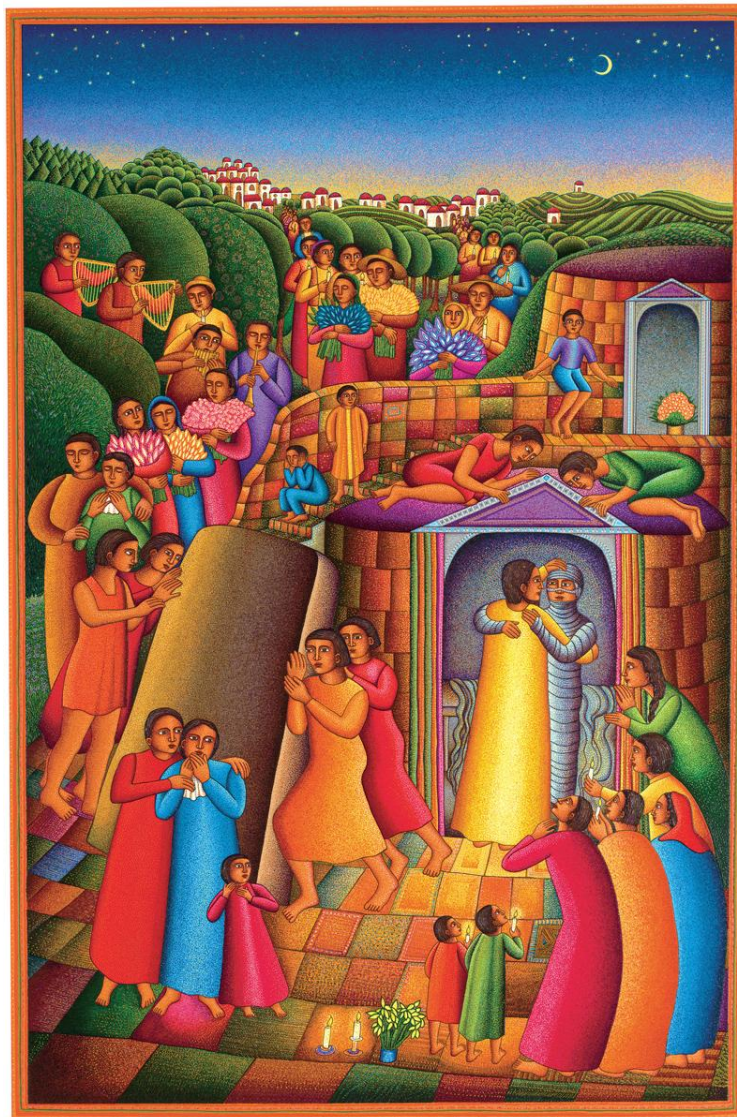


Welcome to St. Paul's United Church of Christ

An Open and Affirming Congregation of the United Church of Christ

March 22, 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: Steve Stough

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: Crystal Cline
Greeters: Sherry Spencer
Acolyte:
Kids' Place: Deb Cashman, Don Dupes
Flower Preparation: Susan Gabriel
Flower Delivery: Jane Leister
Counting Team: Dave Scott and Joan Moyer
Fellowship Time: Stewardship Council

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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Rev. Allyssa: allyssaboyer@outlook.com



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

FIFTH SUNDAY IN LENT

March 22, 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 "Ballad"

Edward Grieg

CHORAL INTROIT

*THE HYMN No 193 "In the Cross of Christ I Glory" (vs 1-4)

*PRAYER OF INVOCATION (unison)

Creator God, guide us in recognizing how You bring about new life. Your love for us is so great that You would not permanently abandon any of Your Children, any of Your Creation. Help us to see resurrection will happen for us all and can happen more than just once. Amen.

CALL TO CONFESSION

Most of us have a great fear of death. We perceive it as a definitive end, a complete separation from those we love. Our fear and our grief are quite understandable. And so, we choose not to talk about death. Unfortunately then, people in various positions of authority have used this fear to manipulate and control us. Jesus came in part to show us death is not the final word. We still wonder. Let us join in a time of Silent Prayers of Confession.

SILENT PRAYERS OF CONFESSION

WORDS OF ASSURANCE (Responsive):

One: God forgives us. God continues to speak to us, urging us to look again at Scripture and some of our traditions, and contemplate what they share with us about resurrection and new life.

ALL: **Let us open our hearts, minds and spirits, and listen for what the God of Love, the God of Life continues to share with us. 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

Ezekiel 37:1-14

THE READING OF THE PSALM

Psalm 130

*THE HYMN No. 443 "In the Bulb There Is a Flower"

THE RESPONSE:

One: God is Still Speaking.

All: **Thanks be to God!**

THE GOSPEL READING & MESSAGE:

John 11:1-48

"Can We Talk About Resurrection?"

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)

Musical score for 'The Choral Response' (unison). The score is in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time, with a tempo of quarter note = 72. The key signature is G major. The score consists of two systems of music, each with a vocal line and a piano accompaniment line. The first system has lyrics: 'O Lord, hear my prayer, O Lord, hear my prayer. When I call an - swer me. O'. The second system has lyrics: 'Lord, hear my prayer, O Lord, hear my prayer. Come and lis - ten to me.' The score includes a 'fine' marking at the end of the second system. Chord symbols are provided above the first system: Em, C6, D, G, C, Am6, B.

Please place your pew pad sheets in the Offering Plate.

THE OFFERTORY "What Wonderful Love Is This?"
Hand Chimes

arr. McChesney

*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)

Bring life, O God, to the program and mission of this church, which we support through our tithes and offerings. May our giving bring life and hope in many "valleys of dry bones." As Christ sacrificed life for us, so may each of us commit ourselves to carrying forward the work to which we are called in our own day. Bless us and all the gifts we bring, in Jesus' name, Amen.

*THE HYMN "Lord, If Only You Had Been Here" (to the tune of no. 332, "As We Gather at Your Table")

***"Lord, if only you had been here, one I love would not have died."
Martha shared her grief with Jesus in these words she sadly cried.
Jesus said, "I'm resurrection. Martha, do you know it's true?
I'm the life for which you're longing." She said, "I believe in you!"***

***"Lord, if only you had been here," we cry out when all goes wrong —
When our grief is overwhelming, when life's troubles seem so strong.***

***Then, O Lord, we hear your answer: "I am resurrection — See!
Not just in some distant future — I am life! Now live in me!"***

***When we share your resurrection, when we know that you are life,
We find courage for our living in this world of pain and strife.
We your church will work for justice, welcome strangers, help the poor.
Faced with death, we'll be a witness: you are with us, Risen Lord.***

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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 "Trumpet Tune"

Jean-Joseph Mouret

References:

Cover Image: Swanson, John August. Take Away the Stone, from Art in the Christian Tradition, a project of the Vanderbilt Divinity Library, Nashville, TN. <https://diglib.library.vanderbilt.edu/act-imagelink.pl?RC=58578> [retrieved March 18, 2026]. Original source: Estate of John August Swanson, <https://www.johnaugustswanson.com/>.

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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ALTAR FLOWERS

The Altar flowers are given to the Glory of God by
Candy LaRue and Corky Short, "In honor of our granddaughter Morgan's 25th birthday."

STEWARDSHIP AUCTION

Join us in the fellowship hall after worship to view the auction baskets and enjoy a time of fellowship. Online bidding is now open and will close this coming Thursday, March 26th. Thank you all for your continued support of St. Paul's.