Welcome to

St. Paul's United Church of Christ

An Open and Affirming Congregation of the United Church of Christ

August 9, 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: Mark Dundore

Ministry of Music

Minister of Music: Ben D. Eisenhour
Assistant Music Director: Mark A. Dundore
Guest Organist: Dr. Robert Lau
Assistant Organist: Patrice G. Miller

Ministry of Audio and Video

Jeffrey A. Dundore

Ministry of Service

Lead Greeter: Charles Ricedorf-Reed
Greeters: Jordan Young, Crystal Cline, Brian Strohecker
Acolyte:
Kids' Place: Don Dupes
Flower Preparation: Susan Gabriel
Flower Delivery: Jonneke van Olden
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

ELEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST August 9, 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 "Like the Murmur of the Dove's Song" Michael Davis

CALL TO WORSHIP "EAGLE POEM" Joy Harjo

To pray you open your whole self
To sky, to earth, to sun, to moon
To one whole voice that is you.
And know there is more
That you can't see, can't hear;
Can't know except in moments
Steadily growing, and in languages
That aren't always sound but other
Circles of motion.
Like eagle that Sunday morning
Over Salt River. Circle in blue sky
In wind, swept our hearts clean
With sacred wings.

We see you, see ourselves and know
That we must take the utmost care
And kindness in all things.
Breathe in, knowing we are made of
All this, and breathe, knowing
We are truly blessed because we
Were born, and die soon within a
True circle of motion,
Like eagle rounding out the morning
Inside us.
We pray that it will be done
In beauty.
In beauty.

*THE HYMN No. 17 "To You, O God, All Creatures Sing" (vs. 1-3 & 5)

*PRAYER OF INVOCATION (unison)

All Powerful God, help us to remember You do not ask us to do miraculous things. Rather You ask us to do the best we can with the gifts and talents You have given us. Amen.

CALL TO CONFESSION

Sometimes we think we are capable of doing what humans cannot. Other times we underestimate our abilities. Finding that appropriate line in between can be hard. Fortunately, God remains with us whatever choices we make. 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, work with us, desiring our best, not what is impossible for us.

ALL: Having strong faith does not enable us to do the miraculous but supports us in doing what is needed, necessary and loving. 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 — 1 Kings 19:9-16

THE READING OF THE PSALM Psalm 85:8-13

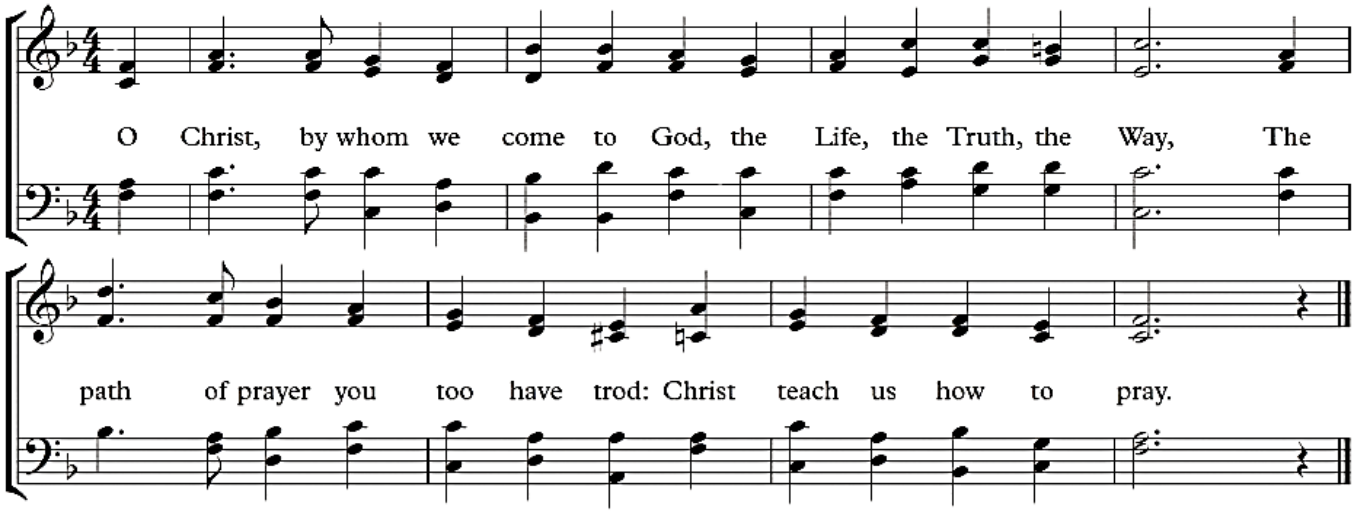
*THE HYMN No. 441 “Jesus, Savior, Pilot Me”

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

THE GOSPEL READING & MESSAGE: Matthew 14:22-35
“Miracles are God Acts”

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 “Variations on Simple Gifts” Robert Lau

*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, we cannot deceive you with the appearance of generosity. You know how we manage the wealth entrusted to our care. Help us to know the joy of sharing from the abundance you provide. Help us to trust when we feel we do not have enough. We give thanks that you enable us to be givers, not just receivers. May what we offer here provide a helpful ministry to many. May what we offer to our families, friends, and co-laborers tomorrow also be blessed as ministry. Amen.

*THE HYMN No. 436 "God of Grace and God of Glory"

*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 "How Firm a Foundation" Harold DeCou

References:
The Call to Worship is found on page 151 of How to Love the World: Poems of Gratitude and Hope, edited by James Crews, 2021, Storey Publishing. "Eagle Poem" was originally published in In Mad Love and War, by Joy Harjo, 1990, Wesleyan University 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
Susan Stump, "In memory of Bob Myers."
Becky Thompson, "In honor of our children: Rachel, Jordan, and Calvin."