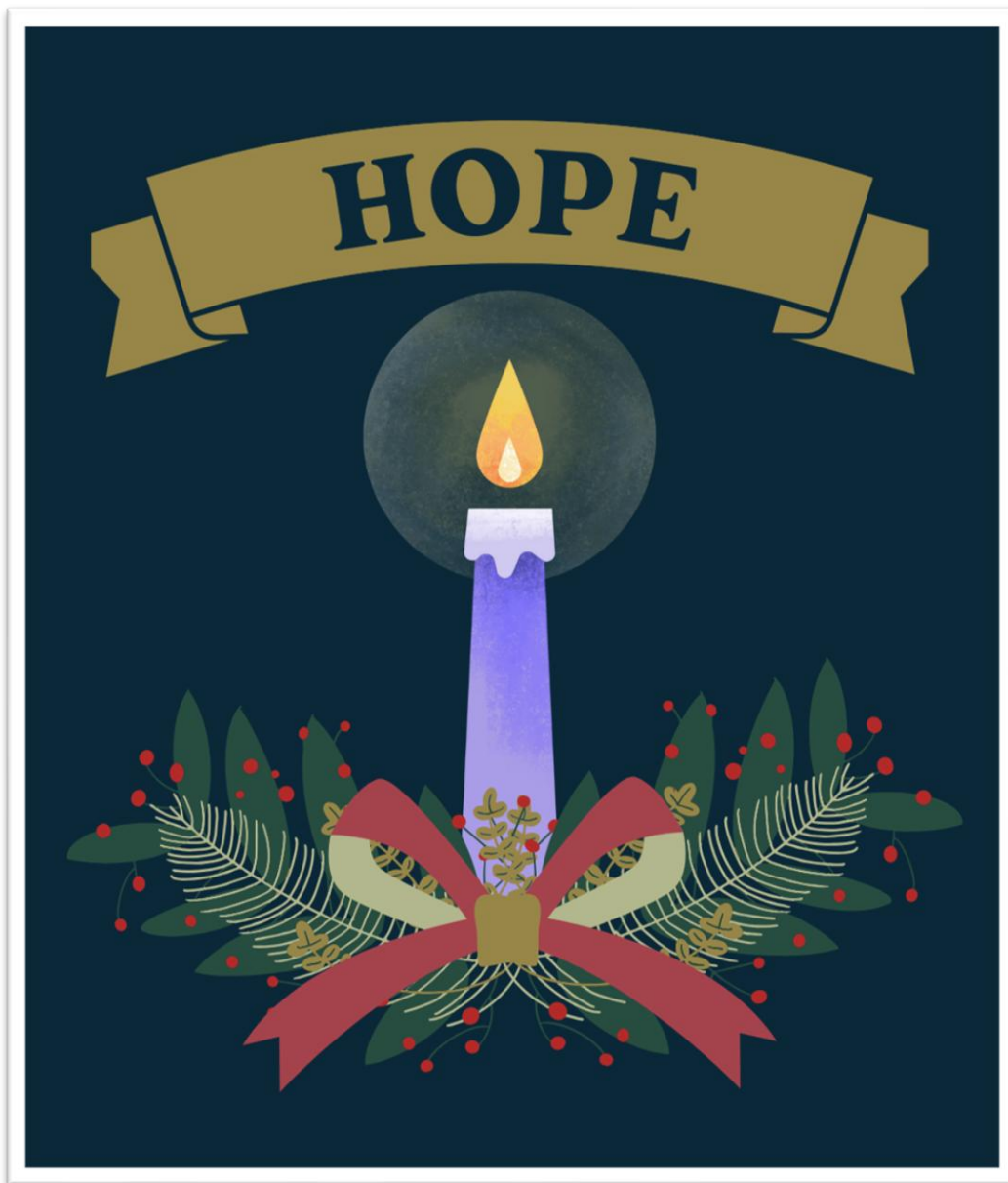


Welcome to
St. Paul's United Church of Christ

An Open and Affirming Congregation of the United Church of Christ

November 30, 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: Paula Boyer

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: Don Dupes
Greeters: Susan Miller, Becky Thompson, Dale Thorpe
Acolyte:
Kids' Place: Jonneke Dundore, Barbara Wheeler-Bride, Chris Grice
Flower Preparation: Susan Gabriel
Flower Delivery: Erin, Ben, Caroline and Alice Anderson
Counting Team:
Candle Lighting: Abigail and Sarah Dugan

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



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

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

November 30, 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 "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"

Lani Smith

CHORAL INTROIT

*THE HYMN No. 122 "Come, O Long-Expected Jesus"

LIGHTING THE FIRST ADVENT CANDLE – HOPE (responsive)

One: The prophet Isaiah calls to us from the past to imagine the future when God's reign will be fully realized and recognized throughout creation. When that time comes, God "shall judge between the nations and shall arbitrate for many peoples; they shall beat their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation; neither shall they learn war any more."

All: Today, we choose to live in hope, believing that the time of God's reign has come and is coming among us.

One: We light this candle of hope as a sign of our promise to follow the Light as we answer God's call to transform our hope into reality today, and in the days to come.

SUNG RESPONSE The Candle of Hope (to the tune of No. 305 "You Servants of God, Your Sovereign Proclaim")

***The candle of hope we light in this hour
Proclaims that the Lord is coming in power.
We wait for a future, now hidden from view,
When Christ in his glory will make all things new.***

*PRAYER OF INVOCATION (unison)

You have wakened us from sleep and led us to this place, wondrous God. Now let us feel your presence with us as we encounter your Word. The night is far gone; the day is near. We give You thanks for bringing us into this new day, and for kindling hope. In this season, we remember Your unexpected appearance among us in the birth of a child. You make Yourself known to us again and again, a light shining in the darkness. Amen.

CALL TO CONFESSION

In awe before God, who judges our motives and our actions, we come to this time of confession. Often, we are reluctant to examine our intentions or our deeds. The difficulties we face are like storm clouds forming over us, pressing us down into shadow, from sorrow to disillusionment to cynicism and resignation. We mistakenly believe that nothing we do matters. So we postpone changes that would make us ready to receive Christ into our lives. Let us delay no longer. Let us join in silent prayers of confession.

SILENT PRAYERS OF CONFESSION

WORDS OF ASSURANCE (Responsive):

One: In Jesus, hope is born, lighting our way. We give thanks and praise for the forgiveness of God.

ALL: Let us become more like Jesus; bringing hope to a world filled with despair, and loving our neighbors to the best of our ability.

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.*

THE CHORISTERS

THE HEBREW SCRIPTURE READING

Isaiah 2:1-5

THE READING OF THE PSALM

Psalm 122

*THE HYMN "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"

**O Come, O come Emmanuel
make true the stories prophets tell –
so all those chained by fear find release,
and, war forgotten, bring a world of peace.
Rejoice, rejoice! Emmanuel
is come to birth where all God's children dwell.**

**O Come, Love's-season, to our lonely days,
and guide us in our words and ways
to be the ones whose Advent begins
with healing earth and all that live within.**

**Rejoice, rejoice! Emmanuel
is come to birth where all God's children dwell.**

**O come, Desire of Nations, bind
all peoples in one heart and mind;
Make envy, strife, and quarrels cease;
fill the whole world with heaven's peace.
Rejoice, rejoice! Emmanuel
is come to birth where all God's children dwell.**

THE RESPONSE:

One: God is Still Speaking.

All: Thanks be to God!

THE EPISTLE READING & MESSAGE:

Romans 13:11-14

“Cultivating the Discipline of Hope”

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)

Advent Blessing

Bless us, Fa - ther, as we pray. Help us seek You day by day. Bind us all in
Heart and mind. Bid all our quar - rels cease. Fill the world with Hea - ven's peace. Bid all war and
hun - ger cease. Oh, come, Ho - ly Sav - ior, come.

Please place your pew pad sheets in the Offering Plate.

THE OFFERTORY “People Look East”

arr. Phillips

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)

Thank you, God, for the privilege of sharing Your gifts with those in need. We seek to walk in Your light and follow the pathways where You lead. We want to share the good news of salvation through these gifts, and by the way we live. May all Your people be made ready for Christ's coming. Amen.

*THE HYMN No. 102 "O How Shall I Receive You"

*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 "Wake, Awake, For The Night Is Flying"

Philipp Nicolai

References:

Alternative lyrics to "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" This is a quote from Maren Tirabassi in 2024, speaking of a rewrite she did in 2023: "I re-wrote the lyrics to 'O Come, O Come, Emmanuel' last year particularly for those uncomfortable with the use of the word 'Israel' used in the original as to signify all people in need, but now referring to a particular nation. Here are the first two verses for anyone who wishes and the third verse as in the original."

The Advent Candle Lighting liturgy is from Discipleship Ministries, an agency of The United Methodist Church, © 2025. All rights reserved.

The Prayer of Invocation, Call to Confession, and Prayer of Dedication are adapted from "Taught by Love" by Lavon Bayler, United Church Press: Cleveland, OH, 1998.

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.

Songs, music, and lyrics used by permission. CCLI License #11380019 CSPL128945

ALTAR FLOWERS

The Altar flowers are given to the Glory of God by
Paula Boyer, "In honor of Rev. Allyssa's 3rd anniversary of her ordination."
Martha Keith, "In loving memory of Gene Keith."