

3. **O send Thy Spirit, Lord, now unto me,
That He may touch my eyes and make me see;
Show me the truth concealed within Thy Word,
And in Thy Book revealed I see the Lord.**

Prayers of the Prayers of the People

response: *God who makes us one, hear our prayer.*

The Lord's Prayer (debts/debtors)

Invitation to the Offering

* Doxology

* Prayer of Dedication

* Recessional Hymn *I'll Go Where You Want Me to Go*

1. **It may not be on the mountain's height
or over the stormy sea;
It may not be at the battle's front
my Lord will have need of me.
But if by a still, small voice He calls
to paths that I do not know,
I'll answer dear Lord, with my hand in Thine,
"I'll go where You want me to go."**

REFRAIN **I'll go where You want me to go, dear Lord,
Over mountain, or plain, or sea.
I'll say what You want me to say, dear Lord.
I'll be what You want me to be.**

2. **There's surely somewhere a lowly place
in earth's harvest fields so wide
Where I may labor thro' life's short day
for Jesus the Crucified.
So, trusting my all to Thy tender care,
and knowing Thou lovest me,
I'll do Thy will with a heart sincere,
I'll be what You want me to be.** REFRAIN

* Benediction

* Threefold Amen

Postlude *With Majesty and Pomp*

-Boalt

St. Paul's UCC, Amityville

1979 Weavertown Road, Douglassville, PA 19518

May 2, 2021

Ministers: The People of St. Paul's UCC
The Rev. Dr. Steven Simpson, Pastor
Martha Sitler, Minister of Music
Maya Herbst and Amy Schafer, Sextons
Joe Ceklosky: Leader of Technology/Video Team
Marlene Dadey, Director of Christian Education/Office Manager
Church Office 610-689-9364
Pastor Steven's cell - 610-858-0921
Pastor's e-mail - pastor@stpaulsuccamity.org
Church e-mail - office@stpaulsuccamity.org
Website: www.stpaulsuccamity.org

St. Paul's United Church of Christ Mission Statement

In its life and mission, St. Paul's UCC seeks to worship the triune God; proclaim the gospel of Jesus Christ; practice loving service toward the needy; embody God's reign of peace and justice; establish a Christian community of faith; and be a faithful member of the church universal.

Welcome! Whether you are worshipping with us in-person or virtually, we pray that you and your family are safe and healthy.

Next Sunday: *Confirmant-led Worship*
Texts: 1 Corinthians 15:33, Proverbs 27:17,
Ephesians 6:13-17*, Psalm 96

*text for Wednesday's Bible Study

BIRTHDAYS ~ this week

May 2: John Boyer, Mary Founds, Justin Kline
May 3: Rachael Rogers, Aimee Shank
May 4: Kara McQuaite
May 6: Madelyn Knerr, Charles Saylor, Jr., Karen Swanson
May 7: Wendy Pingitore, Tricia Benner

ANNIVERSARIES ~ this week

May 3: Eric & Fallon Bentley
May 4: John & Michelle Kehoe
May 5: Paul & Diane Kopec
May 7: Paul & Kathy Weller, John & Bambi Schiel



St. Paul's United Church of Christ

Amityville, Pennsylvania

May 2, 2021

9:30 A.M.

Fifth Sunday of Easter

* = Those who are able may stand

Prelude *In the Garden Toccata* -Miles/Wilson
-Rasley

* Processional Hymn *He Lives*

- I serve a risen Savior, He's in the world today;
I know that He is living, whatever men may say.
I see His hand of mercy, I hear His voice of cheer,
And just the time I need Him, He's always near.**

REFRAIN **He lives, He lives! Christ Jesus lives today!
He walks with me and talks with me
along life's narrow way.
He lives, He lives, salvation to impart!
You ask me how I know He lives?
He lives within my heart!**

- Rejoice, rejoice, O Christian, lift up your voice and sing
Eternal hallelujahs to Jesus Christ, the King!
The Hope of all who seek Him, the Help of all who find,
None other is so loving, so good and kind.** REFRAIN

* Greeting The peace of Christ be with you. **And also with you.**
Christ is risen! **He is risen, indeed!**

Words of Welcome and Announcements

Introit *Lead Me, Lord*
**Lead me, Lord, I will follow, Lead me, Lord, I will go.
You have called me - I will answer; Lead me, Lord, I will go.**

* The Solemn Declaration (from John 15:5) sung response: **Amen!**

* Call to Worship

In the wilderness, water brings life.
Seek us out, O God, and take us to the water.
In the Word of God, the good news gives light.
Seek us out, O God, and fill us with understanding.

In the bread and the wine,
the body of our Savior nourishes everyone.
Seek us out, O God, and give us yourself.
Here is the water of life, the word that feeds, the food of eternity.
Come and praise the vine that gives all goodness.

* Call to Confession

* Silent Prayer

* Prayer of Confession (in unison) —based on John 15:5

**God of mercy, we confess that we have not borne the fruit
of the Spirit. We have not loved others as you have loved us.
We have denied the promises of baptism and cut ourselves
off from you. Forgive us, restore us, that we may abide in
your love and live out your mercy, for the sake of Jesus
Christ, in whose name we pray. Amen.**

* Declaration of Forgiveness —based on John 15:3

You have already been cleansed by the word that God has
spoken to you. In baptism God claimed you and joined you to
Christ, as branches to a vine. Believe the promise given to you:
in Jesus Christ, you are forgiven. **Thanks be to God!**

* Prayer of the Day

Baptism *Madison Rose Benner*, born October 4, 2020 (see insert)
—daughter of Tricia & Justin Benner

Special Music *Welcomed Home Again* -Schram
Women's Ensemble

Prayer for Illumination

Scripture Readings *John 15:1-8, Acts 8:26-40*

Sermon *When the Spirit Leads*

* Responsive Hymn *Break Thou the Bread of Life*

- Break Thou the bread of life, dear Lord, to me,
As Thou didst break the loaves beside the sea;
Beyond the sacred page I seek Thee, Lord;
My spirit pants for Thee, O Living Word.**
- Open Thy Word of Truth, That I may see
Thy message written clear and plain for me;
Then in sweet fellowship, walking with Thee
Thine image on my life engraved will be.**

SACRAMENT of BAPTISM

MISSION TRIP BIRDSBORO and BEYOND

Did You Know?

- Mission Trip Birdsboro which was strictly a ministry of St. Paul's Birdsboro has now transitioned to Mission Trip Birdsboro & Beyond becoming an independent 501c3 non-profit organization.
- In order to be an independent non-profit we needed to elect a Board of Directors. Currently we have a seven member board and all paperwork has been filed with the Federal and Local Government as needed.
- We gave 7 partner churches and organizations all leading this year with at least another 4 churches who will be participating during the mission trip.
- This year's theme is "Build Each Other Up" which comes from 1 Thessalonians 5:11.
- All activities and work at the homes will be outside like we did last year to keep our volunteers as safe as possible.
- Will hold daily Prayer locations like last year.
- Homeowners needing assistance will need to fill out an application on work that they would like done at their home. This application can be found in the Library by the Missions table or online at stpaulsbirdsboro.org under the Missions tab. Deadline for applications submitted is May 15.
- Participants / Volunteers will need to fill out the participant form also located in the Library or online. The deadline is May 17.

We are happy and excited to be representing our 6th year as a partner church in this ministry. A table will be set up in the Library for anyone who has further questions about the program. Looking forward to seeing some new faces! Even if you can give one day to the program, you will feel blessed to be a blessing!



Words of Institution

People of St. Paul's United Church of Christ:

Let us hear our Lord's command concerning the sacrament of holy baptism in Matthew 28:18-20.

After he had risen victorious from the grave, Jesus said to his disciples: "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

In obedience to this command, the church baptizes believers.

The Meaning of Baptism

Sacraments are holy signs and seals for us to see. They were instituted by God so that by our use of them he might make us understand more clearly the promise of the gospel and might put a seal on that promise.

Obeing the word of our Lord Jesus, and confident of his promises, we baptize those whom God has called.

In baptism, God claims us and seals us to show that we belong to God. God frees us from sin and death, uniting us with Jesus Christ in his death and resurrection.

By water and the Holy Spirit, we are made members of the church, the body of Christ's ministry of love, peace, and justice.

Response of Faith

Pastor (addressing the parents): Do you desire to have your daughter baptized into the faith and family of Jesus Christ?

Parents: **We do.**

Pastor: Will you encourage Madison to renounce the powers of evil and to receive the freedom of new life in Christ?

Parents: **We will, with the help of God.**

Pastor: Will you teach Madison so that she may be led to profess Jesus Christ as her Lord and Savior?

Parents: **We will, with the help of God.**

Pastor: Do you promise, by the grace of God, to be Christ's disciples, to follow in the way of our Savior, to resist oppression and evil, to show love and justice, and to witness to the work and word of Jesus Christ as best you are able?

Parents: **We do, with the Help of God.**

Pastor: Do you promise, according to the grace given you, to grow with Madison in the Christian faith, to help her become a faithful member of the church of Jesus Christ by celebrating Christ's presence, by furthering Christ's mission in all the world, and by offering the nurture of the Christian church so that she may one day come to affirm her baptism?

Parents: **We do, with the help of God.**

Pastor (addressing the congregation): Jesus Christ calls us to make disciples of all nations and to offer them the gift of grace in baptism. Do you who witness and celebrate this sacrament, promise your love, support, and care to the one about to be baptized, as she lives and grows in Christ?

All: **We promise our love, support, and care.**

The Apostle's Creed

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
Creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was
conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin
Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was
buried. He descended to the dead.**

**On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again to
judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

Prayer of Baptism

Act of Baptism

Presentation of the newly baptized child to the congregation

Hymn

**Baptized in Water, sealed by the Spirit
Cleansed by the blood of Christ our King
Heirs of salvation, trusting his promise
Faithfully now God's praises we sing**

**Baptized in Water, sealed by the Spirit
Marked with the sign of Christ our King
Born of one Father, we are his children
Joyfully now God's praises we sing**

Prayer for the Baptized



TODAY'S SCRIPTURES

John 15:1-8

¹ "I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener. ² He cuts off every branch in me that bears no fruit, while every branch that does bear fruit he prunes^[a] so that it will be even more fruitful. ³ You are already clean because of the word I have spoken to you. ⁴ Remain in me, as I also remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me. ⁵ "I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing. ⁶ If you do not remain in me, you are like a branch that is thrown away and withers; such branches are picked up, thrown into the fire and burned. ⁷ If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. ⁸ This is to my Father's glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples.

Acts 8:26-40

²⁶ Now an angel of the Lord said to Philip, "Go south to the road—the desert road—that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza." ²⁷ So he started out, and on his way he met an Ethiopian eunuch, an important official in charge of all the treasury of the Kandake (which means "queen of the Ethiopians"). This man had gone to Jerusalem to worship, ²⁸ and on his way home was sitting in his chariot reading the Book of Isaiah the prophet. ²⁹ The Spirit told Philip, "Go to that chariot and stay near it." ³⁰ Then Philip ran up to the chariot and heard the man reading Isaiah the prophet. "Do you understand what you are reading?" Philip asked. ³¹ "How can I," he said, "unless someone explains it to me?"

So he invited Philip to come up and sit with him.

³² This is the passage of Scripture the eunuch was reading:

*"He was led like a sheep to the slaughter,
and as a lamb before its shearer is silent,
so he did not open his mouth.*

³³ *In his humiliation he was deprived of justice.
Who can speak of his descendants?
For his life was taken from the earth."*

³⁴ The eunuch asked Philip, "Tell me, please, who is the prophet talking about, himself or someone else?" ³⁵ Then Philip began with that very passage of Scripture and told him the good news about Jesus.

³⁶ As they traveled along the road, they came to some water and the eunuch said, "Look, here is water. What can stand in the way of my being baptized?" ^[37] ³⁸ And he gave orders to stop the chariot. Then both Philip and the eunuch went down into the water and Philip baptized him. ³⁹ When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord suddenly took Philip away, and the eunuch did not see him again, but went on his way rejoicing. ⁴⁰ Philip, however, appeared at Azotus and traveled about, preaching the gospel in all the towns until he reached Caesarea.