

**Mission Statement**

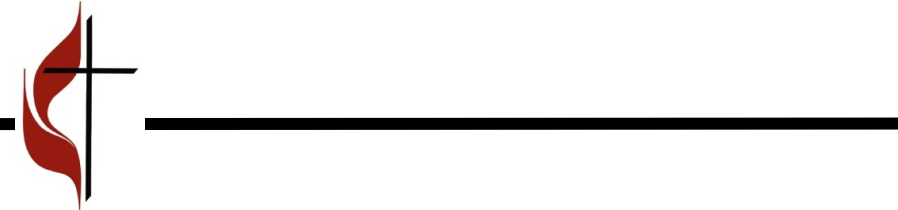
St. Paul United Methodist Church exists to honor God by making more disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

**Church Ministry Staff**

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**S t . P a u l**  
**UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**

March 17, 2024  
8:30 a.m.

**Introduction and Announcements:**

**Prelude** **My Heart is Ever Yearning** **Brahms**

**\*Call to Worship: Psalm 51 (Sung Responsively)** **Page 785**

**\*Opening Prayer (in Unison): Heavenly Father, You are the god of the past, present and future. In You there is eternity. You are the creative God of all the times and beings of this world. Your creativity amazes us always. Help us to see in our own lives the movement of Your creativity with the grounding of Your reality. Help us to see new beginnings as a way of living in Your Holy Spirit. Amen.**

**\*Opening Hymn: Morning Has Broken** **Page 145**  
**Morning has broken like the first morning; blackbird has spoken like the first bird. Praise for the singing! Praise for the morning! Praise for them, springing fresh from the Word!**

**Sweet the rain’s new fall sunlit from heaven, like the first dewfall on the first grass. Praise for the sweetness of the wet garden, sprung in completeness where his feet pass.**

**Mine is the sunlight! Mine is the morning born of the one light Eden say play! Praise with elation, praise every morning, God’s recreation of the new day!**

**Old Testament Lesson: Jeremiah 31: 31-34**  
**Leader: The word of God for the people of God.**  
**People: Thanks be to God.**

Choir Anthem:                      What Wondrous Love Is This                      Denton

Prayers of the People

\*The Lord’s Prayer (in unison):  
“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 trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever.” Amen.

\*Gospel Lesson: John 12:20-33  
Leader: This is the Gospel of our Lord.  
People: Thanks be to God.

\*Second Hymn:                      Take Up Thy Cross                      Page 415  
“Take up thy cross,” the Savior said, “if thou wouldst my disciple be; deny thyself, the world forsake, and humbly follow after me.”

Take up thy cross, let not its weight fill thy weak spirit with alarm; his strength shall bear thy spirit up, and brace thy heart and nerve thine arm.

Take up thy cross, nor heed the shame, nor let thy foolish pride rebel; thy Lord for thee the cross endured, to save thy soul from death and hell.

Take up thy cross and follow Christ, nor think till death to lay it down; for only those who bear the cross may hope to wear the glorious crown.

Today’s Sermon:                      “How Can You Say...”                      Rev. John Kratz

Offertory                                      Prayer                                      Fey

\*Congregational Response                                      No. 95

\*Offering Prayer: God of the ages, we submit to Your will and commands and give of our tithes and offerings. We pray Your blessing so that the gifts and the givers would bring others into Your kingdom and into Your newness of life. Amen.

\*Closing Hymn:                      Because He Lives                      Page 364  
God sent his Son, they called him Jesus; he came to love, heal, and forgive; he lived and died to buy my pardon, an empty grave is there to prove my Savior lives.

Refrain  
Because he lives, I can face tomorrow; because he lives, all fear is gone; because I know he holds the future, and life is worth the living just because he lives.

How sweet to hold a newborn baby, and feel the pride and joy he gives; but greater still the calm assurance, this child can face uncertain days because he lives. (Refrain)

And then one day I’ll cross the river; I’ll fight life’s final war with pain; and then as death gives way to victory, I’ll see the lights of glory and I’ll know he reigns. (Refrain)

Benediction

Postlude:                                      Sortie                                      Bonis

\*Please stand if you able.

**Welcome Families with young children!** St. Paul UMC values our children. We strive to teach each child who visits with us more about God and Jesus.

When you enter the Sanctuary or FLC for church, you will see a white rack in the back of the room. On this rack are “Fruits of the Spirit” cloth bags. Inside each bag is an activity book based on Biblical stories. There is also a small notebook, a pen, and a pack of crayons. Please feel free to borrow one of these Children’s Activity bags for the duration of the church service.

When the service ends, we kindly ask you to return all of the materials to the cloth bag and hang the bag back on the white rack before you leave to go home. That way, the bags are there for all children to enjoy. Thank you

**The flowers are in honor of Mary Kate Norcross birthday  
by Erma Norcross.**

**Serving in Worship Today**

<b>Greeter</b>	<b>Barb &amp; Chris Buhrman</b>
<b>Worship Leader</b>	<b>Denny Eakle</b>
<b>Head Usher</b>	<b>Gary Dull</b>

During the service, the nursery is staffed and available for your children on the main floor Sharing room (A9).

The Parlor is also available for you to sit with your child and view the service.