



"Keep awake
therefore, for you
know neither the day
nor the hour."
Matthew 25:13

Parable of the Bridesmaids



Sunday, November 12, 2023

"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



November 12, 2023 9:00 am
Twenty-Fourth Sunday after Pentecost
Stewardship Sunday

TODAY'S WORSHIP LEADERS

<i>Senior Pastor</i>	Rev. Michelle Torigian
<i>Music Director</i>	Dr. Tristan Frampton
<i>Organist</i>	Kevin Chunko
<i>Liturgist</i>	Mimi Llamas

WELCOME

PRELUDE

Now Thank We All Our God, BWV 657
Johann Sebastian Bach

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Come and gather in God's presence, servants of the Lord.
Many: God blesses us with gifts beyond what we deserve.
One: All God asks is that we make God's blessings to grow.
Many: And so may our gratitude deepen...
One: Until our hearts are moved and the love of God flows through us freely:
Many: In offerings of generosity, in ways of healing, in acts of love and justice
One: Then we will know the joy of the Lord.

INVOCATION (UNISON)

Your servants have gathered, O God, receiving the gifts you have entrusted into our care. We confess that when times are tight, when the stock market is unstable and inflation is high, we are tempted to hide our money and diminish our gifts. Help us to set aside our fears and to trust that when we invest in your kingdom's work, blessings return to us in ways big and small. We gather to learn, to serve, and to grow in your ways of abundant grace, and ask your blessing for the journey. Amen.

OPENING HYMN

God, Whose Giving Knows No Ending 572

F $\frac{F}{E}$ B \flat $\frac{F}{C}$ Gm $\frac{Gm}{B\flat}$ Gm7 C $\frac{F}{A}$ B \flat $\frac{F}{A}$ Gm7 $\frac{C7}{G}$ F

1 God, whose giv-ing knows no end-ing, from your rich and end-less store;
 2 Skills and time are ours for press-ing toward the goals of Christ, your Son;
 3 Treas-ure, too, you have en-trust-ed, gain through powers your grace con-ferred;

C $\frac{C}{E}$ Am Bdim $\frac{Bdim}{D}$ F Gsus G7 C $\frac{C}{E}$ F $\frac{C}{G}$ Am $\frac{Dm7}{F}$ G7 C

na-ture's won-der, Je-sus' wis-dom, cost-ly cross, grave's shat-tered door,
 all at peace in health and free-dom, rac-es joined, the Church made one,
 ours to use for home and kin-dred, and to spread the Gos-pel Word.

F $\frac{F}{A}$ $\frac{F7}{A}$ B \flat 2 B \flat Gm Gm7 C \sharp C Am Am7 Dm2 Dm B \flat Gm7 C \sharp C

gift-ed by you, we turn to you, of-fering up our-selves in praise;
 Now di-rect our dai-ly la-bor, lest we strive for self a-lone;
 O-pen wide our hands in shar-ing, as we heed Christ's age-less call,

C $\frac{C7}{B\flat}$ $\frac{F}{A}$ $\frac{F7}{A}$ B \flat F Gm Dm $\frac{Gm}{B\flat}$ Gm $\frac{F}{A}$ $\frac{Gm}{B\flat}$ C7 F

thank-ful song shall rise for-ev-er, gra-cious do-nor of our days.
 born with tal-ents, make us ser-vants fit to an-swer at your throne.
 heal-ing, teach-ing, and re-claim-ing, serv-ing you by lov-ing all.

WORDS: Robert L. Edwards (1915-), alt.

MUSIC: C. Hubert H. Parry (1848-1918)

Words © 1961, Ren. 1989 The Hymn Society (Advent Hope Publishing Company)

RUSTINGTON

8.7.8.7.D.

***PRAYER OF REFLECTION AND RECONCILIATION (UNISON)**

It is so easy, Gifting-God, to diminish the gifts you give us. We keep them hidden under claims of inadequacy; we complain about what we lack and want for more; we believe our gifts are unnecessary or unimportant. God of every good and perfect gift, when we hide, encourage us to be bold in sharing our gifts. When we are wanting, help us to trust in your provision. When we see ourselves as less than, give us the confidence that the talents you give us are just what are needed. Knowing that your mercy covers all our failings and fears, we give ourselves to you. Amen.

***ASSURANCE OF GRACE**

Beloved ones: we are forever given the grace of God. Whether we have shared our gifts or held them back, God will continue to call us to use them to build God's Realm here on earth. Amen!

ANTHEM

The Gift of Love, arr. Hal Hopson
Sanctuary Choir

SCRIPTURE

Matthew 25:1-13

SERMON

Awareness as a Gift

Rev. Michelle Torigian

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.

REFLECTION ON GIVING

As we come to this time for gratitude and generosity, what is it that we gather as we give? We gather good will; we gather hope; we gather love and healing and grace. And when all of these things are gathered up, and drawn near, the blessing of God fills us up and others too...and the world is changed for the better. Give thanks for the ministry God has entrusted into our care and for each other, and know, beloved, that your faithful service makes a difference.

COLLECTION OF THE GIFTS & OFFERTORY MUSIC

What a Friend We Have in Jesus, arr. Patricia Cota
Glory Ringers Sextet

***DOXOLOGY** (Tune: *Old Hundreth*)

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Christ in whom God's grace we know;
Praise Spirit, with us evermore;
One God, triune, whom we adore. Amen.**

***BLESSING OF THE GIFTS (UNISON)**

God of our living, who rounds our days in love and grace and mercy, bless us and the offerings of gratitude we make for this life and for the calling you have faithfully placed in our care. Bless the ways we are planning for the future as we care for this church and community. Turn our gratitude into praise and even more, into generosity, a pouring out of your blessing into this world that needs your love and mercy now and forevermore. Amen.

***CLOSING HYMN**

This Little Light of Mine
Tune: Lattimer, irr.

(See page 6)

***COMMISSIONING**

Servants of God,
Go and make the gifts of God to grow, in what you say and do, and in the ways you walk the earth. In the grace of such blessing, go and be a blessing.

***BENEDICTION**

May God bless you and keep you.
May God's face shine upon you and be gracious to you.
May God look upon you with kindness and give you peace. Amen!

POSTLUDE

Scherzo in A (from 6 Trios, op. 47)
Max Reger

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Worship from the "Because of You Our Church Changes Lives" stewardship resources. Assurance of Grace written by Rev. Michelle L. Torigian. Benediction from UCC Book of Worship.

This Little Light of Mine

African-American spiritual

525

Matt. 5:14-16

The musical score is written for a single voice and piano accompaniment in 4/4 time. It consists of four systems of staves. The first system begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The melody is in the treble staff, and the accompaniment is in the bass staff. The lyrics are: 'I This lit-tle light of mine, I'm gon-na let it shine,'. The second system continues the melody and accompaniment with the lyrics: 'this lit-tle light of mine, I'm gon-na let it shine,'. The third system has the lyrics: 'This lit-tle light of mine, I'm gon-na let it shine, let it'. The fourth system concludes with the lyrics: 'shine, let it shine, let it shine. (let it shine.)'. The piano accompaniment features a steady bass line with chords and some melodic movement in the right hand.

I This lit-tle light of mine, I'm gon-na let it shine,

this lit-tle light of mine, I'm gon-na let it shine,

This lit-tle light of mine, I'm gon-na let it shine, let it

shine, let it shine, let it shine. (let it shine.)

2 Ev-ery-where I go, I'm gon-na let it shine . . .

3 All-through the night, I'm gon-na let it shine . . .



Star Tree

The Star Tree is coming Sunday November 19th. Please take one or more stars. We have 63 kids who will love to receive a Christmas gift this year. To be sure each child receives a similarly valued gift we recommend a gift value of \$30. If you prefer to donate, we will have elves who shop. Wrapped gifts will need to be returned to the church by Wednesday, December 13th. Thanks for making a difference in these kids lives!!



Hanging of the Greens

December 3rd
3-6 p.m.
In the Sanctuary



Hot Mess Express

COFFEE TRUCK @ ST. PAUL UCC
NOVEMBER 15TH
7AM - 11AM

Pick up your drink and head to The Mosaic Room for Coffee & Conversation with Pastor Michelle!
9am-11am

hotmessexpresscoffee.com

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

In 1996, this symphony and chorus held performances at St. Paul Church. During their stay, they visited the St. Louis Cathedral. Many of the visitors wept at it's beauty. But, another reason was these people had been denied practicing any type of religion in their country for over seventy years. Why was this and where were they from?

Upcoming Events

Church Council meeting-3rd Thursday @ 6pm
Community Dinner-every Tuesday @ 5pm
Culinaires Breakfast-every 3rd Sunday
Executive Council-3rd Monday @ 7pm
Mats for Community-3rd Tuesday @ 1pm
NO MATS ON NOVEMBER 21-resumes Dec. 19th
Mission Meeting-2nd Sunday after service
Personnel Meeting-2nd Thursday @ 7pm
Quilters-every Tuesday @ 9am
Seekers Adult Bible Study -Tuesdays @ 10am
Shufflers-2nd Tuesday of the month @ 12pm
Wednesdays-Bells (6pm) & Choir (7:15pm)
With You group-1st Wednesday @ 1pm
Women's Guild-3rd Wednesday @ 1pm
Hotmess Express Coffee Truck-November 15
Office Closed for Thanksgiving-November 23 & 24
Hanging of the Greens-December 3 @ 3-6pm

For Your Prayers

Lori Coleman	Scott Martin, son of
Carol Hotz	Shirley Martin
Marilyn Dinkelmann	Betty Rieso
Debbie McIntyre,	Linda Mentzer
daughter of Arline	Linda Minton
Worms	Wayne Caughman
Tim Ritter	Tim Ritter Jr., son of
Laura Howie, daughter	Sandy & Tim Ritter
of Elgee Phillips	Jerry Hough
Alec Zaber	Peggy Mejas -friend of
Hector Rivera	MiMi Llamas

Please call the church for prayer requests:
618-233-3303 stpaulucc.org



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St Paul UCC, Belleville, IL



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

ANSWER: The Soviet Union had occupied their country during that time until it's liberation. The country is the Ukraine.

Weekly Attendance

9AM

October 22, 2023 81 + Online Participants October 23, 2022 70 + Online Participants

Offering 10/28/2023 \$1,526

General Fund

Needed each week \$7,605

Giving to...  \$283,018

Budget to...  \$327,030

Total Budget  \$395,479