Welcome to

St. Paul's United Church of Christ

An Open and Affirming Congregation of the United Church of Christ

September 20, 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: Jane Leister

Ministry of Music
Minister of Music: Benjamin D. Eisenhour
Assistant Music Director: Mark A. Dundore
Organist: Eric R. Riley
Assistant Organist: Patrice G. Miller

Ministry of Audio and Video
Jeffrey A. Dundore

Ministry of Service
Lead Greeter: Jeff Leister
Greeters: Don Dupes, Becky Thompson, Brian Strohecker
Acolyte:
Kids' Place: Crystal Cline, Sue Ward-Diorio
Flower Preparation: Susan Gabriel
Flower Delivery: Sherry Spencer
Counting Team: David Scott

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

SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST September 20, 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 Sonata IV in B-flat III. Allegretto Felix Mendelssohn Bartholdi

CHORAL INROIT

*THE HYMN No. 45 "Cristo es la peña de Horeb" (Christ is the Mountain of Horeb)
(Spanish vs. 1 led by Ben Eisenhour, congregation joins for English verses)

*PRAYER OF INVOCATION (unison)
We come to you, God, because we are thirsty. Our spirits need the refreshing water of Your Word, just as our bodies need the refreshment of a cool drink. We worship You with joy, for we can already feel the gift of Your presence all around us. Now open our ears that we may hear all that You hope for us. Open our lives to Your truth, and prepare us to follow Jesus in loving the unlovable, challenging the conventional, and being merciful, as You are merciful. Amen.

CALL TO CONFESSION
From the beginning of time, God has called us into communion with God. Yet, when we are honest, we confess there are times when we have turned our own way. By dehumanizing others, we have refused God's love and grace. Let us open our hearts to the Lord. May God restore us to the joy of recognizing God's Spirit in all people, especially in those we do not like. Let us join in silent prayers of confession.

SILENT PRAYERS OF CONFESSION

WORDS OF ASSURANCE (Responsive):
One: Like a bottomless well, God's grace overflows, and our thirsting spirits are quenched

with God's peace. In Christ, we are forgiven.

ALL: In prayer, we sip from the deep-down freshness of God's never-failing love. 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 — Exodus 17:1-7

THE READING OF THE PSALM — Psalm 95

*THE HYMN No. 196 "When, Like the Woman at the Well"

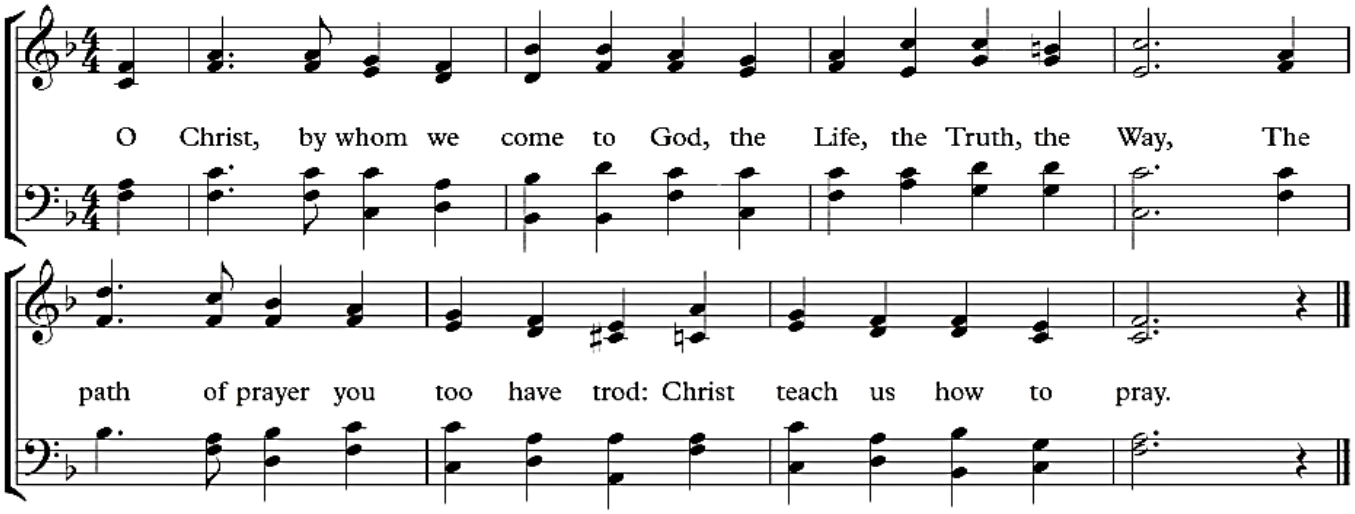
THE RESPONSE:
One: God is Still Speaking.
All: Thanks be to God!

THE SCRIPTURE READING & MESSAGE: — John 4:5-42

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 "We Shall Walk Through the Valley" African American Spiritual
arr. By Undine Smith Moore

Chancel Choir

*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 all the ways we have benefited from the labor of others. Here we offer our best for the sake of siblings who need the love and encouragement You are eager to share through us. Help us to be grateful we continue to receive so much more than we stop to realize. When life is difficult, help us to endure and to hope because Your love is sure and certain, ours to receive and to give, in Christ's name. Amen.

*THE HYMN No. 489 "I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say" (vs. 1, 2, 4 & 6)

*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 Sonata IV in B-flat IV. Allegro maestoso e vivace Felix Mendelssohn Bartholdi

References:
Cover Image: Moretto da Brescia (Alessandro Bonvicino), c. 1498-1554. Christ and the Samaritan Woman, from Art in the Christian Tradition, a project of the Vanderbilt University Divinity Library, Nashville, TN. https://act.library.vanderbilt.edu/artworks/54765 [retrieved September 17, 2026]. Original source: http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Cristo_e_la_Samaritana_al_pozzo.jpg.
The Prayer of Invocation and Prayer of Dedication are adapted from "Taught by Love" by Lavon Bayler, Cleveland, OH: United Church Press, 1998.
The Call to Confession is adapted from a prayer written by Ruth C. Duck. Reprinted by permission of the publisher from "Touch Holiness," ed. Ruth C. Duck and Maren Tirabassi. Copyright © 1990 by The Pilgrim Press.
The Words of Assurance are adapted from "A Psalm of Living Water" written by Miriam Therese Winter, "Imagining the Word: An Arts and Lectionary Resource, Vol. 2," Cleveland, OH: United Church Press, 1995.
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
Paula & Mark Boyer, "In memory of our parents,
Domenica & James Alfano, and Nadine & Carroll Boyer."