



Mercy & Judgement

St. Paul's United Church of Christ

We are a welcoming, Christ-centered community called to embody, nurture and share God's Loving Light both within St. Paul's and our wider community.

www.stpaulsbirdsboro.org

We're Glad You are Here!

Welcome: Inspired by Christ and his ministry of God's invitation, we proclaim, "No matter where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here!"

Restrooms: These are located on the basement level of the church. Either go through the double doors in the front of the sanctuary and turn right to go downstairs, or use the stairwell in the back of the sanctuary and then walk through the fellowship hall.

Children: Children of all ages are welcome within our worship services, so that they may learn how to worship God. (We readily expect to hear their presence and recognize their occasional need for a "break" from the worship space.) Children's activity bags, for use during the service, are available by both entrances to the sanctuary. A nursery, located beyond the double doors in the front of the sanctuary, is also available for children up to 5 years old. Please see a greeter for assistance.

Pew pads: Found along the center aisle, these are a great way for us to get to know you, and to share our welcome and thanks for your presence. Please fill out the pew pad and pass it along to your neighbor, before returning it to the center aisle.

Hearing amplification devices: These personal devices are available for your use. Directly connected into our sound system, they make it possible to hear those leading worship without amplifying background noises. Please see our sound person for assistance.

Remember: As we enter into worship, turn off or silence your cell phone, pager, or watch chime. Your presence is a blessing to God and to us! Please feel free to share with us any ways in which we might be a blessing to you in this journey of faith and life.

Get Connected: To become involved in the ministries of St. Paul's, to grow in discipleship, or just to learn more, signup online for the weekly E-news or monthly Cornerstone Newsletter, like us on Facebook, give us a call, or send an email. It is our joy to journey with you!

Today's Scripture Readings

Exodus 32:1-14 + Psalm 106:1-5, 47-48 + Matthew 22:1-14

Order of Worship



Prelude

(Prayer: Though I don't like seeing when I am misguided and my feet are far from any path that leads to life, I need you God. I need you to speak truth that calls me to turn from my wayward ways. I need you to speak truth so that my feet can tread once again on the path that fully leads to life. I need you God. Come, and speak truth to me now, so that I may live in you.)

Welcome & Announcements

(Please rise in body or in spirit)

Hymn: "Sing Praise to God Who Reigns Above" #15

Call to Worship

Leader: When we are lost, it is God who lights the lamp that pierces the dark.

People: **For this we sing of God's glory and praise.**

Leader: When we are broken, it is God who bandages our wounds and sets our soul anew.

People: **For this we sing of God's glory and praise.**

Leader: When we are filled with sorrow,

it is God who wipes away our tears and embraces us with life.

People: **For this we sing of God's glory and praise.**

Leader: And when we are in the wrong,

when we are the cause of the lost, the broken, and the sorrowful,

it is God who names our sin, calling us to repentance,

so that we may once again be a people of light, of healing, and of love.

People: **For this we sing of God's glory and praise.**

Call to Confession

(Please be seated)

Corporate Confession

All: **Almighty and most merciful God, we humble ourselves before you
in deep awareness of the times and the ways we have wandered from you.
We have sinned against you, in thought, in word, and in deed,
as we have sinned against others.**

We have come short of the life you created us for,
as we have broken your commandments
and every one of us turned aside from your way.
Gracious and merciful God, hear us as we call upon you.
Have mercy upon us, pardon our sins, take away our guilt,
as you restore your peace within every place touched by our sin.
And by the power of your Holy Spirit,
make us willing and able to serve you in newness of life
for the sake of Christ, and to the glory of your holy name. Amen.

Silent Confession

(A time of personal prayer for God's healing and redeeming peace.)

The musical score is in 3/4 time with a tempo of 116. It consists of two systems of music. The first system has a vocal line and a piano accompaniment. The vocal line lyrics are: "Sing, praise and bless the Lord. Sing, praise and bless the Lord, peo - ples!". The piano accompaniment has chords: Am, E, Am, G, C. The second system also has a vocal line and piano accompaniment. The vocal line lyrics are: "na - tions! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!". The piano accompaniment has chords: G, 1. Am F Dm E, 2. Am Dm E Am.

Taizé: Songs for Prayer #35. All rights reserved. OneLicense.net License #A-714498

Assurance of Grace

Leader: ...In Christ we are healed. In Christ is our salvation.
People: For this we sing of God's glory and praise. Amen.

Passing of the Peace

Leader: The peace of Christ be with you.
People: And also with you.

(During the hymn you may be seated, as children up to 9th grade are dismissed to participate in age specific Christian Education classes for the rest of worship. Parents/guardians of first time students

are invited to follow children to their classroom to complete registration information before returning to worship. Children, 3rd grade and younger, must be picked up from their classes.)

Hymn: “Lord, I Want To Be a Christian” (verses 1&3)

1. Lord, I want to be a Christian in my heart, in my heart;
Lord, I want to be a Christian in my heart.

In my heart, (in my heart), in my heart, (in my heart),
Lord, I want to be a Christian in my heart.

3. Lord, I want to be more holy in my heart, in my heart;
Lord, I want to be more holy in my heart.

In my heart, (in my heart), in my heart, (in my heart),
Lord, I want to be more holy in my heart.

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Old Testament Lesson: Exodus 32:1-14 (p. #137)

With anxiety and uncertainty filling their hearts, the Israelites seek out a tangible god that they can touch and see despite the truth that it is God who has delivered them.

Psalm: Psalm 106:1-5, 47-58 (p. #944)

Hymn: “Seek Ye First” #544

(Sung two times)

Gospel Lesson: Matthew 22:1-14 (p. #1534)

Jesus declares the wide invitation for all to share in God’s reign. At the same time, Jesus declares that all who are invited are also expected to fully share in the purposes of God’s reign.

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God!

Sermon

“Mercy & Judgement Mingled Together”

(Please rise in body or in spirit)

Hymn: “Be Thou My Vision” #395

Statement of Faith: Heidelberg Catechism Q&A 26 - Adapted

Pastor: What do you believe when you say,

“I believe in God the Lord Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth?”

All: I believe that the eternal God of our Lord Jesus Christ,
created heaven and earth, and everything in them, out of nothing,
that God continues to uphold and rule over all of heaven and earth
through God's providence and eternal counsel,
and that the Almighty is my God and my Lord because of Christ.
I so completely trust in God that I have no doubt
that God will provide whatever I need for body and soul,
and God will turn to my good whatever adversity is sent to me.
God is able to do this because God is almighty,
and God desires to do this because God is a faithful Creator.
To this God I place my life and my trust
as I live the length of my days. Amen.

(Please be seated)

Prayers of the People

(Believing in God's truth, we open ourselves as God's servants through prayer.)

The Lord's Prayer

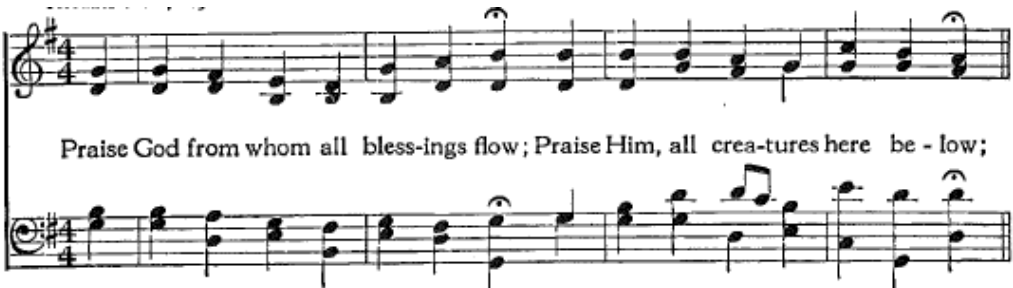
All: Our Father, who art in Heaven, hallowed be thy name.
Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever. Amen.

Receiving of Tithes and Offerings

(We give as an act of worship, tangibly offering ourselves to God's service.)

Offertory

(Please rise in body or in spirit to sing glory to God)



Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise Him, all creatures here below;

Special Congregational Meeting Scheduled for October 29 - There will be a special Congregational meeting held in the sanctuary after service on October 29 to have final discussions and a vote on engaging in congregational coaching. A thorough presentation and discussion, on the coaching possibility, will be held following worship on October 22nd. **Additionally**, on October 29th, there will be a vote to authorize an increase in the Building and Grounds budget (with the increase resulting from needed repairs to our HVAC systems, termite remediation, and upgrades needed during the exterior lighting installation.)

October 22nd Coaching Presentation & Discussion – In advance of the October 29th Congregational Meeting, we are inviting you to participate in a time of discussion and reflection in regards to the possibility of engaging in a congregational coaching relationship with Griffith Coaching. Your presence for this gathering is essential in being able to make wise decisions on the 29th. The presentation will highlight learnings from the 2 day workshop attended by 22 of our members, insights on how these learnings might be applied to our ministry, and a time of discussion and discernment as we seek for God's leading. Lunch will be provided.

Visioning for 2018 – This November we are inviting you participate in developing the congregation's 2018 financial mission plan. The Consistory President, Treasurer, Ministry Chairs, and Pastor are required to be in attendance, but we want you to be there as well. To participate contact Richard Wolf, or the church office, by Tuesday Nov. 3rd to be among the 10 people discerning God's leading and vision for our coming year of ministry. Team meetings are currently scheduled for Thursday, Nov. 9, Tuesday, Nov. 7, and Thursday, Nov. 16.

Candy Wanted – Please drop off candy donations in the bin by the side entrance by October 29th so that we can create goody bags for our neighborhood community members. Along with the goodies we'll be advertising All Saints Day Worship, Christian Education, November's Hoagie Sale, and the Christmas Bazaar. Thank you for your generosity of blessings!

Light In The Night (How You Can Be a Blessing) – Tuesday, October 31st, 6:30-8:30pm we will be serving our wider community by providing food, games, prizes, and crafts for our neighborhood trick-or-treaters and their families. This Halloween night safe zone is a great way for us to share God's Loving Light brightly within our community. To participate please contact Star Gunn (or the church office) to sign up for one or more of our event teams:

Setup Team: 5:00 – 6:30pm, 6-8 people needed to get all the games, tables, lights and equipment set up

Event Team: 6:10 – 8:40pm, 14 people to assist with the various activities (Partial times possible)

Cleanup Team: 8:30 – 9:15pm, 6-8 people to tear down all the games, tables, lights, and equipment

Worship Steward Training - Have you ever thought of serving as a worship steward? If so, contact Pastor Joe as hour long training classes will be held in early November.

Want to be a Part of 2018 MTB Planning? - If you are interested in participating in this coming year's leadership team, please speak with Pastor Joe. The first planning meeting will soon be scheduled.

Box Tops – Meet Your New Champions - Natalie and Olivia Motz will be serving as our congregation's Box Top Champions for this school year. Already they've connected your \$32 worth of donated box tops to their school for use in classroom book purchases and other school supplies that benefit every student. Look for a new Box Top collection container coming soon (Campbell's labels for education program is coming to an end) and look for their presentation during one of October's worship services in order that you might learn more.

Boyer's 1% Caring & Sharing Cards – The holidays are upon us so while you're shopping, don't forget to use you Boyer's 1% card for all of your grocery purchases at Boyer's. St. Paul's can earn a rebate of 1% on all purchases. No Receipts to Save, No Receipts to Add Up! If you don't have a card, just notify the office and we can get one to you ASAP!