YUS.

Choctaw

SHILOMBISH HOLITOPA MA!
 ISHMINTI PULLA CHA
 HATAK ILBUSA PIA HA
 IS PI YUKPALASHKE.

WORDS: John Newton, 1779; st. 6 anon.; phonetic transcription Cherokee, Kiowa, AMAZING GRACE
 Creek, Choctaw as sung in Oklahoma Indian Missionary Conference; Navajo phonetic CM
 transcription by Albert Tsosie (1 Chr. 17:16-17)
 MUSIC: 19th cent. USA melody; harm. by Edwin O. Excell, 1900