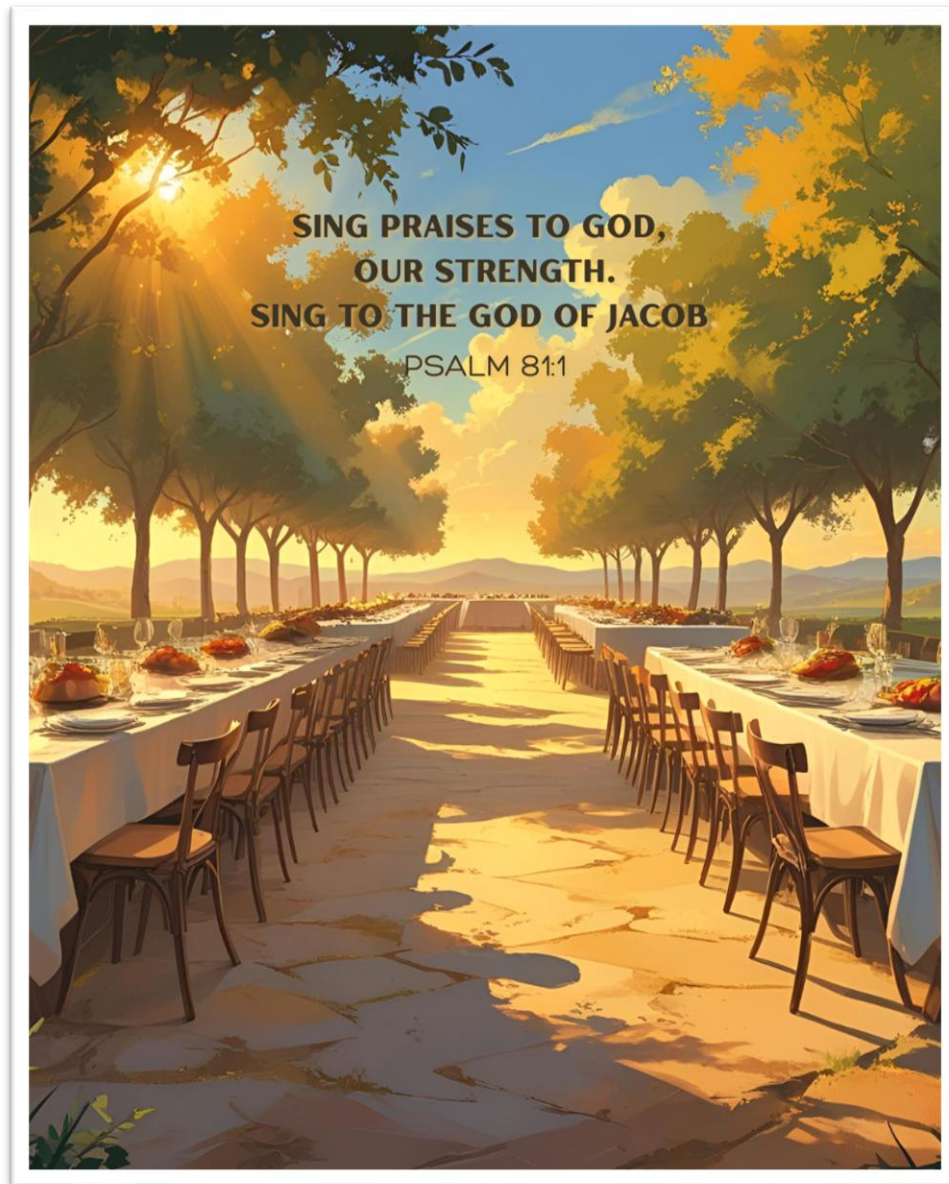


Welcome to St. Paul's United Church of Christ

An Open and Affirming Congregation of the United Church of Christ

August 31, 2025



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: Jane Leister

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: Steve Stough
Greeters: Paula Boyer, Don Dupes, Nancy Richey
Acolyte: Elsa Riesmeyer
Kids' Place: Becky Thompson, Shannon Trout
Flower Preparation: Susan Gabriel
Flower Delivery: Jane Leister
Counting Team: Sherry Spencer

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

TWELFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

August 31, 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 "Peaceful River"

Susanna Keeney

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Sing aloud to God, shout for joy, blow the trumpet at the new moon.

All: It is God who led our ancestors through hard times. It is God who leads us through difficult days.

One: God hears our distress and rescues us. God welcomes us to the banquet of life.

All: God fills our mouths with good things. God offers us fountains of living water.

One: Listen now to the voice of God. Hear God's Word in the breathtaking beauty and abundance of the earth.

All: We will build a longer table; we will share God's gifts. We will delight in the good that God's love inspires.

*THE HYMN No. 28 "For the Beauty of the Earth"

*PRAYER OF INVOCATION (unison)

Gracious God, we praise You for Your remarkable wonders. We are thankful for all You have given to us. We seek the assurance of Your presence in this time of worship. We have come to listen and to receive Your counsel. May we give thanks for all You have provided, and may Your abundant generosity inspire us to set more places at the table, so we may share joyfully. Amen.

CALL TO CONFESSION

When we are not in daily communion with God, false gods rush in to claim our loyalty. We do not listen for God's voice, we do not follow God's counsel, we do not sense God's presence. We chase after things that do not profit. There is a void within us that things cannot satisfy. Let us join in the time of Silent Prayers of Confession.

SILENT PRAYERS OF CONFESSION

WORDS OF ASSURANCE (Responsive):

One: God hears the confessions of our hearts. When we listen to God, the enemies within and around us are subdued and we can walk with confidence into each new day.

ALL: **Morning by morning, we see God's mercies. We believe the good news of Jesus Christ. 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 GOSPEL READING

Luke 14:1, 7-14

THE EPISTLE READING

Hebrews 13:1-8, 15-16

*THE HYMN No. 425 "For the Fruit of All Creation"

THE RESPONSE:

One: God is Still Speaking.

All: **Thanks be to God!**

THE READING OF THE PSALM & MESSAGE:

Psalm 81

“Honey From the Rock”

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)



Please place your pew pad sheets in the Offering Plate.

THE OFFERTORY “Peace Like a Dove Descends”

Edward Broughton

*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)

O God, we praise You for the order and constancy of nature; for the beauty and bounty of the earth; and for the varied gifts of loveliness and use which every season brings. You have called us into a life of mutual love, teaching us to serve, to welcome, and to give with generous hearts. Bless these gifts we offer today, that they may extend Your love to those who hunger,

who seek justice, and who long for hope. Shape us into a people whose generosity reflects your own. Amen.

*THE HYMN No. 423 “Great Is Your Faithfulness”

*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 “Triumphant Finale”

Thomas Bliss

References:

The Call to Worship, Prayer of Invocation, 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 two prayers: “Offertory Prayer,” Twelfth Sunday After Pentecost, Year C, Discipleship Ministries, the United Methodist Church, 2025; and Prayers of Thanksgiving in “The United Church of Christ Book of Worship,” United Church of Christ Office for Church Life and Leadership: New York, NY, 1986.

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
Jim and Becky Weaver, “In loving memory of Dorothy Marie Long”
Susan E. Gabriel, “In memory of mother, Joyce Carpenter, and friend, Raquel Westfall.”