



# Divine Friendships

*The Sixth Sunday of Easter*

**Sunday, May 9, 2021**

“No matter who you are,  
No matter where you are  
on life’s journey,  
You are welcome here.”



# Welcome to Worship

at St. Paul UCC

*We are glad you are here!*

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## 9 am Worship

Information for our friends ~

- Our **9am Virtual Worship Service** is inspired with hymns, scripture and a uplifting, theological based sermon and can be seen on Facebook live, on [stpaulucc.org](http://stpaulucc.org) (our website - and watched at your convenience), and heard on KSTL-690 AM radio & streamed on [Jubilee690.com](http://Jubilee690.com) at 9am Sundays and repeated at 9pm.
- Please send prayer requests by email to [dyoung@stpaulucc.org](mailto:dyoung@stpaulucc.org) or call the church office at 618-233-3303.
- We want to know that you are listening / watching online!  
Please call, email or message us!
- If you would like a call or know someone who might need a call, please let us know.
- To continue your offering during this difficult time, go to [stpaulucc.org](http://stpaulucc.org) for online giving or contact the church office to set up automatic withdrawal.
- When you or a loved one is admitted to a hospital, please ask the hospital to notify the church office. If you have a new addition to your family, if your address or

### ST. PAUL WORSHIP LEADERS

*Senior Pastor*..... Rev. Michelle Torigian  
*Music Director* ..... Dr. Bill Wade  
*Director of Non-Traditional Music*..... John Posth

### Weekly Attendance

9am / 4pm April 25, 2021 27/17 April 26, 2020 All Virtual

Offering for 4/25/2021 - \$5,565

### General Fund

Needed each week \$8,082

Giving to Date  \$132,045  
Budget to..  \$137,394

Total Budget  \$420,256



Like us on --  
*St Paul United Church of Christ, org*



Watch videos on YouTube:  
<https://www.youtube.com/stpauluccbelleville>

*St. Paul*  
***United Church of Christ***  
*Sixth Sunday of Easter*

May 9, 2021 9:00 am

**TODAY'S WORSHIP LEADERS**

*Senior Pastor*.....Rev. Michelle Torigian  
*Music Director* .....Dr. Bill Wade  
*Liturgist*.....Jan Friedrich

**PRELUDE**            *Meditation on Psalm 84 "How Lovely is Thy Dwelling Place, O Lord of Hosts!"*            Lani Smith (1934-2015)

**WELCOME**            Pastor Michelle

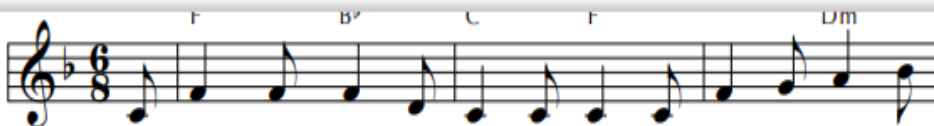
**INVOCATION**

Holy Love, you are the one who fills us, nourishes us, and leads us. You are the one who gave birth to creation and is birthing something new in us. You are the one who rose from death to bridge the gap between earth and heaven, to erase the dividing line of death, by love. May your love burn bright in us, so that we might know one another by your love and not by our own human measurements. Holy Love, be born in us again and again. Amen.



# OPENING HYMN *I Come with Joy (DOVE OF PEAC*

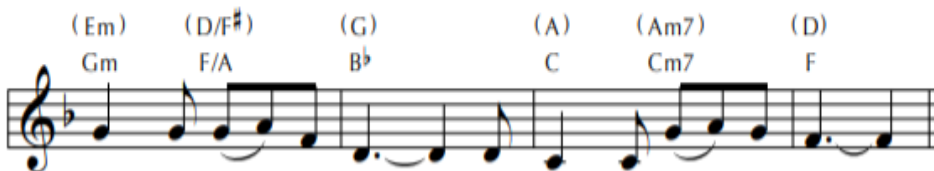
Text: Brian Wren: Music: American folk melody; arr. Austin C Lovelace



1 I come with joy, a child of God, for - giv - en, loved, and  
 2 I come with Chris-tians far and near to find, as all are  
 3 As Christ breaks bread and bids us share, each proud di - vi - sion  
 4 The Spir - it of the ris - en Christ, un - seen, but ev - er  
 5 To - geth - er met, to - geth - er bound by all that God has



free, the life of Je - sus to re - call, in  
 fed, the new com - mu - ni - ty of love in  
 ends. The love that made us, makes us one, and  
 near, is in such friend - ship bet - ter known, a -  
 done, we'll go with joy, to give the world the



love laid down for me, in love laid down for me.  
 Christ's com-mu - nion bread, in Christ's com-mu - nion bread.  
 strang - ers now are friends, and strang - ers now are friends.  
 live a - mong us here, a - live a - mong us here.  
 love that makes us one, the love that makes us one.

## **PRAYER OF RECONCILIATION**

Divine One, we have not loved your friends as we ought. We have judged, despised, ridiculed, and envied others. We have measured others against metrics that we dare not measure ourselves. We have placed heavy burdens on others, expecting them to lift themselves with no help at all.

Forgive us, O Christ, as love should level the field by lifting our neighbors from the margins. Forgive us, O Christ, for mercy ought to remind us of your great love for us. Transform our hearts so that we receive grace and extend it to others. In Christ's name, the name of Love, we pray. Amen.

## **ASSURANCE OF GRACE**

The Scriptures tell us time and again that God's steadfast love endures forever. There is nothing you can do that will take God's love away from you. Humbly seek forgiveness and embrace God's eternal steadfast love. Amen.

**CHILDREN'S CHAT**      with Pastor Michelle

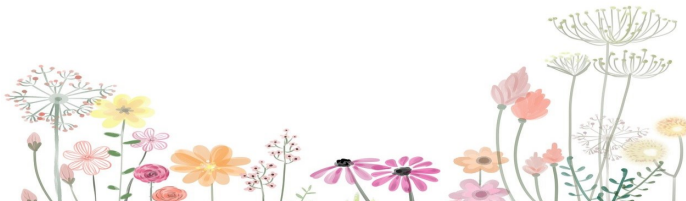
**ANTHEM**                      *Will the Circle Be Unbroken*

Arr. Anna Laura Page (b.1943) and dedicated to her mother, Bootie Hazel

St. Paul UCC Glory Ringers

**SCRIPTURE**                      John 15:9-17

**SERMON**                      Divine Friendships                      Pastor Michelle

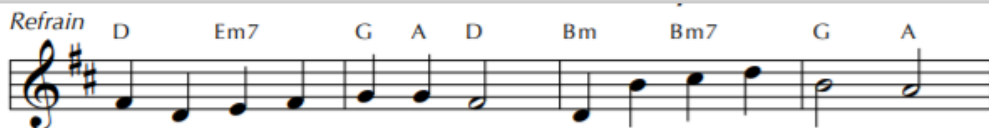


## MOTHER'S AND MOTHERING DAY PRAYER, PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND LORD'S PRAYER

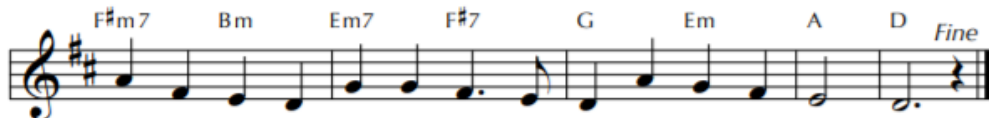
Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.  
 Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.  
 Give us this day our daily bread.  
 And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.  
 And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.  
 For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

## CLOSING HYMN *Healer of Our Every Ill*

Text and Music: Marty Haugen (b. 1950)



Heal - er of our ev - ery ill, light of each to - mor - row,



give us peace be - yond our fear, and hope be - yond our sor - row.



- 1 You who know our fears and sad - ness, grace us with your peace and
- 2 In the pain and joy be - hold - ing how your grace is still un -
- 3 Give us strength to love each oth - er, ev - ery sis - ter, ev - ery
- 4 You who know each thought and feel - ing, teach us all your way of



glad - ness; Spir - it of all com - fort, fill our hearts.  
 fold - ing, give us all your vi - sion, God of love.  
 broth - er; Spir - it of all kind - ness, be our guide.  
 heal - ing; Spir - it of com - pas - sion, fill each heart.

**The Music today is in celebration of Madelyn Wagner's  
22nd birthday and her graduation with honors in  
Integrated Biology from the University of Illinois**



*With Love, from Rusty and Sandy Wagner*

## **BLESSING OF GIFTS AND BENEDICTION**

Divine One: Bless these gifts and let them serve your people at home and throughout the world, all of us, your cherished friends. Amen.

Friends, imagine what is possible. Imagine what our community would feel like if our own hearts embraced the unconditional love God has for us. Imagine what our country would sound like if our words echoed the inclusive love God has for us. Imagine what the world would look like if our actions reflected the unwavering love God has for us. Go forth from this place, to transform possibility into reality and to join alongside God in transforming the world through love. Amen!

**POSTLUDE**

*Dialogue*

Gilbert M. Martin (b. 1941)



**The flowers today are sponsored:**

In loving memory of  
Dottie Engelsdorfer  
~ from her children

Information about today's service: All St. Paul United Church of Christ services may be recorded. Hymns used with permission through OneLicense.net License #A-715913

Invocation, Prayer of Reconciliation, Assurance of Grace from <http://rev-o-lution.org/2018/04/27/worship-resources-for-may-6-2018-sixth-sunday-of-easter/>; Blessing of the Gifts from Friends of God: Service Prayers for the Sixth Sunday of Easter was written by the Rev. Susan A. Blain, Minister for Worship, Liturgy and Spiritual Formation, Local Church Ministries. Benediction written by the Rev. Ellis Arnold for UCC Worship Ways. Mother's Day Prayer written by Amy Young on her blog The Messy Middle.

## Archives Artifacts ~ St. Paul trivia from the desk of Roger Henke

**Question:** "I was much involved in church work when we were first married. This was especially true when we started our mission church in New York. The church services were held in our home. The basement was used for church services. The living room, dining room and bedroom were used for Sunday School classes. It was a very small congregation." A St Paul pastor's wife said this during a 1977 newspaper interview. Who was this?

### This

#### Sundays

9am	Traditional Worship
10:30am	Zoom Social Hour
4pm	Non-Traditional Worship

Here is how to stay in touch with St. Paul

1) **Watch the services and check for event updates on FACEBOOK -**

Like us at *St. Paul United Church of Christ Belleville, IL*

2) **Go to [stpaulucc.org](http://stpaulucc.org)**

-and you will find: videos of services, sermons, archives, and much more!!

3) **Listen to the radio! 690am**

9am Live Sundays & repeat at 9pm

4) **Sign up for the eNews (Newsletter)!**

Call the church office or email [dyoung@stpaulucc.org](mailto:dyoung@stpaulucc.org)

### For Your Prayers

**Gary Loeffler, brother of Sandy Loeffler  
Phil McClary nephew of Lynn Koehler**

**Carl Schneider**

**Luci Bradley**

**Larry Walton**

**Billy Ruth Pelc**

**Betty Rieso**

**Al Stahl**

**Lynn Koehler**

**Marilyn Young**

**Lori Coleman**

**Bev Juenger**

#### **PRAYER REQUESTS**

Please send prayer requests to [pastomichelle@stpaulucc.org](mailto:pastomichelle@stpaulucc.org)  
Or call 618-233-3303



**Answer:** Dottie Engelsdorfer!

## **HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY!**

### ***In Memory of:***

In memory of Martha M. Culley by Jane Bonaldi

In memory of my mother, Cleo Kurrus by Judy Koch

In memory of my sister, Margie Rahn by Judy Koch

In memory of my wife, Jean Eckert by Mike Eckert

In memory of my mom, Shirley Eckert by Mike Eckert

In memory of Genieveve Friedrich & Esther Koch by Jan Friedrich

In memory of my mother, Joyce Hoercher by Debbie Meyer

In memory of my other, Genelda Winner by Terry Meyer

In memory of my Godmother, Rosemary Henke by Debbie Meyer

In memory of my mother, Gladys Caughman by Wayne Caughman

### ***In Honor of:***

In honor of Marlene Mueller by Judy Koch & Al Stahl

In honor of Laureen Torigian by Pastor Michelle

