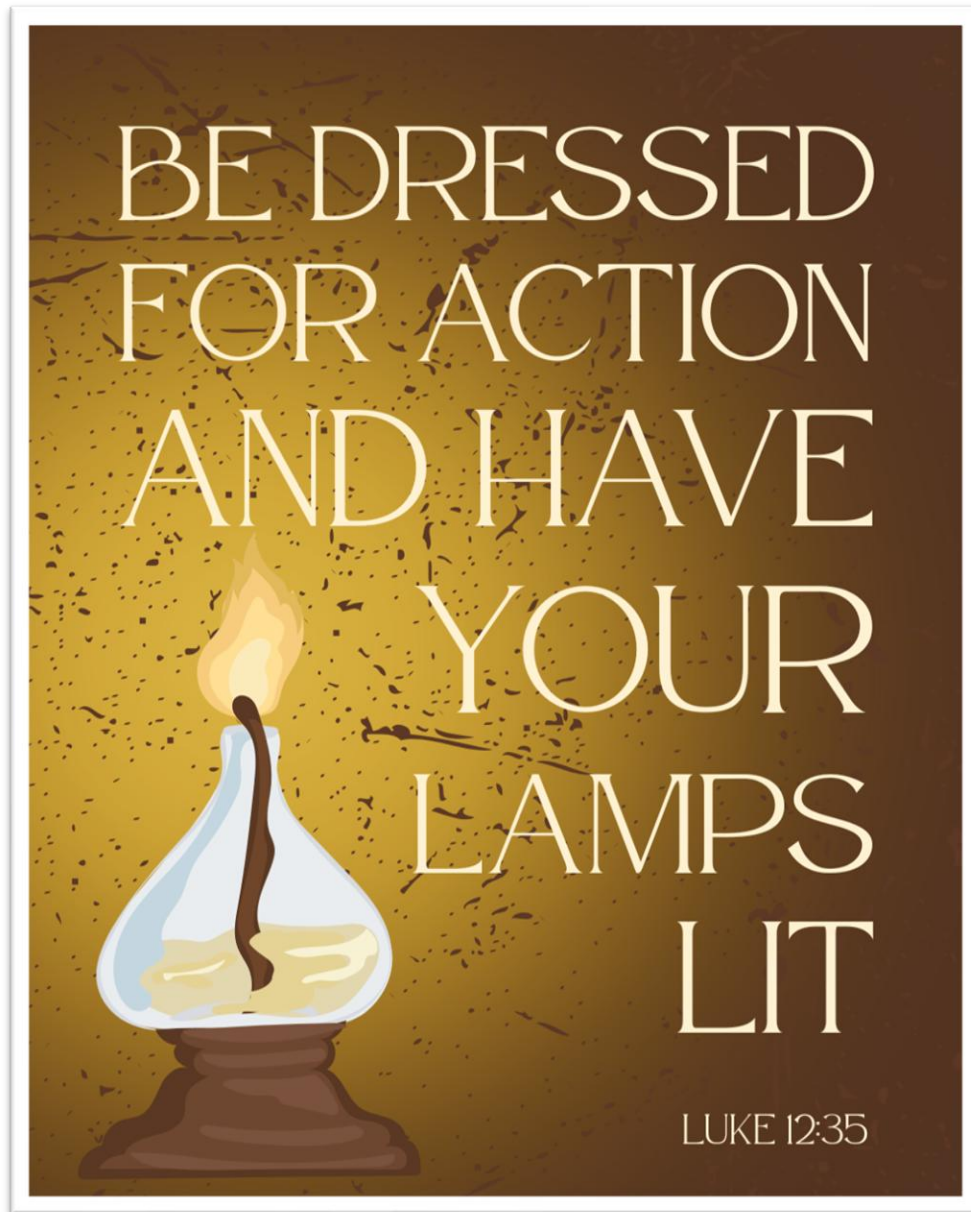


Welcome to
St. Paul's United Church of Christ

An Open and Affirming Congregation of the United Church of Christ

August 10, 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: Teri Guelcher

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: Sherry Spencer
Flower Preparation: Susan Gabriel
Flower Delivery: Teri Guelcher
Counting Team: Mary Runkle

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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Rev. Allyssa: allyssaboyer@outlook.com

**ONLINE
GIVING**



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

NINTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

August 10, 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 from 'Peer Gynt'"

Richard Lloyd

CALL TO WORSHIP "When Death Comes" by Mary Oliver

When death comes	as a field daisy, and as singular,
like the hungry bear in autumn;	
when death comes and takes all the bright	and each name a comfortable music in the
coins from his purse	mouth,
	tending, as all music does, toward silence,
to buy me, and snaps the purse shut;	
when death comes	and each body a lion of courage, and
like the measles-pox;	something
	precious to the earth.
when death comes	
like an iceberg between the shoulder blades,	When it's over, I want to say: all my life
	I was a bride married to amazement.
I want to step through the door full of	I was the bridegroom, taking the world into
curiosity, wondering:	my arms.
what is it going to be like, that cottage of	
darkness?	When it's over, I don't want to wonder
	if I have made of my life something particular,
And therefore I look upon everything	and real.
as a brotherhood and a sisterhood,	I don't want to find myself sighing and
and I look upon time as no more than an idea,	frightened,
and I consider eternity as another possibility,	or full of argument.
and I think of each life as a flower, as	I don't want to end up simply having visited
common	this world.

*THE HYMN No. 407 “How Firm a Foundation”

*PRAYER OF INVOCATION (unison)

Still Speaking God, Still Teaching God, help us to stay awake to what is going on around us. Help us to be open to learning: that which is new, that which has been ignored, or covered up, or purposely manipulated. Guide us to growing understanding of the truths You need us to recognize. Amen.

CALL TO CONFESSION

There are those that would try and convince us to stay “asleep,” to not ask questions, to not challenge previous assumptions. They would have us not confront the harm that has been done and is being done, in part because of our ignorance of structures and inaccurate beliefs that shut out, keep back, and cast out those who we determine are “different” from ourselves. Yet Jesus taught us again and again, God calls us again and again, to stay awake, be woke, and be ready to learn and act. Let us join in the time of Silent Prayers of Confession.

SILENT PRAYERS OF CONFESSION

WORDS OF ASSURANCE (Responsive):

One: God forgives us, and God’s Presence awaits our awakening to the full reality of our world today and how we are called to see it and change it.

ALL: Let us continue to awaken and not be intimidated by those who criticize what they call “wokeness” because it challenges their privilege, power and position. 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

Isaiah 1:1, 11-20

THE PSALM READING

Psalms 50:1-5, 12-15

*THE HYMN No. 611 "O Day of God, Draw Near"

THE RESPONSE:

One: God is Still Speaking.

All: **Thanks be to God!**

THE GOSPEL SCRIPTURE READING & MESSAGE:

Luke 12:32-40

"Called To Be Woke"

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)

pp Devoutly 5-5-5-5- GEORGE WHELFTON, 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 "You Raise Me Up, with Be Still My Soul"

arr. Fettke

Beth Lengel, Soloist, and Laura Ramsey, Pianist

*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)

With joy and gladness we dedicate our treasure and our hearts to celebrate Your reign within us and in the community of Your faithful people. Reshape us in Your image and use us, we pray, to extend Your love to all we meet, and to siblings we will never know. Amen.

*THE HYMN No. 306 "The Church of Christ, in Every Age"

*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 "Theme from 'Jupiter'"

Gustav Holt

References:

The Call to Worship is the poem "When Death Comes" found on pages 10-11 of New and Selected Poems by Mary Oliver, 1992, Beacon Press.

The Prayer of Dedication is from "Led 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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ALTAR FLOWERS

The Altar flowers are given to the Glory of God by
Susan Stump, "In memory of Bob Myers."