

Welcome to  
**St. Paul's United Church of Christ**

*An Open and Affirming Congregation of the United Church of Christ*

November 3, 2024



“I am the  
*resurrection*  
and the  
*life.*”

John 11:25

**GOD IS STILL SPEAKING**



*NO MATTER WHO YOU ARE, OR WHERE YOU ARE ON  
LIFE'S JOURNEY YOU ARE WELCOME HERE!*

## **Worship Leadership**

Preacher: The Rev. John J. Ward-Diorio  
The Rev. Allyssa A. Boyer  
Lector: Mary Runkle

## **Ministry of Music**

Minister of Music: Eric R. Dundore  
Assistant Music Director: Mark A. Dundore  
Organist: Sarah A. Myers  
Assistant Organist: Patrice G. Miller

## **Ministry of Audio and Video**

Jeffrey A. Dundore

## **Ministry of Service**

Lead Greeter: Steve Roush  
Greeters: Don Dupes, Paula Boyer, Wendy Hayden, Rebecca Drazba,  
Acolyte: Elsa Riesmeyer  
Kids' Place:  
Flower Preparation: Susan Gabriel  
Flower Delivery: Leann Davinroy

## **Pastor Emeritus**

The Rev. Dr. Thomas E. Herrold

## **Ministers**

The Entire Congregation

*Visit the church website, under the 'Sign Up' menu heading,  
to help as a Sunday volunteer or Worship Participant.  
We're grateful for your generosity.*

## **ST. PAUL'S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**

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ST. PAUL'S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST  
SERVICE OF WORSHIP

ALL SAINTS DAY  
HOLY COMMUNION

November 3, 2024

*The livestream starts with the Announcements. If you'd prefer not to be on camera, kindly choose a seat in the back three pews of the Sanctuary. Leave prayer requests in the bowl in the Common area or give them to the Lead Greeter.*

*\*Those who are comfortable doing so are invited to stand.*

THE RINGING OF THE CHIMES

THE WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

STEWARDSHIP MOMENT

THE ORGAN PRELUDE "How Lovely Is Thy Dwelling Place (from 'Requiem')" Johannes Brahms

CHORAL INTROIT

\*THE HYMN No. 377 "Forward through the Ages"

**ALL SAINTS DAY CANDLE LIGHTING**

**\*PRAYER OF INVOCATION (Responsive)**

One: We remember the great ancestors of our faith, from Abraham and Sarah to Paul and Priscilla:

**All: Ancestors of our faith, we remember you.**

One: We remember the prophets and priests, the ministers and teachers who have taught us the way of God:

**All: Teachers of our faith, we remember you.**

One: We remember our grandparents and parents, aunts, and uncles; those who have gone before us in our lifetime:

**All: Family of our faith, we remember you.**

One: We lift up the memories of children and grandchildren, brothers and sisters, husbands and wives, parents, and friends whose lives ended too soon:

**All: Those we hold close in our heart, we remember you.**

One: We gather now to celebrate the gift of grace in the lives of those who have died from St. Paul's community throughout the years and in particular, those who have died in the past year. We celebrate their lives, even as we continue to grieve.

*(As each name is spoken, a candle will be lit. Family members of the deceased may take their loved one's candle home with them after the Service or during the following week.)*

We remember members of St. Paul's throughout our history together, and we remember Barb Bell, Mike Gray, Mike Hatz, Rick Holtzapple, Will Jones, Chuck Miller and all our loved ones who have passed into new life, but whose names and memories we have not forgotten.

**One:** Let us pray. We give thanks, O God, for all who have gone on to join with You beyond this life. We trust in the hope of resurrection and the promise of new life in Christ. We know that in our grief and celebration, O God, You are with us through it all, and we are not left alone.

**All:** **Family of God, we remember you, and we honor you. We know you are with us in the spirit of worship, and our daily lives, and you will not be forgotten. In the name of Christ, in whom love lives forever, we pray. Amen.**

#### CALL TO CONFESSION

Unlike some politicians and very wealthy people, many of us think too little of ourselves. We have been influenced by what the world values and/or listened to the voices of those who have told us we are not worth anything, we are less than others, we will never amount to anything, or we are past our prime. This can lead us to believe, we really have nothing to contribute. Nothing could be further from the truth, yet we hesitate to offer ourselves in service to God. Let us join in a time of Silent Prayer of Confession.

#### SILENT PRAYERS OF CONFESSION

#### WORDS OF ASSURANCE (Responsive):

**One:** God forgives us and reminds us of our worth and who we are, all of us: Beloved Children of God.

**ALL:** **Remembering the Saints in Light, let us not under value who we are and what we can do, for God has work for each of us and loves us. Amen.**

*If you are able, please rise and greet one another with signs of Peace.*

#### \*THE PASSING OF THE PEACE

\*THE GLORIA PATRI (#759 is the tune, but not all the same words)

**Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;**

**As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen. Amen.**

*Children are invited to the front at this time.  
Everyone who comes forward will be on camera.*

#### SING THE CHILDREN TO THE FRONT

Jesus Loves the Little Children

**Jesus loves the little children, all the children of the world**

**Shy and Joyful, Bold and Bright**

*They are precious in his sight  
Jesus loves the little children of the world.*

THE WORD FOR THE YOUNG

SING THE CHILDREN TO THEIR SEATS

Jesus Loves Me

*Jesus loves me, this I know, for the Bible tells me so  
Little ones to him belong. They are weak but He is strong.  
Yes, Jesus loves me. Yes, Jesus loves me  
Yes, Jesus loves me. The Bible tells me so*

THE HEBREW SCRIPTURE READING

Isaiah 25:6-9

THE APOCRYPHAL READING

Wisdom of Solomon 3:1-4

THE RESPONSE:

One: God is Still Speaking.

All: **Thanks be to God!**

THE GOSPEL READING & MESSAGE:

John 11:17-44

“New Life: Here and Now and Forever”

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

THE CHORAL RESPONSE (unison)

In - to my heart, in - to my heart, come  
in - to my heart, Lord Je - sus; come in to - day, come  
in to stay, come in - to my heart, Lord Je - sus.

*Please place your pew pad sheets in the Offering Plate.*

Chancel Choir

\*DOXOLOGY

***From all who dwell beneath the skies,  
Let the Creator’s praise arise!  
Let the Redeemer’s name be sung.  
Through every land, by every tongue! Amen.***

\*THE PRAYER OF DEDICATION (Unison)

**Receive from us, O God, the best we have to give. All we have comes from You. We return a portion with joy to accomplish the work we intend to do together in Your name. We bring ourselves as well, to be blessed by You, so that while we are apart our words and deeds will continue to be a significant offering. May our lives praise You! Amen.**

\*THE HYMN No. 332 “As We Gather at Your Table”

**THE SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION**

THE INVITATION

One: God be with you.  
**All: And also with you.**  
One: Lift up your hearts.  
**All: We lift them up to God.**  
One: Let us give thanks to God.  
**All: It is good to give God thanks and praise.**

PASTORAL PRAYER AND LORD’S PRAYER

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed by 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, forever. Amen.**

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

DISTRIBUTION OF THE ELEMENTS

We gather both in person and in Spirit. For those of you present in the Sanctuary, greeters will pass out bread and gluten-free crackers, and then red wine and white grape juice. They will bring the trays to you. Please hold the elements until all have been served; we will eat and then drink them together. All are welcome to participate. Thank you.

For those of you joining us via livestream, we hope you have some bread and wine or juice of your choice before you. We trust that God is powerful enough to extend God’s Blessing upon these Communion elements, even as we and they are scattered in geographic space.

THE PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING (unison)

**Holy God, we give You thanks for the miracle and wonder of this meal. We give You thanks for your coming to us in the person of Jesus, and for Jesus' willingness to offer his whole self for our benefit. We can see how we can best live our lives. We can believe all "deaths," those losses, endings, and struggles in this life, and the ones at the end of our physical lives, are not the final word. We can trust that Your Spirit is within all of us, and always will be. May the gifts of this table always remind us of the gifts You have given us all. Amen.**

\*THE HYMN No. 299 "For All the Saints"

\*THE BIDDING TO MISSION

\*THE WORLD PEACE PRAYER

One: Lead us, O God.

**All: Lead us from death to life, from falsehood to truth.  
Lead us from despair to hope, from fear to trust.  
Lead us from hate to love, from war to peace.  
Let peace fill our hearts, our world, our universe. Amen.**

\*THE BENEDICTION

\* THE THREE-FOLD AMEN

*The livestream ends after the Postlude. You're welcome to converse in the Narthex after the Three-fold Amen.  
However, if you choose to stay for the Postlude, please remain silent until the conclusion.*

THE ORGAN POSTLUDE "All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name"

Peter Benjamin

References:

The All Saints Day Candle Lighting litany is adapted from a worship resource by Rev. Mindi Welton-Mitchell, revolution.org.

The Prayer of Dedication is from "Led by Love" by Lavon Bayler, 1996, United Church Press.

The World Peace Prayer is a paraphrase of a verse from the Upanishads, the most ancient scriptures of Hinduism, also prayed daily by Roman Catholic Benedictine nuns.

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## Imagine Together: A World Made Whole

**The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad,  
the desert shall rejoice and blossom;  
like the crocus  
it shall blossom abundantly,  
and rejoice with joy and shouting.** (Isaiah 35: 1-2)

Isaiah 35 reflects on the intricate relationship between human activity and the environment, drawing parallels between the biblical narrative and contemporary ecological challenges. The passage emphasizes the profound impact of human actions on the landscape, illustrating how the expansion of deserts and ecological mismanagement contribute to famine and wildfires. Despite technological advancements, the text contends that human greed, indifference, and hopelessness impede necessary environmental healing. The theme of "A World Made Whole" calls for a collective responsibility to address ecological crises, urging a shift from destructive practices to stewardship.

Rev. Dr. Patricia K. Tull observes, "The apostle Paul pointed out once that 'hope that is seen is not hope' (Rom 8:24). If this is true, it is also true that hope that is left unseen, unimagined, undared, is not hope either... Underlying Isaiah 35's

dramatic imagery, hope is being expressed not simply for divine acts, but for those the prophet seeks to inspire from a small band of Judeans who could recultivate the burned land and push back the chaos, and thus strengthen their own weak hands, feeble knees, and fearful hearts."

How can we Imagine Together A World Made Whole? Can we be physicians of the environment? Caregivers of the land? Our collective stewardship and generosity can be healing. Together we can actively recreate healthy environments in our yards, churches, and towns. It is our collective effort that instills order in chaos and fosters hope in hearts that may be steeped in despair.

### CONSIDER YOUR PLEDGE AS A PERCENT OF YOUR MONTHLY INCOME.

Annual Income	Monthly Income	2%	3%	4%	5%	10%
20,000	1,667	33	50	67	83	167
25,000	2,083	42	63	83	104	208
30,000	2,500	50	75	100	125	250
35,000	2,917	58	88	117	146	292
40,000	3,333	67	100	133	167	333
45,000	3,750	75	113	150	188	375
50,000	4,167	83	125	167	208	417
60,000	5,000	100	150	200	250	500
75,000	6,250	125	188	250	313	625
100,000	8,333	167	250	333	417	833
125,000	10,417	208	313	417	521	1042
150,000	12,500	250	375	500	625	1250
200,000	16,667	333	500	667	833	1667

On average, Americans give 2% of their income to charity. Giving even 1% more of annual income to charity would be transformative for our congregation and other organizations doing good in our community.

# Imagine Together