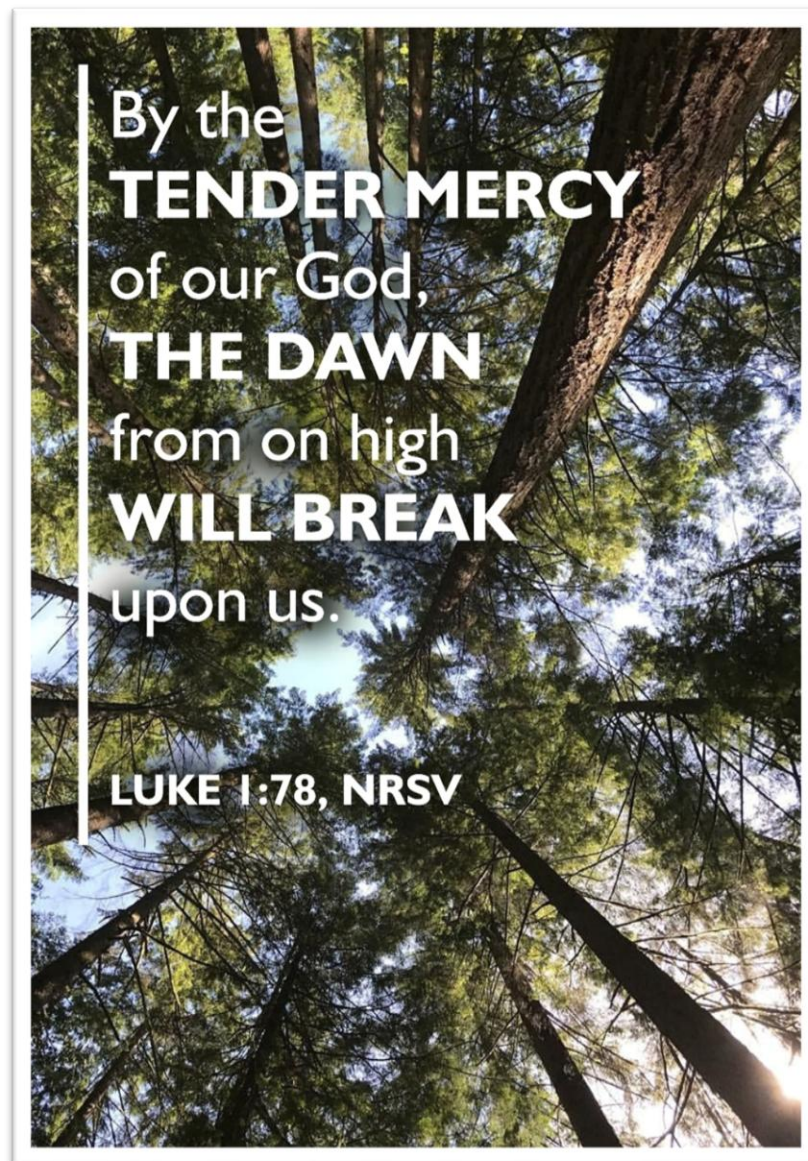


Welcome to St. Paul's United Church of Christ

An Open and Affirming Congregation of the United Church of Christ

November 16, 2025

REIGN OF CHRIST & TRANS REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY



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: Becky Thompson

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: Mel Shaver-Durham
Greeters: Don Dupes, Sherry Spencer, Paula Boyer
Acolyte: Elsa Riesmeyer
Kids' Place: Rachael Hersh
Flower Preparation: Susan Gabriel
Flower Delivery: Darryl and Winnie Wentz
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

626 Williams Grove Road
Mechanicsburg, PA 17055
(717)766-7931

saintpaulsucc-mech.org

Office: stpaulstaff@outlook.com

Rev. John: revjohnwd@outlook.com

Rev. Allyssa: allyssaboyer@outlook.com

**ONLINE
GIVING**



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

TWENTY-THIRD SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
REIGN OF CHRIST & TRANS REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY

November 16, 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 "It Is Well With My Soul"

Robert J. Hughes

CHORAL INTROIT

*THE HYMN No. 301 "Crown with Your Richest Crowns"

*PRAYER OF INVOCATION (responsive)

One: Holy One, we pray that your presence will be with us today as we celebrate the reign of Christ and commemorate Trans Remembrance Day. We remember diverse gender identities and expressions, each a sacred representation of You, our Creator.

All: We are Your beloved.

One: We acknowledge we are all on a journey of transformation, and each journey is unique and beautiful.

All: You, O God, love everyone.

One: Today we remember that You call us to be advocates for those who need someone to stand with them, to speak up with them, in the face of injustice.

All: We are Your beloved.

One: We know, merciful God, that it takes incredible strength to be a vulnerable person, true to oneself, in the world.

All: You, O God, love everyone.

One: Today we remember the lives that were taken through ignorance, violence, and hate, and we hold these trans and nonbinary people and their families in our hearts.

All: Trans and nonbinary people are Your beloved.

One: We name the fear that may reside in us; fear of ourselves and fear of the other. And we proclaim that we do not need to be afraid. Christ reigns in mercy and justice, guiding our feet into the way of peace.

All: You, O God, love everyone. We are all Your beloved. Amen.

CALL TO CONFESSION

Imagining Christ's reign can be difficult. It is difficult to picture a world governed by God's justice and righteousness alone. Our minds are held captive by the worst images of human kings, rulers,

and powers. When nobler visions fail, we settle for kingdoms of our own making, which tend to be too narrow, too insular, for the breadth and splendor of God's great creation.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (unison)

God of all creation, whose wisdom and love is boundless, You have many names, and You are beyond all divisions of gender. You created this world and filled it with diversity. Forgive us when we fail to see diversity as a gift. Forgive us for when we have denied diversity by holding too strongly and too tightly to the false divisions we create. As we come together to remember those transgender people who have been killed, taken their own lives, or been injured this year, help us to honor their identities, and the identities of all people. Help us to create a world where everyone can live with authenticity and dignity. Help us all, who belong to every sexuality and gender, to live our lives fully in fellowship with each other and in the love of Christ.

SILENT PRAYERS OF CONFESSION

WORDS OF ASSURANCE (responsive)

One: Hear the song of Zechariah: Tender mercy and forgiveness are the ways of God. We are forgiven. Let the church say,

All: 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.

BLESSING OF THE PRAYER SHAWLS (unison)

May God's grace be upon these shawls...warming, comforting, enfolding, and embracing. May these mantles be safe havens...sacred places of security and well-being...sustaining and embracing in good times as well as difficult ones. May the ones who receive these shawls be cradled in hope, kept in joy, graced with peace, and wrapped in love. Blessed be!

*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

Jeremiah 23:1-6

THE READING OF THE PSALM

Psalm 46

*THE HYMN "Say Their Names"

***Every day, we will remember. Say their names.
With a love so fierce and tender, say their names.
In the morning, noon, and night, in our sadness and our fright,
We will honor and uphold them. Say their names.***

***They were funny, kind, and clever. Say their names.
They will live in us forever. Say their names.
We'll continue on their path, for we understand the task.
We will build a world of justice. Say their names.***

***They were wonderfully created. Say their names.
Let their worth not go unstated. Say their names.
In their beauty, they were free as they lived who they must be.
We are glad and we are grateful. Say their names.***

***May our lives become a witness. Say their names.
May our sorrow birth resistance. Say their names.
We will work in hope and care till there's freedom everywhere
And each life becomes a blessing. Say their names.***

Amanda Udis-Kessler, October 11, 2025 (NCOD)

THE RESPONSE:

One: God is Still Speaking.

All: Thanks be to God!

THE GOSPEL READING & MESSAGE:

Luke 1:68-79

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)

Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying

Lord, lis-ten to your chil-dren pray-ing. Lord, send your Spir-it in this place;

Lord, lis-ten to your chil-dren pray-ing, send us love, send us pow'r, send us grace.

The musical score is written for a unison choral response. It consists of two systems of music. Each system has a treble and bass staff. The melody is written in the treble staff, and the bass staff provides a harmonic accompaniment. The lyrics are written below the treble staff. The first system ends with a repeat sign, and the second system ends with a final cadence.

Please place your pew pad sheets in the Offering Plate.

THE OFFERTORY “Alleluia! Sing to Jesus”

arr. 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 worship You with gladness, O God our shepherd, for You have gathered us as Your beloved flock. All things we have are gifts from You, so we dedicate more than our money. We reinvest ourselves in patient, joyful response to Your promises. We seek to follow Your path of justice and peace, celebrating the incredible diversity of Your creation. Hear our prayers and empower our ministry, so all may live in freedom, truth, safety, and abundance. Amen.

*THE HYMN No. 300 “Jesus Shall Reign”

*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 "Come, Ye Thankful People, Come"

James Mansfield

References:

The Prayer of Invocation and Prayer of Confession are adapted from the liturgy for Trans Day of Remembrance and Resilience, Mechanicsburg Presbyterian Church, 2024.

The Call to Confession and Words of Assurance are adapted from Reign of Christ/Christ the King, Year C - Liturgical Resources, Discipleship Ministries, the United Methodist Church, 2025.

The Prayer of Dedication is adapted from "Gathered By Love" by Lavon Bayler, The Pilgrim Press: Cleveland, OH, 2001.

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

Don and Merikay Wood, "In memory of Mary Fleck Kanour and the Kanour/Fleck Family."

POINSETTIA DEADLINE TODAY

Today is the deadline for ordering poinsettias for Christmas Eve worship. They will be 5-8 bloom plants in foil-wrapped containers for \$10.00. Four colors will be available – red, white, pink, and pink/white marbled. Forms for ordering can be found on the table in the Commons area.

ADVENT DEVOTIONALS

The annual devotional for the advent season is now available in the Common. They are \$5.

CHRISTMAS BLESSINGS EXPRESS

Get an early start on your shopping and help spread Christmas cheer in Mechanicsburg! New Hope Ministries needs our help to supply items for their "Christmas Blessing Express", providing clients the opportunity to select gifts for their family members. ** Please note - They are no longer collecting clothing unless those items are specified on the wish list or tags. These general items are always appreciated: Books, toys and games for all ages, toddler-teen; Basic household items like sheets, towels and small cooking appliances. For more specific gift ideas, see the tags on the Christmas tree in The Commons. Please consider donating gift cards up to \$25 to Target, Kohl's or Wal-Mart. These are used to supplement the program in categories where donations are lowest. Gift cards should be marked for "New Hope", indicate the value, and placed in the offering plate. New, unwrapped gifts may be placed in the marked bins in the Commons no later

than **Sunday, Nov 30**. Thanks to your generous support, we're making Christmas brighter for local families!

ALL GENDER RESTROOMS

As a reminder, based on earlier congregational conversations, on January 4, 2026, St. Paul's will implement all gender restrooms for all four of our restrooms. This action speaks to our belief of being a welcoming church to everyone, including members, visitors, and guests. The single and multi-stall restrooms may be used for any person of any gender. Each restroom will have a sign designating them as All Gender Restrooms. The urinals will be covered and no longer in use. Details regarding new construction will be included in future church emails and congregational conversations later into 2026. If you have questions, please see any member of the Social Justice Committee: Mel Shaver-Durham, Rev. John, Rev. Allyssa, Paula Boyer, Steve Roush, Don Dupes

UCC HOMES

As the summer comes to a close and we start to experience cooler days, UCC Homes is starting to think about the time of year when people bake cookies, deck the halls, spend cherished time with loved ones and most importantly, celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ. This time of year, people tend to be kinder, warmer, and friendlier, exhibiting Jesus' example of giving and helping those in need. UCC Homes does all it can to bring festive joy to residents within the communities throughout the year but especially during the holidays. They take pride in the quality of care and service provided, as acts of love and compassion.

To provide each resident of Thornwald and Sarah Todd Homes with a meaningful gift this coming Christmas, St. Paul's has been asked to consider donating a monetary donation or gift cards/certificates to be used towards purchasing desired gifts for the residents, making Christmas a little more special. Please make checks out to UCC Homes

Thornwald Home: Giant Food Stores,
Michael's, CVS, Papa John's, Wal Mart,
Amazon, Dollar Tree, VISA/MC

Sarah Todd Home: Giant Food Stores, Dollar
Tree, Michaels, CVS, Wal Mart, Amazon,
Visa/MC, Dunkin

The church will plan for these to be delivered to the UCC Homes' communities at Sarah Todd and Thornwald Homes. Please mark your donations as either Sarah Todd, or Thornwald and have them into the church office by **December 1st**.

GIVING ENVELOPES

Offering envelopes for 2026 are available in the Common. If you would like envelopes but there isn't a set prepared for you, please let Renee know in the office.