

Welcome to St. Paul's United Church of Christ

An Open and Affirming Congregation of the United Church of Christ

March 23, 2025



THIRD 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

Preacher: The Rev. John J. Ward-Diorio
The Rev. Allyssa A. Boyer
Lector: Nancy Richey

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: Patrice Miller
Acolyte: Elsa Riesmeyer
Kids' Place: Ivonne McFarland
Flower Preparation: Susan Gabriel
Flower Delivery: Melanie Shaver-Durham
Counting Team: Susan Miller, Betty Olsen

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

626 Williams Grove Road
Mechanicsburg, PA 17055
(717)766-7931

saintpaulsucc-mech.org

Office: stpaulstaff@outlook.com

Rev. John: revjohnwd@outlook.com

Rev. Allyssa: allyssaboyer@outlook.com



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

THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT

March 23, 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 "Rock of Ages"

Edward Broughton

CHORAL INTROIT

*THE HYMN No. 436 "God of Grace and God of Glory"

*PRAYER OF INVOCATION (unison)

God of Honesty, help us to be honest with ourselves and others. We need to admit we are uncomfortable with mystery, and therefore we create false rationale for why things happen, particularly painful and difficult things. Be with us as we face reality. Amen.

CALL TO CONFESSION

We would rather blame God for tragedies than blame ourselves or other humans if we cannot fathom why someone would act that way, or why certain people are being hurt, and not others. We would rather believe that God controls everything than accept the extreme depravity of some humans towards random others, and the uncontrollable power of nature. Let us join in Silent Prayers of Confession.

SILENT PRAYERS OF CONFESSION

WORDS OF ASSURANCE (Responsive):

One: God forgives us and continues to call us to return, turn back to God and develop a more honest and deeper relationship with God.

ALL: Let us consider all we have heard, all we have learned, and ask: 'Is this really how God acts?' 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

SINGING THE PSALM

Psalm 63:1-8 (pg. 660)

THE HEBREW SCRIPTURE READING

Lamentations 3:52-66

*THE HYMN No. 252 “Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us”

THE RESPONSE:

One: God is Still Speaking.

All: Thanks be to God!

THE GOSPEL READING & MESSAGE:

Luke 13:1-9

“There Is Still Time to Turn Back to God”

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 “This Is My Word”

Choplin

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)

All that we present to You now, O God, we have received from Your hand. We give so the hungry may eat and the thirsty may receive pure water. We share to send the good news of Your Word to those who have not heard. We invest in just causes, that Your mercy may be known among all people. Most of all, we give because passing on Your gifts in generous response is necessary to life. Amen.

*THE HYMN No. 547 “Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound”

*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 "Sing Praise to God"

Edward Broughton

References:

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
Nancy Richey, "In loving memory of my mother, Alberta Fisher."

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.

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.