

Welcome to
St. Paul's United Church of Christ

An Open and Affirming Congregation of the United Church of Christ

April 13, 2025



PALM
SUNDAY

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: Paula Boyer

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: Rebecca Drazba
Greeters: Crystal Cline
Acolyte: Elsa Riesmeyer
Kids' Place: Jonneke Dundore, Dale Thorpe
Flower Preparation: Susan Gabriel
Flower Delivery: Dale Thorpe and Don Dupes
Counting Team:

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

PALM SUNDAY

April 13, 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 "The Palms"

John Baptiste Faure

CHORAL INTROIT

*THE HYMN No. 213 "Hosanna, Loud Hosanna"

*PRAYER OF INVOCATION (unison)

Holy God, we gather on this day to begin a week of contrasts. From hope to despair to hope again. As we begin the week, as we join with the crowd, help us cut through the noise to see what is happening, to see what is at stake. As the story unfolds, open us to both the hope and the pain. In this time of worship, prepare us to celebrate, to weep, and to wait. Amen.

CALL TO CONFESSION

It is true that most of us enjoy times of optimism and success. We like a religion that makes us feel good. We prefer safety and security and certainty. Then Jesus comes, riding on a donkey, reaching out to outsiders, proclaiming humility and service as virtues, and challenging powerful people to change their ways. We sense danger. When Christ upsets our craving for stability and comfort, we turn away from the risks. We do not want to be rejected or face a cross. Let us join in the time of Silent Prayers of Confession.

SILENT PRAYERS OF CONFESSION

WORDS OF ASSURANCE (Responsive):

One: God transforms our contrition into courage. Our Creator does not give up on us when we are discouraged or reject us when we fail. God forgives us and lifts us up.

ALL: **Christ walks with us on the way of faithfulness, empowering us to become the disciples we are called to be.**

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

THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

BAPTISMAL ADDRESS

QUESTIONS OF THE PARENTS AND GODPARENTS

CONGREGATIONAL ASSENT (unison)

We, as members of Saint 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 118:1-2, 19-29 (p. 701)

THE HEBREW SCRIPTURE READING

Isaiah 43:16-21

*THE HYMN “Two Disciples, Sent by Jesus” (to the tune of no. 459, “Come, O Fount of Every Blessing”)

***Two disciples, sent by Jesus, entered into one small town.
There they spied a colt still standing where Christ said it would be found.
Two disciples asked to use it and its owners soon agreed.
They responded to the calling when they heard the Lord had need.***

***Jesus rode into the city, there amid the cheering crowd.
Many people sang, "Hosanna!" "Come and save!" they cried out loud.
People laid their cloaks before him as the Lord was passing by;
many honored him as Savior, as the Lord rode on to die.***

***On that Thursday, in the garden, Jesus said, "Now, stay awake."
Yet they could not keep their vigil, even for their Savior's sake.
One betrayed him, one denied him; many felt great fear and loss.
One was made to walk beside him and to carry Jesus' cross.***

***One lone man and several women stayed and watched, as Jesus died.
Someone offered up a tomb there after Christ was crucified.
All these ordinary people witnessed such a mighty thing.
May we, too, see our salvation in our suffering servant King.***

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THE RESPONSE:

One: God is Still Speaking.

All: **Thanks be to God!**

THE GOSPEL READING & MESSAGE:

Luke 19:28-42

“The Things That Make for Peace”

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 “Hosanna in the Highest”

Music

Choristers and Chancel Choirs

*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)

God of Peace, who reigns in unexpected ways, we gather before you in this season of Lent, bringing our gifts as an offering of our hearts. Just as the crowd welcomed Jesus with shouts of praise, we offer our lives in service to your kingdom. Use these gifts to bring hope, healing, and love to a world longing for your peace. Guide us to give generously with joyful hearts, knowing that in our giving, we proclaim your reign of grace. Bless these offerings, and all who give, in the name of Christ, our Savior. Amen.

*THE HYMN No. 216 “All Glory, Laud, and Honor”

*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 "Ride On in Majesty!"

David Paxton

References:

The Prayer of Invocation is adapted from a prayer by Rev. Gord Waldie, a United Church of Canada minister, on his blog "Worship Offerings," worshipofferings.blogspot.com.

The Call to Confession and Words of Assurance are adapted from "Gathered by Love" by Lavon Bayler, the Pilgrim Press: Cleveland, OH, 2001.

The Prayer of Dedication is adapted from "Steadfast Love: A Lenten Playlist" by Discipleship Ministries, an agency of The United Methodist Church.

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

Clothing Free Market

Our congregation is holding a new event this spring, a Clothing Free Market, sponsored by our Youth Fellowship. This is one way we can care for the earth, by encouraging reuse of clothing. Clothing donations in great condition can be dropped off on the tables in the Youth Room (room 11/12). Please wash and bag all items. The free market will be held on Saturday, May 10, from 10:00 AM – 2:00 PM. We will need additional adult volunteers to help the youth sort and organize the clothing, and run the Free Market. If you would like to help, please contact Ivonne McFarland, Erin Anderson, or Rev. Allyssa.

Offering Counters Needed

If you are interested in learning how to count the offering and being a part of the counting team, please contact Mary Runkle at MaryRunkle0515@gmail.com or 717-805-1589. It's an easy, well documented process and we'll get you started with a seasoned counter, so you feel

HOLY WEEK AND EASTER SCHEDULE

Thursday, April 17th. 6:30PM: Maundy Thursday

Simple meal and worship, commemorating the last supper and foot washing.

Friday, April 18th. 7:00PM: Good Friday

Worship commemorating Jesus' crucifixion.

Saturday, April 19th. 10:00AM: Easter Egg Hunt

A fun event for children in 5th grade and younger. Please be prompt.

Sunday, April 20th. 6:30AM: Easter Sunrise Service

9:00AM Breakfast in Fellowship Hall

10:30AM: Easter Worship

comfortable. The hope is to have a team to count each week so the more people we have, the less often any one has to do it. Thanks for helping out!

Yard Sale

Get ready for some fantastic finds at the Yard Sale 2025 on Saturday, May 3rd, from 8 AM to 1 PM! Whether you're looking to sell your own treasures or hunt for unique bargains, this rain-or-shine event has something for everyone. Reserve your selling space (tables are \$20 for members and \$25 for non-members) and come hungry for delicious food from the concession stand and tempting treats at the bake sale table. Plus, support the church by browsing the Yard Sale Committee's managed tables. Your help is also

welcome – lend a hand with setup, parking, cleanup, or donate baked goods (packaged for \$1 sale) or gently used items (drop-off by April 25th, see accepted items list). Don't miss out on this community event organized by Joan Moyer, Mary Runkle, Carol Sizemore, and Susie White – we look forward to seeing you there!

YES, Please!

- Holiday and General Décor
- Linens/Fabric
- Kitchenware (gadgets, bakeware, cookware, etc.)
- Furniture (wood chairs, side tables, small desks, lamps, etc.)
- Books
- Working tools/Hardware
- Games/puzzles/toys
- Sporting equipment
- Labeled seedlings and yard plants
- Jewelry

Thanks, but No.

- stuffed animals
- Electronics (TVs, phones, computers, monitors, printers, etc.)
- VHS tapes
- Clothes
- Glassware (glasses, mugs, vases),
Water bottles