

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

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

March 2, 2025



**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: Sherry Spencer

### **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: Charles Ricedorf-Reed  
Greeters: Wendy Hayden, Nancy Richey, Rebecca Drazba  
Acolyte: Elsa Riesmeyer  
Kids' Place: Sherry Spencer  
Flower Preparation:  
Flower Delivery: Becky Thompson  
Counting Team:

### **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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**Rev. Allyssa: [allyssaboyer@outlook.com](mailto:allyssaboyer@outlook.com)**



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

TRANSFIGURATION SUNDAY  
HOLY COMMUNION

March 2, 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 "A Calm Retreat"

James J. Bell

CHORAL INTROIT

\*THE HYMN No. 182 "We Have Come at Christ's Own Bidding"

\*PRAYER OF INVOCATION (unison)

**Faithful God, be with us as we face the difficulties of following Your Calls to us. Bearing a Cross is hard. Help us to find the strength, support and hope we can receive through prayer that connects us with examples of Your faithfulness in the past, with those who are helping us in the present, and displays a vision of Your Kingdom here on earth for the future. Amen.**

CALL TO CONFESSION

We are so used to trying to do things on our own, that we do not always consider turning to God for help or paying attention to the ways God is coming to us. Jesus prayed. Jesus asked for help. Jesus received it. And just like him, it is not always the help or support we want but it is what we need. Let us join in a time of Silent Prayers of Confession.

SILENT PRAYERS OF CONFESSION

WORDS OF ASSURANCE (Responsive):

One: God forgives us for not turning to God and continues to offer strength, support and help.

**ALL: Let us take the time to pray. Let us listen intently. Let us accept the assistance, peace and love God is offering to us. It can indeed transform 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

Lamentations 1:1-22

THE RESPONSE:

One: God is Still Speaking.

All: **Thanks be to God!**

THE GOSPEL READING & MESSAGE:

Luke 9:28-36

“Finding Support, Inspiration, and Hope”

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

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.*

\*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 choosing us to speak for You and to act on Your behalf. It is an honor to share with others what You have entrusted to us. Our offerings represent ourselves and the depth of our commitment. We rededicate to You the talents, abilities, and resources You have placed in our hands. May we be faithful in our mutual ministry. Amen.**

\*THE HYMN No. 349 “I Come with Joy”

**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 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. 493 “O Jesus, I Have Promised”

\*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 “Great Is The Lord”

Donald Lee Moore

References:

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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### **ALTAR FLOWERS**

The Altar flowers are given to the Glory of God by  
Don and Merikay Wood, “In appreciation of the church family.”