

ST. PAUL'S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

October 19, 2025

Lois Buchholz, Pastor

PREPARING OUR HEARTS AND MINDS FOR WORSHIP

PRELUDE

RINGING OF THE BELL

WELCOME

A TIME OF SHARING

A TIME FOR THE CHILD IN ALL OF US

STEWARDSHIP TIME

PASSING OF THE PEACE

SONG "Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying" **Screen**

**LORD, LISTEN TO YOUR CHILDREN PRAYING,
LORD, SEND YOUR SPIRIT TO THIS PLACE;
LORD, LISTEN TO YOUR CHILDREN PRAYING,
SEND US LOVE, SEND US POW'R, SEND US GRACE.**

REPEAT

***CALL TO WORSHIP** (in response to Psalm 119:97-105) **Screen**

L: We come to worship God, who teaches us the Way of Life.

P: Today's Psalm sings of the beauty and wonder of God's decrees.

L: We turn to a poetic call for believers to follow God's word.

P: Like the sweet taste of honey, scripture delights us!

L: We're inspired! Turn away from false teaching and claim God's direction.

P: God's direction is a light in the dark, which will draw us to life.

***OPENING PRAYER** **Screen**

**Holy God, we turn to you this morning, aware of the gift you give us in scripture.
You offer us your truth in story, in song, and in hard teachings. Help us recognize
the goodness of what's offered. Encourage us to seek what you offer. Challenge
us to discipline ourselves to learn. Inspire us celebrate the love which
expands in us as we draw closer to you and to your ways.** **AMEN**

***HYMN** "I Love to Tell the Story" **# 522**

SCRIPTURES

Psalm 119:97-104 NRSVUE

⁹⁷ Oh, how I love your law! It is my meditation all day long.

⁹⁸ Your commandment makes me wiser than my enemies, for it is
always with me.

⁹⁹ I have more understanding than all my teachers, for your decrees
are my meditation.

¹⁰⁰ I understand more than the aged, for I keep your precepts.

¹⁰¹ I hold back my feet from every evil way, in order to keep your word.

¹⁰² I do not turn away from your ordinances, for you have taught me.

¹⁰³ How sweet are your words to my taste, sweeter than honey to my mouth!

¹⁰⁴ Through your precepts I get understanding; therefore I hate every false way.

Luke 18:1-8 NRSVUE

1 Then Jesus told them a parable about their need to pray always and not
to lose heart.

2 He said, "In a certain city there was a judge who neither feared God nor
had respect for people.

3 In that city there was a widow who kept coming to him and saying,
'Grant me justice against my accuser.'

4 For a while he refused, but later he said to himself, 'Though I have no
fear of God and no respect for anyone,

5 yet because this widow keeps bothering me, I will grant her justice, so
that she may not wear me out by continually coming.' "

6 And the Lord said, "Listen to what the unjust judge says.

7 And will not God grant justice to his chosen ones who cry to him day
and night? Will he delay long in helping them?

8 I tell you, he will quickly grant justice to them.

And yet, when the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on earth?"

MEDITATION

HYMN

'God, You Hear Our Weary Praying'

Screen

TUNE: BEACH SPRING ("As We Gather at Your Table" # 322)

God, you hear our weary praying, and you know that we lose heart.
All around we see the suffering of a world that's torn apart.
We see leaders of the nations filled with arrogance and greed.
We see friends and family hurting, facing overwhelming need.

God, we cannot help but wonder: Do our prayers do any good?
Do they change the nations' leaders? Do they change our neighborhood?
Why do loved ones keep on suffering when they're in our constant prayer?
Do you hear the cries we're offering? Are you listening? Are you there?

Then you teach us of this woman: She was widowed; she was poor.
"Grant me justice!" she kept calling at an unjust judge's door.
Though that judge respected no one, he was no match for her cries.
He responded to her pleading, granting justice, changing lives.

How much more is your compassion! God, you're just and good and fair.
May we lift to you our sorrows and the burdens that we bear.
May we pray, for you reign o'er us! May we ask — for you are kind!
May we trust that you will help us in your goodness, in your time.

PASTORAL PRAYER

LORD'S PRAYER

Screen

INVITATION TO GENEROSITY

Jesus asked the question in Luke 18:

"When the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on earth?"

Today as we come to our time of offering, let's recognize this is one act
which demonstrates our faith.

We give because we have faith, expressed through the ministries and
work of this congregation (*name one or two*).

We give because we have faith, knowing our financial support will help
build up this congregation, allowing us to show God's love in the midst of
all going on in our world today.

We give because we have faith in Jesus, the one who taught his followers
to feed the hungry, clothe the naked, care for the least – to love our
neighbor as we love ourselves.

So, this invitation is for each and all of us to give financially, to give our talents, to give our time.

Give in response to the abundance we have received: life, air, water, food, and so much more!

Let us share our morning tithes, gifts, and offerings.

DOXOLOGY “HALLE, HALLE, HALLE”

Screen

”HALLE, HALLE, HALLELUJAH
HALLE, HALLE, HALLELUJAH
HALLE, HALLE, HALLELUJAH
HALLELUJAH, HALLELUJAH”

Repeat

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Screen

Generous God, thank you for your abundant gifts by which our lives are blessed. Thank you for the ways you offer us your commandments and decrees to support the destitute and care for the widows and orphans.

Thank you now for these gifts and for each one who has given. Help us use these resources to help create life on earth as it is in heaven. AMEN

***HYMN “All Things Bright and Beautiful”**

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BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

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Credits: CCLI #48321379

SCRIPTURES

From the: New Revised Standard Version Updated Edition- NRSVUE

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SONG

“God, You Hear Our Weary Praying” by Carolyn Winfrey Gillette -

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PICTURES

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*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.

Reminders - Head to <https://stpaulserin.org> for details

11/02 - St. Paul's 185th Anniversary Celebration

If you have something to share before a Sunday worship, please call, text or email Pastor Lois. She will include it in the bulletin or announce it from the pulpit. This will help us streamline our announcements. Lois 414-526-5320

Please remember with your prayers, cards, calls and visits: Pastor Bonnie and Jeff, our friends and neighbors who are struggling

Greeters for This Week: Jill S. &

Commented [DR1]:

Greeters for Next Week: Judy N. & Jean S.

Liturgist for This Week: Steve M.

Liturgist for Next Week: Alice M.