



Saint Paul's United Methodist Church

"A Compassionate Community Led and Transformed by the Spirit."
Sunday, November 9th, 2025 - 10:30 AM Service



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

"Change"
by Tracy Chapman

Molly MacMillan, piano

Greetings and Welcome

Pastor Alicia Wood

*Sharing Love and Peace with All

Centering Music

"Love Song"
by Christopher Norton

Molly MacMillan, piano

*Call to Worship

The world needs to change, a lot.

There are so many things that need change,

and we can get overwhelmed,

especially if we think that we need to make all of the change by ourselves.

We need to remember that God is already at work.

God has been, and always will be, doing a new thing.

We are called to show up and cooperate with what God is doing!

We are the changemakers, and we are being made ready!

May we be changed by this time of worship!

*Singing Together

"God, Who Stretched the Spangled Heavens"

UMH #150

Call to Confession

Holy One, you are always at work in the world,

and you call us to be a part of what you are doing.

But all too often, we don't see the creative opportunities that you have for us.

We think too narrowly about what we can give, what we can do.

We struggle to trust that you are at work within us as well.

All: Forgive us.

Forgive us for when we fail to see others.

Forgive us for when we failed to trust.

Forgive us for when we failed to risk vulnerability.

Forgive us, and change us again.

Remake us as the people who cooperate with your Spirit.

Remake us as the Body of Christ,

that we would work for the healing of the world. Amen.

Assurance

Hear this assurance of Good News: the scriptures say that God is making "all things new."

Transformation is the nature of the Divine One. We are imbued with the ability to be made new, and to make new things. All we need is to lean into this calling and to release our imaginations for the sake of

love. In this moment we let go of all we have not done and recognize that each moment can be the start of something new. We have everything we need.

A Message for All God's Children

Pastor Alicia Wood

Special Music

"How Can I Keep From Singing?"
by Robert Lowry

Chancel Choir

Encountering God Through the Word

Scripture Reading

Luke 7: 36-50 (CEB)

David McElrath

One of the Pharisees invited Jesus to eat with him. After he entered the Pharisee's home, he took his place at the table. Meanwhile, a woman from the city, a sinner, discovered that Jesus was dining in the Pharisee's house. She brought perfumed oil in a vase made of alabaster. Standing behind him at his feet and crying, she began to wet his feet with her tears. She wiped them with her hair, kissed them, and poured the oil on them. When the Pharisee who had invited Jesus saw what was happening, he said to himself, If this man were a prophet, he would know what kind of woman is touching him. He would know that she is a sinner.

Jesus replied, "Simon, I have something to say to you."

"Teacher, speak," he said.

"A certain lender had two debtors. One owed enough money to pay five hundred people for a day's work. The other owed enough money for fifty. When they couldn't pay, the lender forgave the debts of them both. Which of them will love him more?"

Simon replied, "I suppose the one who had the largest debt canceled."

Jesus said, "You have judged correctly."

Jesus turned to the woman and said to Simon, "Do you see this woman? When I entered your home, you didn't give me water for my feet, but she wet my feet with tears and wiped them with her hair. You didn't greet me with a kiss, but she hasn't stopped kissing my feet since I came in. You didn't anoint my head with oil, but she has poured perfumed oil on my feet. This is why I tell you that her many sins have been forgiven; so she has shown great love. The one who is forgiven little loves little."

Then Jesus said to her, "Your sins are forgiven."

The other table guests began to say among themselves, "Who is this person that even forgives sins?"

Jesus said to the woman, "Your faith has saved you. Go in peace."

Hear What the Spirit is Saying to the Church!

Thanks be to God!

Message

"Recycle the Box"

Pastor Alicia Wood

Responding with Joy and Generosity

***Hymn of Response**

"Be Thou My Vision"

UMH #451

Prayers of the People & The Lord's Prayer

Jami Breedlove-Crouch

Offering Our Gifts to God

Offertory

"Largo"
by Handel

Molly MacMillan, piano

***Doxology**

"Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow"

UMH #94

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

Blessed are the changemakers.

**Blessed are you who are not asleep
to the world's pain and suffering.**

Blessed are you who lament for the way things are.

**Blessed are you who know, to the depth of your bones,
that this is not how things are meant to be.**

**Blessed are you for not believing the lie that this is how they will always remain.
 Blessed are you who know that things can change, who long for things to change.
 Blessed are you whose life's ambition is to bring the change that is justice and mercy for all.
 Blessed are you who know that God has always employed the faithful acts of ordinary people to heal and change this world.
 Blessed are you who know that change begins today, change begins with us,
 and that we are blessed to be the changemakers. Amen!**

Going Forth to Serve and Bless

Announcements

***Closing Hymn** "God Has Work for Us to Do" Insert
 by Mark Miller

***Dismissal with Blessing**

Postlude "Gypsy Rondo" Molly MacMillan, piano
 by Haydn

-----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: Joan Reppert; 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.

Flowers this week are in loving memory of Floyd Cole

St. Paul's Ministries ~ Week of November 9th, 2025

Sunday, November 9th

10:30am – Worship - Sanctuary
 10:45am – Faith Explorers – Rm. 115, Main Floor
 11:30am – Coffee/Fellowship Time – Memorial Room

Monday, November 10th

4:45pm – Lay Leadership Team - ZOOM

Tuesday, November 11th – Veteran's Day

Church offices closed for Veteran's Day holiday
 6:00pm – Finance Meeting – ZOOM
 7:15pm – Trustees Meeting - ZOOM

Wednesday, November 12th

6:00pm – Pastor's Bible Study – ZOOM

Thursday, November 13th

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, November 14th

Church Offices Closed

Saturday, November 15th

10:00am- Informational Meeting about Egypt trip - ZOOM

Sunday, November 16th

10:30am – Worship – Sanctuary
 10:45am – Faith Explorers – Rm. 115, Main Floor
 11:30am – Coffee/Fellowship Time – Memorial Room
 11:45am – Hospitality Ministries Meeting – 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 (except on Communion Sundays).**

Don't Forget Your Change!

Please keep bringing coins to drop in the vase next to the nest at the front of the sanctuary. Our goal is to fill it before the end of the month so we can see how change-making together really adds up!

Volunteer Counters Needed

We have a wonderful team that has faithfully counted our donations and giving for many years—but we need reinforcements! This is a minimal time commitment; counters are scheduled every other week, or once a month for approximately 30 minutes. Please contact Michelle Eells at business@stpaulsithaca.org or call the office at 607-273-5971 to join this crucial ministry!

Looking for Card Ministry Participants

If you enjoy bringing cheer to those around you, consider becoming part of the Card Ministry Team. All it involves is writing and sending monthly cards to those in need of a smile, or a word of encouragement or two. If you'd like to join the team, speak with Jami Breedlove-Crouch or email her at lovingcare@stpaulsithaca.org.

Are You Curious?

Pastor Alicia will be hosting an informational session on **Saturday, November 15th at 10am** to answer your questions or concerns about traveling with her to Egypt (possibly Petra) Fall of 2026. Pastor BJ Norrix and Pastor Alicia will host this information gathering in person in Syracuse and via zoom. Please RSVP Pastor Alicia at pastor@stpaulsumcithaca.org to let her know if you will attend. If you are curious but are unable to attend, please reach out to Pastor Alicia and she will make time to talk with you.

Check Out the Art Show

Make time to check out the artwork currently gracing the back of the sanctuary, all of it created by members of the PROS (Personalized Recovery Oriented Services) program, whose goal is to support the continued healing and wholeness for those experiencing mental health and addiction barriers.

More Than A Hello

Next Sunday's coffee hour will be dedicated to our hardworking hospitality ministers. Please attend so we can give them the thanks they deserve! A short info session will be included for current and interested hospitality ministers.

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

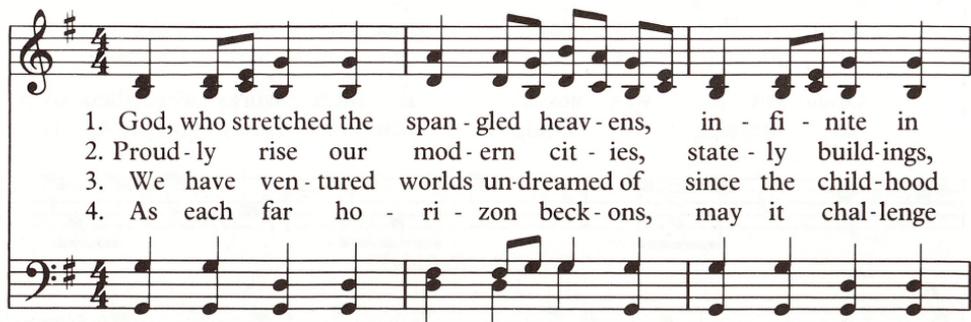
402 North Aurora Street, Ithaca, New York

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

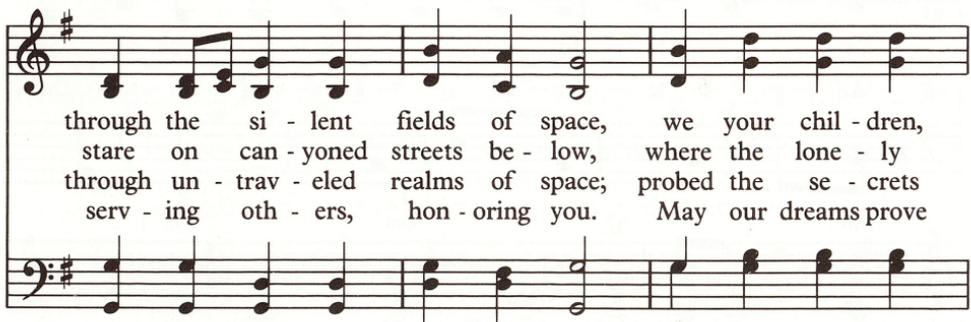
150 God, Who Stretched the Spangled Heavens



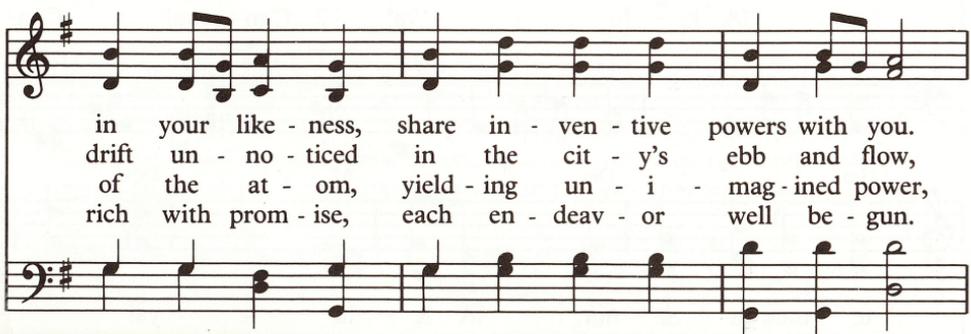
1. God, who stretched the span-gled heav-ens, in-fi-nite in
2. Proud-ly rise our mod-ern cit-ies, state-ly build-ings,
3. We have ven-tured worlds un-dreamed of since the child-hood
4. As each far ho-ri-zon beck-ons, may it chal-lenge



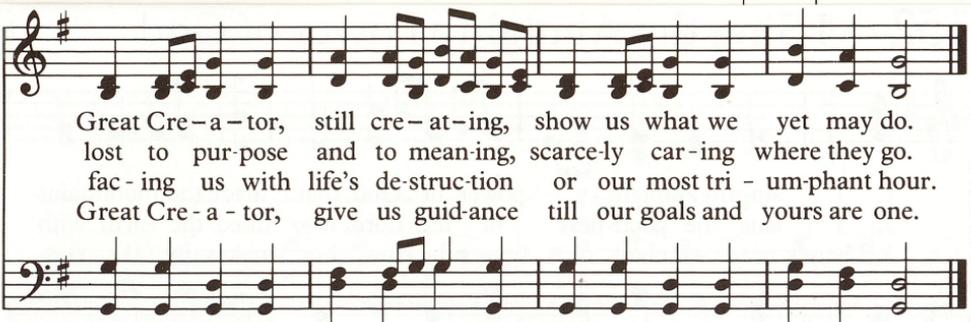
time and place, flung the suns in burn-ing ra-diance
row on row; yet their win-dows, blank, un-feel-ing,
of our race; known the ec-sta-sy of wing-ing
us a-new, chil-dren of cre-a-tive pur-pose,



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: 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), 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 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 staff has a treble clef and a B-flat key signature. The second staff has 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 staff has a treble clef and a B-flat key signature. The second staff has 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!'.

God Has Work for Us to Do

By Mark Miller



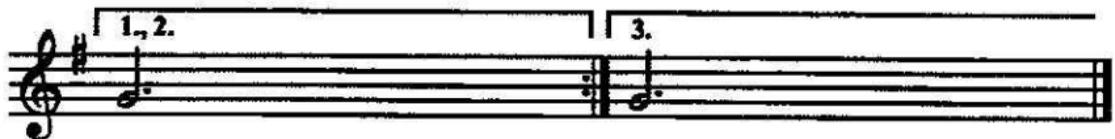
God _____ has work for us to do, 'til



God's will is done, and all things are made new,



God _____ has work for us, _____ work for us to



do!

do!