



**Saint Paul's United Methodist Church**  
"A Compassionate Community Led and Transformed by the Spirit."  
**Sunday, March 15th, 2026 - 10:30 AM Service**  
**Fourth Sunday in Lent**



---

*We welcome you, trusting that this time of worship will open our hearts to experience the Spirit's movement among us. Together, we seek peace, health, and wholeness as we gather in God's presence.*

*Permission to reprint, podcast, and/or stream the music in this service obtained from ONE LICENSE with license # A-728210.  
Movie and video permission with CVLI License #504298777.*

*\*Indicates a standing portion of the service. Please stand as you are able.*

---

**GATHERING**

**Gathering Music**

"Saman"  
by Olafur Arnalds  
"Adagio"  
by C. Franck

*Sondra Wayman, organ*

**Greetings & Welcome**

**Centering Music**

"It is Well with My Soul"  
arr. by Lloyd Larson

*Festival Chimes*

**\*Call to Worship**

God loves the field mouse.

**God loves the crows that take flight when church bells ring.**

God loves the baby, cooing in the back pew.

**God loves the child who rocks and claps.**

God loves the one with wrinkled hands and soft eyes.

**God loves the bumblebees and the tabby cats.**

God loves those who walk, crawl, and roll.

**God loves the giant oaks and the evergreens, standing strong over all of us.**

God loves the young, the impressionable, and the earnest.

**There is no bit of creation that God does not love.**

So let us worship this good-news God! **Amen.**

**\*Opening Hymn**

"For the Healing of the Nations"

UMH #428

**\*Passing the Peace**

**PROCLAIMING**

**A Message for All God's Children**

*Pastor Alicia Wood*

**Call to Confession**

*Pastor Alicia Wood*

## Prayer of Confession & Words of Forgiveness

God said, "When a foreigner resides among you in your land, do not mistreat them."

**Holy God, we confess, we have mistreated the immigrants in our land.**

Jesus said, "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God."

**We confess, we have clung to guns and war more than we have pursued peace.**

God said, "When you gather the grapes of your vineyard, do not glean what is left; it shall be for the alien, the orphan, and the widow."

**We confess, we have hoarded our resources and failed to care for our neighbors.**

Jesus said, "Let the children come to me, and do not stop them."

**We confess, we have gatekept the good news in unfair ways.**

Fortunately for all of us, God also said, "Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name; you are mine."

**By God's grace, despite our sin and shortcomings, we are redeemed, claimed, forgiven, and loved.**

May this good news change our lives! **Amen.**

### Special Music

"Broken for You"  
by Kathleen Wissinger

*Festival Chimes*

### Scripture

Deut. 24: 17-22 (CEB); Matthew 19: 13-15;  
Hear What the Spirit is Saying to the Church!  
**Thanks Be to God!**

*Marilou Tenney*

### Message

"The Good News Is...Protection & Care for the Vulnerable" *Pastor Alicia Wood*

### \*Hymn of Response

"Like a Child"

FWS #2092

### Prayers of the People & The Lord's Prayer

*Jami Breedlove-Crouch*

### Offering Our Gifts to God

### Offertory

"God Will Take Care of You"  
by WS Martin

*Sondra Wayman, organ*

### \*Doxology

"Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow"

UMH #94

### \*Prayer of Dedication

*Pastor Alicia Wood*

**Holy One, sometimes the simplest of your commands are the hardest for us to hear.**

**You say, "Love your enemy."**

**"Turn the other cheek."**

**"Care for the widow and the orphan."**

**And we want to know: How? When? Where?**

**Today as we turn to your word, open up space in us to simply hear your truth for what it is.**

**Open up space in our hearts to dream new dreams, to imagine new realities, to draw closer to you and closer to love.**

**With hope for a better tomorrow we offer these gifts, we listen, we pray.**

**Amen.**

## GOING FORTH

### \*Affirmation of Faith

*Jami Breedlove-Crouch*

**I believe in the good news of Jesus Christ.  
It sounds like welcome and feels like home.  
It sounds like laughter and feels like mercy.  
It sounds like love and feels like a seat at the table, so I believe in the good news of  
Jesus Christ.  
I have seen it alive in the world.  
And even when my heart aches, even when wars rage, even when mercy feels out of  
reach, I remember the one who welcomed the children and led with nonviolence.  
I remember the one who cared for the vulnerable and inspired those around him.  
I remember that the good news really is good news, for I have seen it alive in the world.  
Thanks be to God!  
Amen.**

### Announcements

#### \*Closing Hymn

“This is My Song”

UMH#437

#### \*Dismissal with Blessing

#### Postlude

“Prelude in C Major”  
by JS Bach

*Sondra Wayman, organ*

### -----PRAYERS-----

For Prayer Chain Requests, confidential concerns seen only by those who participate in the Prayer Chain, please contact Jami Breedlove-Crouch at [lovingcare@stpaulsithaca.org](mailto:lovingcare@stpaulsithaca.org).

Prayer Requests: We thank God for the healing in the lives of people we've been praying for. If you would like to be added to the Prayer Chain or the Prayer List, contact Jami Breedlove-Crouch at: [lovingcare@stpaulsithaca.org](mailto:lovingcare@stpaulsithaca.org). Your requests will be listed in the bulletin for one month before being deleted. Please let us know of your improved condition or if you desire visitation.

## ***St. Paul's Ministries ~ Week of March 15th, 2026***

### **Sunday, March 15<sup>th</sup>**

10:30am – Worship – Sanctuary  
10:45am – Faith Explorers – Rm. 115, Main Floor  
11:30am – Coffee/Fellowship Time – Memorial Room  
11:45am – “Small Social Group” meeting – Durham Room

### **Monday, March 16th**

7:00pm – Lenten Bible Study “The Last Supper” – ZOOM

### **Tuesday, March 17th**

### **Wednesday, March 18th**

9:45am – Coffee w/the Pastor – Durham Room

### **Thursday, March 19th**

11:00am – Crafters Group – Durham Room  
6:00pm – Festival Chimes – Sanctuary  
7:15pm – Chancel Choir Rehearsal – Dining Room

### **Friday, March 20th**

Church Offices Closed

### **Sunday, March 22nd**

10:30am – Worship – Sanctuary  
10:45am – Faith Explorers – Rm. 115, Main Floor  
11:30am – Coffee/Fellowship Time – Memorial Room  
12:00pm – Church Council Strategic Planning Meeting – Memorial Room

***Children and Worship*** – Children are always welcome in worship! To help keep small hands busy, we have books and toys on the black cart near the main sanctuary door. ***Children ages 4 through 11 are invited to participate in “Faith Explorers” following the “Message for Children” segment during worship (except on Communion Sundays).***

### ***Upcoming United Women in Faith Meeting***

United Women in Faith will hold their next gathering on **March 26 at 11am** in the Memorial Room to discuss the possibility of presenting the historical play "When the Clergy Went Underground," written by local historian Carol Kammen. Please attend!

### ***Creating a Dynamic Strategic Plan for St. Paul's Future***

We're excited to share that the Church Council is beginning the process of creating a Strategic Plan for the vibrant future of St. Paul's UMC! Rev. Aaron Bouwens, from the Annual Conference, will facilitate the process. Our first gathering is **March 22 from 12pm-4pm**. We'll keep you posted as things progress. If you have any questions, please let Pastor Alicia know. She's happy to answer your questions.

### ***Pastor Alicia's Ordination***

Pastor Alicia's ordination will be held **Friday, May 29<sup>th</sup> at 7pm** in Syracuse. Watch this space for further details.

### ***Quarterly Newsletter Now Digital***

An era at St Paul's has ended: our quarterly seasonal newsletter will now be solely digital.

### ***A Note about the Sunrise Easter Service***

If you plan on attending the Sunrise Service on Easter morning, please bring a dish-to-pass. Sign up outside the Sanctuary and/or reach out to Jami.

### ***No Kings Rally on March 28<sup>th</sup>***

Please let the Pastor know if you plan to attend.

***Please donate some items for Code Blue's Breakfast Program! Donations like breakfast bars, fruit cups, juice boxes, cereal, and instant oatmeal ensure that participants start their day with a nutritious meal. Items can be placed in the Code Blue bin outside the Sanctuary. Thank you for your continuing generosity!***

### ***Lent 2026 Schedule***

***\*Please Note: Lenten Bible Study meets every Monday at 7pm via Zoom; Lenten Wednesday Devotional meets every Wednesday at 9:45am in the Durham Room.***

***Sunday, March 29<sup>th</sup>: Palm Sunday Service 10:30am – Sanctuary***

***Thursday, April 2<sup>nd</sup>: Maundy Thursday Service 7pm – Sanctuary***

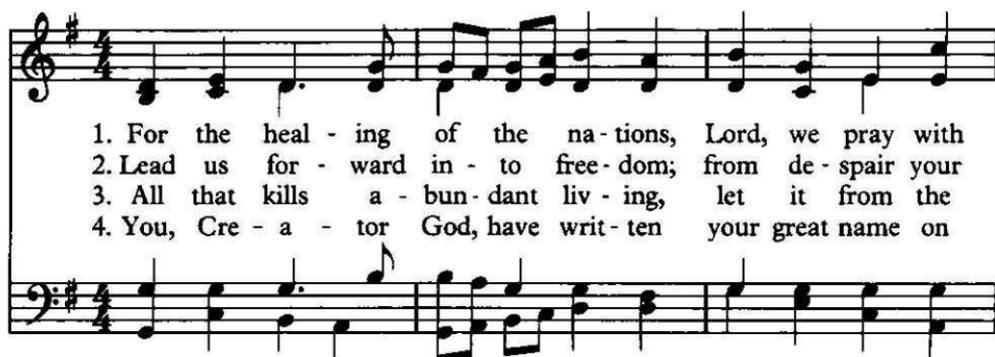
***Friday, April 3<sup>rd</sup>: Good Friday Service 7pm – Sanctuary***

### ***Easter Sunday***

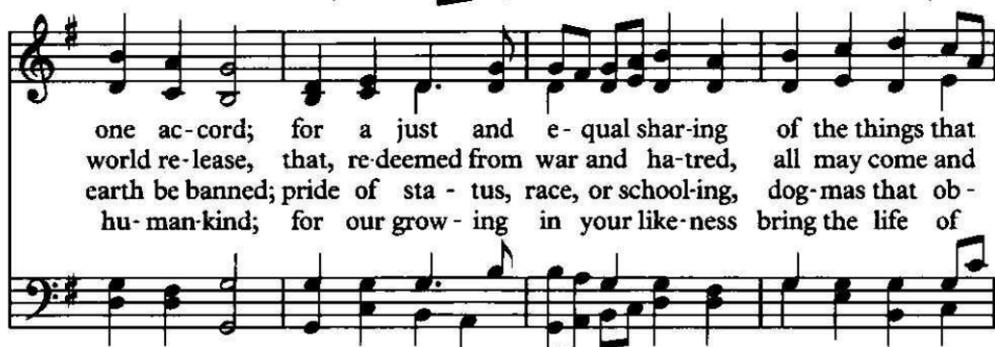
***7:30am - Sunrise Service - Tenney's***

***10:30am – Easter Sunday Service w/Communion - Sanctuary***

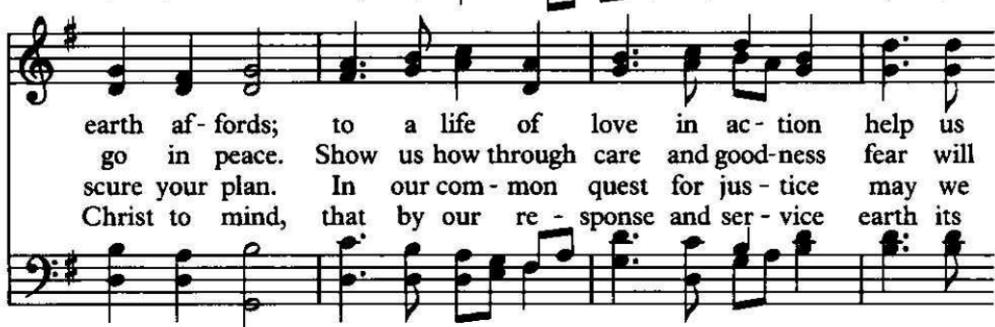
## 428 For the Healing of the Nations



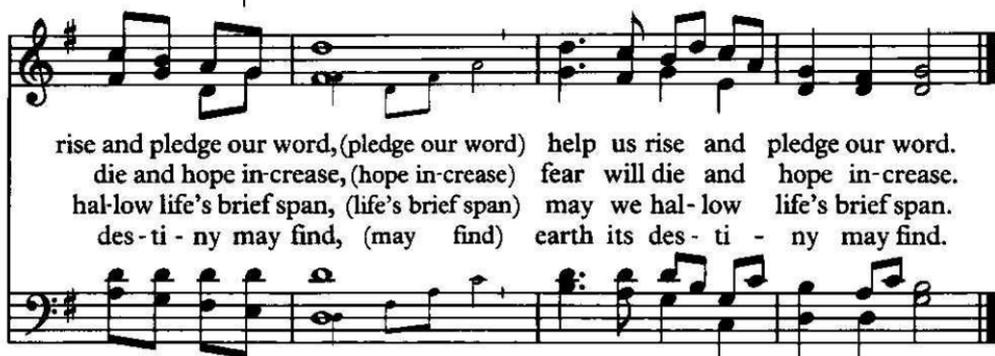
1. For the heal - ing of the na - tions, Lord, we pray with  
 2. Lead us for - ward in - to free - dom; from de - spair your  
 3. All that kills a - bun - dant liv - ing, let it from the  
 4. You, Cre - a - tor God, have writ - ten your great name on



one ac - cord; for a just and e - qual shar - ing of the things that  
 world re - lease, that, re - deemed from war and ha - tred, all may come and  
 earth be banned; pride of sta - tus, race, or school - ing, dog - mas that ob -  
 hu - man - kind; for our grow - ing in your like - ness bring the life of



earth af - fords; to a life of love in ac - tion help us  
 go in peace. Show us how through care and good - ness fear will  
 scure your plan. In our com - mon quest for jus - tice may we  
 Christ to mind, that by our re - sponse and ser - vice earth its



rise and pledge our word, (pledge our word) help us rise and pledge our word.  
 die and hope in - crease, (hope in - crease) fear will die and hope in - crease.  
 hal - low life's brief span, (life's brief span) may we hal - low life's brief span.  
 des - ti - ny may find, (may find) earth its des - ti - ny may find.

# Like a Child

2092



1. Like a child love would send to re - veal and to mend, like a
2. Like a child we will meet, rag-ged clothes, dirt-y feet, like a
3. Like a child born to pray and to show us the way, like a



child and a friend, Je-sus comes. Like a child we may find claim-ing  
child on the street, Je-sus comes. Like a child we once knew com-ing  
child here to stay, Je-sus comes. Like a child we re - ceive all that



heart, soul, and mind, like a child strong and kind, Je-sus comes.  
back in - to view, like a child born a - new, Je-sus comes.  
love can con-ceive, like a child we be-lieve, Je-sus comes.

WORDS: Daniel Charles Damon (Matt. 19:13-15; Mark 10:13-16; Luke 18:15-17)

MUSIC: Daniel Charles Damon

LIKE A CHILD

66.63 D

## 94 Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow

*Unison*

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise

*Harmony*

God, all creatures here below: Alleluia! Alleluia!

*Unison*

Alleluia! Praise God, the source of all our gifts! Praise

*Harmony*

Jesus Christ, whose power uplifts! Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit!

WORDS: Thomas Ken, 1674; adapt. by Gilbert H. Vieira, 1978

MUSIC: Geistliche Kirchengesänge, 1623; harm. by Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1906

LASST UNS ERFREUEN

88.44.88 with Refrain

*Unison*

Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

The image shows a musical score for a unison setting of 'Alleluia'. It consists of two staves: a treble clef staff on top and a bass clef staff on the bottom. The key signature is one flat (B-flat major or D minor). The melody is written in a simple, homophonic style. The lyrics 'Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!' are centered between the two staves. The first staff begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat. The second staff begins with a bass clef and the same key signature. The music is written in a single system, with the two staves connected by a brace on the left. The lyrics are aligned with the notes of the melody. The first staff has a treble clef and a key signature of one flat. The second staff has a bass clef and the same key signature. The music is written in a single system, with the two staves connected by a brace on the left. The lyrics are aligned with the notes of the melody.

## This Is My Song

1. This is my song, O God of all the na-tions,  
 2. My coun-try's skies are blu-er than the o-ccean,  
 3. This is my prayer, O Lord of all earth's king-doms:

a song of peace for lands a-far and mine.  
 and sun-light beams on clo-ver-leaf and pine;  
 Thy king-dom come; on earth thy will be done.

This is my home, the coun-try where my heart is;  
 but oth-er lands have sun-light too, and clo-ver,  
 Let Christ be lift-ed up till all shall serve him,

here are my hopes, my dreams, my ho-ly shrine;  
 and skies are ev-ery-where as blue as mine.  
 and hearts u-nit-ed learn to live as one.

but oth-er hearts in oth-er lands are beat-ing  
 O hear my song, thou God of all the na-tions,  
 O hear my prayer, thou God of all the na-tions;

WORDS: Sts. 1,2 Lloyd Stone, 1934; st. 3, Georgia Harkness, ca. 1939

MUSIC: Jean Sibelius, 1899; arr. from *The Hymnal*, 1933

FINLANDIA

11 10.11 10.11 10

Sts. 1,2 © 1934, 1962 Lorenz Publishing Co.; st. 3 © 1964 Lorenz Publishing Co.;

arr. © 1933, renewed 1961 Presbyterian Board of Christian Education

