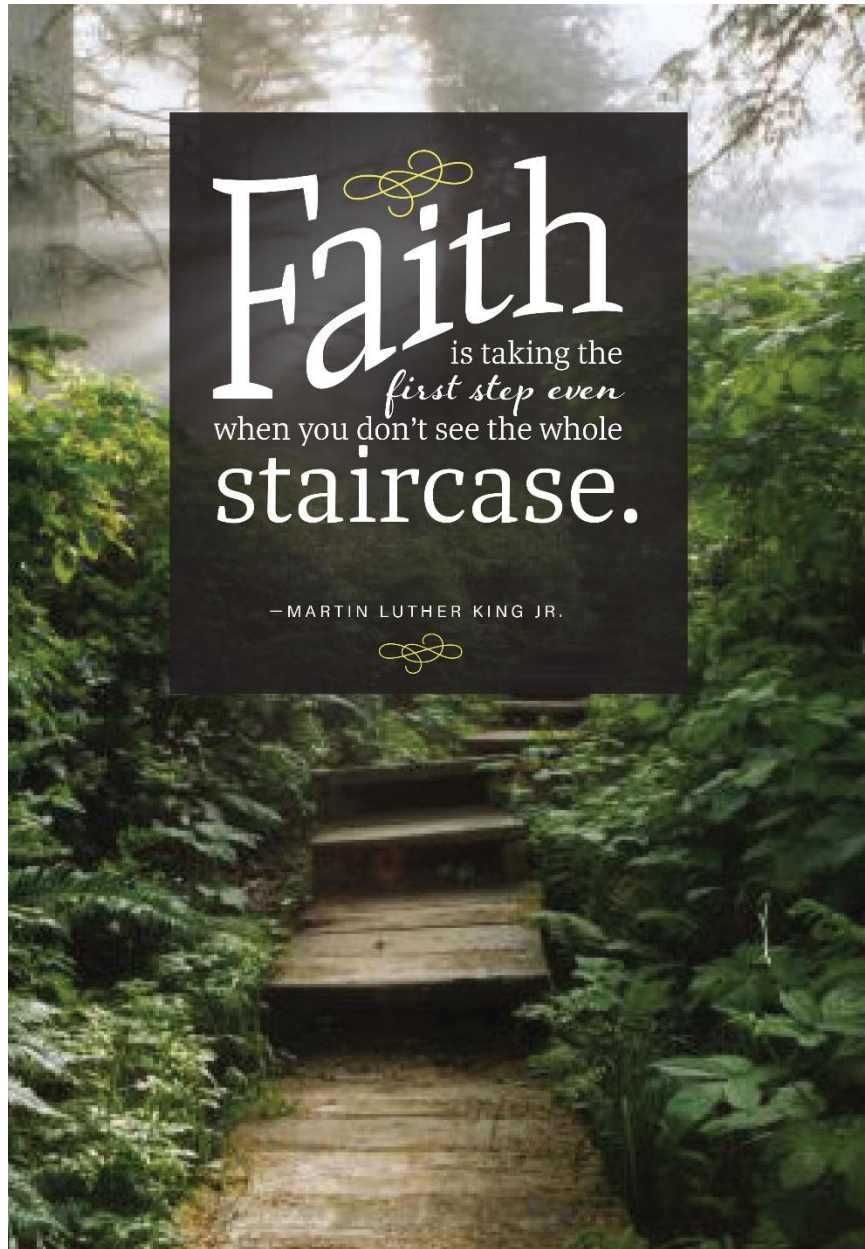


Welcome to St. Paul's United Church of Christ

An Open and Affirming Congregation of the United Church of Christ

January 18, 2026



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: Kathy Aumiller

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: Rebecca Drazba
Greeters: Susan Miller, Crystal Cline
Acolyte:
Kids' Place: Sue Ward-Diorio, Jonneke Dundore
Flower Preparation: Susan Gabriel
Flower Delivery: Patrice Miller
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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ST. PAUL'S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
SERVICE OF WORSHIP

SECOND SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

January 18, 2026

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 "Grace Greater than Our Sin"

Lyndell Leatherman

CHORAL INTROIT

*THE HYMN No. 305 "You Servants of God, Your Sovereign Proclaim"

*PRAYER OF INVOCATION (unison)

God who speaks through many people, guide us in listening for the words of Prophets like the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. May we discern the consistency between their words, and the words of previous Prophets and Jesus. May we discern the consistency between their actions and the way Jesus acted, and how You call us to act as well. Amen.

CALL TO CONFESSION

God, we admit we get confused when those who are supposed to be working for justice wear masks and engage in needless and senseless violence. God, we admit that it is hard for us to fathom that people we have trusted to protect us and uphold the law are instead harming us and ignoring the law. God, we confess we are afraid and unsure how to respond. Let us join in a time of Silent Prayers of Confession.

SILENT PRAYERS OF CONFESSION

WORDS OF ASSURANCE (Responsive):

One: God forgives our confusion and weeps with all those being harmed. God has in the past and continues in the present to call us back to deeper connection with God, as God speaks to us through the words of Prophets and leaders who call for the end of violence and the pursuit of equal justice for all people.

ALL: **May we be emboldened by the witness of such non-violent examples of how to pursue justice as offered by Jesus and the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. 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!

ANTHEM "Happy in Your Faith"

Page & Shafferman

Choristers

THE GOSPEL READING

John 1:35-42

THE PSALM READING

Psalms 40:1-8

*THE HYMN "O God of Love" (to the tune of no. 488, "Be Still, My Soul")

**O God of love, this is a time of turning—
a time of change, with conflict in the news.
For in our land, some mighty winds are churning;
There's much at stake that we could gain or lose.
Love sings out strong, yet fires of hate are burning;
O God of all, you call us all to choose.**

**O God of peace, we hear your gracious promise:
Your love can heal the hearts of humankind.
May we stand firm for truth and peace and justice;
May we leave fear and hatred far behind.
May we sing out, and — singing— be a witness,
and show resolve to work for what is kind.**

**O God of all, of immigrant and neighbor,
of those in power— and of the refugee,
You give us all our common life and labor—
our common hope, the peace we long to see.
God, may we turn and be made strong together.
May we seek justice, love and unity.**

**O God of love, have mercy on your churches;
Take from our hearts our paralyzing fear.
Give us new faith! Make us courageous workers.
Help us to labor on from year to year
When other voices call out to distract us,
May we choose well and seek your kingdom here.**

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THE RESPONSE:

One: God is Still Speaking.

All: **Thanks be to God!**

THE HEBREW SCRIPTURE READING & MESSAGE:

Isaiah 49:1-7

“Called to Act as MLK Did”

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)

Thru Christ our ear-nest prayers are said with words we scarce can frame; Our
work of Christ-mas now be-gun, We serve now in Christ's name.

Please place your pew pad sheets in the Offering Plate.

THE OFFERTORY “He Is Exalted”

Paris

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)

God of the saints in every age and time, we are grateful for the privilege of being numbered among them as we invest our gifts from You. Because of your generosity, we have not lacked for anything we really need. Grant now that our words and deeds may follow our offering into loving service in Your realm. Amen.

*THE HYMN “O Lord, You Called Disciples” (to the tune of no. 245, “The Day of Resurrection.”)

O Lord, you called disciples, proclaiming, "Come and see!"

And so an invitation began your ministry.

Then Andrew called his brother, and Peter came to you;

More men and women followed, and little children, too.

You met a busy woman out in the noon-day sun.

You shared God's love, you listened; you told all she had done.

She called her friends and neighbors and brought them face to face

With you, the living water, the bearer of God's grace.

O Christ, your invitation has reached from year to year!

Through some who heard you calling, a church was founded here.

As faithful people served you so many years ago,*

They soon invited others; your church began to grow.

God, by your Holy Spirit, now send us in your name

To serve the lost and outcast, the poor for whom you came.

Through gifts of hope and healing, through loving ministry,

May we reach out, inviting the world to "Come and see!"

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*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”

Gerald Peterson

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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