



**Saint Paul's United Methodist Church**  
*"A Compassionate Community Led and Transformed by the Spirit."*  
**Sunday, November 23rd, 2025 - 10:30 AM Service**  
**Thanksgiving 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**

"Thank You"  
by Ray Boltz

*Molly MacMillan, piano*

**Greetings and Welcome**

*Pastor Alicia Wood*

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

**Centering Music**

"Benediction at God's Acre"  
by Gwyneth Walker

*Molly MacMillan, piano & vocals*  
*Maia Finkel, vocals*

**\*Call to Worship**

Pastor: God has created a wonderful world, touched it with beauty, and filled it with life.

**All: Yay God!**

Pastor: God has created each of us in God's own image--able to create new things, discern wisdom, and spread love.

**All: Yay God!**

Pastor: God has come to us in human form, showing us the path to life and peace, suffering and dying for us, and calling us to new life in Christ.

**All: Yay God!**

Pastor: God comes to us now, filling us with the Spirit of love, compassion, truth, and power, to be the Body of Christ in the world.

**All: Yay God!**

Pastor: Come, let us worship our awesome God!

**\*Singing Together**

"Come, You Thankful People, Come"

UMH #694

**A Message for All God's Children**

*Pastor Alicia Wood*

**Special Music**

"Homeward Bound"  
by Marta Keen, arr. by Jay Althouse

*Chancel Choir*

## Encountering God Through the Word

### **Scripture Reading**

**Psalm 46 (NSRVUE)**

*Katie Boardman*

God is our refuge and strength,  
a very present help in trouble.  
Therefore we will not fear, though the earth should change,  
though the mountains shake in the heart of the sea,  
though its waters roar and foam,  
though the mountains tremble with its tumult.  
There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God,  
the holy habitation of the Most High.  
God is in the midst of the city; it shall not be moved;  
God will help it when the morning dawns.  
The nations are in an uproar; the kingdoms totter;  
he utters his voice; the earth melts.  
The Lord of hosts is with us;  
the God of Jacob is our refuge.  
Come, behold the works of the Lord;  
see what desolations he has brought on the earth.  
He makes wars cease to the end of the earth;  
he breaks the bow and shatters the spear;  
he burns the shields with fire.  
“Be still, and know that I am God!  
I am exalted among the nations;  
I am exalted in the earth.”  
The Lord of hosts is with us;  
the God of Jacob is our refuge.

### **Colossians 1: 11-14 (CEB)**

by being strengthened through his glorious might so that you endure everything and have patience; and by giving thanks with joy to the Father. He made it so you could take part in the inheritance, in light granted to God’s holy people. He rescued us from the control of darkness and transferred us into the kingdom of the Son he loves. He set us free through the Son and forgave our sins.

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

### **Message**

“Live in Gratitude”

*Pastor Alicia Wood*

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

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

“Now Thank We All Our God”

UMH #102

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

*Jami Breedlove-Crouch*

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

**Offertory** "Oh, What a Beautiful Morning" *Molly MacMillan, piano*  
by Rogers & Hammerstein

**\*Doxology** "Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow" UMH #94

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

**All: Loving Creator, whose reign is everlasting, we offer these gifts with grateful hearts. May they serve to proclaim your truth and extend your kingdom of justice, peace, and love. Transform our offerings and our lives to bear witness to the hope and promise of Christ, our king. In his holy name, we pray. Amen.**

**Going Forth to Serve and Bless**

**Announcements**

**\*Closing Hymn** "Great is Thy Faithfulness" UMH #140

**\*Dismissal with Blessing**

**Postlude** "Aria from 'The Fourth Partita'" *Molly MacMillan, piano*  
by J.S. Bach

**-----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:** Family of Melissa Gould; Joan Reppert; Linda Yetter; 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.

***Prayers for the Family & Friends of Susan Laiza (sister of Elaine Weiss),  
Who Passed Away November 16<sup>th</sup>***

***St. Paul's Ministries ~ Week of November 23rd, 2025***

**Sunday, November 23rd**

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

**Monday, November 24th**

**Tuesday, November 25th**

**Wednesday, November 26th**

9:00am – Folding/Labeling Newsletter – Memorial Room

**Thursday, November 27th – Thanksgiving**

Church offices closed for the Thanksgiving holiday

**Friday, November 28th**

Church Offices Closed

**Saturday, November 29th**

**Sunday, November 30th – First Sunday of Advent**

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 (except on Communion Sundays).**

***Volunteers Needed This Week to Help Fold/Label Newsletters***

We need volunteers to help fold/label our Winter 2025 Newsletter **this Wednesday, November 26<sup>th</sup> at 9am.** It usually takes less than an hour. If you can help contact Dee at [office@stpaulsithaca.org](mailto:office@stpaulsithaca.org).

***Advent Study Group to Start December 1st***

Our hybrid Advent Study Group will start meeting on **Monday December 1st at 7-8:15pm.** We'll be discussing the book, "The First Advent in Palestine: Reversals, Resistance, and the Ongoing Complexity of Hope." To purchase a copy, please stop by the office and see Dee. The cost of the book is \$11. If paying by check, please make out to "SPUMC" with "Advent Study Group" in the subject line. Join us if you can!

***Coffee with the Pastor***

Coffee with the Pastor will meet **Wednesdays at 9:45-10:45am, December 3-17 (maybe 23rd).** We'll gather to discuss the Daily Journal for Advent that follows our Advent worship series, "What Child IS This? Beyond the Lullaby." Let us go deeper on our journey of faith this season.

***Mark Your Calendar for the OAM Holiday Luncheon***

The Older Adult Ministry team invites you to join them for a festive holiday lunch, carol singing, and homemade cookies to be held in the Memorial Rooms on **Thursday, December 11, from 11:30-1:30.** Look for an invitation in your email or contact the church office by Sunday, December 7, if you would like to attend.

***Time to Decorate Christmas Cookies!***

St Paul's will be holding its 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Intergenerational Cookie Decorating on **Sunday, December 14 in the Memorial Room after worship at 12:15pm.** Everyone is invited to participate and to bring friends! Please sign-up ASAP with Dee at [office@stpaulsithaca.org](mailto:office@stpaulsithaca.org) or call 607-273-5971 so we have enough cookies and decorating items on hand for everyone.

***Calling All Cookie Bakers***

We need 15 dozen sugar or gingerbread cut-out or flat drop cookies for our Cookie Decorating party on December 14th. A few dozen gluten-free cookies are needed as well. If you can bake cookies to decorate, please contact Joellyn Tuttle at [jrwuttlet@gmail.com](mailto:jrwuttlet@gmail.com) or ring/text her at: 315-289-7187. Thank you in advance!

**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

## 694 Come, Ye Thankful People, Come

1. Come, ye thank - ful peo - ple, come, raise the song of  
 2. All the world is God's own field, fruit as praise to  
 3. For the Lord our God shall come, and shall take the  
 4. E - ven so, Lord, quick - ly come, bring thy fi - nal

har - vest home; all is safe - ly gath - ered in, ere the  
 God we yield; wheat and tares to - geth - er sown are to  
 har - vest home; from the field shall in that day all of -  
 har - vest home; gath - er thou thy peo - ple in, free from

win - ter storms be - gin. God our Mak - er doth pro - vide  
 joy or sor - row grown; first the blade and then the ear,  
 fens - es purge a - way, giv - ing an - gels charge at last  
 sor - row, free from sin, there, for - ev - er pu - ri - fied,

for our wants to be sup - plied; come to God's own  
 then the full corn shall ap - pear; Lord of har - vest,  
 in the fire the tares to cast; but the fruit - ful  
 in thy pres - ence to a - bide; come, with all thine

tem - ple, come, raise the song of har - vest home.  
grant that we whole - some grain and pure may be.  
ears to store in the gar - ner ev - er - more.  
an - gels, come, raise the glo - rious har - vest home.

The image shows a musical score for a hymn. It consists of two staves: a treble clef staff at the top and a bass clef staff at the bottom. The key signature is one flat (B-flat). The melody is written in the treble clef, and the bass line is in the bass clef. The lyrics are centered between the two staves. The lyrics are: "tem - ple, come, raise the song of har - vest home. grant that we whole - some grain and pure may be. ears to store in the gar - ner ev - er - more. an - gels, come, raise the glo - rious har - vest home." The music is in a simple, hymn-like style with a steady rhythm.

## Now Thank We All Our God

1. Now thank we all our God, with heart and hands and voices,  
 2. O may this bounteous God through all our life be near us,  
 3. All praise and thanks to God the Father now be given;

who wondrous things has done, in whom this world rejoices;  
 with ever joyful hearts and blessed peace to cheer us;  
 the Son, and him who reigns with them in highest heaven;

who from our mothers' arms has blessed us on our way  
 and keep us still in grace, and guide us when perplexed;  
 the one eternal God, whom earth and heaven adore;

with countless gifts of love, and still is ours to-day.  
 and free us from all ills, in this world and the next.  
 for thus it was, is now, and shall be evermore.

## 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



## 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!