

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

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

April 5, 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: Mary Runkle

### **Ministry of Music**

Minister of Music: Eric R. Dundore  
Assistant Music Director: Mark A. Dundore  
Organist: Sarah A. Myers  
Assistant Organist: Patrice G. Miller  
Brass: Ilia Chlaifer, Mark Dundore, Craig Layne & Noah Riek

### **Ministry of Audio and Video**

Jeffrey A. Dundore

### **Ministry of Service**

Lead Greeter: Nancy Richey  
Greeters: Shirley Keith Knox, Megan Riesmeyer,  
Chris Grice, Paula Boyer & Jeff Leister  
Acolyte:  
Kids' Place: LidiaAnn Edwards, Sue Ward-Diorio  
Flower Preparation: Susan Gabriel  
Flower Delivery: Susan White  
Counting Team:

### **Pastor Emeritus**

The Rev. Dr. Thomas E. Herrold

### **Ministers**

The Entire Congregation

**Text "SPUCCGIVE" to 73256 to give using your mobile device.  
or at <https://onrealm.org/saintpaulsuccmech/-/form/give/now>**

## **ST. PAUL'S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**

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**Rev. Allyssa: [allyssaboyer@outlook.com](mailto:allyssaboyer@outlook.com)**

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

EASTER SUNDAY  
HOLY COMMUNION

April 5, 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 BRASS PRELUDE "Come, Ye Faithful, Raise the Strain"  
"Welcome Happy Morning"

Sullivan, arr. Davis  
Sullivan, arr. Davis

CHORAL INTROIT

\*THE HYMN No 233 "Christ the Lord Is Risen Today"

\*PRAYER OF INVOCATION (unison)

**Gracious God, Giver of life, guide us in accepting the new life You offer to each of us. Help us to believe, as You were with Jesus through all he suffered, You will be with us as we embrace the changes such new life entails. Amen.**

CALL TO CONFESSION

It is quite understandable that we would choose comfort, familiarity over change. However, a large part of what Jesus taught us, and modeled for us in how he lived and died, was the necessity of contemplating and embracing change, even if it means a level of suffering. He showed us that even in the most difficult or painful circumstances, we do not face such impacts on our lives alone. God is with us and we can support one another as well. We act as if we do not believe this is true. 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 remind us, through the changing seasons, through all that regularly changes, that new life can and does emerge out of death.

**ALL:** **Let us have faith that God is with us, supports us, and calls us to engage in the process of choosing new life. May we understand to a greater and greater extent that this is an essential part of what Jesus taught us and showed us. Jesus is risen to new life. Jesus is risen indeed. 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 NEW TESTAMENT READING

Acts of the Apostles 10:34-43

THE READING OF THE PSALM

Psalm 118:13-17, 21-24

THE RESPONSE:

One: God is Still Speaking.

All: **Thanks be to God!**

THE GOSPEL READING & MESSAGE:

John 20:1-18

“Living Out of New Life”

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

THE CHORAL RESPONSE (unison)

Hal-le, hal-le, hal - le - lu - ja. Hal-le, hal-le, hal - le - lu - ja.

Hal-le, hal-le, hal - le - lu - ja. Hal-le - lu-ja, hal - le - lu - ja.

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

\*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)

**May our gifts give testimony to "the One ordained by God to be judge of the living and the dead." As we share in Christ's ministry of healing and reconciliation, pour out Your spirit in our midst that we may be equipped and empowered to carry out Your purposes. We cannot keep the good news to ourselves; teach us how to pass it on. Amen.**

\*THE HYMN No. 245 “The Day of Resurrection”

**THE SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION**

THE INVITATION

One: God be with you.  
**All: And also with you.**  
One: Lift up your hearts.  
**All: We lift them up to God.**  
One: Let us give thanks to God.  
**All: It is good to give God thanks and praise.**

PASTORAL PRAYER AND 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.**

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

DISTRIBUTION OF THE ELEMENTS

*We gather both in person and in Spirit. For those who are present in the sanctuary, greeters will pass out bread (all the bread is gluten-free), and then red wine and white grape juice. They will bring the trays to you. Please hold the elements until all have been served; we will eat and then drink together. All are welcome to participate. Thank you.*

*For those of you joining us via livestream, we hope you have some bread and wine or juice of your choice before you. We trust that God is powerful enough to extend God’s blessing upon these communion elements, even as we and they are scattered in geographic space.*

THE PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING (unison)

**Holy God, we give You thanks for the miracle and wonder of this meal. We give You thanks for Your coming to us in the person of Jesus, and for Jesus' willingness to offer his whole self for our benefit. We can see how we can best live our lives. We can believe all "deaths," those losses, endings, and struggles in this life, and the ones at the end of our physical lives, are not the final word. We can trust that Your Spirit is within all of us, and always will be. May the gifts of this table always remind us of the gifts You have given us all. Amen.**

\*THE HYMN No. 242 "The Strife Is O'er"

\*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 BRASS POSTLUDE "Christ the Lord Is Risen Today"

Williams, arr. Davis

References:

The Prayer of Dedication is from "Fresh Winds of the Spirit" 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  
Deb Cashman, "In memory of Bill Cashman"

Lenten Offering Donations are Given to the Glory of God by...

**George & Betsy Bingaman**

*In memory of our parents, Rev. George & Martha Bingaman,  
and Clarence & Josephine Rosenberry.*

**Matt, Erin, Daxon & Ainsley Iacavone**

*In memory of John Iacavone*

**Linda Miller & William Murray**

*In memory of our son Nathan and our parents.*

**George Swartz**

*In honor of John Knight; In memory of family and friends.*