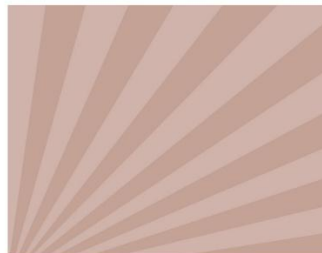


**Welcome to**  
**St. Paul's United Church of Christ**

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

March 30, 2025



FOURTH 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  
Preacher: The Rev. Allyssa A. Boyer  
Lector: Jane Leister

### **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: Daniella Benfer  
Greeters: Don Dupes, Steven Stough  
Acolyte: Elsa Riesmeyer  
Kids' Place:  
Flower Preparation: Susan Gabriel  
Flower Delivery: Mary Runkle  
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.*

## **ST. PAUL'S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**

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

**saintpaulsucc-mech.org**

**Office: [stpaulstaff@outlook.com](mailto:stpaulstaff@outlook.com)**

**Rev. John: [revjohnwd@outlook.com](mailto:revjohnwd@outlook.com)**

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



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

FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT

March 30, 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 "Pastorale"

Ce'cile Chaminade

CHORAL INTROIT

\*THE HYMN No. 43 "Love Divine, All Loves Excelling"

\*PRAYER OF INVOCATION (unison)

**Loving God, it was said of the Prodigal Son that he "came to himself." Help us to wake up to ourselves, and to You. Set us free from the illusion of trying to be perfect so that we might be more fully human. Help us not to chase after an imaginary life, and to find satisfaction in our real lives. And turn us away from our self-rejection so that we might notice Your arms open in welcome. Amen.**

CALL TO CONFESSION

We admit that we are prone to try to hide our sins; to keep our mouths shut and hope we are not found out. But there is no place to hide from God. Our avoidance only makes us sick in body and spirit. But God delights in forgiving us and in restoring us. God is glad when we confess our failings and our needs. And so now we ask God to deliver us from our fear, our stubbornness, our pride, and our shame. Let us join in the time of Silent Prayers of Confession.

SILENT PRAYERS OF CONFESSION

WORDS OF ASSURANCE (Responsive):

One: God says to those who turn back to God, 'You are always with me, and all that is mine is yours.' We are forgiven and welcomed into God's open arms.

**ALL: We celebrate and rejoice! What was lost has been found. 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 32 (p. 642)

THE HEBREW SCRIPTURE READING

Lamentations 4:1-22

\*THE HYMN No. 202 “O God, How We Have Wandered”

THE RESPONSE:

One: God is Still Speaking.

**All: Thanks be to God!**

THE GOSPEL READING & MESSAGE:

Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32

“Lost & Found”

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 “Mercy Flows”

Lopez

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)

**Thank you, God, for proclaiming our worth when we do not value ourselves. Thank you for welcoming us to a celebration of life with so many precious gifts. Thank you now for the privilege of sharing so others may be led to your joyous embrace. Help us to be generous in gratitude for all you have given us. Amen.**

\*THE HYMN No. 449 “Softy and Tenderly”

\*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 "Fantasia on 'Kingsfold'"

David Paxton

### References:

The Prayer of Invocation is adapted from a prayer by Ann Siddall, in "Lent to Easter Liturgies: Year C." Posted on the website of the Stillpoint Spirituality Centre, <http://stillpoint.unitingchurchsa.org.au/>

The Call to Confession is adapted from a prayer by Valerie Bridgeman Davis in "The Africana Worship Book, Year C," Discipleship Resources: Nashville, TN, 2008.

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.

Songs, music, and lyrics used by permission. CCLI License #11380019 CSPL128945

## ALTAR FLOWERS

The Altar flowers are given to the Glory of God by Dale Thorpe and Don Dupes, "In memory of Elaine Karl"

**Today is the deadline to sponsor Easter Flowers and Chocolate Easter Eggs. Please sign up in the Common.**

## PALM CROSS WORKSHOP

Join us Wednesday, April 9th—anytime between 3:30-6:00 PM—to make palm crosses to distribute to the congregation on Palm Sunday. If you would like to see how we do this, the directions will be on the welcome table in the Common throughout March. No experience is necessary! Folding the palm fronds can be a little challenging at first, but once you get the hang of it, it's very easy. We would love for you to join us; come when you can and stay for however long you'd like. Feel free to bring dinner along. This is a great opportunity for fellowship! If you have any questions, please contact Anna Thompson. Thank you!

## COMMUNITY GARDEN

It is that time of year where once again we think about growing fresh vegetables for donation to New Hope Ministries. It is time to open the Saint Paul's Lee Jackson Community Garden! Our first group workday is scheduled for Saturday, April 12 starting at 9 AM. Please join us as we remove the old landscape fabric, check the integrity of the carpet on our walkways, rototill all plantable areas, and plant the root vegetable seed tapes and the cole crops. Please consider joining us for this worthwhile effort!