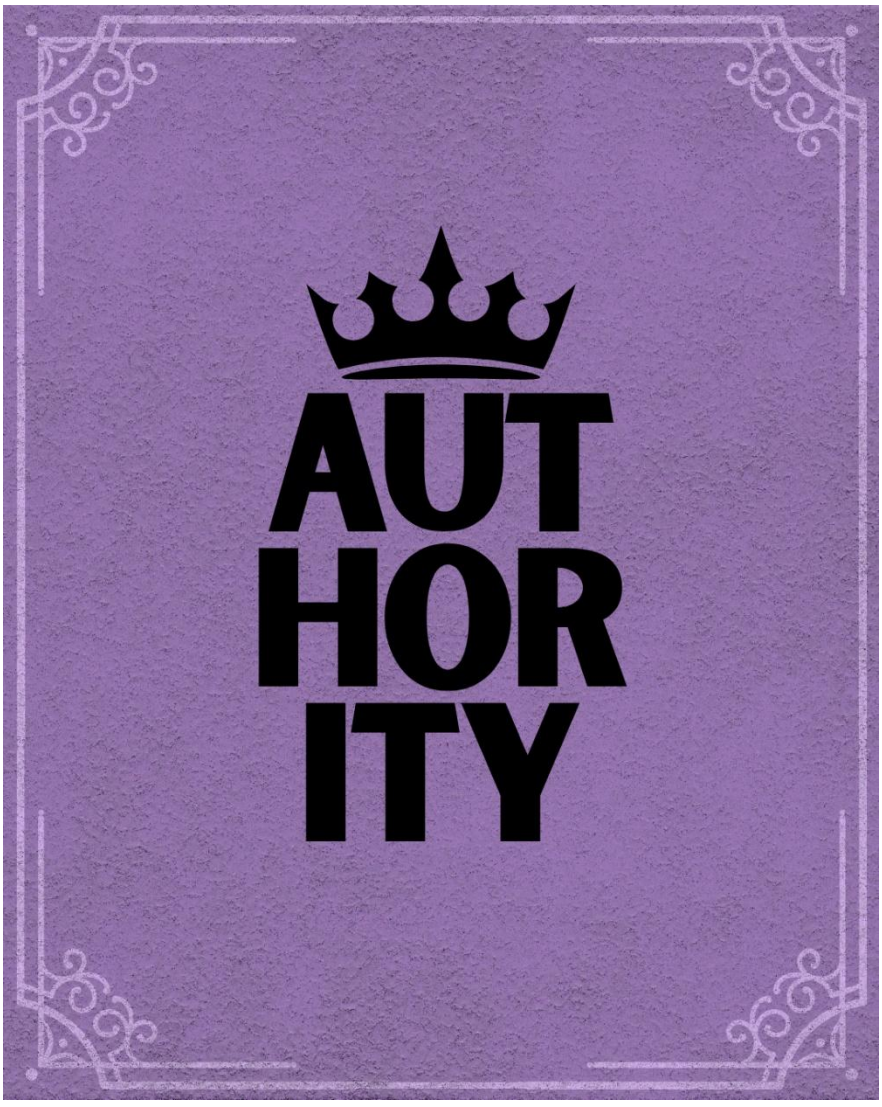
Welcome to

St. Paul's United Church of Christ

An Open and Affirming Congregation of the United Church of Christ

September 27, 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: Sherry Spencer

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: Crystal Cline
Greeters: Don Dupes
Acolyte:
Kids' Place: Shirley Keith Knox, Paula Boyer
Flower Preparation: Susan Gabriel
Flower Delivery:
Counting Team: Sherry Spencer

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

EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST September 27, 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 in G (trio) *I. Vivace* J. S. Bach

CHORAL INROIT

*THE HYMN No. 19 "Guide Me, O My Great Redeemer"

*PRAYER OF INVOCATION (unison)
God of Strength, grant us courage to speak the truth, even when we believe it may not be received well. Nothing is settled when we only say what others want to hear. Guide us in clarifying our convictions to Your Will, and embolden us to speak them aloud. Amen.

CALL TO CONFESSION
We have come to accept that those in authority often do not tell us the truth, do not tell us what they really believe and are planning to do. We adopt that same strategy at times, particularly when we know that what we say will not be received well by some. Jesus taught the importance of honesty and spoke openly and honestly regardless of the consequences. Let us join in a time of Silent Prayers of Confession.

SILENT PRAYERS OF CONFESSION

WORDS OF ASSURANCE (Responsive):
One: God forgives us and seeks to reassure us that God is with us when we speak the truth to power.

ALL: Let us draw strength from God's Presence, and our support of one another, as we raise our voices to make known, when we and other people claiming our faith, have failed to live according to Jesus' Words and Ways. 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 EPISTLE READING Philippians 2:1-13

THE READING OF THE PSALM Psalm 25:1-10

*THE HYMN No. 507 "Jesus-The Very Thought to Me"

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

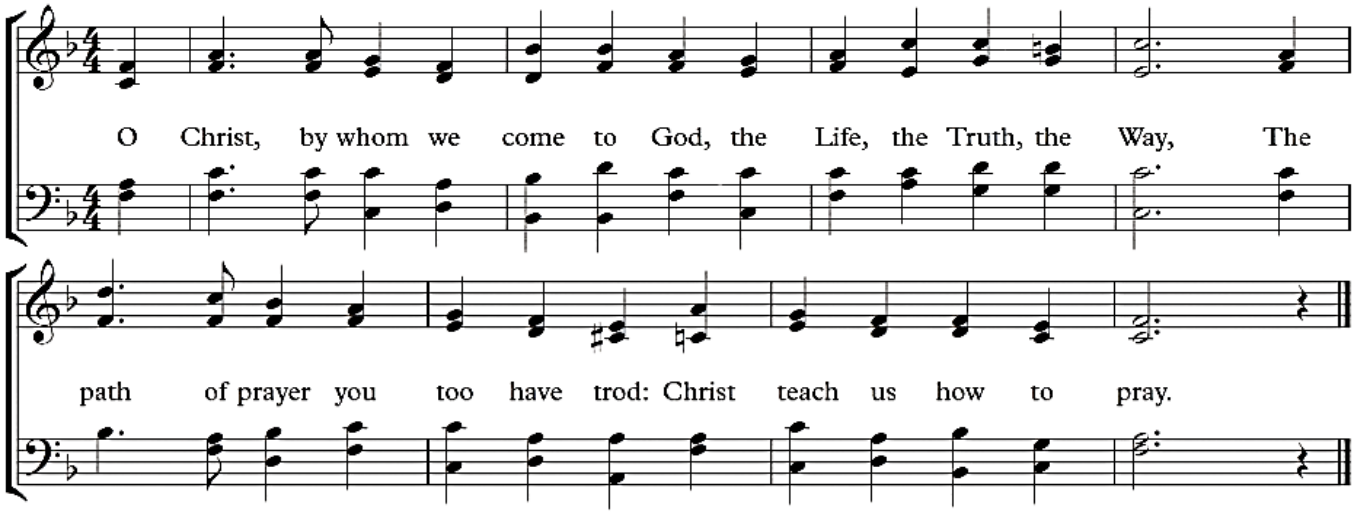
THE GOSPEL READING & MESSAGE: Matthew 21:23-32

“Legitimate Authority”

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 “Jesus Christ, Our Savior, Righteous One” Mary McDonald
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)

We empty our pockets, trusting You, O God. We empty our selfish ambitions, believing that the common good is of greater concern. We give because You have richly blessed us. We present ourselves in Your service because You have gifted us in so many ways. We reach out helping hands because we care about all those You have called us to love. May every tongue confessing Christ as Savior share in that mind which so powerfully demonstrates Your love. Amen.

*THE HYMN No. 77 “Lord, Dismiss Us with Your Blessing”

*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 Toccata, Adagio and Fugue in C *Toccata* J. S. Bach

References:
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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BAZAAR FELLOWSHIP TIME

Join us, following worship, in the Fellowship Hall. We will begin setting up the Bazaar on Saturday, October 3rd. There are still many ways to get involved in the week leading up to, and the day of the Bazaar itself. Check out the sign-up sheets in the Common to see what's available.

WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY

Next Sunday, October 4, we will commemorate World Communion Sunday. During the service, we will collect the Neighbors in Need Offering. The Neighbors in Need offering supports ministries of justice and compassion, with one-third of the offering given to the Council for American Indian Ministries and the remaining two-thirds supporting UCC justice ministries. In 2025, the Neighbors in Need Offering supported 26 grant recipients across the UCC who were engaged in projects of direct service and advocacy. At the National Ministries of the UCC, the following ministry teams are supported in part by the offering: Office of Public Policy and Advocacy, Education for Faithful Action, Gender and Sexuality Ministries. Learn more at www.ucc.org/nin