

Welcome to St. Paul's United Church of Christ

An Open and Affirming Congregation of the United Church of Christ

June 8, 2025



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: Crystal Cline
Greeters: Wendy Hayden
Acolyte: Elsa Riesmeyer
Kids' Place: Sue Ward-Diorio, Paula Boyer
Flower Preparation: Susan Gabriel
Flower Delivery: Patrice Miller
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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**ONLINE
GIVING**



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

PENTECOST
HOLY COMMUNION

June 8, 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"

Richard Blake

CHORAL INTROIT

*THE HYMN No. 261 "Let Every Christian Pray"

*PRAYER OF INVOCATION (unison)

The gift of the Holy Spirit is powerful. It enables us to listen and to speak so others can understand. We must choose to do so. Gracious God, we thank You for such a gift, guide us in using it. Amen.

CALL TO CONFESSION

We often expect others to speak and act like we do. If they do, or when they do, then we accept them, let them in, connect with them. On Pentecost, God flips that script and empowers all to speak in ways that others can understand, welcoming them. This is what Jesus did too. We must choose to do so. Let us join in the time of Silent Prayers of Confession.

SILENT PRAYERS OF CONFESSION

WORDS OF ASSURANCE (Responsive):

One: God forgives us and continues to speak to us, guide us, through the gift of the Holy Spirit within all of us.

ALL: Let us remember we have been called to reach out, not block out. 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 HEBREW SCRIPTURE READING

Genesis 11:1-9

THE READING OF THE PSALM

Psalms 104:24-28

THE RESPONSE:

One: God is Still Speaking.

All: Thanks be to God!

THE NEW TESTAMENT READING & MESSAGE:

Acts 2:1-21

“Empowered to Communicate”

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

THE CHORAL RESPONSE (unison)

pp Devoutly 5. 5. 5. 5. GEORGE WHELPTON, 1847-1930

Hear our prayer, O Lord; Hear our prayer, O Lord;

Hear our prayer, O Lord, And grant us Thy peace. A-MEN.

Please place your pew pad sheets in the Offering Plate.

THE OFFERTORY “Sweet, Sweet Spirit”

Akers

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)

God of wind and fire, may new life be breathed into the world because of these gifts we return to You. Grant us enhanced capacity to carry Your revelation to others in ways they can understand. We seek to be, to one another, channels of Your love and peace, both in person and through the outreach of our offerings. Amen.

*THE HYMN No. 270 “Like the Murmur of the Dove’s Song”

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, 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. 272 "On Pentecost They Gathered"

*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.

THE ORGAN POSTLUDE "Trumpet of Faith"

Ross Anderson

References:

Kraut, Ronald. Pentecost, from **Art in the Christian Tradition**, a project of the Vanderbilt Divinity Library, Nashville, TN. <https://diglib.library.vanderbilt.edu/act-imagelink.pl?RC=56950> [retrieved June 4, 2025]. Original source: <https://tinyurl.com/2cxhjkev>

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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