

Welcome to
St. Paul's United Church of Christ

An Open and Affirming Congregation of the United Church of Christ

September 14, 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: Sue Miller
Greeters: Becky Thompson
Acolyte:
Kids' Place: Don Dupes, Barbara Wheeler-Bride
Flower Preparation: Susan Gabriel
Flower Delivery: Jonneke Dundore
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

ELEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

September 14, 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 King of Love My Shepherd Is"

Hugh S. Livingston, Jr.

CHORAL INTROIT

*THE HYMN "We Love to Sound Your Praises" (to the tune of no. 386, "The Church's One Foundation")

***We love to sound your praises, To lift our hands above,
To sing how grace amazes, To celebrate your love.
Yet, God, your world is grieving; Is your heart breaking, too?
May we cry out, believing Laments can honor you.***

***Like Jeremiah, crying For cities that were lost,
We see the children dying Who know war's awful cost.
Each day repeats the story; Sin takes its toll again.
How can we sing your glory When our hearts break with them?***

***The scope of sin is broader Than what the late news tells;
Rejecting living water, We dig our broken wells.
In gods of our own making We look for joy each day;
O God, is your heart breaking When we all turn away?***

***O God, you came to save us In Christ, your suffering Son.
In his death you forgave us; In his life, joy is won!
And when this world is suffering, When songs of grief abound,
May we work for your kingdom Till alleluias sound!***

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“These prayers are grounded in UCC polity and covenantal theology, The Just Peace Pronouncement and resulting church movement which has at its core a call to alleviate systemic injustice, offering to the world the prophetic message, grounded in the hope of reconciliation in Jesus, that ‘Peace is Possible!’”

***PRAYER OF INVOCATION (unison)**

One: God of Peace and Love, today, we are grateful to gather and worship You in peaceful conditions.

All: **While some congregations are rocked with bombshells, our service can exist in calm.**

One: While some communities are rife with discord, our neighborhoods are primed for dialogue.

All: **We are provoked to bring Your peace and praise God, wherever we go.**

One: We hold fast to the vision of Your Shalom, Gracious God, throughout all Your creation.

All: **We believe that peace is possible. Amen.**

CALL TO CONFESSION

God forgives us for harboring discord in our own hearts. At times, we hold unresolved anger in our bodies, in our families, and institutions. We forego confessions that would release us from silent stalemates. We are often quiet during the proliferation of warfare and buy into cultures of violence as if there is no peaceful alternative. We need Jesus’ model and Spirit to lead us ever into fearless dwelling and loving communion. Let us join in a time of Silent Prayers of Confession.

SILENT PRAYERS OF CONFESSION

WORDS OF ASSURANCE (Responsive):

One: God forgives us and reminds us: “Just Peace is not a destination, but a path...”.

ALL: **“May (we allow) God to grant us the required awareness and constant vigilance to resolve existing and developing conflict in ourselves and our communities.” May we be inspired by the serenity of creation, the reconciliation of Christ, and the breath of the Holy Spirit to dwell in and share Shalom. Help us recognize the ‘things that make for peace’ in our world. 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 15:1-10

THE READING OF THE PSALM

Psalms 14

*THE HYMN “If We Just Talk of Thoughts and Prayers” (to the tune of no. 362 “Though I May Speak”)

***If we just talk of thoughts and prayers And don't live out a faith that dares,
And don't take on the ways of death, Our thoughts and prayers are fleeting breath.***

***If we just dream of what could be And do not build community,
And do not seek to change our ways, Our dreams of change are false displays.***

***If we just sing of doing good And don't walk through our neighborhood
To learn its hope, to ease its pain, Our talk of good is simply vain.***

***God, may our prayers and dreams and songs Lead to a faith that takes on wrongs —
That works for peace and justice, too. Then will our prayers bring joy to you.***

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THE RESPONSE:

One: God is Still Speaking.

All: **Thanks be to God!**

THE HEBREW SCRIPTURE READING & MESSAGE:

Exodus 32:7-14

“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)

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 “Dona nobis pacem”

arr. Lund

Youth 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)

Incarnate One, especially in these times of uncertainty, we hope to be companions of righteousness. We hope to divest from all that destroys. We hope to live into the Spirit of Christ that sets the captives free. With these offerings, we pray that our gratitude will manifest in acts of radical love and peace where and when they are needed most. Amen.

***THE HYMN “God, Your Gift of Peace is Precious” (to the tune of no. 436 “God of Grace and God of Glory”)**

**God, your gift of peace is precious in this world of sin and loss:
You have given joy and gladness, making peace through Jesus' cross.
God, in love you came to save us, giving freedom from our sin —
In you, gifts of peace begin.**

**Jesus, you are God's example in the life on earth you lived.
Help us see your face in others, teach us freely to forgive.
When, in all your children's conflicts, hate and violence increase —
Blest are those who work for peace.**

**Spirit, help us work for justice in each challenge that we face.
Each one needs to have the other: righteousness and peace embrace.
Children hungry? People homeless? Missiles flying through the air?
You seek peace with justice there.**

**So we pray and work together toward a world of your shalom.
May all people share your bounty, and all have both feast and home.
Wolf and lamb shall feed together: In your kingdom war shall cease
And your people live in peace.**

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**THE BIDDING TO MISSION Just Peace Litany & Closing Song (Responsive) By Rev. Dr. Sheila Guillaume*

One: On this Sunday, we celebrate the United Church of Christ's Just Peace commitment of our Denomination, Conferences, Associations and local congregations

All: **who are grounded in hope for our world, and proclaim that 'peace is possible' when rooted in Justice for all.**

(sing) Let there be peace on earth, and let it begin with me.

One: In this moment, let us rejoice on behalf of our being Open and Affirming to the belief that God, who is creator of all that is,

All: **has created us equally in an abiding and everlasting love.**

(sing) Let there be peace on earth, and let it begin with me.

One: As the Body of Christ, we praise You, God, for creating us with a diversity of cultures, racial compositions, genders, languages, nationalities, theological perspectives, and socio-economic levels,

All: **Help us so that we can better understand the call for humanity to become as one, by joining our spirits together with Your Spirit oh God.**

(sing) Let there be peace on earth, and let it begin with me.

One: Trusting in Your faithfulness, we humbly seek Your guidance to have a stronger living relationship with You,
All: being the light which shines amongst Your kingdom here on earth as instruments of Your peace, now and forevermore.
(sing) Let there be peace on earth, and let it begin with me.

*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 "To God All Praise and Glory"

Roger C. Wilson

References:

The Prayer of Invocation, Call to Confession, Assurance of Forgiveness, Prayer of Dedication, and Just Peace Litany and Closing Song are from the UCC's 2024 Litany of the "Things That Make for Peace," compiled by Rev. Dr. Shelia Harvey, Rev. Amber Henry Neuroth, Rev. Denise Andersen, and Rev. Alice Harper Jones (with some slight edits by Rev. John Ward-Diorio). www.ucc.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/08/Just-Peace-Sunday-2024-Litany.pdf

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
Martha Keith, "In honor of Gene and Martha Keith's 71st wedding anniversary on September 11th.
Also, in memory of the 70 years together before Gene died in November."