Welcome to

St. Paul's United Church of Christ

An Open and Affirming Congregation of the United Church of Christ

June 21, 2026

GOD IS STILL SPEAKING

NO MATTER WHO YOU ARE, OR WHERE YOU ARE ON LIFE'S JOURNEY YOU ARE WELCOME HERE!

Worship Leadership
The Rev. John J. Ward-Diorio
Preacher: The Rev. Allyssa A. Boyer
Lector: Paula Boyer

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: Don Dupes, Anna Thompson
Acolyte:
Kids' Place:
Flower Preparation: Susan Gabriel
Flower Delivery: Jane and Jeff Leister
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.

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

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

FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST June 21, 2026
JUNETEENTH SUNDAY

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 "Amazing Grace" Edward Broughton

CALL TO WORSHIP (responsive)

One: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

All: And also with you.

One: Jesus came to preach good news to the poor, to proclaim release to the captives, and recovery of sight to the blind;

All: To liberate those who are oppressed, and to proclaim the year of God's favor.

*THE HYMN No 310 "It's the Old Ship of Zion"

*PRAYER OF INVOCATION (unison)

Reigning God, we witness the work of Your hands. Where there is justice for the oppressed, we sense Your presence. Where the hungry are fed, we know the providers are working with You. You set prisoners free and bring understanding to the unmindful. You lift up those who are bowed down and sustain those who seek justice with Your love. We worship a God who is living and active. We give thanks that You call us to join the action, to love You and one another more than we love the rituals of our religion or the satisfaction of our successes. Let this time of worship honor You and equip us to do Your will. Amen.

CALL TO CONFESSION

This weekend, we commemorate the end of slavery in America. Juneteenth reminds us of the progress we have made. It also reminds us of the progress we have not made. We celebrate the ideal of freedom for Black lives. And we grieve that we have not fully established justice, and so have not fully reconciled racism, in our nation.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (responsive)

One: Holy God, You created each person in Your image. The two greatest commandments call us to love You with all our hearts, souls, minds, and strength, and to love our neighbors as ourselves. Your love for us motivates us to love each other. If we do not love each other, then we have not fully accepted Your love.

All: As much as we commemorate and celebrate Juneteenth, we grieve this day. We mourn that our Black siblings have not been loved as our neighbors. We mourn that our Black siblings have been treated less than created in Your image throughout history. Lord, we confess our parts in upholding the systemic sin of racism—what we have done, and what we have left undone—and repent.

One: This Juneteenth Sunday, we ask You to guide us, our community, and our country. May the good news of the gospel motivate us to love each other. May the practices of our lives match the ideals of our words.

All: May a fresh empowerment of Your Spirit unite us together, O Lord. Grant us courage, humility, and perseverance, that we may listen and follow Your Spirit to justice, equality, and kinship. Amen.

WORDS OF ASSURANCE (Responsive):

One: God transforms our contrition into courage. Our Creator does not give up on us when we are discouraged or reject us when we fail. God forgives us and lifts us up.

ALL: Christ walks with us on the way of faithfulness, empowering us to stand in solidarity with our neighbors for freedom and justice.

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 Isaiah 1:11-17

THE READING OF THE PSALM Psalm 9:1-2, 7-10

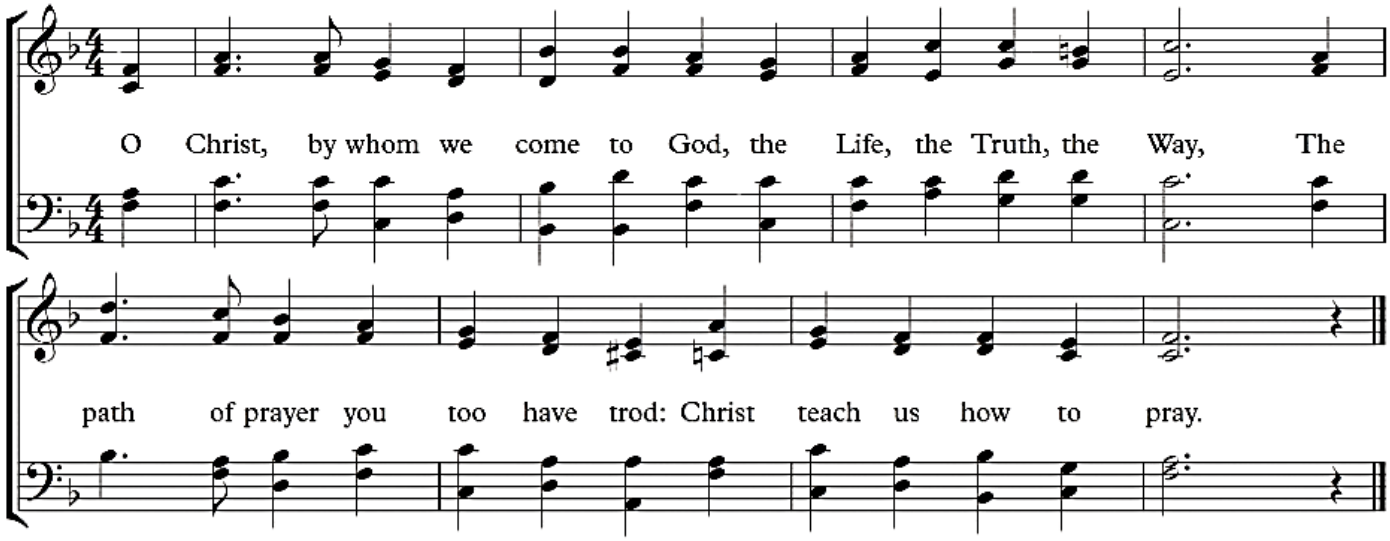
*THE HYMN No. 570 "We Shall Overcome" (vs. 1, 4, 5 & 6)

THE RESPONSE:
One: God is Still Speaking.
All: Thanks be to God!

THE GOSPEL READING & MESSAGE: Mark 12:28-34
"Remembering the Amistad"

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)



Please place your pew pad sheets in the Offering Plate.

THE OFFERTORY Deb Hall, soloist

*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 freedom and justice, guide us, through Your love, to establish the justice You proclaim, that all people may live in harmony and peace. Change our routine worship and work into genuine encounter with You, and with our better selves, so that our lives will be changed for the good of all Your beloved children. Bless these offerings, we pray. Amen.

*THE HYMN No. 593 "Lift Every Voice and Sing"

*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 online livestream ends after the Postlude.
You're welcome to converse in the Narthex after the Three-fold Amen.

THE ORGAN POSTLUDE "Variations on 'Hyfrydol'" Benton Price

References:
The Call to Worship is adapted from "United Church of Christ Book of Worship," New York, NY: United Church of Christ Office for Church Life and Leadership, 1986.
The Prayer of Invocation is adapted from "Led by Love" by Lavon Bayler, Cleveland, OH: United Church Press, 1996.
The Call to Confession and Prayer of Confession are adapted from a prayer by Peter Englert, "Juneteenth Prayers," The Center for Mission and Identity at Xavier University and the Conway Institute for Jesuit Education.
The Words of Assurance are adapted from "Gathered by Love" by Lavon Bayler, Cleveland, OH: The Pilgrim Press, 2001.
The Collect (prayer of the lector) is from "Collect for Racial Justice Sunday," Liturgical Resources for Racial Justice Sunday, The Church of England, 2022.
The Prayer of Dedication is adapted from "A prayer to celebrate Juneteenth - a Light of Hope for Freedom and Justice," Black Catholic Ministry, Archdiocese of Baltimore.
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
Rachael Hersh, "In memory of William R. Cashman III (Father and Grandpa)"