

ST. PAUL'S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

July 26, 2026

A TIME OF SHARING

Passing of the Peace

Birthdays & Anniversaries

Announcements

THE TIME OF GATHERING

PRAYER Unison (inspired by Jesus words in Mark 10:17-27 & Matthew 6:19-21, 13:44-66)

O God, Jesus taught us where our treasure is, there will our hearts be, also. In this hour, we come bringing our treasures — all we have and all we are. We come seeking your treasure — treasure which doesn't fade, decay, or disappoint. Share with us the treasure of heaven, so we may boldly share it with others. AMEN

CALL TO WORSHIP Responsively (inspired by Psalm 13)

O Creator of the Cosmos, who knows what the kin-dom of God is like, but also remembers what it was like before.

Before creation and kin-doms, before mustard seeds and fine pearls, rejoice in the Good News together — how nothing can separate us from the presence of God before yeast and bakers to make bread.

So, you know what it is like to long for them, to imagine them into being,

And it is from this longing for your kin-dom and for you we enter our worship.

Yes, come, let us praise and pray to our God of promise.

Let us.

***OPENING PRAYER** Unison

O Spirit, who helps us in our struggles, and teaches us how to pray when we don't know what to say or how to feel, we call on you from a sigh too deep for words. Within our sighs, we wonder, we question, and we hope all things do, indeed, work together for your good. And in this experience of being here together, in this time set apart to be side by side in community, we are reminded how connected we already are. Let us open ourselves to your

presence here. Let us seek first, the kin-dom of God, and in our searching, may we be found by you, Beloved, the One who searches for us first. AMEN

***HYMN** “Jesu, Jesu, Fill Us with Your Love” **#498**

ENGAGING the SCRIPTURES

SCRIPTURE READINGS Matthew 10:31-33, 41-46, 51-52

SERMON

THE PEOPLE RESPOND IN FAITH

***REFLECTION SONG** “You Are the Seed” **# 528**

PRAYER REQUESTS Lifting our Joys & Concerns

PASTORAL PRAYER

THE LORD'S PRAYER 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 sins, as we forgive those who sin 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

INVITATION TO OFFERING

Our scripture today says the reign of heaven is like a treasure. Jesus' parable describes it as hidden, and it does feel like that sometimes. But it can also feel like the earth is “crammed” with it too. May we take a moment to remember the ways in which this church has made the kin-dom come alive for us. Let us take this time to give thanks by considering how we give of our time, money, skills, and unique gifts to this beloved community.

OFFERTORY

***DOXOLOGY**

***BLESSING OF THE GIFTS** Unison

Like the net thrown into the sea which brought in fish of every kind, we celebrate the multitude and diversity of gifts we have shared here today. May God bless these treasures with the abundance of Christ's love and passion to embody justice in our world. AMEN

SONG OF PRAISE “We Plant a Grain of Mustard Seed” # 540

COMMISSION & BENEDICTION Responsively

May the Kin-dom of Abundance and Multiplicity be with you. May it be among you. May it live and move and have its dwelling within you.

And may we take the love we’ve found, our inseparable bond with the Creator, and bring it into fullness out in our world.

Holy Spirit: With astonishment, we see you renew our strength constantly.

Allow us not to forget your presence, even in adversity.

And, in our turn, we will renew our gratefulness and sing for your love.

God’s people, you are called to go forth and appreciate the diversity in our communities among us.

We go from this place as we begin to harvest some from our garden, we are reminded of the taste of the ripeness of a plump tomato, the sweetness of fresh steamed corn, the crisp coolness of cucumbers.

Go forth in the knowledge there is enough for all, be it God’s earthly blessings which are so delicious and nourishing or God’s love which connects our diversity.

We share in these gifts and know we are all good, equal and enough.

Go forth now, out into the world with a love so deep you share it with all you meet! Go in God’s Love and Peace!

We go with God’s Love and Peace to share with all we meet!

POSTLUDE

Thanks to All for Worshiping God Together this Day!

Have a Blessed week!

*If rising from a seated position is an issue for you, please remain seated. The phrase, “Stand in body or spirit as you are able” is intended to give you permission to do so without embarrassment.

Congregational Response to each prayer request is: **Your prayer is our prayer. Your joy is our joy.**