



Saint Paul's United Methodist Church
"A Compassionate Community Led and Transformed by the Spirit."
Sunday, October 5th, 2025 - 10:30 AM Service
World Communion Sunday



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

"El Feo"
(trad. Mexican folk song)

*Molly MacMillan, piano
Sue Terwilliger, guitar*

"Edelweiss"
by Rodgers & Hammerstein

Greetings and Welcome

Pastor Alicia Wood

***Sharing Love and Peace with All**

Centering Music

"You Raise Me Up"
by Brendan Graham/Rolf Lovland

*Molly MacMillan, piano
Sue Terwilliger, guitar*

***Call to Worship**

All: How good and pleasant it is for Christians to live together in unity!

Leader: Open the doors and shout greetings to the church across the street, Grace Episcopal and All Saints!

All: How good and pleasant it is for Christians to live together in unity!

Leader: Carry greetings across the railroad tracks to those we never meet.

All: How good and pleasant it is for Christians to live together in unity!

Leader: Send messages and e-mails to Good Christian Friends in Africa and Asia, South America and Europe!

All: How good and pleasant it is for Christians to live together in unity!

Extend your hand of fellowship to both the shelters and the mansions, to the projects and the gated communities.

All: How good and pleasant it is for Christians to live together in unity!

Leader: Reach out your arms to gather in the little ones and the not-so-little, the vulnerable and the ones who think they have to do it all on their own.

All: How good and pleasant it is for Christians to live together in unity!

Leader: Remember that we are one HUGE family!!!

All: How good and pleasant it is for Christians to live together in unity!

Adapted from Safiyah Fosua, The Africana Worship Book, Year B (Nashville: Discipleship Resources, 2007), 237.

***Singing Together**

"Faith, While Trees are Still in Blossom"

UMH #508

A Message for All God's Children

Pastor Alicia Wood

Special Music

“People Get Ready”
by Curtis Mayfield

Molly MacMillan, piano, vocals
Sue Terwilliger, guitar, vocals

Encountering God Through the Word**Scripture Reading****Luke 17: 5-10 (CEB)***Jen Morrill*

The apostles said to the Lord, “Increase our faith!”

The Lord replied, “If you had faith the size of a mustard seed, you could say to this mulberry tree, ‘Be uprooted and planted in the sea,’ and it would obey you.

“Would any of you say to your servant, who had just come in from the field after plowing or tending sheep, ‘Come! Sit down for dinner?’ Wouldn’t you say instead, ‘Fix my dinner. Put on the clothes of a table servant and wait on me while I eat and drink. After that, you can eat and drink?’ You won’t thank the servant because the servant did what you asked, will you? In the same way, when you have done everything required of you, you should say, ‘We servants deserve no special praise. We have only done our duty.’”

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

Message

“The Ripple Effect”

*Pastor Alicia Wood***Responding with Joy and Generosity*****Hymn of Response**

“For the Healing of Nations”

UMH #428

Offering Our Gifts to God**Offertory**

“Woyaya”
by Osibisa/Annie Masseur

Molly MacMillan, piano
Jackson Robinson, vocals
Breanne Keane, vocals

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

God of grace and mercy, as we bring our gifts before you today, we remember your infinite love that welcomes everyone, especially the vulnerable and the overlooked. Just as Jesus embraced the little children, we bring our offerings, hoping to reflect our dedication to living out your kingdom’s values. Help us to see and meet the needs around us with open hearts and willing hands, extending your grace and compassion to all. Bless these gifts and use them to further your work in our community and beyond, so everyone may know and feel your love. Amen.

Holy Communion*See Insert***Prayer Following Holy Communion***Jami Breedlove Crouch****The Lord’s Prayer (in unison)***Jami Breedlove-Crouch*

Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name.

Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread.

And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.

And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil:

For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen

Going Forth to Serve and Bless

Announcements

*Closing Hymn	“A Place at the Table”	<i>Insert</i>
*Dismissal with Blessing		
*Postlude	“Phase Dance” by Pat Metheny	<i>Molly MacMillan, piano</i> <i>Sue Terwilliger, guitar</i>

-----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.

Pastor Alicia’s New Bible Study Group Starts This Month

Pastor Alicia’s new bible study group, “The Armor of God: Ephesians and Marvel,” will be starting later this month. 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](#) if you plan to attend. If more than 10 people sign up, an additional time will be offered.

St. Paul’s Ministries ~ Week of October 5th, 2025

Sunday, October 5th

World Communion Sunday

10:30am – Worship with Communion - Sanctuary
10:45am – Faith Explorers – Room 115, Main Floor
11:30am – Coffee/Fellowship Time – Memorial Room
12:00pm – Connections -Durham Room

Monday, October 6th

Tuesday, October 7th

10:00am – Staff Meeting - ZOOM

Wednesday, October 8th

Thursday, October 9th

10:00am – Crafter’s Group – Durham Room
5:30pm – Local & World Missions Meeting - ZOOM
6:00pm – Festival Chimes Rehearsal – Sanctuary
7:15pm – Chancel Choir Rehearsal – Dining Room

Friday, October 10th

Church Offices Closed

Saturday, October 11th

Sunday, October 12th

10:30am – Worship – Sanctuary
10:45am – Faith Explorers – Rm.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” following the “Message for Children” segment during worship.**

Giving on World Communion Sunday

Today is World Communion Sunday, a global and denomination-wide celebration emphasizing the value of education and training. The UMC commemorate this day by giving generously to support young adults and to make a global impact for Christ. Half of the offering benefits World Communion scholarships for undergraduate and graduate students from the U.S. as well as other countries. The remainder provides grants to support training for worldwide inclusion, diversity, equity, and access. Your gift is a practical expression of care, equipping United Methodist students to shape a hopeful future. Supporting them offers both financial and spiritual encouragement, demonstrating the church's confidence in their potential. On World Communion Sunday, we join ecumenically in acknowledging our unity in Christ as we gather around His table.

Ithaca Kitchen Cupboard Collection Next Sunday

We'll be collecting for Ithaca Kitchen Cupboard next Sunday, October 12th. Please put cash donations in an offering envelope marked “Ithaca Kitchen Cupboard.” Checks should be made out to “St. Paul’s UMC” with “Ithaca Kitchen Cupboard” in the Memo line. Thank you in advance for your generosity!

Book Group to Read “The Serviceberry” Starting October 13th

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. **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.**

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, New York

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

Faith, While Trees Are Still in Blossom 508

1. Faith, while trees are still in blossom, plans the
 2. Long before the dawn is breaking, faith an -
 3. Long before the rains were coming, No - ah
 4. Faith, uplifted, tamed the water of the
 5. Faith believes that God is faithful: God will

pick - ing of the fruit; faith can feel the thrill of
 tic - i - pates the sun. Faith is ea - ger for the
 went and built an ark. A - bra - ham, the lone - ly
 un - di - vid - ed sea, and the peo - ple of the
 be what God will be! Faith ac - cepts the call, re -

har - vest when the buds be - gin to sprout.
 day - light, for the work that must be done.
 mi - grant, saw the light be - yond the dark.
 He - brews found the path that made them free.
 spond - ing, "I am will - ing, Lord, send me."

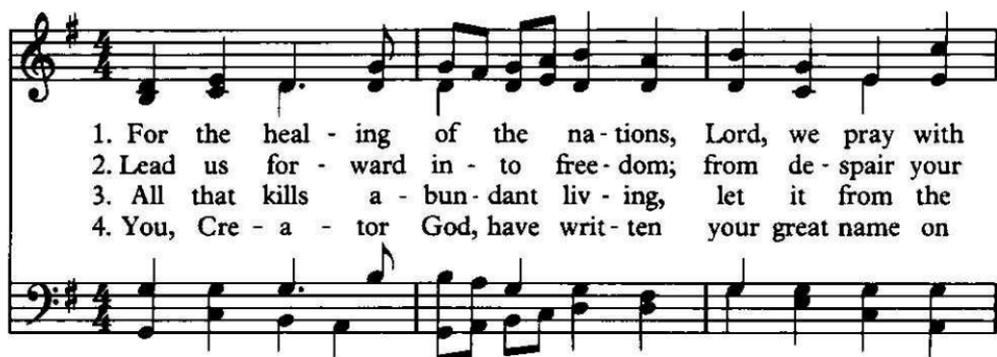
WORDS: Anders Frostenson, 1960; trans. by Fred Kaan, 1972 (Heb. 11)

MUSIC: V. Earle Copes, 1960

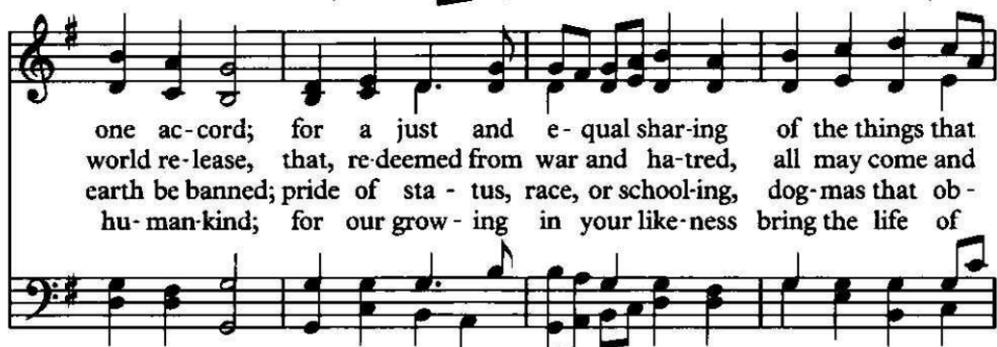
FOR THE BREAD

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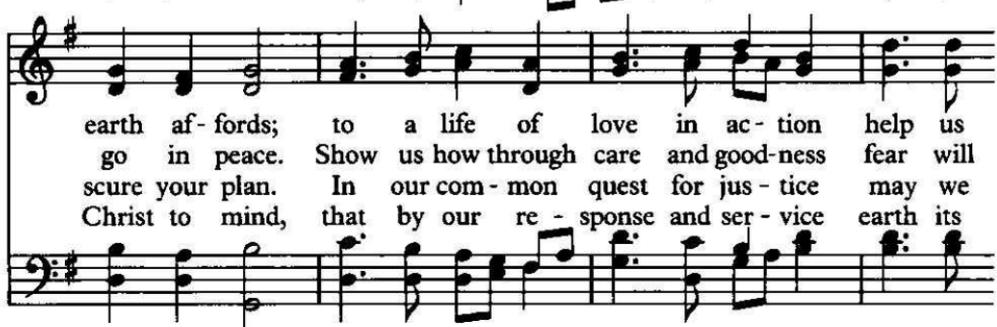
428 For the Healing of the Nations



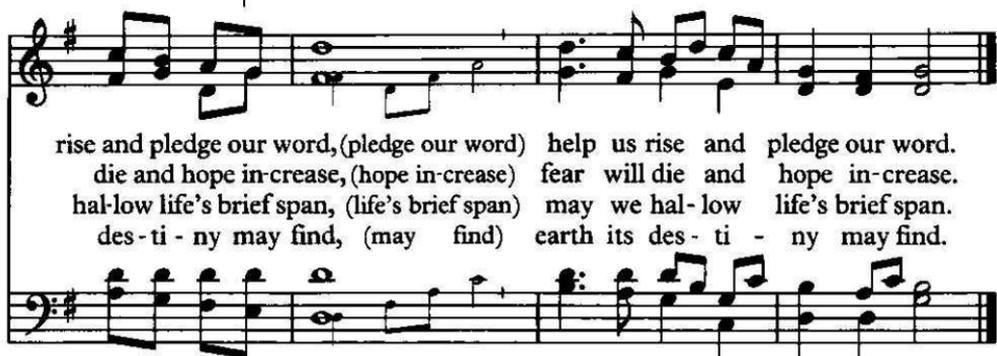
1. For the heal - ing of the na - tions, Lord, we pray with
 2. Lead us for - ward in - to free - dom; from de - spair your
 3. All that kills a - bun - dant liv - ing, let it from the
 4. You, Cre - a - tor God, have writ - ten your great name on



one ac - cord; for a just and e - qual shar - ing of the things that
 world re - lease, that, re - deemed from war and ha - tred, all may come and
 earth be banned; pride of sta - tus, race, or school - ing, dog - mas that ob -
 hu - man - kind; for our grow - ing in your like - ness bring the life of



earth af - fords; to a life of love in ac - tion help us
 go in peace. Show us how through care and good - ness fear will
 scure your plan. In our com - mon quest for jus - tice may we
 Christ to mind, that by our re - sponse and ser - vice earth its



rise and pledge our word, (pledge our word) help us rise and pledge our word.
 die and hope in - crease, (hope in - crease) fear will die and hope in - crease.
 hal - low life's brief span, (life's brief span) may we hal - low life's brief span.
 des - ti - ny may find, (may find) earth its des - ti - ny may find.

Holy Communion

Pastor: Today we gather around this table to remember what true relationship means. All are invited to this Table of Kindness. Where everyone has a place at the table. Jesus broke bread with those whose worldview did not mirror his. Jesus broke bread with those whose experience and traditions were sometimes not only different, but opposed, to his. He simply offered a place to be, to sit down at the same table, and see what transformation *might* happen between people.

Yet, as we prepare ourselves for this feast, we are called to admit the complexity that lies at the edges of our relationships.

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is right, and a good and joyful thing,
always and everywhere to give thanks to you,
Almighty God, creator of heaven and earth.
You have made from one every nation and people
to live on all the face of the earth.

And so, with your people on earth and all the company of heaven
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna, in the highest.
Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the
highest.**

Holy are you, and blessed is your Son Jesus Christ.
By the baptism of his suffering, death, and resurrection
you gave birth to your Church,
delivered us from slavery to sin and death,
and made with us a new covenant by water and the Spirit.
He commissioned us to be his witnesses to the ends of the earth
and to make disciples of all nations,
and today his family in all the world is joining at his holy table.

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, in remembrance of these your mighty acts in Jesus Christ,
we offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving
as a holy and living sacrifice, in union with Christ's offering for us,
as we proclaim the mystery of faith.

Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.

Pour out your Holy Spirit on us gathered here,
and on these gifts of bread and wine.
Make them be for us the body and blood of Christ,
that we may be for the world the body of Christ, redeemed by his love.

Renew our communion with your Church throughout the world,
and strengthen it in every nation and among every people
to witness faithfully in your name.
By your Spirit make us one with Christ,
one with each other, and one in ministry to all the world,
until Christ comes in final victory, and we feast at his heavenly banquet.

Through Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit in your holy Church,
all honor and glory is yours, almighty God, now and forever.

Amen.

Return to Bulletin to Continue Worship



1. For ev - ery-one born, a place at the ta - ble, for
 2. For wom - an and man, a place at the ta - ble, re -
 3. For young and for old, a place at the ta - ble, a
 4. For just and un - just, a place at the ta - ble, a -
 5. For ev - ery-one born, a place at the ta - ble, to

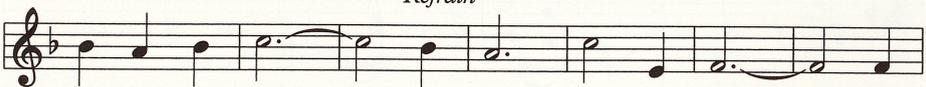


ev - ery-one born, clean wa - ter and bread, — a shel - ter, a
 vis - ing the roles, de - cid - ing the share, — with wis - dom and
 voice to be heard, a part in the song, — the hands of a
 bus - er, a - bused, with need to for - give, — in an - ger, in
 live with - out fear, and sim - ply to be, — to work, to speak



space, a safe place for grow - ing, for ev - ery-one born, a
 grace, di - vid - ing the pow - er, for wom - an and man, a
 child in hands that are wrin - kled, for young and for old, the
 hurt, a mind - set of mer - cy, for just and un - just, a
 out, to wit - ness and wor - ship, for ev - ery-one born, the

Refrain



star o - ver - head. —
 sys - tem that's fair. —
 right to be - long. — And God will de - light — when
 new way to live. —
 right to be free. —



we are cre - a - tors of jus - tice and joy, — yes, God will de -



light — when we are cre - a - tors of jus - tice, —



jus - tice and joy! —