



**Saint Paul's United Methodist Church**  
"A Compassionate Community Led and Transformed by the Spirit."  
**Sunday, September 21st, 2025 - 10:30 AM Service**  
***Fifteenth 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** "It is Well with My Soul" *Sondra Wayman, organ*  
arr. by C. Callahan

**Greetings and Welcome** *Pastor Alicia Wood*

**\*Sharing Love and Peace with All**

**Centering Music** "The Ringing of the Bells" *Festival Chimes*

**\*Call to Worship**

When we are surrounded on every side, wondering which way is up and which way is down...

**Help us, God, for the glory of your name.**

When we question which way to go and how to follow God's path for us...

**Help us, God, for the glory of your name.**

When we find our rest in God and long for others to know the sweet peace of God's embrace...

**Help us, God, for the glory of your name.**

Today, as we gather for worship, may we come ready to listen and discern God's help that meets us right where we are.

**Help us, God, to receive your help and to extend your help to our neighbors, all for the glory of your name.**

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

**\*Singing Together** "All Who May Serve Your City" *UMH #433*

**A Message for All God's Children** *Pastor Alicia Wood*

**Special Music** "All Glory & Praise"  
by Howard F. Stark *Festival Chimes*

**Encountering God Through the Word**

**Scripture Reading** **Psalm 79: 1-9 (CEB)** *Dee Levine*

The nations have come into your inheritance, God!

They've defiled your holy temple.

They've made Jerusalem a bunch of ruins.  
 They've left your servants' bodies  
 as food for the birds;  
 they've left the flesh of your faithful  
 to the wild animals of the earth.  
 They've poured out the blood of the faithful  
 like water all around Jerusalem,  
 and there's no one left to bury them.  
 We've become a joke to our neighbors,  
 nothing but objects of ridicule  
 and disapproval to those around us.  
 How long will you rage, Lord? Forever?  
 How long will your anger burn like fire?  
 Pour out your wrath on the nations  
 who don't know you,  
 on the kingdoms  
 that haven't called on your name.  
 They've devoured Jacob  
 and demolished his pasture.  
 Don't remember the iniquities of past generations;  
 let your compassion hurry to meet us  
 because we've been brought so low.  
 God of our salvation, help us  
 for the glory of your name!  
 Deliver us and cover our sins  
 for the sake of your name!

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

**Message**

"What's the Truth"

*Pastor Alicia Wood*

**Responding with Joy and Generosity**

**\*Hymn of Response**

"It is Well with My Soul"

UMH #337

**Prayers of the People & The Lord's Prayer**

*Karen Kaufmann*

**Offering Our Gifts to God**

**Offertory**

"Pleading Savior"  
 arr. by C. Callahan

*Sondra Wayman, organ*

**\*Doxology**

"Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow"

UMH #94

**\*Prayer of Dedication** (in unison)

**Unshakable and merciful God, you meet us in the ruins just as surely as in times of rejoicing. When all feels lost, you are not. When we stumble for answers, you remain our refuge. Receive these gifts, given not from abundance alone but from hearts that still dare to trust. Let them be signs of your presence in broken places, tools of healing, hope, and grace in a hurting world. Help us live our praise, even in lament, as your people who believe in your goodness—still. Amen.**

### Going Forth to Serve and Bless

#### Announcements

**\*Closing Hymn** “May Peace Flow” *Insert*

**\*Dismissal with Blessing**

**\*Postlude** “The Heavens Declare” *Sondra Wayman, organ*  
by B. Marcello

#### -----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.

### ***St. Paul's Ministries ~ Week of September 21st, 2025***

#### **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!

#### **Monday, September 22nd**

#### **Tuesday, September 23rd**

#### **Wednesday, September 24th**

#### **Thursday, September 25th**

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

#### **Friday, September 26th**

Church offices closed

#### **Saturday, September 27th**

9:30am – Blessing of the Animals – Porch/Lawn  
2:00pm – Janet Sciscioli Celebration of Life & Reception – Sanctuary & Memorial Room

#### **Sunday, September 28th**

10:30am – Worship – Sanctuary  
10:45am – Faith Explorers – Room 115, Main Floor  
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 aged 4 to 11 are invited to participate in “Faith Explorers,” which resumes today following the “Message for Children” segment during worship.**

### ***Blessing of the Animals Next Saturday***

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.

### ***Book Group to Read “The Serviceberry” in October***

Looking for hope and a spirit of generosity in this season of increasing economic constraint and inequality? If so, join the Justice Seekers in October as they read Robin Wall Kimmerer's newest book, *The Serviceberry: Abundance and Reciprocity in the Natural World*. The book is a short, sweet, and inspiring meditation from the perspective of a Native American ecologist as she muses on the elements needed for a flourishing, nurturant, sustainable economy. To join, please sign up with the church office at [office@stpaulsithaca.org](mailto:office@stpaulsithaca.org). **Make sure to state your preference as to whether you'd like to participate via zoom or meet in person.** In return, you'll receive either a Zoom link or the address of an actual physical meeting place, in addition to info on libraries, bookstores, and discount mail order options for acquiring the book. *The Serviceberry* Book Group is scheduled to meet at 7pm on the following Mondays: October 13, 20, and 27<sup>th</sup>.

### ***Pastor Alicia to Offer New Bible Study in October***

Pastor Alicia will be facilitating her Bible Study "The Armor of God: Ephesians and Marvel," beginning in October. This study brings together the intersection of sacred texts and modern movies, highlighting the symbolism in the "Letter to the Ephesians" of the power of the Armor of God. The Marvel movies will illustrate how many of Marvel's female characters came to know their power and purpose. This study will be held on **Wednesdays via ZOOM from October 29 through December 3rd from 6-7pm.** Please RSVP with Dee the office ([office@stpaulsithaca.org](mailto:office@stpaulsithaca.org)) if you plan to attend. If more than 10 people sign up, an additional time will be offered.

***Flowers This Week Have Been Donated by Jami and Diana Breedlove-Crouch In Honor of Their 27<sup>th</sup> Anniversary.***

#### **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, New York

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

# All Who Love and Serve Your City 433

*Unison*

1. All who love and serve your cit - y, all who  
 2. In your day of loss and sor - row, in your  
 3. In your day of wealth and plen - ty, wast - ed  
 4. For all days are days of judg - ment, and the  
 5. Ris - en Lord, shall yet the cit - y be the

bear its dai - ly stress, all who cry for peace and  
 day of help - less strife, hon - or, peace, and love re -  
 work and wast - ed play, call to mind the word of  
 Lord is wait - ing still, draw - ing near to all who  
 cit - y of de - spair? Come to - day, our Judge, our

jus - tice, all who curse and all who bless:  
 treat - ing, seek the Lord, who is your life.  
 Je - sus, "Work ye yet while it is day."  
 spurn him, of - fering peace from Cal - vary's hill.  
 Glo - ry, be its name, "The Lord is there!"

WORDS: Erik Routley, 1966 (Lk. 19:41; Ezk. 48:35)

MUSIC: USA melody; harm. and arr. by Carlton R. Young, 1964

CHARLESTOWN

87.87

# Only Trust Him

337

1. Come, ev - ery soul by sin op - pressed, there's  
 2. For Je - sus shed his pre - cious blood rich  
 3. Yes, Je - sus is the truth, the way that  
 4. Come then and join this ho - ly band, and

mer - cy with the Lord; and he will sure - ly  
 bless - ings to be - stow; plunge now in - to the  
 leads you in - to rest; be - lieve in him with -  
 on to glo - ry go, to dwell in that ce -

give you rest, by trust - ing in his Word.  
 crim - son flood that wash - es bright as snow.  
 out de - lay, and you are ful - ly blest.  
 les - tial land where joys im - mor - tal flow.

*Refrain*

On - ly trust him, on - ly trust him, on - ly trust him now.

He will save you, he will save you, he will save you now.

## 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*

lu - ia! 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), and the time signature is common time (C). 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 a B-flat 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 exclamation points, and the third phrase ends with a period. The music is written in a simple, homophonic style, with the same notes appearing on both staves. The first staff begins with a treble clef and a B-flat key signature. The second staff begins with a bass clef and a B-flat 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 exclamation points, and the third phrase ends with a period.

# May Peace Flow

*Refrain*

May peace flow through me\_ as\_

mu-sic through\_ an in - strument, let it flow through me\_

\_ like the warmth\_ from\_ the sun,\_ may peace

flow through me\_ so that I may be\_ a ves-

- sel of the love of God\_ for ev - 'ry-one,\_

\_ for ev - 'ry-one.

*Fine*

The musical score consists of seven staves. The first staff is the vocal line, and the second staff is the piano accompaniment. The key signature has two flats (B-flat and E-flat), and the time signature is 4/4. The lyrics are written below the vocal line. The word 'Refrain' is written above the first staff. The word 'Fine' is written above the final staff. The piano accompaniment consists of a simple melody in the right hand and a bass line in the left hand.

From: *Roll Down, Justice!* (CGBK72).

Text: Lindy Thompson.

Music: *May Peace Flow*, by Mark A. Miller.

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Verses



1. Let me shine \_\_\_\_\_ love \_\_\_\_\_ where \_\_\_\_\_  
2. Use my life \_\_\_\_\_ as a light \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_  
3. It's through giv \_\_\_\_\_ ing \_\_\_\_\_



ha-tred's stain \_\_\_\_\_ has crept, \_\_\_\_\_ show for - give - ness where \_\_\_\_\_  
shine up - on \_\_\_\_\_ the path, \_\_\_\_\_ bring - ing joy \_\_\_\_\_ to those \_\_\_\_\_ in  
that we can \_\_\_\_\_ re - ceive, \_\_\_\_\_ it's through par - don - ing \_\_\_\_\_



an - cient scores \_\_\_\_\_ are kept, \_\_\_\_\_ speak the  
sor - row's af - ter - math, \_\_\_\_\_ con - so -  
that we are \_\_\_\_\_ set free. \_\_\_\_\_ Through our



truth \_\_\_\_\_ in love \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ ev - er cling \_\_\_\_\_ to faith, \_\_\_\_\_  
la - tion \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_ hearts that suf - fer pain, \_\_\_\_\_  
dy - ing \_\_\_\_\_ we are born \_\_\_\_\_ a - new \_\_\_\_\_



\_\_\_\_\_ bring a word \_\_\_\_\_ of hope \_\_\_\_\_ to hearts that long \_\_\_\_\_ for grace, \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ and with un - der - stand - ing show them love \_\_\_\_\_ a - gain, \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ to the bless - ing of \_\_\_\_\_ e - ter - nal life \_\_\_\_\_ with you, \_\_\_\_\_



\_\_\_\_\_ we long for grace. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ show love a - gain. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ life with you. \_\_\_\_\_