

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

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

April 19, 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: Pam Smith

### **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: Mel Shaver-Durham  
Greeters: Don Dupes, Sherry Spencer  
Acolyte:  
Kids' Place: Becky Thompson, Crystal Cline, Maggie Gassert  
Flower Preparation: Chris Grice  
Flower Delivery: Sherry Spencer  
Counting Team: Joan Moyer, Mary Runkle

### **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 EASTER

April 19, 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 "God Will Take Care of You"

Lucy Ann Warriner

CALL TO WORSHIP "For the Sake of Strangers" by Dorianne Laux

"No matter what the grief, its weight,  
we are obliged to carry it.

We rise and gather momentum, the dull strength  
that pushes us through crowds.

And then the young boy gives me directions  
so avidly. A woman holds the glass door open,  
waiting patiently for my empty body to pass through.

All day it continues, each kindness  
reaching toward another — a stranger  
singing to no one as I pass on the path, trees  
offering their blossoms, a child  
who lifts his almond eyes and smiles.

Somehow they always find me, seem even  
to be waiting, determined to keep me  
from myself, from the thing that calls to me  
as it must have once called to them –  
this temptation to step off the edge  
and fall weightless, away from the world."

\*THE HYMN No 49 "Ask Me What Great Thing I Know"

\*PRAYER OF INVOCATION (unison)

**Ever-present God, guide us in staying open to Your Presence in the people we meet, those we know and those we do not. Help us to welcome them so we might come to understand who they truly are. Amen.**

CALL TO CONFESSION

We tend to keep our circle of connection with others fairly small. This can be especially true when we are struggling or grieving. If we do not recognize someone, or someone appears different than others we are close with, we will often shut them out or pay only surface attention to them. In doing so, we risk blocking connecting with the Christ in another. Let us join in a time of Silent Prayers of Confession.

## SILENT PRAYERS OF CONFESSION

WORDS OF ASSURANCE (Responsive):

**One:** God forgives us and continues to come to us, hoping we will welcome God's Spirit, the Christ Spirit, and be willing to learn from it.

**ALL:** **Let us seek to keep our minds, spirits and hearts open. Let us welcome those who are similar to us and those who are different. Let us accept that God continues to speak to us and teach us through others. 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 2:36-42

## THE READING OF THE PSALM

Psalms 116:1-7, 16-19

\*THE HYMN “Emmaus-Bound on Easter Day” (to the tune of no. 362, “Though I May Speak”)

**Emmaus-bound on Easter Day, Two travelers walked along the way.**

**They'd once had hope, but hope had died When you, O Lord, were crucified.**

**When you appeared beside the two, They could not see that it was you;**

**But as they talked and shared their pain, You gave them hope and joy again.**

**For as you spoke to them God's word, Explaining all they'd seen and heard,**

**They understood what God had done And that a new day had begun.**

**They shared their home; you broke the bread. They saw you, risen from the dead!**

**That moment's grace helped them to see The gift of God's eternity.**

**In scripture and at table, too, O Risen Lord, may we know you.**

**And may your presence give us grace To share God's love in every place.**

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THE RESPONSE:

One: God is Still Speaking.

All: **Thanks be to God!**

THE GOSPEL READING & MESSAGE:

Luke 24:13-35

“Welcoming Opens Our Spirits”

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)

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.*

THE OFFERTORY “I Have Decided to Follow Jesus”

Wagner

## Hand Chimes

### \*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 joining with Christ in the proclamation of Your love for all people. May the ministries we support serve to unite people across all differences, building up the body of Christ and reaching out to the world with healing energy. Bless these gifts and all who give in any way to make Your love known. Amen.**

### \*THE HYMN No. 386 "The Church's One Foundation"

### \*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 "Christ the Victor! Christ the King"

Tom Birchwood

#### References:

Wildens, Jan, 1585-1653. Christ and his disciples on the road to Emmaus, from Art in the Christian Tradition, a project of the Vanderbilt Divinity Library, Nashville, TN. <https://diglib.library.vanderbilt.edu/act-imagelink.pl?RC=55031> [retrieved April 16, 2026]. Original source:

[http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Jan\\_Wildens\\_Landscape\\_with\\_Christ\\_and\\_his\\_Disciples\\_on\\_the\\_Road\\_to\\_Emmaus.jpg](http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Jan_Wildens_Landscape_with_Christ_and_his_Disciples_on_the_Road_to_Emmaus.jpg).

The Call to Worship is the poem "For the Sake of Strangers" by Dorianne Laux found on page 153 of Poetry of Presence: An Anthology of Mindfulness Poems, edited by Phyllis Cole-Dai and Ruby R. Wilson, 2017, Grayson Books, and originally found in What We Carry, 1994 by Dorianne Laux.

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

Candy LaRue, "In honor of our granddaughter's 31<sup>st</sup> birthday."

Jonneke Dundore, "In honor of our granddaughter Adelia's 2<sup>nd</sup> birthday."