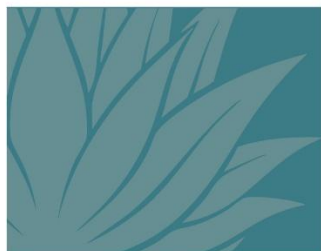


Welcome to St. Paul's United Church of Christ

An Open and Affirming Congregation of the United Church of Christ

March 9, 2025



FIRST SUNDAY
in
LENT

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

The Rev. Allyssa A. Boyer

Lector: Becky Thompson

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: Sue Miller

Greeters: Candy LaRue, Becky Thompson, Corky Short

Acolyte: Elsa Riesmeyer

Kids' Place: Barbara Wheeler,

Flower Preparation: Susan Gabriel

Flower Delivery: Ben and Erin Anderson

Counting Team: Melissa Cawley

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.

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**ONLINE
GIVING**



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

FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT
YOUTH SUNDAY

March 9, 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 PRELUDE "When the Saints Go Marching In"

Alice Anderson on piano

CHORAL INTROIT

*THE HYMN "O Lord, The Spirit Led You" (to the tune of no. 245, "The Day of Resurrection")

O Lord, the Spirit led you into the wilderness;

For forty days the devil would put you to the test.

You fasted! You were famished! And soon the devil said,

"If you're God's Son, then show it: just turn this stone to bread."

Yet, Christ, your way was steady — as solid as that stone;

You trusted in God's promise, and not in bread alone.

Nor would you bow to earn you a kingdom made of sod,

For everyone must offer allegiance unto God.

High on the temple tower, you heard the tempter say:

If you think God has power, then simply step this way!

But you rebuked the devil, said, "No!", and turned around;

When others fell for evil, you stood on solid ground.

You were, in most ways, like us, and yet you did not sin.

We're grateful you walk with us as Lenten days begin.

May we, in each decision, be faithful, strong and sure.

May we, too, have a vision of things that will endure.

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*PRAYER OF INVOCATION (unison)

Holy God, we come together today just as we are—imperfect, but hoping for something real. We thank You for this moment, for bringing us together, and for never giving up on us. We ask that You help us to feel Your presence here. Open our hearts so we can truly hear You and see You today. Help us to lay down all the distractions we’ve been carrying around. Guide us through the stuff we don’t always understand, and give us the courage to trust You even when things feel complicated. We pray that as we worship, You will remind us of who You are: patient, strong, loving, and always there. Help us feel Your love in a real way, so we can share it with the world around us. Amen.

CALL TO CONFESSION

God promises us that God will be there with us through all our mistakes—all the times we have said or done the wrong thing, or failed to say or do the right thing—when we recognize and admit that we have strayed from the path God calls us to follow. Let us join in the time of Silent Prayers of Confession.

SILENT PRAYERS OF CONFESSION

WORDS OF ASSURANCE (Responsive):

One: God hears the prayers of our hearts. God knows when we have good intentions, and God will continue to be with us, guiding us to live in ways that build one another up, instead of tearing each other down.

ALL: We believe the good news of Jesus Christ. 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.**

THE CHORISTERS

THE PSALM

Psalm 91:1-6, 9-16 (pp. 681-682)

THE HEBREW SCRIPTURE READING

Lamentations 3:1-18

*THE HYMN No. 205 “Forty Days and Forty Nights”

THE RESPONSE:

One: God is Still Speaking.

All: **Thanks be to God!**

THE GOSPEL READING & MESSAGE:

Luke 4:1-13

“The Temptations of Alex” – a skit by the Youth Sunday School class

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)

Re - mem - ber me, re - mem - ber me,

O Je - sus, re - mem - ber me.

Please place your pew pad sheets in the Offering Plate.

THE OFFERTORY “On Eagle’s Wings”

Joncas

Youth 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)

From the abundance entrusted to us, O God, we offer up the best we can give. Guide our use of this trust, that it may be spent in ways You choose, and in places where You would send us, for the sake of people who have too often been left out. May we be living examples of Your love, not only with money, but through all we say and do. Help us to be instruments of hope and compassion in our daily lives. Amen.

*THE HYMN No. 460 "Be Not Dismayed"

*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 POSTLUDE "Kum ba yah"

Caroline Anderson on violin

References:

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 Prayer of Dedication is adapted from "Gathered by Love" by Lavon Bayler, The Pilgrim Press: Cleveland, OH, 2001.

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
Sherry Spencer, "In loving memory of my mother, Shirley Corman."