



*Why do you stand
looking up towards heaven?
Acts 1*

Sunday, May 12, 2024

“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

May 12, 2024 9:00 am

Seventh Sunday of Easter - Ascension Sunday
Mother's Day



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>	Lou Ryseff

WELCOME

PRELUDE

Allegro Maestoso (Sonata II in c)
Felix Mendelssohn

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Let us praise God for sending Jesus Christ to offer his saving love to us all.

All: We give God all our praises.

One: Let our hearts be filled with joyful celebration for the fulfillment of God's promises.

All: We open our hearts to receive the joy of Christ.

One: Let us move forward with Jesus Christ as our guiding light.

All: The light of Jesus Christ is shining in each of us.

One: Come, let us worship our Risen Christ, whose love and light guide us still.

INVOCATION (UNISON)

Ever present God, we are grateful that you meet us right where we are—speaking our language and giving us the blessed assurance that you are with us. We look forward to the glory that awaits us, trusting that Christ will guide us to our heavenly home. In his name, we pray. Amen.

*OPENING HYMN

Alleluia, Alleluia! Hearts to Heaven 289

G G⁴ G $\frac{G}{D}$ D7 $\frac{G}{D}$ $\frac{D}{C}$ $\frac{G}{B}$ $\frac{D}{A}$ G $\frac{G}{D}$ D

1 Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Hearts to heaven and voic - es raise:
 2 Al - le - lu - ia, Christ is ris - en! Death at last has met de - feat:
 3 Christ is ris - en, we are ris - en! Set your hearts on things a - bove;
 4 Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Glo - ry be to God on high:

G $\frac{C}{G}$ G7 $\frac{G7}{C}$ C Cmaj7 $\frac{Am}{C}$ $\frac{G}{D}$ D7 $\frac{G}{D}$ D7 G

sing to God a hymn of glad-ness, sing to God a hymn of praise;
 see the an - cient powers of e - vil in con - fu - sion and re - treat;
 there in all the Fa - ther's glo - ry lives and reigns our King of love;
 Al - le - lu - ia to the Sav - ior who has gained the vic - to - ry;

D $\frac{G}{D}$ D $\frac{G}{D}$ D $\frac{B}{D\sharp}$ B7 Em A D

he who on the cross a vic - tim for the world's sal - va - tion bled—
 once he died, and once was bur - ied; now he lives for - ev - er - more.
 hear the word of peace he brings us, see his wound - ed hands and side!
 Al - le - lu - ia to the Spir - it, fount of love and sanc - ti - ty!

G $\frac{C}{G}$ G7 $\frac{G7}{C}$ C Cmaj7 $\frac{Am}{C}$ $\frac{G}{D}$ D7 $\frac{G}{D}$ D7 G

Je - sus Christ, the King of Glo - ry, now is ris - en from the dead.
 Je - sus Christ, the world's Re - deem - er, whom we wor - ship and a - dore.
 Now let ev - ery wrong be end - ed, ev - ery sin be cru - ci - fied.
 Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia to the Tri - une Maj - es - ty!

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

Life-giving God, we find joy in your newness of life through Jesus Christ. Help us to feel the joy of inhaling and exhaling the breath of life in every season. Transform us when we come together as your beloved and diverse creation. Guide us in our praise as we seek your saving love toward a world where there is peace and justice for all. Amen.

***ASSURANCE OF GRACE**

Loving God, in Christ we see the fulfillment of your promise to be with us always. Forgive us when we lose faith in your compassion for all creation. Help us to see the great sacrifice of the Risen Christ as an example of your undying love for us all. Strengthen us to do better and to become better together in our relationship with you and all of creation. Hear our prayer, O God. Amen.

MISSION MOMENT St. John Community Cares Christine Stewart Thurber

ANTHEM The Gift of Love
 arr. Hal Hopson
 Sanctuary Choir

SCRIPTURE Luke 24:1-12 & Acts 1:1-11

SERMON Looking in the Wrong Direction Pastor Michelle

A MOTHERS AND MOTHERING DAY PRAYER

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

From the abundance of God's generosity, all are invited to offer a portion of our gifts. Remembering the great love that Christ has for all people, we give these gifts to further spread the love of Christ in the world. May these offerings help fulfill our hope to be Christ's love and light in the world.

COLLECTION OF THE GIFTS & OFFERTORY MUSIC

*DOXOLOGY (Tune: *Old Hundredth*)

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)

Faithful God, we thank you for every gift. We delight in returning a portion of what we have been given back to Christ's church. Your generous love and care for all creation knows no bounds. Like Christ who offered himself, let these offerings symbolize the fulfillment of your love by bringing a healing balm of hope, peace, and justice to everyone, everywhere. In Christ's name, we pray. Amen.

*CLOSING HYMN *A Hymn of Glory Let Us Sing* (See page 6)

*COMMISSIONING

Go, now in peace. May the love of God surround you, everywhere you may go.

*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 *Improvisation on "God Has Gone Up With A Merry Noise"*

Congrats Class of 2024!



Please submit a photo and information about your or your family member's graduation to pastormichelle@stpaulucc.org. We will be recognizing graduates of all levels (from pre-K to graduate degrees) during our Sunday, June 9 service.



PLEASE WELCOME TODAY'S MISSION MOMENT SPEAKER

CHRISTINE STEWART THURBER

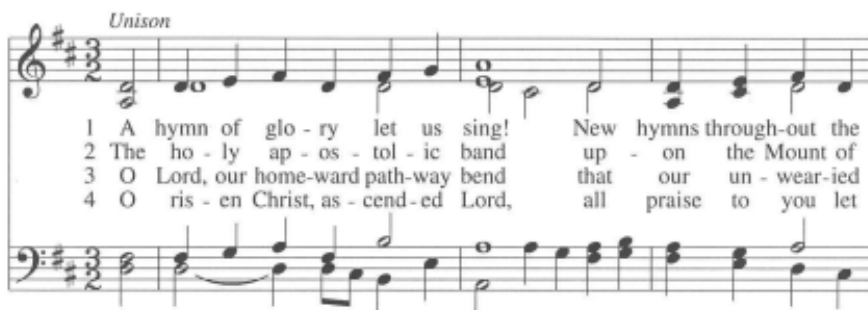
Executive Director
St. John's Community Care

Thank you Christine for sharing information on the organization and ways we can connect as we care for our congregants and community!

For more information, go to StJohnsCC.org

322 A Hymn of Glory Let Us Sing!

Unison



1 A hymn of glo - ry let us sing! New hymns through-out the
 2 The ho - ly ap - os - tol - ic band up - on the Mount of
 3 O Lord, our home-ward path-way bend that our un - wear-ied
 4 O ris - en Christ, as - cend - ed Lord, all praise to you let



world shall ring: Al-le - lu - ia! Al-le - lu - ia! Christ, by a road be-
 Ol - ives stand, Al-le - lu - ia! Al-le - lu - ia! and with his faith-ful
 hearts as - cend, Al-le - lu - ia! Al-le - lu - ia! where, seat - ed on your
 earth ac - cord: Al-le - lu - ia! Al-le - lu - ia! You are, while end-less



fore un - trod, as - cends un - to the throne of God. Al-le - lu - ia!
 fol-lowers see their Lord as-cend in maj - es - ty. Al-le - lu - ia!
 Fa-ther's throne, you reign as King of kings a - lone. Al-le - lu - ia!
 a - ges run, with Fa-ther and with Spir - it one. Al-le - lu - ia!



Al-le - lu - ia! Al-le - lu - ia, al-le - lu - ia, al-le - lu - ia!

WORDS: The Venerable Bede, (673-735); tr. Lutheran Book of Worship, 1978

MUSIC: Geistliche Kirchengesang, Cologne, 1623; harm. Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872-1958)

Words © 1978 Lutheran Book of Worship (Adrian, Augsburg Fortress)

LASST UNS ERFREUEN

L.M. Alleluia

MOTHER'S DAY HONOR ROLL

In honor of:

Janice Friedrich, by Gary Friedrich
Lee-Alison E. Wilson, by Gary & Janice Friedrich
Amanda Friedrich, by Gary & Janice Friedrich
My mother, Laureen Torigian, by Pastor Michelle

In Memory of:

Esther Koch, by Gary & Janice Friedrich
Genieveve M. Friedrich, by Gary & Janice Friedrich
Edna Beier, by Janet Heil
Queenie Emmons & Margaret Torigian,
by Laureen, Pastor Michelle, Lori and family
My angel mother, Stella Odom and
my angel mother in law, Stella Eckert, by Gay Eckert
Ina Wissehr & Ruth Ann Erdmann, by Dick & Ruth Ann Erdmann
Billy Ruth Pelc, by The Shelton Family and The Gentry Family
Kay Davinroy and Elaine Kobernus Knaack,
by Sherry & Pete Kobernus
Martha M. Culley, by Jane Bonaldi
Mrs. Edna Beier, by Gloria Strohm
Thamie Keim and Norma Woodrome Boyd, by Tim & Sandy Ritter

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

The Sundays in December comprise the church-year season of ADVENT, the time of preparation for Christmas. What is the origin of this season name?

Upcoming Events

Church Council meeting-3rd Thursday @ 6pm
Community Dinner-every Tuesday @ 5pm
Culinaires Breakfast-ON HOLD until fall
Finance Meeting-every 2nd Tuesday @ 5pm
Mats for Community-3rd Tuesday @ 1pm
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

For Your Prayers

Lori Coleman	Wayne Caughman
Carol Hotz	Tim Ritter Jr., son of
Marilyn Dinkelmann	Sandy & Tim Ritter
Debbie McIntyre,	Jerry Hough
daughter of Arline	Lou Ann Niemann
Worms	Cheryl Cooper
Tim Ritter	Debbie Price
Laura (Phillips) Howie	Christopher Mitchell
Alec Zaber	Audrey Krummrich
Hector Rivera	Ralph Eckart, brother in-
Betty Ries	law of Marlene Mueller
Larry Walton	

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

ANSWER: From the Latin ad-venire (to come)



Find out more how your required minimum distribution (RMD) can benefit St. Paul UCC and save you on taxes!

StPaulUCC.org

Contact the church to learn more:
 618.233.3303



Weekly Attendance - 9AM Service

April 21, 2024	88 + Online Participants
April 23, 2023	91 + Online Participants



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



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 St Paul UCC, Belleville, IL

Weekly Offerings	4/27/2024
Operating	\$ 4,682.00
Building Fund	\$ 205.00
	\$ 4,887.00
Giving YTD	\$ 124,232.49
Weekly Budget	\$ 7,638.47
Budget to Date	\$ 129,853.99
Total Budget	\$ 397,200.29