

Welcome to St. Paul's United Church of Christ

An Open and Affirming Congregation of the United Church of Christ

May 4, 2025



GOD IS STILL SPEAKING

9

*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: Mark 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: Nancy Richey
Greeters: Don Dupes
Acolyte: Elsa Riesmeyer
Kids' Place:
Flower Preparation: Susan Gabriel
Flower Delivery: Erin and Ben Anderson
Counting Team:
Fellowship Time:

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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**ONLINE
GIVING**



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

THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER
HOLY COMMUNION

May 4, 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 "Morning Has Broken"

CHORAL INTROIT

*THE HYMN No. 86 "When Morning Gilds the Skies"

*PRAYER OF INVOCATION (unison)

Gracious God, guide us in overcoming our fear, our shame, our expectations. Help us to sense and feel Your on-going Forgiveness and Love and respond to Your on-going Calls. Amen.

CALL TO CONFESSION

We must admit there are times we have denied God. Our fear overcomes our understanding of what God would have us do and speak. Then we often seek to distance ourselves from God, perhaps expecting severe punishment or disdain. Yet God continues to love us, never abandons us, seeks to reassure us, so we might try again. Let us join in a time of Silent Prayers of Confession.

SILENT PRAYERS OF CONFESSION

WORDS OF ASSURANCE (Responsive):

One: God forgives us and comes to us, time and time and time again, so we know we are loved and needed.

ALL: Let us listen for God's Words to us and commit to the work of service God calls us to engage in. 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

THE NEW TESTAMENT READING

Acts 9:1-20

THE PSALM READING

Psalm 30:6-12

THE RESPONSE:

One: God is Still Speaking.

All: Thanks be to God!

THE GOSPEL READING & MESSAGE:

John 21:1-25

“What’s Next?”

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

THE CHORAL RESPONSE (unison)

Halleluja

236

Traditional



Please place your pew pad sheets in the Offering Plate.

THE OFFERTORY “The Measure of My Days”

Lau

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)**

We bring our offerings to feed Your lambs and tend Your sheep, gracious God. May these gifts extend love in the form of food, pure water, shelter, and acceptance. Let them provide outreach to the world and opportunities for growth within this congregation. Help us focus on what is important, so that we may work together to make a difference in the world. Amen.

***THE HYMN No. 250 "Listen to Your Savior Call"**

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 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.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

DISTRIBUTION OF THE ELEMENTS

We gather both in person and in Spirit. For those of you present in the Sanctuary, greeters will pass out gluten-free bread, and then red wine and white grape juice. They will bring the trays to you. Please hold the elements until all have been served; we will eat and then drink them together. All are welcome to participate. Thank 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, even as we and they are scattered in geographic space.

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. 456 "More Love to You, O Christ"

*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 'Duke Street'"

References:

Cover Image: Bassano, Jacopo, approximately 1518-1592. Miraculous Draught of Fishes, from **Art in the Christian Tradition**, a project of the Vanderbilt Divinity Library, Nashville, TN. <https://diglib.library.vanderbilt.edu/act-imagelink.pl?RC=55336> [retrieved April 29, 2025]. Original source:

http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Miraculous_Draught_of_Fishes-Bassano.jpg.

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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ALTAR FLOWERS

The Altar flowers are given to the Glory of God by
Kevin and Karen Allison, "In celebration of grandson Charlie's 3rd birthday."