

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 22, 2026

8:30 a.m.

Prelude

Take My Life, and Let It Be
by H.A. Cesar Malan arr H. DeCou

Welcome and Announcements:

***Call to Worship:**

Leader: We are branches, rooted in the vine of Christ.

People: We come because we seek to abide in Christ.

Leader: The branches that remain in the vine bear much fruit.

People: We come because we long to be spiritually vibrant, alive, productive.

Leader: If we abide in Christ, then Christ's words will abide in us.

People: We come because we strive to be faithful disciples.

Leader: We gather for worship now to the glory of the One God:
Creator, Redeemer, Sustainer

People: May we grow wildly as God tends us lovingly.

~ written by Joanna Harader (2011) and posted on Spacious Faith.

***Opening Prayer:**

Leader: Together let us pray.

People: God of love, plant us in the soil of your grace. Nurture us with the strength of Christ, the vine of everlasting life. Enlighten us with the wisdom of your Spirit, which flows through us today and all days. Abide in us, that we may abide in you and live in your love. In your holy name, we pray. Amen.

— Adapted from The Abingdon Worship Annual 2012, © 2011 Abingdon Press.

***Hymn of Praise:**

To God Be the Glory

No. 98

To God be the glory, great things he hath done! So loved he the world that he gave us his Son, who yielded his life an atonement for sin, and opened the life gate that all may go in.

Refrain

Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, let the earth hear his voice! Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, let the people rejoice! O come to the Father thru Jesus the Son, and give him the glory, great things he hath done!

O perfect redemption, the purchase of blood, to every believer the promise of God; the vilest offender who truly believes, that moment from Jesus a pardon receives. (Refrain)

Great things he hath taught us, great things he hath done, and great our rejoicing thru Jesus the Son; but purer, and higher, and greater will be our wonder, our transport, when Jesus we see. (Refrain)

First Lesson: Galatians 5: 22-26

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

People: Thanks be to God!

***Second Lesson: John 15: 1-17**

Leader: The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ!

People: Thanks be to God!

***Hymn: Spirit of God, Descend Upon My Heart No. 500**

Spirit of God, descend upon my heart; wean it from earth; through all its pulses move; stoop to my weakness, mighty as thou art, and make me love thee as I ought to love.

I ask no dream, no prophet ecstasies, no sudden rending of the veil of clay, no angel visitant, no opening skies; but take the dimness of my soul away.

Hast thou not bid me love thee, God and King? All, all thine own, soul, heart and strength and mind. I see thy cross; there teach my heart to cling. O let me seek thee, and O let me find!

Teach me to feel that thou art always nigh; teach me the struggles of the soul to bear. To check the rising doubt, the rebel sign, teach me the patience of unanswered prayer.

Teach me to love thee as thine angels love, one holy passion filling all my frame; the kindling of the heaven descended Dove, my heart an altar, and thy love the flame.

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: “I AM: The True Vine “ Pastor Mindi Gochnaur

The Affirmation of our Stewardship

Offertory Teach Me Thy Way by B. R. Frick

* Congregational Response No. 95

* Prayer of Dedication (in unison): Life-Giving Spirit, you breathe hope into our valleys of despair and call forth life where we saw only dry bones. We come today not out of habit, but out of longing to be part of your work that restores, renews, and redeems. Take these gifts and use them to roll away the stones that keep your people bound. Let them be signs of trust, symbols of resurrection, and tools of transformation in a weary world. May our offering, like our living, lean into your Spirit and testify that life-abundant, eternal, and

holy-is possible in you. In Christ, who calls us out of the grave and into your grace, we pray. Amen.

<https://www.umcdiscipleship.org/worship-planning/renewed-in-mercy/fifth-sunday-in-lent-year-a-lectionary-planning-notes/fifth-sunday-in-lent-year-a-offertory-prayer>

***Closing Hymn: I Am Thine, O Lord No. 419**

I am thine, O Lord, I have heard thy voice, and it told thy love to me; but I long to rise in the arms of faith and be closer drawn to thee.

Refrain

**Draw me nearer, nearer, blessed Lord, to the cross where thou hast died.
Draw me nearer, nearer, nearer, blessed Lord, to thy precious, bleeding side.**

Consecrate me now to thy service, Lord, by the power of grace divine; let my soul look up with a steadfast hope, and my will be lost in thine. (Refrain)

**O the pure delight of a single hour that before thy throne I spend, when I kneel in prayer, and with thee, my God, I commune as friend with friend!
(Refrain)**

There are depths of love that I cannot know till I cross the narrow sea; there are heights of joy that I may not reach till I rest in peace with thee. (Refrain)

***The Sending Forth and Benediction**

***Postlude: Rejoice, Ye Pure in Heart
by A. H. Messiter arr. C. Curtis**

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

**The altar flowers are loving memory of our loved ones
by Doug & Pat McCulloh.**

Serving in Worship Today

**Greeter
Worship Leader
Head Usher**

**Laura Buehler
Fared Eyer
Dave Bowers**

**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.