

Welcome to St. Paul's United Church of Christ

An Open and Affirming Congregation of the United Church of Christ

March 8, 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: Megan Riesmeyer

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: Dave Scott
Greeters: Patrice Miller, Don Dupes
Acolyte:
Kids' Place:
Flower Preparation: Susan Gabriel
Flower Delivery: Patrice and Greogry 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

THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT

March 8, 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

ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING

THE ORGAN PRELUDE

CHORAL INTROIT

*THE HYMN No. 18 "Guide My, O My Great Redeemer"

*PRAYER OF INVOCATION (unison)

God of on-going Revelation, open us to the revelations Jesus offered, as we pray and listen today and all our days. Help us to see that in Scriptures two thousand years old and older, Your Light allows us to see new insights. Amen.

CALL TO CONFESSION

We can be tempted to believe that we have already heard the definitive words about Jesus and our faith. We perhaps have only been exposed to an overemphasis on Jesus dying for sinners, without questioning where that thinking comes from and what it means. We may well ignore what Jesus taught us, through his words and actions, and how he lived his life, and the idea that we are to follow and model those teachings and behaviors as well. Let us join in a time of Silent Prayers of Confession.

SILENT PRAYERS OF CONFESSION

WORDS OF ASSURANCE (Responsive):

One: God forgives us and has never stopped speaking to us, seeking to reveal the truths about God's desires for us, for all others, for all of Creation.

ALL: Let us seek to deepen our relationships with God, so we might better understand what Jesus taught us; what Jesus came to do; and how we are called to live and act in this, God's 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 HEBREW SCRIPTURE READING

Exodus 17:1-7

THE READING OF THE PSALM

Psalm 95

*THE HYMN No. 224 "When I Survey the Wonderous Cross"

THE RESPONSE:

One: God is Still Speaking.

All: Thanks be to God!

THE GOSPEL READING & MESSAGE:

John 4:1-42

"Overcoming Separation"

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)

O Lord, hear my prayer, O Lord, hear my prayer. When I call an - swer me. O

Lord, hear my prayer, O Lord, hear my prayer. Come and lis - ten to me.

Please place your pew pad sheets in the Offering Plate.

THE OFFERTORY “The Holy Heart”

Barmour/Skidmore

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)

Thank you, God, for all the ways we have benefited from the labor of others. We here offer our best for the sake of siblings who need the love and encouragement You are eager to share through us. Keep us from being ungrateful as we continue to receive so much more than we stop to realize. When life is difficult, help us to endure and to hope because Your love is sure and certain, ours to receive and to give, in Christ's name. Amen.

*THE HYMN No. 522 “I Love to Tell the Story”

*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

References:

Cover Image: Koenig, Peter. Christ at the Well, from **Art in the Christian Tradition**, a project of the Vanderbilt Divinity Library, Nashville, TN. <https://diglib.library.vanderbilt.edu/act-imagelink.pl?RC=58521> [retrieved March 5, 2026]. Original source: Peter Winfried (Canisius) Koenig, <https://www.pwkoenig.co.uk/>.

The Prayer of Dedication is from "Taught 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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The white rose on the altar is in loving memory of Albert (Al) Huebner who died last week. We thank you for your continued prayers for his wife, Mary Jane, and daughter, Jennifer, along with all other family and friends.

ALTAR FLOWERS

The Altar flowers are given to the Glory of God by
Rev. Allyssa Boyer, "In loving memory of my grandfather, James L. Alfano."

Congregational Conversation: All-Gender Restrooms

Today, Sunday, March 8 | After Worship

Please join us for a continued conversation on making St. Paul's restrooms more inclusive and accessible. We will share updates on the Fellowship Hall restroom construction, discuss ways to increase privacy and comfort, and address recent concerns as we live out our Open and Affirming Covenant. Your participation is vital! Please join us.