

March 15, 2026 Fourth Sunday in Lent

Thought to ponder: *Jesus promises to stay with us, always.*

Welcome

Announcements, Life & Work of the Church

Prelude: In the Garden

Acknowledgement of the Territories:

Christ Candle Lighting:

Call to Worship:

One: Come into God's presence, you who imagine and you who seek, you who disrupt and you who repair.

All: By the Spirit, we gather in hope.

One: Come into God's embrace, you who seek a good shepherd, you who long to be known and protected, you who are far off and you who are near.

All: In Christ, we gather as one flock.

One: Come into God's presence, singing for joy and for justice; bringing prayer and worship, your most faithful acts of resistance.

All: To God be the glory! We gather to praise!

Hymn: MV #27 Creator God You Gave Us Life

Creator God you gave us life,
Your image formed within our souls,
Yet through the mist of time and space
We search for that which makes us whole.

**Through hands that paint
majestic skies
And voices chanting melody,
With words that reach
beyond the page
We comprehend your mystery.**

In ev'ry flow'r and ev'ry tree
We see your great diversity,
Yet greater still we see your love,
Expressed in our humanity.

Refrain

When with our hearts, our hands our minds,
We share our gifts with all the world,
Our spirits soar beyond the veil,
To touch the very face of God.

Refrain

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Gathering Prayer:

God of love, you demonstrate your care for us by coming among us as Jesus, our Good Shepherd. Tend to us with mercy, gather us when we wander, protect us from the perils of this world, and bring all people together into one fold. Help us to recognize Christ's voice and Christ's calling. Remind us we are known. We are loved. We are invited to follow. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

Confessional Prayer and Assurance:

One: Siblings in Christ, ... we find ourselves enamored by personalities and power.

All: Forgive us for pursuing folly over wisdom. Forgive us for choosing flashy leaders over leaders you have gifted with experience and discernment. Forgive us for not holding our leaders accountable. Help us keep firm boundaries with leaders, encouraging them to make hard choices. And when you call us into leadership roles, help us rise to the occasion with integrity and faithfulness.

Silence is kept

The Grace of God

Passing the Peace:

One: May the peace of Christ be with you all.

All: And also with you.

Time for Young at Heart: The Hired Hand

(narrative)

Hymn: TLUS #6 God Lights a Lamp 2x's

**God lights a lamp
And she searches ev'rywhere
For the hidden, lonely heart.
God lights a lamp,
And she searches ev'rywhere.
When she finds you, oh, she sings:
"I have found my treasure,
My precious silver coin.
I have found my love!"
Even angels will hear the news:
What once was lost is found.**

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Prayer of Illumination:**Scripture:****Ezekiel 34: 1-10** the shepherds of Israel**John 10: 1-18** the good shepherd**Ministry of Music: *I Can Only Imagine***

solo Jade Secord

Reflection: Accountable Leadership**Hymn: MV #126 *Are You A Shepherd***

Are you a shepherd,
 good shepherd who leads us
 Safely through danger,
 while calming our fears?

Are you a father who Shelters and feeds us,
 Shares in our laughter
 and wipes away tears?

**Yes, you are shepherd,
 parent and teacher,
 But you are greater
 than all that we know.**

**Holy and living, loving and giving,
 God, you are with us wherever we go.**

Are you a mother,
 good mother who bears us,
 Comforts, protects us and helps us to rest?
 Are you a teacher who daily prepares us,
 Challenging students to offer their best?

Refrain

Great, gentle shepherd, forever beside us,
 Lead all your children
 in paths that are right.
 Great, loving parent,
 wise teacher, you guide us.
 We want to love you and bring you delight.

Refrain

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Prayers of the People:

One: Shepherding God,

All: give us life abundant.

Lord's Prayer:

**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 and ever.
Amen.**

Invitation to Generosity:**Prayer of Dedication:**

**Generous God, we bring our gifts
before you and your church like tiny
seeds from a dandelion. Send out
these gifts on the mighty wind of your
Spirit, bringing growth, bearing fruit,
and nourishing both our faith
community and our neighbors. May
each gift of every size bloom with your
holy imagination. Amen.**

Hymn: VU #747 The Lord's My Shepherd

**The Lord's my Shepherd, I'll not want;
 He makes me down to lie
 In pastures green; he leadeth me,
 The quiet waters by.**

**My soul he doth restore again;
 And me to walk doth make
 Within the paths of righteousness,
 Even for his own name's sake.**

**Yea, though I walk
 in death's dark vale,
 Yet will I fear no ill;
 For thou art with me; and thy rod
 And staff me comfort still.**

**My table thou has furnished
 In presence of my foes;
 My head thou dost with oil anoint,
 And my cup overflows.**

**Goodness and mercy all my life
 Shall surely follow me,
 And in God's house for evermore
 My dwelling-place shall be.**

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Affirmation of Faith:

One: Let us affirm our faith as we participate in the holy work of imagination.

All: We believe the mantle of leadership is serious, requiring wisdom, integrity, and humility. We believe Jesus showed us how to lead

with love, justice, and advocacy for those who are weak or cast aside. We believe God calls leaders to accountability. We believe leaders must be removed when necessary for the safety and protection of the flock. We believe leaders must seek to learn and grow; they must acknowledge that they, too, are pilgrims of faith. We believe good leaders are not defined by their ability to speak eloquently or attract followers, but by their wisdom and compassion. We believe leaders must maintain healthy boundaries, respectful communication, and excellent listening skills. We believe we are all called to lead at times, but we choose some leaders for more responsibility because they have proven themselves wise and ready. We believe it is essential to encourage and support our leaders, so they do not exhaust themselves. We believe that our one great leader is Christ, and he guides us through the power of the Holy Spirit, who speaks to all of our hearts.

Benediction:

Sung Benediction: to the tune of Kum Ba Yah
**Hear our cry, O God,
hear our prayer.
Heal the ones who know
deep despair.**

**Mend the broken ones
from their pain.
Make them, whole again.**

**God, we need you too,
so we pray.
Give us life and health
every day.
Give us joy and peace,
trusting you.
In Christ, make us new.**



ST. PAUL'S UNITED CHURCH

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Church Family Ministry Team – Coleen Corbett, Lisa Folkins,
Shari Brenan

Office Hours: Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday 9:30 – 3:00

Announcements

March 8, 2026 3rd Sunday of Lent

Reader for this week: Brenda

Reader for next week: Youth

Greeter this week: Lee and

Greeter next week: Youth

Tellers this week: Linda and Sharon

Tellers next week: Wendy and Al

A/V this week: Lisa

A/V next week: Al

Sunday 9:30 Coffee Time via Zoom

10:00 Service

Tuesday 7:00 Fundraising

Wednesday 6:00 Choir rehearsal

Next Sunday 9:30 Coffee Time via Zoom

Coffee and conversation after the service

Good News and Caring Corner: If you have some good news you want shared with the congregation, let us know and we'll pass it on. If there is someone you think should have a card from the caring corner for whatever reason, please see the attendant in the corner, or call the office.

Easter Messy Church March 26 at 5:45 in the Fellowship Hall with a Taco Bar.

Palm Sunday: March 29

Maundy Thursday service: 6pm, April 2 in chapel

Good Friday service: 10am April 3

Sunrise service: April 5 at 6:45am at the gazebo in Sunnyside park across from where the Ultramar used to be. Breakfast to follow.

Easter service with communion at 10am.

VBS will be June 22-25. This year's theme: [Snowball Mountain Challenge](#)

There will be a retreat offered at St. Paul's May 28th. To organise the retreat, we are asking for people to select which of the following options they would like to see. A board for checking off the choice is in the narthex or you can email the office with your choices: soap making, self-reliance/ homesteading with Savannah Penny, cooking and or baking, yoga, chair yoga, spring planters, meditation, simple sewing, simple carpentry, rug hooking, spiritual walk, praying in colours.

Offering Envelopes are available at the office or on the table in the entryway. If you are using them for the first time, be sure to have your name and address on the first one so we can get you your tax receipt at the end of the year.

Grocery Cards: We will be available (as we are able) before and after church for you to purchase cards and cards are available for purchase in the office during regular business hours.

Contact information: Please keep your contact information and addresses updated so we can get information out to you. An inaccurate address may lead to delays for tax receipts. Thanks.

A reminder that you may be on our video presentation as we are broadcasting our services on Facebook.

Join in or listen to any of the Zoom calls via Internet using the link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/179750852?pwd=7IAYtPHcGTE>

If you know of anyone needing help, please contact the office or Rev. Jenn Brown.