

Welcome to
St. Paul's United Church of Christ

An Open and Affirming Congregation of the United Church of Christ

March 16, 2025

"I am
casting out demons
and
performing cures
today and tomorrow,



and on the third day
I finish my work."

LUKE 13:32, NRSV

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: Patrice Miller

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: Becky Thompson
Greeters: Jodi Biss, Dale Thorpe
Acolyte: Elsa Riesmeyer
Kids' Place: Don Dupes
Flower Preparation: Susan Gabriel
Flower Delivery: Martha Keith
Counting Team: Martha Keith

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

SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT

March 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 "More Love to Thee"

Van Denman Thompson

CHORAL INTROIT

*THE HYMN No. 22 "Sing Praise to God, Who Has Shaped"

*PRAYER OF INVOCATION (unison)

Courage Giving God, Jesus displayed how we need to remain focused on following our calls from You, even when we are threatened. Grant us such courage today. Amen.

CALL TO CONFESSION

We forget Jesus did not sneak around feeding, healing, and caring for all people, even those considered outcasts. He did all this in the open, even under threat from political and religious authorities. Our fear of what might happen to us if we challenge or make authorities angry, often stops us from doing what we have been called to do. Let us join in the time of Silent Prayers of Confession.

SILENT PRAYERS OF CONFESSION

WORDS OF ASSURANCE (Responsive):

One: God forgives us and continues to offer us the support we need to gather our courage to stand up for what is right.

ALL: Let us as individuals and as part of the Body of Christ continue to faithfully live out our calls, even when, and perhaps most especially when, we are threatened by those who act in defiance of God's commandment to love our neighbors as ourselves. 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!

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.

BAPTISMS OF

Knoxlee Grace Desenberg

Hadleigh Clarie Mutzabuagh

PRESENTATION OF THE WATER

GATHERING OF WITNESSES

BAPTISMAL ADDRESS

QUESTIONS OF THE CANDIDATES'S PARENTS

CONGREGATIONAL ASSENT

Jesus Christ calls us to serve all people, particularly those most in need and to share the message that God loves and accepts us all.

Let us join together in saying the unison Congregational Assent printed in our bulletin.

We, as members of St. Paul's, United Church of Christ and the Church Universal, hear your promises with joy and gladly welcome you as sisters and brothers in Christ into the family of faith. We covenant with you to share in the hopes, labors and joys of the Christian life, supported by God's love through this congregation.

We will weep with you when you weep, rejoice with you in your rejoicing, and encourage your growth in the new life Christ gives. These things we promise in the name and spirit of Jesus, our Savior. Amen.

PRAYER OF BAPTISM

ACT OF BAPTISM

PRAYER FOR THE BAPTIZED

CELEBRATORY PROCESSIONAL

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***

SINGING THE PSALM

Psalm 27 (p. 637)

THE HEBREW SCRIPTURE READING

Lamentations 3:19-51

*THE HYMN No. 468 "The Care the Eagle Givers Her Young"

THE RESPONSE:

One: God is Still Speaking.

All: Thanks be to God!

THE GOSPEL READING & MESSAGE:

Luke 13:31-35

"Living With Threats"

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 “Trust and Obey”

arr. Helman

Hand Chimes

*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)

In the confidence that You will multiply our best efforts, we bring our offerings for the work of Your church in the world. Holy God, it is a joy to present our sacrifices, for we are as blessed in our giving as we have been in receiving abundant goodness from Your hand. Keep us from seeking to build permanent structures that might block spontaneous responses to Your love. Amen.

*THE HYMN “Since the Lord is My Salvation” (to the tune of no. 459, “Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing”)

***Since the Lord is my salvation, Is there anyone to fear?
As a citizen of heaven why should I feel worry here?
In a world that’s lost and broken and where sin and death abound,
We rejoice for God has spoken: we are safe, on solid ground.***

***God will hide me in the shelter when the days of trouble come.
Though a war may rise against me, God’s own tent will be my home.***

***I will trust what God has given, I will trust God's word to me:
I'm a citizen of heaven and it's what I'll always be.***

***Even when I hear the warning, "Find a safer, easier way,"
I'll be faithful in the morning and at noon and close of day.
As a citizen of heaven, I have nothing I should fear;
For in Christ, I am forgiven, and I'm called to service here.***

***You, O Lord, are my salvation; make me strong to live for you.
May I care for your creation, love the stranger, speak what's true.
May I share what you have given; may I see each person's worth.
As a citizen of heaven, make me useful here on earth.***

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*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 "Onward, Christian Soldiers"

Lani Smith

References:

The Prayer of Blessing is by Janet Bristow, 2008, www.shawlministry.com.

The Prayer of Dedication is from "Gathered 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
Patrice and Gregory Miller, "In loving memory of Catherine Thomas."

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Easter Flowers:

Sponsorship forms are now available to sponsor Easter Flowers. Each is \$10.00 and orders must be placed by March 30th. Forms are available to pick up in the Common.

Easter Egg Sale:

We're so egg-cited to announce our Egg Sale is back! All orders must be placed by March 30th. Sign up in the Common. Volunteer on Saturday, April 5th and 12th. Pick up eggs on Sunday, before or after worship, on April 6th and 13th. Orders are due no later than March 30th.

Spring Stewardship Auction:

Another Spring Stewardship Online Auction will be here soon, with goodies to get you excited about spring! We can't wait to hear about your creative ideas, and we have a few to share as well. Check out the Time to Sign Up for 'Spring Auction Donations'. Sign up to donate a single item, a basket with a suggested theme, or a creation of your very own. All auction items are due to the church office no later than March 23. New this year - we are limiting the number of auction items over \$75. If you'd like to donate a larger item, please consider contacting us before you purchase. Thank you! Melissa Cawley (melissacawley@aol.com) or Victoria Velez (vmvluv@comcast.net).

Adult Sunday School Class:

Content Overview: Many Christians mistakenly believe that their only choice is either to reconcile themselves to a fundamental reading of scripture (literal) or to simply reject the Bible as something that could bring meaning and value into their lives. In this book by Marcus J. Borg, [Reading the Bible Again for the First Time](#), we reveal how it is possible to reconcile a scientific and critical way of thinking with our deepest spiritual needs, leading to an insightful experience of ancient text. This book will show us how to encounter the Bible in a fresh, new way that rejects the limits of simple literalism and opens the rich possibility of living a life of authentic faith. Join us on Sunday morning in the large meeting room across from the office.

Pollyannas:

Pollyannas will be having their next lunch meeting at 11:30 am, Tuesday, March 25 at Perkins on Erford Rd. We will be meeting in the small back room. Please notify Bonnie Plymette if you are planning to attend.