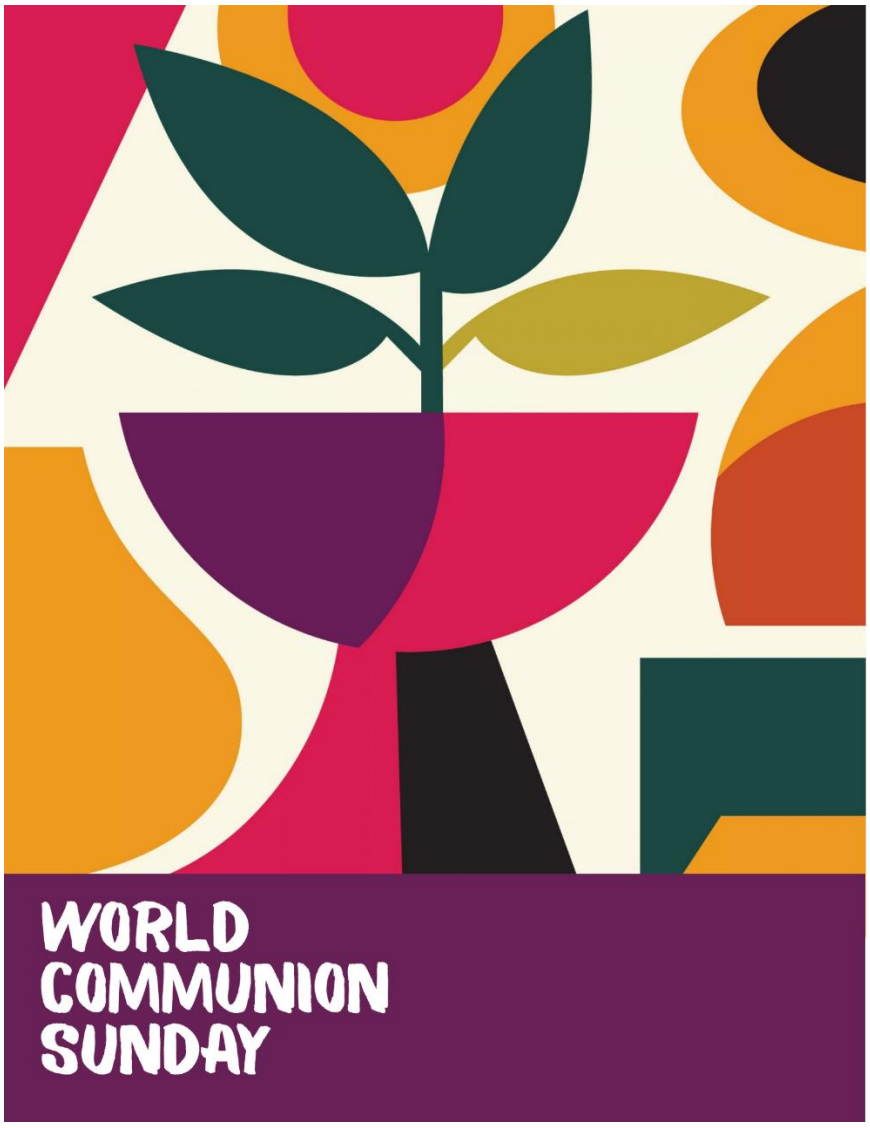
Welcome to

St. Paul's United Church of Christ

An Open and Affirming Congregation of the United Church of Christ

October 4, 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: Mary Runkle

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: Nancy Richey
Greeters: Katie Hammaker
Acolyte:
Kids' Place:
Flower Preparation: Susan Gabriel
Flower Delivery: Chris Grice
Counting Team: David Scott, 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

WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY October 4, 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

CHORAL INROIT

*THE HYMN No. 349 "I Come With Joy"

*PRAYER OF INVOCATION (unison)
Creator God, we are all Your Children. We come from a common starting point, and yet we continue to declare that some people are not Yours, or we believe they are of less value than us. Guide us in recognizing our common humanity and Your love equally given to all. Amen.

CALL TO CONFESSION
One: In a world that remains divided and in conflict, God is inviting us, to make us one.
Many: Today we gather around one table, in answer to God's will.

One: What do we find at today's table?
Many: God's love, which endures all things and connects all things.

One: What is not at today's table?
Many: The many powers of the world, which seek to stand over others.

One: Let us repent, and give thanks for God's power to bring hope, peace and love to all.
Many: Thanks be to God! Make us witnesses of Your love.

All: Let us remember in our diversity, we all remain Children of God, which makes us one. May we now join in offering Silent Prayers of Confession.

SILENT PRAYERS OF CONFESSION

WORDS OF ASSURANCE (Responsive):

One: God forgives us, and in the person of Jesus, displayed God's equal care and love for all.

ALL: Let us, as we join in the celebration of Holy Communion, envision that we are sitting down with people from all over the world. We are all siblings, and in the sharing of this meal, we pledge to offer ourselves in service to God, who desires that all of us, through our words and actions, make known God's great compassion, care, and love for one and for all. 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 READING OF HEBREW SCRIPTURE Isaiah 5:1-10

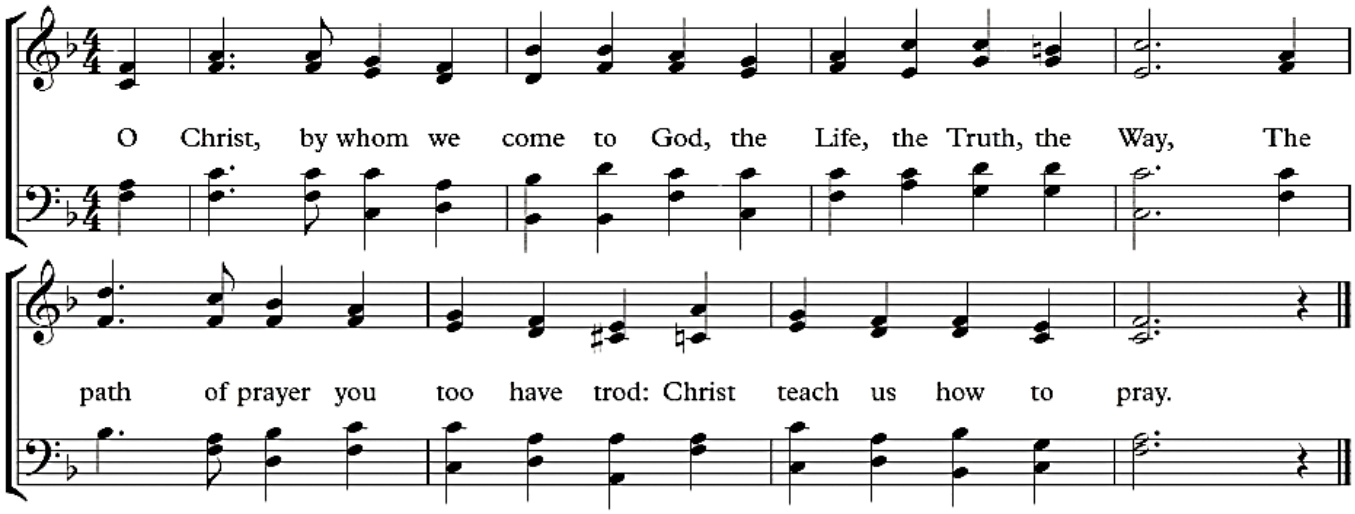
THE READING OF THE PSALM Psalm 80:7-15

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

THE GOSPEL READING & MESSAGE: Matthew 21:33-46
"Facing Our Reality"

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

THE CHORAL RESPONSE (unison)



Please place your pew pad sheets in the Offering Plate.

THE OFFERTORY "I Will Arise and Go To Jesus" Matthew Compton
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)
Merciful and gracious God, You abound in steadfast love and faithfulness. With gratitude, we bring our gifts to You. Bless these gifts and bless our lives that together we may share Your mercy and grace for the world You dearly love. Amen.

*THE HYMN "We Come to This Table" (to the tune of no. 420 "We Gather Together")

We come to this table, O God, with thanksgiving.
We lift up our hearts, we remember, we pray.
We hear Jesus' welcome — inviting, forgiving;
We know your Spirit's peace as we feast here today.

We dine at your table as sisters and brothers,
Diverse in our cultures, yet nourished as one.
The bread and the cup that we share here with others
Are gifts uniting all who are claimed by your Son.

We grieve for your world here; we cry, "How much longer?"
We pray for the cycles of violence to cease.
Yet here, in Christ broken, we're fed and made stronger
To labor in his name for a world filled with peace.

We rise from this table with new dedication
To feed the world's children, to free the oppressed,
To clear out the minefields, to care for creation;
We pray, O God of peace, that our work will be blest.

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THE SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION

THE INVITATION

One: It started last night, when we were sleeping. In Japan, New Zealand, and Siberia, people came.

Many: As the sun stretches across the earth, more people are joining the table.

One: In cathedrals made of marble and gold where mosaics glitter on the walls; in clapboard churches on vast and windswept plains,

Many: In houses and shelters, in alleys and refugee camps, people are coming together.

One: From India to Ukraine, Ethiopia to Portugal, Nova Scotia to Ecuador; running, rolling, walking, limping, we come to Your table, O God.

Many: Hungering for your bread, we come;
thirsting for your wine and juice, we come;
singing your song in every language,
speaking your name in every tongue,
in conflict and communion,
in trouble and tranquility, we come.
O God who remembers us, we come to remember You.

PASTORAL PRAYER AND 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.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

DISTRIBUTION OF THE ELEMENTS:

We gather both in person and in Spirit. For those of you present in the Sanctuary, if you are able, we invite you to come forward. We are Blessed to have breads representing various countries from around the world this morning. There is a gluten free option as well, on the middle table with a separate cup. Please then proceed to the right or the left and Pastor Allyssa or I will have both wine and grape juice that you may dip your bread in. You may then eat your Communion elements. If you prefer not to come forward, remain in your pew and a server will bring you the elements. Please raise your hand if you believe the server did not see you. For those of you joining us via livestream, we hope you have some bread from around the world and wine or juice of your choice before you. We trust that God is powerful enough to extend God's Blessings upon these Communion Elements, even as we and they are scattered in geographic space. All are welcome to participate. Thank you.

THE PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING (Unison)

God, our Mother and Father, You have given us this earth rich and vibrant. Its renewing goodness nourishes us. Jesus, our Savior and Healer, You ate with friends and enemies. At a meal, you brought the gift of hope and gave the word of life. Spirit, our Comforter and Afflicter, You do not leave us on our own. Here are companions to know our joy. Here are companions to share our sorrow. Our companions have come to this table, and tables to our north and south, east and west. We are all Children of God, and You have saved us all a place at Your Table. We give you thanks for our human community, that we may all be one. Amen.

*THE HYMN No. 304 "All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name"

*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

References:
Doxology Lyrics by Matt Nutter; College Hill United Methodist Church, Wichita, KS.
The Responsive Call to Confession was written by Rev. Taisaku OBATA (Minister, Ube Church, United Church of Christ in Japan) Translated by Mr. David McIntosh (Overseas Liaison, United Church of Christ in Japan) and was slightly edited. This was found on www.globalministries.org/rsource/world-communion-sunday-resources/
The Communion Prayer is adapted from a prayer by the Lancaster Theological Seminary Worship Planning Team, 2016.
The Prayer of Thanksgiving is adapted from an Agape Liturgy: Prayer Offering Praise in " Gifts in Open Hands" by Maren Tirabassi and Kathy Wonson Eddy.
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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NEIGHBORS IN NEED

During the service today, 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

FALL STEWARDSHIP AUCTION

Your donation could be the next favorite find at our Fall Stewardship Auction! Gift cards and goodies are always a hit, but the real treasures are your homemade items and unique talents that shine like a rare gem. Looking for ideas? Take a peak at the sign-up for 'Fall Auction Baskets' on our website. Donate a single item, take inspiration from our list, or sign up for a creation of your own! Auction baskets are due to the church office no later than Sunday, October 25th. Please contact Melissa Cawley (melissacawley@aol.com) or Victoria Velez (vmvluv@comcast.net) with any questions.

ST. PAUL'S CONNECTION - A RAINBOW OF OPPORTUNITIES

Join us for a very special Fellowship Time after worship on Sunday, Oct 11th. Stop by Fellowship Hall to enjoy some eats and treats while you experience the broad spectrum of opportunities available to engage your spiritual passions. Learn a new acronym, meet someone new, and hear more about what helps St. Paul's thrive!