

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

An Open and Affirming Congregation of the United Church of Christ

February 16, 2025



GOD IS STILL SPEAKING



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

Worship Leadership

The Rev. John J. Ward-Diorio
Preacher: The Rev. Allyssa A. Boyer
Lector: Karin Stork-Whitson

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: Mel Shaver-Durham
Greeters: Don Dupes, Steven Stough, Nancy Richey
Acolyte: Elsa Riesmeyer
Kids' Place:
Flower Preparation: Susan Gabriel
Flower Delivery: Joan Moyer
Counting Team: Mary Runkle, Sue Miller

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

SIXTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

February 16, 2025

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

THE ORGAN PRELUDE "Ever Faithful, Ever Near"

Franklin Ritter

CHORAL INTROIT

*THE HYMN No. 416 "I Will Trust in the Lord"

*PRAYER OF INVOCATION (unison)

Come, Holy God, to search our minds and try our hearts. Grant us in this hour wise counsel and clear direction. Touch us, teach us, hear us, heal us. Send Your Spirit to walk with us, as Christ walked with the disciples long ago, that Your realm may become for us a present reality as well as a future hope. Amen.

CALL TO CONFESSION

God, in whose presence we gather, promises us grace and pardon when we acknowledge the times we have strayed from the path of discipleship. We recognize and confess that we have failed to respond fully to God's gracious presence in our lives, and that the wrong we have done is made worse by the good we have left undone. Let us join in the time of Silent Prayers of Confession.

SILENT PRAYERS OF CONFESSION

WORDS OF ASSURANCE (Responsive):

One: The healing Jesus offered to disciples long ago is available to us. They were freed to love with generous abandon; so are we. They learned to care for others without first measuring the benefits to themselves; so have we.

ALL: **They found hope and new life in Christ; this is also God's gift to 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.**

BLESSING OF THE PRAYER SHAWLS (unison)

May God's grace be upon these shawls...warming, comforting, enfolding, and embracing. May these mantles be safe havens...sacred places of security and well-being...sustaining and embracing in good times as well as difficult ones. May the ones who receive these shawls be cradled in hope, kept in joy, graced with peace, and wrapped in love. Blessed be!

*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

Jeremiah 17:5-10

THE READING OF THE PSALM

Psalm 1

*THE HYMN No. 553 "There Is a Balm in Gilead"

THE RESPONSE:

One: God is Still Speaking.

All: Thanks be to God!

THE GOSPEL READING & MESSAGE:

Luke 6:17-26

"For Such A Time As This"

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

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, forever. Amen.

THE CHORAL RESPONSE (unison)



Hear our prayer, O Lord, Hear our prayer, O Lord. In -
cline Thine ear to us And grant us Thy peace.

Please place your pew pad sheets in the Offering Plate.

THE OFFERTORY “Jesus Walked this Lonesome Valley”
Hand Chimes

Spiritual, arr. Page

*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)

Thank You, God, for the consolation You offer, the hunger You satisfy, and the healing You produce in those who respond to Your love. You have touched our lives in ways that make us rich. Now use what we have shared to provide fulfillment in other lives, among our neighbors, near and far. Amen.

*THE HYMN No. 454 “Lord, I Want to Be a Christian”

*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 "Praising the Almighty"

Edward Broughton

References:

Cover Image, Ferenczy, Károly, 1862-1917. Sermon on the Mount, from **Art in the Christian Tradition**, a project of the Vanderbilt Divinity Library, Nashville, TN. <https://diglib.library.vanderbilt.edu/act-imagelink.pl?RC=56296> [retrieved February 11, 2025]. Original source:

http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:The_Sermon_on_the_Mount_K%C3%A1roly_Ferenczy.jpg.

The Prayer of Invocation, Words of Assurance, and Prayer of Dedication are adapted from "Gathered by Love" by Lavon Bayler, The Pilgrim Press: Cleveland, OH, 2001.

The Call to Confession is adapted from the "Book of Worship," by United Church of Christ Office for Church Life and Leadership: New York, NY, 1986.

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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ALTAR FLOWERS

The Altar flowers are given to the Glory of God by
Corky Short, "In honor of Candy LaRue's 75th birthday."

Spiritual Royalties Initiative Congregational Pledge

We, the Congregation of St. Paul's UCC, Mechanicsburg, acknowledge the history and significance of the Negro Spirituals sung in worship today:

I Will Trust in the Lord

There Is a Balm in Gilead

Jesus Walked this Lonesome Valley

Lord, I Want to Be a Christian

We affirm their artistic and spiritual worth in the life of the world today.

With great respect and deep gratitude for the tremendous musical contributions made to American music by Black people, we offer our thanks and praise to God for the creators of the Negro Spiritual and their descendants.

We pledge that each time we sing Negro Spirituals in our worship we will sing them with holy reverence and open hearts.

Through our prayers, we will honor the unnamed enslaved people who composed them, and we will pay royalties from the funds collected to the Capital Area Music Association and Sankofa Theater Company*, both organizations dedicated to promoting the advancement of young Black artists and musicians, and to preserve Negro Spirituals in the Black community.

We understand that the debt owed to Black musicians and artists can never be fully repaid. Through our prayers, our gifts, and our actions, we will keep striving to end systemic racism in America.

*www.camamusic.org and www.sankofatheatrehbg.com