

# Welcome to St. Paul's United Church of Christ

*An Open and Affirming Congregation of the United Church of Christ*

January 28, 2024



**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: Beth Lengel

### **Ministry of Music**

Minister of Music: Eric R. Dundore  
Choristers' Director: Jonneke A. 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: Chris Bowers  
Greeters: Nancy Richey, Fenton Fox, Chris Grice  
Acolyte: Elsa Riesmeyer  
Kids' Place:  
Flower Preparation: Susan Gabriel  
Flower Delivery: Susan White  
Counting Team: Nancy Richey, Mary Runkle

### **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.*

### **ST. PAUL'S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST**

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**Rev. Allyssa: allyssaboyer@outlook.com**



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

FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

January 28, 2024

*Please note: the livestream broadcast begins with the Announcements.*

*If you do not wish to appear in the livestream,  
it is best to sit in one of the back three pews of the Sanctuary.*

*Please write up any Prayer Requests ahead of time, leave them in the Red Bowl  
or give them to the Welcome Team Leader. They will bring them forward.*

***\*Those who are comfortable doing so are invited to stand.***

THE RINGING OF THE CHIMES

THE WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE ORGAN PRELUDE "Canto"

Gary Davidson

CHORAL INTROIT

\*THE HYMN No. 18 "Guide Me, O My Great Redeemer"

\*PRAYER OF INVOCATION (unison)

**Healing God, we come before You seeking health and wholeness. Help us to release that which binds us to ways other than Your Own. Continue to aid us in welcoming those who have been cast out, particularly from faith communities. Amen.**

CALL TO CONFESSION

That which is different from what we are accustomed to, tends to scare us. We therefore seek to keep people and ideas that we perceive as different, at arm's length or farther. Out of sight, out of mind. Yet Jesus is constantly interacting with both people and ideas that others have pushed away, challenging assumptions, and bringing healing. We do not always follow his lead. Let us join in Silent Prayers of Confession.

SILENT PRAYERS OF CONFESSION

WORDS OF ASSURANCE (Responsive):

One: God forgives us and continues to call us to engage with Jesus' Words and Ways and live them out. God's healing and wholeness can come through our actions.

**ALL: May we continue to face what we fear, what we are uncertain about, remembering God is with us always, particularly when we step out onto the unknown paths where faith leads us. Amen.**

*If you are able, please rise and greet one another with other 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

Deuteronomy 18:15-20

THE PSALM READING

Psalm 111

\*THE HYMN “O God, We Rage” (to the tune of no. 25, “O God, Our Help in Ages Past”)

*O God, we rage at hurtful things Beyond our own control,  
Like all the pain that illness brings To body, mind and soul.*

*O Christ, your loving, saving touch Heals children, women, men.  
We pray for ones we love so much; Lord, make them whole again.*

*Now work through those your Spirit sends To heal, restore and care.  
May doctors, nurses, neighbors, friends Be answers to our prayer.*

*And when the journey seems too rough And you seem far away,  
Remind us, Lord: You are enough To bring us through each day.*

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THE RESPONSE:

One: God is Still Speaking.

All: **Thanks be to God!**

“God of All That Is”

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)

Thru Christ our ear-nest prayers are said with words we scarce can frame; Our  
 work of Christ-mas has begun, We serve now in Christ's name.

*Please also place your pew pad sheets in the Offering Plate. Thank you.*

THE OFFERTORY “Entertain the Angels”

Sorenson

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)

**By giving away some of the wealth we cherish so much, we keep ourselves focused on who You are, gracious God, and on what You expect of us. As the body of Christ, we seek to be a healing force in our world. May the offerings we present be used in ways that encourage healthful behaviors among us in the church, within our community, and as far as our influence can reach. Receive us and our gifts, we pray in Jesus' name. Amen.**

\*THE HYMN “Christ, In Capernum” (to the tune of no. 22, “Praise to the Lord, the Almighty”)

*Christ, in Capernaum, the people were awed by your preaching.  
 You had authority many could hear in your teaching.  
 In you they saw Love that informed all their law —  
 Truth that was kind and far-reaching.*

(cont.)

*Into that place came a man who was troubled in spirit.  
He cried aloud so the worshiping people could hear it.  
Awe mixed with fear! God's loving reign had come near!  
Evil could simply not bear it.*

*Lord, you rebuked all that kept him from knowing God's healing;  
You countered evil with power that sent spirits reeling.  
God has control! God wants our lives to be whole!  
This was what you were revealing.*

*Still there is evil that tries to destroy and enslave us,  
Still, by your grace, we encounter your power to save us.  
You heal our pain, Showing the joy of God's reign.  
This is the teaching you give us!*

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\*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

*Please note: the livestream continues until the end of the Postlude.*

*Please know you are free to leave following the Three-fold Amen and exit to the Narthex to speak with one another. You may be visible and audible on the livestream as you exit early. If you choose to remain, please stay seated and listen quietly to the Postlude.*

THE ORGAN POSTLUDE “Be Lifted Up”

Ross Anderson

References:

The Prayer of Dedication is from “Led by Love” by Lavon Bayler, 1996, United Church 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.

*The white rose on the altar today is in loving memory of Barbara Bell, who died last Saturday.  
Please keep all of Barbara’s family and friends in your prayers.*

## **ALTAR FLOWERS**

The Altar flowers are given to the Glory of God by  
Nancy, Tom and Dan Richey, “In gratitude for the St. Paul’s Congregation.”