

Mission Statement

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

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S t . P a u l

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

April 26, 2026

8:30 a.m.

Prelude

Chimes at Easter

by M.E. Dexter

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Welcome and Announcements:

*Call to Worship:

Leader: Lead a life worthy of the calling to which you are called:

People: We cannot do this alone, we dare not try this alone, so we gather as God's people.

Leader: Lead a life worthy of your calling, a life filled with service and meekness.

People: We come to build up Christ's Body, in humility and gentleness, with patience and love.

Leader: Lead a life which reflects your calling, that life of peace grounded in the Spirit.

People: We rejoice in our oneness in Christ; we would share the grace offered to us.

Leader: Live a life worthy of the calling to which you have been called.

People: We gather as God's family at the Table prepared for us, waiting to be fed by the Bread of life.

~ written by Thom Shuman, and posted on Lectionary Liturgies.

*Opening Prayer:

Leader: Together let us pray.

People: Loving, living God, be among us now. Show us your ways. Guide our steps. Live in us, that we may be people of steadfast hope and powerful giving. Help us hear your words, challenging us to give you all the things that are yours. Help us remember that all we are and all we have are gifts from you, gifts to be shared in service and love. Holy One among us, help

us be a holy people who receive your word with joy and live your message with love. Amen.

—Mary Scifres, on the Ministry Matters website.

***Hymn: Easter People Raise Your Voices No. 304**
Easter people, raise your voices, sounds of heaven in earth should ring.
Christ has brought us heaven's choices; heavenly music, let it ring. Alleluia!
Alleluia! Easter people, let us sing.

Fear of death can no more stop us from our pressing here below. For our Lord empowered us to triumph over every foe. Alleluia! Alleluia! On to victory now we go.

Every day to us is Easter, with its resurrection song. When in trouble move the faster to our God who rights the wrong. Alleluia! Alleluia! See the power of heavenly throngs.

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First Lesson: Ephesians 4: 1-3

Leader: The Word of God for the people of God!

People: Thanks be to God!

Bell Choir Anthem: Fairest Lord Jesus by B.B. Kinyon

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***Second Lesson: Matthew 5: 1-10**

Leader: The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ!

People: Thanks be to God!

***Hymn: Take My Life, and Let It Be No. 399**

Take my life, and let it be consecrated, Lord, to thee. Take my moments and my days; let them flow in ceaseless praise. Take my hands, and let them move at the impulse of thy love. Take my feet, and let them be swift and beautiful for thee.

Take my voice, and let me sing always, only, for my King. Take my lips, and let them be filled with messages from thee. Take my silver and my gold; not a mite would I withhold. Take my intellect, and use every power as thou shalt choose.

Take my will, and make it thine; it shall be no longer mine. Take my heart, it is thine own; it shall be thy royal throne. Take my love, my Lord, I pour at thy feet its treasure store. Take myself, and I will be every, only, all for thee.

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Congregational Prayer

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.

Sermon: “#Blessed: The Humble”

Pastor Mindi Gochnaur

The Affirmation of our Stewardship

Offertory What Wondrous Love is This

arr. D. Hustad

© 1996 Hope Publishing Co.

***Congregational Response**

No. 95

*** Prayer of Dedication (in unison):** Way-Making God, your offer to us is not just to believe in heaven, but to live the kingdom life here and now. Through Jesus, you show us the way, the truth, and the life—calling us to deeper trust, wider welcome, and greater works of grace. As we bring our gifts, we step into that life, choosing generosity over fear and hope over judgment. Use these offerings, and use us, to make your dwelling places visible in our community, in our compassion, in our courage. We give, because we've heard your voice. In Christ's name. Amen.

***Closing Hymn: Beams of Heaven as I Go No.524**

Beams of heaven as I go, through this wilderness below, guide my feet in peaceful ways, turn my midnights into days. When in the darkness I would grope, faith always sees a star of hope, and soon from all life's grief and danger I shall be free someday.

Refrain

I do not know how long 'twill be, nor what the future holds for me, but this I know: if Jesus leads me, I shall get home someday.

Oftentimes my sky is clear, joy abounds without a tear; though a day so bright begun, clouds may hide tomorrow's sun. There'll be a day that's always bright, a day that never yields to night, and in its light the street of glory I shall behold someday. (Refrain)

Harder yet may be the fight; right may often yield to might; wickedness a while may reign; Satan's cause may seem to gain. There is a God that rules above, with hand of power and heart of love; if I am right, he'll fight my battle, I shall have peace someday. (Refrain)

Burdens now may crush me down, disappointments all around; troubles speak in mournful sigh, sorrow through a tear stained eye. There is a world where pleasures reigns, no mourning soul shall roam its plains, and to that land of peace and glory I want to go someday. (Refrain)

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***The Sending Forth and Benediction**

***Postlude: Prelude on "How Firm a Foundation" arr. P.L. Harris
© 1996 The Lorenz Corporation #2138862**

***Those who are able please stand.**

**The altar flowers are in honor of their 56th wedding anniversary
by Bill & Sue Corwell.**

Serving in Worship Today

Greeter

Laura Buehler

Worship Leader

Linda Bruckart

Head Usher

Gary Dull

Worship Resources: CCLI #1518856, Streaming #20211595, umcdiscipleship.org, re-worship.blogspot.com

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

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.