

Welcome to St. Paul's United Church of Christ

An Open and Affirming Congregation of the United Church of Christ

March 31, 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: Karin Stork-Whitson

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

Easter Brass

Matthew Wiesman, Stephen Sungenis, Mark Dundore

Ministry of Audio and Video

Jeffrey A. Dundore

Ministry of Service

Lead Greeter: Becky Thompson
Greeters: Jeff Leister, Melanie Shaver-Durham, Fenton Fox, Steve Roush, Paula Boyer
Acolyte: Elsa Riesmeyer
Kids' Place:
Flower Preparation: Susan Gabriel
Flower Delivery: Mary Runkle
Counting Team: Fenton Fox

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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**ONLINE
GIVING**



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

EASTER
HOLY COMMUNION

March 31, 2024

Please note: the livestream 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 PRELUDE "Come, Ye Faithful, Raise the Strain"

arr. Davis

CHORAL INTROIT

*THE HYMN No. 233 "Christ the Lord is Risen Today"

*PRAYER OF INVOCATION (unison)

God of such great love, we come to You this day with deep, deep gratitude. You came into the world in the person of Jesus, to teach us and show us how we might best live. You knew his words and ways would challenge those in authority, who are invested in maintaining the status quo. Torture and death were seemingly inevitable, and yet Jesus persevered, so we might come to believe that death was not the final word. Resurrection happens. New life happens. May our belief be renewed. Amen.

CALL TO CONFESSION

The risk of violence and fear directed against us, still silences us, keeps us on the sidelines. While we profess belief in resurrection, in the possibility for new life, our words and actions do not always reflect this. We are grateful Jesus lived with such courage, but we think ourselves incapable. We feel like our words and actions alone make no difference. We ignore the fact that we are a part of a community, connected through bread and wine to Jesus and each other. Let us join in the time of Silent Prayers of Confession.

SILENT PRAYERS OF CONFESSION

WORDS OF ASSURANCE (Responsive):

One: God forgives us. Each time we celebrate Easter, each time we participate in Holy Communion, God hopes we experience the deep connection between ourselves and God, and with each other.

ALL: Let us commit to bringing God's Kingdom near, further and further into being. Let us together embrace our faith in resurrection, new life, so that fear does not stop us from speaking and living as Jesus calls us to. 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

Isaiah 25:6-9

THE PSALM READING

Psalms 118:1-2, 14-17

THE RESPONSE:

One: God is Still Speaking.

All: Thanks be to God!

THE GOSPEL READING & MESSAGE:

Mark 16:1-8

“Dare We Say?”

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)

Hal-le, hal-le, hal - le - lu - ja. Hal-le, hal-le, hal - le - lu - ja.

Hal-le, hal-le, hal - le - lu - ja. Hal-le - lu - ja, hal - le - lu - ja.

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

THE OFFERTORY “An Easter Cry of Praise”

Raney

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 consecrate all we have brought to share, that the message of today may spread through the streets and across the lands, beginning within these walls and bursting out for all the world to hear and observe. May the glad songs motivate practical ministries. As forgiven and forgiving people, we take new life into the marketplace, into our jobs and schools, into our social life and leisure hours. May all we offer express true thankfulness. Amen.

*THE HYMN No. 44 “Beautiful Jesus”

THE SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION

THE INVITATION

One: God be with you.

All: And also with you.

One: Lift up your hearts.

All: We lift them up to God.

One: Let us give thanks to God.

All: It is good to give God thanks and praise.

PASTORAL PRAYER AND LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed by 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. ushers will pass out bread and gluten-free crackers, and red wine and white grape juice. They will bring the trays to you.

For those of you joining us via livestream, we hope you have some bread and wine or juice of your choice before you. We trust that God is powerful enough to extend God's Blessing upon these Communion elements, even as we and they are scattered in geographic space.

Please hold the elements until all have been served; we will eat and drink them together. All are welcome to participate. Thank you.

THE PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING (unison)

Holy God, we give You thanks for the miracle and wonder of this meal. We give You thanks for your coming to us in the person of Jesus, and for Jesus' willingness to offer his whole self for our benefit. We can see how we can best live our lives. We can believe all "deaths," those losses, endings, and struggles in this life, and the ones at the end of our physical lives, are not the final word. We can trust that Your Spirit is within all of us, and always will be. May the gifts of this table always remind us of the gifts You have given us all. Amen.

*THE HYMN No. 242 "The Strife Is O'er"

*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 POSTLUDE “Jesus Christ Is Risen Today”

arr. Davis

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.

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ALTAR FLOWERS

The Altar flowers are given to the Glory of God by
Mary Runkle, “With love and hope for my daughter.”

The Easter Flowers are Given to the Glory of God by...

Jennifer McCartney Martek	In memory of Dad (Jerry McCartney) In memory of Grammie (Anna Mary McCartney)
Beth Mihmet and Sarah Myers	In honor of the Mazzei, Mihmet and Myers Families In memory of Loved Ones
Cindy Baldwin	In memory of Jill Dimpsey and Mary Baldwin
Becky and Layne Thompson	In memory of our Grandparents and Margo Thompson
Daniella and Joshua Benfer	In honor of the displaced of Gaza, Sudan, Syria, Ukraine, and all over the world
Fenton Fox	In memory of Rick Holtzapple
Micheal J. Gray	In memory of Parents Mary Lou and Richard Gray
Anna Thompson	In honor of Children and Grandchildren In memory of Parents and Grandparents

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

STAYING CONNECTED

If you're interested in receiving email updates from St. Paul's head to <http://eepurl.com/hRK0gX> and subscribe.

YARD SALE

Saturday May 4, 2024, 8AM – 1PM

- Spaces/Tables - \$20 for members, \$25 for non-members - payable at time of reservation
- Concession stand with delicious food for sale
- Bake Sale Table with sweets and treats.
- Church sponsored tables that will be managed by Yard Sale Committee members.

We are asking for bake sale donations packaged to sell for \$1, unless otherwise marked.

If you have items to donate for the Yard Sale Committee members to sell:

3/31 - Drop off your clean treasures on the Stage in Fellowship Hall anytime starting on Easter Sunday

4/28 – Last day to put things on the stage. If you have items after this date, please contact a Yard Sale Committee member.

SAVE THE DATE: VBS

July 8-11th. 6PM

ALTAR FLOWER SPONSORSHIP

There are openings throughout April to sponsor the altar flowers. There are two openings for each Sunday, \$30ea. Sign up on the website.

SPRING STEWARDSHIP AUCTION

The Spring Auction will open on April 4th. Head to our website under the Sign-Up Heading to bid on the 4th. The auction will close on April 11th.

COMMUNITY GARDEN WORK DAY

SATURDAY, APRIL 13—Turn out and help us wake up the garden! Our community garden provides a wealth of free vegetables to neighbors in need through New Hope Ministries. There's nothing better than turning out and working side by side with your St Paul's friends. Volunteers of all ages are welcome. It's a great opportunity to introduce kids to the fun of gardening with experienced gardeners at hand. We will be gathering at 9 am on April 13 at the Lee Jackson Community Garden to get the ground ready for the growing season.

NEW MEMBER ORIENTATIONS

In April we will offer New Member Orientations on two Sundays, April 14th and the 28th. If you are at all interested in joining St. Paul's, or want to find out more about us, or what being a member entails, please join us for one of these sessions. You are not obligating yourself to anything by attending. We will be receiving people who would like to become New Members on a Sunday in May.

We realize it has been a while since we have offered these Orientations. We are grateful and excited about offering them now, especially for those who have been so patient and have continued to participate in the life of our Congregation. If you have any questions or would like to talk in advance of the Orientations, please contact Rev. Allyssa or Rev. John. We are eager to speak with you.