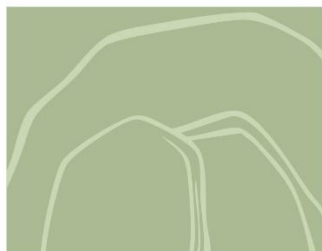


Welcome to St. Paul's United Church of Christ

An Open and Affirming Congregation of the United Church of Christ

April 6, 2025



FIFTH 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: Eric Dundore

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: Jeff Leister
Greeters: Don Dupes, Crystal Cline, Dale Thorpe
Acolyte: Elsa Riesmeyer
Kids' Place: Barbara Wheeler
Flower Preparation: Susan Gabriel
Flower Delivery: Betty Olsen
Counting Team: Joan Moyer
Fellowship Time: Activities Fair

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

FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT
HOLY COMMUNION

April 6, 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 Lenten Prelude"

Chopin/Smith

CHORAL INTROIT

*THE HYMN "When Mary Poured the Rich Perfume" (to the tune of no. 12, "I Sing the Mighty Power of God")

***When Mary poured a rich perfume on Jesus' weary feet,
Her caring filled that humble room; the fragrance there was sweet.
But full of anger, Judas said, "We could have used this more!
Why was her gift not sold instead and given to the poor?"***

***The Lord replied, "Leave her alone! She bought it for this day.
This caring love that she has shown is faithful to God's way.
The poor will always be with you, but you will not have me."
He blessed her and he thanked her, too, for giving lavishly.***

***O Christ, what can your people bring to show you thanks and love?
You need no fragrant offering; for now you reign above.
Since there will never cease to be the poor throughout the land,
May we, your church, serve faithfully by offering them our hand.***

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*PRAYER OF INVOCATION (unison)

Eternal God, guide us in remembering You are also God of the moment. Wake us as we encounter unique opportunities to show love, to serve You. Even as we look to the future with concern, may it not blind us to the immediate needs that are before us. Amen.

CALL TO CONFESSION

We face more than a few tough choices in life. When it comes to how we can best serve God by serving others, we are torn between addressing long-standing problems and immediate needs. How do we decide? Do we have to pick one or the other? Do we recognize that being a part of a diverse community helps us address a variety of issues? We do not have to do it all and all at once. As we join in the time of Silent Prayers of Confession, let us recognize how this conundrum can cause us to choose to do nothing.

SILENT PRAYERS OF CONFESSION

WORDS OF ASSURANCE (Responsive):

One: God forgives us and continues to speak to us, individually and communally, guiding us to the ways we can serve, on our own and together.

ALL: **Let us be open to the needs that surround us and honestly address what we can do, not to avoid serving but to meet the particular issues that are before 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

SINGING THE PSALM

Psalm 126 (pg.707-8)

THE HEBREW SCRIPTURE READING

Lamentations 5:1-22

THE RESPONSE:

One: God is Still Speaking.

All: **Thanks be to God!**

THE GOSPEL READING & MESSAGE:

John 12:1-8

“Let’s Be Honest”

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

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 “God So Loved the World”

Stainer

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)

Beneficent God, we are glad for all the good things You have done for us. We count everything as loss before the surpassing value of knowing Jesus Christ. Receive our costly offerings and our best efforts, here dedicated for Your use. May Christ be proclaimed and the poor be saved from the terrors of suffering and neglect. Fill the hearts of all Your children with laughter and joy. To that end, bless our offerings. Amen.

*THE HYMN No. 456 “More Love to You, O Christ”

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, we invite you to come forward if you are able. When you come forward, a piece of bread will be given to you. Once you have received your bread, please proceed to the right or the left and servers will have both wine and grape juice that you may dip your bread in. All the bread is gluten free. After dipping your bread in the wine/juice, you may then eat your communion element and proceed back to your pew. If you prefer not to come forward, please remain in your pew and a greeter will bring you the elements. Please raise your hand if you believe the greeter did not see 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, wherever they may be.

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. 190 “Beneath the Cross of Jesus”

*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 “Christ, Whose Glory Fills the Skies”

Gerald Peterson

References:

The Prayer of Dedication is from “Gathered by Love” by Lavon Bayler, 1997, 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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ANNOUNCEMENTS

ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING: Today, we will collect gifts towards OGHS. One Great Hour of Sharing is one of four special mission offerings of the United Church of Christ. This Lenten Offering supports the disaster, refugee, and development ministries of the United Church of Christ within Wider Church Ministries.

ACTIVITIES FAIR

Join us for Fellowship Time after worship today, April 6 to learn more about the different activities and committees here at St. Paul's. What does PRISM stand for? Who's on the Finance Team and what do they do? We'll answer all of your questions and more while you snack, visit and vote on your favorite display!

STEWARDSHIP SPRING ONLINE AUCTION

It's time to start bidding on the incredible items in our spring auction! All bidding will be done online and ends Thursday, April 10th at 7pm. Auction items are on display in the Fellowship Hall following worship today during our "Activities Fair". Don't miss out on something new or one of our returning "fan favorites"!

HOLY WEEK & EASTER WORSHIP SERVICES

- Maundy Thursday service, 4/17, at 6:30 PM, in Fellowship Hall
- Good Friday service, 4/18, at 7:00 PM
- Easter Sunrise service, 4/20, at 6:00 AM, outside at the Columbarium
- Easter service, 4/20, at 10:30 AM

EASTER EGG HUNT

St. Paul's annual Easter Egg Hunt will be Saturday, April 19. All children in 5th grade and younger are invited to participate. The egg hunt will start promptly at 10 AM, so we ask that you gather at the pavilion no later than 9:50 for instructions. A parent or guardian must accompany their child to the egg hunt and children should bring their own Easter basket along to collect eggs. If you have any questions, or if you would like to volunteer to help with the egg hunt, please contact Rev. Allyssa Hippity, hoppity, Easter's on its way!



SHINING THE LIGHT ON FOOD SECURITY.

Ortelina works with families in the northern regions of Honduras to help them understand how to transform their families and communities through agriculture. The list of things she does is mindboggling: Checking on local farmers' harvest. Monitoring water projects. Loading the women in the community how to prepare more nutritious meals for their families. Chating up community leaders for support. Running workshops for things like creating organic fertilizers and sprays.

But Ortelina doesn't just work with farmers and their families, she supports and encourages them, visiting them in their homes, bringing God's light to everyone she meets. And all of this is made possible through your giving to One Great Hour of Sharing. Because of your giving, projects like these and thousands more around the world are changing lives. Transforming communities. And spreading God's light. Be the Light. Give to One Great Hour of Sharing.

When you give to **One Great Hour of Sharing**, you are light for people in need. You offer light when disasters strike, and when chronic conditions threaten families and communities. You are light not just in the immediate future, but also for the long haul. When you give, you restore not only structures, but also transform lives. Your gift ensures that no matter how difficult the situation, light shines.

Be the light. Give to One Great Hour of Sharing.



You're here to be light, bringing out the God-colors in the world. God is not a secret to be kept. We're going public with this, as public as a city on a hill. If I make you light-bearers, you don't think I'm going to hide you under a bucket, do you? I'm putting you on a light stand. Now that I've put you there on a light stand, on a light stand—shine!

—Matthew 5:14, 15

One Great Hour of Sharing

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

ucc.org/oghs