



CENTENNIAL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH AT IVY

9150 East University Avenue. Altoona, IA 50009

Pastor Paul

January 16, 2022

*For worship on the radio, tune to 88.5FM



LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS CENTERING MOMENT:

"I want the whole Christ for my Savior, the whole Bible for my book, the whole Church for my fellowship, and the whole world for my mission field."

~John Wesley

CALL TO WORSHIP: #889 The World Methodist Social Affirmation

We believe in God, creator of the world and of all people; and in Jesus Christ, incarnate among us, who died and rose again; and in the Holy Spirit, present with us to guide, strengthen, and comfort.

We believe; God, help our unbelief.

We rejoice in every sign of God's Kingdom; in the upholding of human dignity and community; in every expression of love, justice, and reconciliation; in each act of self-giving on behalf of others; in the abundance of God's gifts entrusted to us that all may have enough; in all responsible use of the earth's resources.

Glory be to God on high; and on earth, let there be peace.

We confess our sin, individual and collective, by silence or action: through the violation of human dignity based on race, class, age, sex, nation, or faith; through the exploitation of people because of greed and indifference through the misuse of power in personal, communal, national, and international life; through the search for security by those military and economic forces that threaten human existence; through the abuse of technology which endangers the earth and all life upon it.

Lord, have mercy; Christ, have mercy; Lord, have mercy .

We commit ourselves individually and as a community to the way of Christ: to take up the cross;

**to seek abundant life for all humanity;
to struggle for peace with justice and freedom;
to risk ourselves in faith, hope, and love,
praying that God's kingdom may come.**

May God's kingdom come on earth as it is in heaven.
Amen.

HYMN #158 "Come, Christians Join to Sing"

Come, Christians, join to sing: Alleluia! Amen!

Loud praise to Christ our King: Alleluia! Amen!

Let all, with heart and voice, before his throne rejoice;

Praise is his gracious choice. Alleluia! Amen!

Come, lift your hearts on high: Alleluia! Amen!

Let praises fill the sky: Alleluia! Amen!

He is our guide and friend; to us he'll condescend;

His love shall never end: Alleluia! Amen!

Praise yet the Lord again: Alleluia! Amen!

Life shall not end the strain: Alleluia! Amen!

On heaven's blissful shore his goodness we'll adore,

Singing forevermore: Alleluia! Amen!

PRAYER CONCERNS/PASTORAL/LORD'S PRAYER

HYMN SING

HYMN #378 "Amazing Grace" v. 1 & 6

Amazing grace! How sweet the sound
that saved a wretch like me!

I once was lost, but now am found;
was blind, but now I see.

When we've been there ten thousand years,
bright shining as the sun, we've no less days to sing
God's praise than when we'd first begun.

SCRIPTURE: John 4:1-15, 21-26, 39-42

This is the gospel of Jesus Christ.

All Praise to the Living Word!

HYMN #2212 “My Life Flows On”

My life flows on in endless song, above earth's
lamentation.

I hear the clear, though far-off hymn that hails a new
creation.

No storm can shake my in-most calm while to that Rock
I'm clinging.

Since love is Lord of heaven and earth, how can I keep
from singing?

Through all the tumult and the strife, I hear that music
ringing.

It finds an echo in my soul. How can I keep from
singing?

No storm can shake my in-most calm while to that Rock
I'm clinging.

Since love is Lord of heaven and earth, how can I keep
from singing?

What though my joys and comforts die? I know my
Savior liveth.

What though the darkness gather round? Songs in the
night he giveth.

No storm can shake my in-most calm while to that Rock
I'm clinging.

Since love is Lord of heaven and earth, how can I keep
from singing?

The peace of Christ makes fresh my heart, a fountain
ever springing!

All things are mine since I am his! How can I keep from
singing?

No storm can shake my in-most calm while to that Rock
I'm clinging.

Since love is Lord of heaven and earth, how can I keep
from singing?

MESSAGE:

In Spirit & Truth: 15 Years of Women at the Well
by Rev. Paul Witmer

OFFERING**PRESENTING OUR GIFTS**

Doxology UMH #95

OFFERTORY PRAYER**HYMN #389 “Freely, Freely”**

God forgave my sin in Jesus' name,
I've been born again in Jesus' name,
And in Jesus' name I come to you,
To share his love as he told me to.
He said “Freely, freely you have received,
Freely, freely give.

Go in my name, and because you believe,
Others will know that I live.”

All power is given in Jesus' name,
in earth and heaven in Jesus' name,
And in Jesus' name I come to you,
To share his power as he told me to.
He said “Freely, freely you have received,
Freely, freely give.
Go in my name, and because you believe,
Others will know that I live.”

BENEDICTION**FRIENDSHIP CIRCLE SONG**

“May the Peace of the Lord Christ”

May the peace of the Lord Christ go with you,
Wherever He may send you.

May He guide you through the wilderness,
protect you through the storm.

May He bring you home rejoicing at the
Wonders He has shown you.

May He bring you home rejoicing once again into our
doors.

Bio for Pastor Paul:

Ordained in the United Church of Christ, Pastor Paul Witmer has served as a pastor for more than 30 years in rural and suburban settings, including a new church start in the 90s here in Iowa. He has extensive experience teaching contemplative practices, leading retreats, and working with folks in twelve-step recovery. A trained Spiritual Director, Paul also works with many in developing deep listening skills and growing on the spiritual journey. As an artist and musician, Paul is especially drawn to the arts as creative expression and experience of the Divine.

Paul first came to Women at the Well in 2016 as the Minister of Congregational Care; joined full-time ministry in 2018, and as of July 2021 has been appointed as the lead pastor for Women at the Well, a prison congregation of the United Methodist Church at the Iowa women's prison in Mitchellville, Iowa. Paul is a graduate of Southwestern University (Georgetown, TX) and Eden Seminary (St. Louis, MO). He resides with his wife in Urbandale, and between them they have five grown children and three grandchildren.