

**Welcome to**  
**St. Paul's United Church of Christ**

*An Open and Affirming Congregation of the United Church of Christ*

November 23, 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: Patrice Miller

### **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: Becky Thompson, Melanie Shaver-Durham  
Acolyte:  
Kids' Place: Don Dupes, Sue Ward-Diorio, Sherry Spencer  
Flower Preparation: Susan Gabriel  
Flower Delivery: Dale Thorpe, Don Dupes  
Counting Team: Mary Runkle, 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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**ONLINE  
GIVING**



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

THANKSGIVING SUNDAY

November 23, 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 "With Grateful Hearts"

William Barnett

CHORAL INTROIT

\*THE HYMN No. 422 "Come, O Thankful People, Come"

\*PRAYER OF INVOCATION (unison)

**Gracious God, we offer You our thanks. As we prepare for the Thanksgiving Holiday, guide us in remembering the "giving" part. Help us remember our gratitude is demonstrated through our giving to others. Amen.**

CALL TO CONFESSION

Sometimes we forget to offer our thanks to God, and perhaps more often, we forget or ignore to offer our gratitude to those through whom God works. Without the Native Peoples, the Pilgrims most likely would not have survived. The meal that was shared was primarily provided by those Native People or consisted of what they taught the Pilgrims how to grow or catch. Yet it was not long before those same People were seen as enemies and hunted down. Let us join in a time of Silent Prayers of Confession.

SILENT PRAYERS OF CONFESSION

WORDS OF ASSURANCE (Responsive):

One: God forgives us and hopes we might learn from our past wrongs and mistakes.

**ALL: Let us look back, let us look around, with honesty, and come to see to whom we owe much. 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 EPISTLE READING

Philippians 4:4-9

THE PSALM READING

Psalm 100

\*THE HYMN “God, Your Blessings Overflow” (to the tune of no. 28, “For the Beauty of the Earth.”)

**God, your blessings overflow! What can we begin to say?  
How can we begin to show, All our gratitude this day?  
God, we join to worship you, Giving thanks for all you do.**

**Thank you for the life you give, For each friend and family,  
For the land in which we live, For your love that sets us free.  
Thank you, God, for daily bread, And for feasts of joy you spread.**

**Yet at tables where we share, Sometimes there is also pain.  
There may be an empty chair: When will we feel whole again?  
When our days of grief are long, Thank you that your love is strong.**

**So we join in thanks this day, So your gifts we freely share,**

***So we follow Christ the Way, Loving, serving everywhere.  
Spirit, may our lives express, All our daily thankfulness.***

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THE RESPONSE:

One: God is Still Speaking.

All: **Thanks be to God!**

THE HEBREW SCRIPTURE READING & MESSAGE:

Deuteronomy 26:1-11

“Who Do We Thank?”

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**

The musical score is written for a unison choral response. It consists of two systems of music, each with a treble and bass staff. The key signature has two flats (B-flat and E-flat), and the time signature is 4/4. The lyrics are written below the notes. The first system of music ends with a repeat sign. The second system of music ends with a final double bar line.

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.

*Please place your pew pad sheets in the Offering Plate.*

THE OFFERTORY “We Thank You, Lord”

Sibelius, arr. Larson

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 rejoice in this opportunity to thank You, gracious God, with a portion of the bounty You provide for our use. We reach out for meaning and purpose in our unsatisfying lives. As we share materially in the work of Your church, we are on a spiritual quest to discern Your will for us and our world. Thank You for pointing us beyond food that perishes to feed on the bread of life. Amen.**

**\*THE HYMN No. 420 "We Praise You, O God"**

**\*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 "Immortal, Invisible"**

Lani Smith

**References:**

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  
Mary Runkle, "In memory of my father, Glenn Randolph"  
Nancy Richey, "In memory of my brother, Marc Brian Cooley"