



Epiphany

Sunday, January 2, 2022

“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

January 2, 2022 9:00 am

WELCOME Rev. Michelle Torigian

PRELUDE *The First Nowell*
arr. David Lasky (b. 1957)

INVOCATION (UNISON)

Wondrous Star that shines so bright! Shine in the bleakness and misery. Shine in the shadows and gloom. Shine in our hearts when our hopes are failing. Shine in our lives when we feel out of place and lost. Shine in our world when the systems and structures of the world oppress and condemn. Shine in us, so that we may shine your light and life to the world. Bright Morning Star, shine our way. Amen.

OPENING HYMN *We Three Kings* (KINGS OF ORIENT)
(See next page)

PRAYER OF REFLECTION

God of All Beginnings, we confess our own despair and distrust. Our expectations have been tempered, our hopes subdued. *Are we afraid of being let down again by the world?* Remind us that our hope is not in the things of this world, in our leaders or our systems, but our hope is in you, Creator of heaven and earth. Shape our hearts to love more deeply. Open our minds to accept what we cannot change but to transform our own lives to your ways. Mold our lives to live as you lived, in compassion and loving-kindness, in gratitude and peace. Lift up our hearts, so we may enter this new year with your living hope. In the name of Christ we pray. Amen.

TODAY'S WORSHIP LEADERS

| | |
|-----------------------------|------------------------|
| <i>Senior Pastor</i> | Rev. Michelle Torigian |
| <i>Music Director</i> | Dr. Bill Wade |
| <i>Liturgist</i> | Stephenie Bauza |

We Three Kings of Orient Are

1 We three kings of O - ri - ent are; bear - ing gifts we tra - verse a - far,
2 Born a King on Beth - le - hem's plain, gold I bring to crown him a - gain,
3 Frank - in - cense to of - fer have I; in - cense owns a de - i - ty nigh;
4 Myrrh is mine; its bit - ter per - fume breathes a life of gath - er - ing gloom;
5 Glo - rious now be - hold him a - rise, King and God and Sac - ri - fice:

field and foun - tain, moor and moun - tain, fol - low - ing yon - der star.
King for - ev - er, ceas - ing nev - er o - ver us all to reign.
prayer and prais - ing glad - ly rais - ing, wor - ship - ing God Most High.
sor - rowing, sigh - ing, bleed - ing, dy - ing, sealed in the stone - cold tomb.
Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! sounds through the earth and skies.

Refrain

O star of won - der, star of night, star with roy - al beau - ty bright,

west - ward lead - ing, still pro - ceed - ing, guide us to thy per - fect light!

CHILDREN'S CHAT

Pastor Michelle

ANTHEM *Shepherd's Carol*
Michael Burkhardt (b. 1957)

SCRIPTURE Luke 2:41-52

SERMON Awakening to our Callings Pastor Michelle

PASTORAL PRAYER 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.

SERVICE OF COMMUNION

Invitation

Here at this table, let the Divine Spark enter our lives.
Let the Holy Light aid us in seeing the Christ in our midst.
The Brightness of Jesus the Christ will illuminate our way.
The Radiance of the Christ will warm our hearts.
God is shining upon you!
And God's light streams upon you!
Open your hearts. We open them to the brilliance of God.
Let us give thanks for the light and love of God.
We praise our Creator with joy and thanksgiving.

Prayer

We abide in our individual spaces eager to experience the presence of the Christ. The Christ is gleaming in each of our homes, in our neighborhoods, and as we interact online, summoning us to share love and light as we share love and kindness across this earth.

On the night before Jesus died, when some were plotting to extinguish

the Holy Light, warmth was shared between friends. Jesus took bread. In his blessing, he passed the Divine Glow to his followers. As he broke the bread, he reminded them to eat in remembrance of him.

Later that same evening, Jesus took the cup. He blessed it and invited his friends to taste from the cup of grace. “Do this, as often as you drink of this, for the remembrance of me.”

Holy Spirit, may your Divine Glow bless this bread and cup. Warm our hearts made cold by a chilled world. May this meal inspire us to carry your warmth into our world. Amen.

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING (UNISON)

God of Light and Love, we cherish this table in this season when the nights are long and cold. Through this meal, the Christ, and our neighbors, our hearts have warmed. May the comfort in our souls sustain us through winter and nudge us to love our neighbors. With gratitude, we leave here energized to kindle your love in this world. Amen.

CLOSING HYMN *Arise, Your Light Is Come!* (FESTAL SONG)
(See page 6)

BLESSING OF THE GIFTS (UNISON)

Divine Lamplighter, in gratitude, we share our treasures, our talents, and our time with this congregation. We humbly ask that you illuminate our minds and hearts as we use all our resources to craft a just world for all. Amen.

BENEDICTION

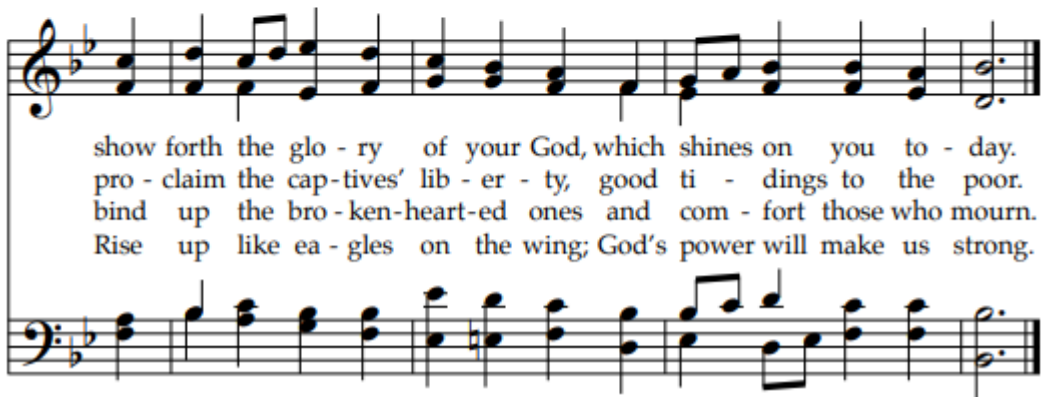
As we travel dim spaces during this new year, God, be our Divine Lamplighter. May your light shine on the road ahead of us. May the warmth from your flame melt the frost covering our hearts. May our souls come alive at the sight of your brilliance. And may your light draw us closer to our neighbors as we begin this season together. Amen!

POSTLUDE *Voluntary in C Major*
John S. Dixon (b. 1957)

Arise, Your Light Is Come!



1 A - rise, your light is come! The Spir - it's call o - bey;
2 A - rise, your light is come! Fling wide the pris - on door;
3 A - rise, your light is come! All you in sor - row born,
4 A - rise, your light is come! The moun - tains burst in song!



show forth the glo - ry of your God, which shines on you to - day.
pro - claim the cap - tives' lib - er - ty, good ti - dings to the poor.
bind up the bro - ken - heart - ed ones and com - fort those who mourn.
Rise up like ea - gles on the wing; God's power will make us strong.



Information about today's service: All St. Paul United Church of Christ services may be recorded and/or streamed. Music is used with permission through Onelicense.net License #A-715913, CCLI #1795791, St. James Press License #17755, or public domain.

Invocation and Prayer of Reflection from Rev-o-lution Resources by Rev. Mindi Welton-Mitchell <http://rev-o-lution.org>, (c) 2021. Blessing of the Gifts, Communion, Prayer of Thanksgiving, and Benediction written by Rev. Michelle L. Torigian



OFFICE HOURS FOR 2022

Monday through Thursday

8:30am-4pm

Friday

9am-12pm

A Covid-19 Guidelines Update for St. Paul United Church of Christ

Since the beginning of the Covid-19 pandemic, the St. Paul United Church of Christ leadership has taken this virus seriously and has followed local, state, and federal guidelines as well as listened to the science informing the public on the need for mitigations.

Due to increasing cases and the Omicron variant, we have made some adjustments to our guidelines.

First of all, we will be canceling coffee hour this Sunday and throughout January, and the Culinares' Breakfast will also be canceled on January 16. Future plans beyond next month will be evaluated at the beginning of January.

Secondly, we will be reinstating physical distancing in the sanctuary for worship and wherever possible in our building. Beginning on Friday evening, we will ask that our congregants be seated every-other pew.

State guidelines on masks have been renewed. Masks are mandated at all times while in the St. Paul UCC building. If you are unable to wear masks over both your nose and mouth, you can watch our service online on [Facebook](#), [YouTube](#), or on [our website \(stpaulucc.org\)](#). Sunday morning services are also broadcast live on Jubilee 690AM.

It is important that we can continue to have worship in person if possible. By instituting these practices, we believe we can continue to do so safely.

Thank you for your help in keeping the St. Paul United Church of Christ community safe during the holidays and into the new year!

Blessings,

Dr. Steve Schmidt, Council President

Mimi Llamas, Safety Team

Dave Hoffmann, Safety Team

Rev. Michelle Torigian, Senior Pastor

Patrick Kinney, Facility Manager & Safety Coordinator

Dr. Bill Wade, Music Director

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

“With You” is a current program offered by our church. Its predecessor was the Befriender Ministry. What year did the Befriender Ministry begin?



This Week

Sundays

- 9am Traditional Worship
10am Coffee Hour & Culinaire's
breakfast postponed until
further notice.

Here is how to stay in touch with St. Paul

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

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

2) **Go to 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)!**

For Your Prayers

Gus Kuether Bev Juenger
Lori Coleman Karen Zaber
Al Stahl Audrey Krummrich
Carol Hotz Joyce Maurer
Shirley Martin Lev Reynolds
Scott Schmidt, brother of Steve Schmidt

PRAYER REQUESTS

Please send prayer requests to
pastormichelle@stpaulucc.org

or call 618-233-3303

Praying for your health and well being!

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ANSWER:



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



Like us on Facebook
*St Paul United Church of Christ,
Belleville, Illinois*

Weekly Attendance

9am Dec 19, 2021 108 + Online Participants Dec 20, 2020 All Virtual
Dec 24, 2021 4:30pm 73 and 7pm 110 + Online Participants Dec 24, 2020 All Virtual

Offering for 12/19/2021 - \$9,554

General Fund

Needed each week \$8,082

Giving to Date  \$386,164

Budget to...  \$412,182

Total Budget  \$420,256