



World Communion Sunday

Sunday, October 6, 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

October 6, 2024 9:00 am

Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost



TODAY'S WORSHIP LEADERS

Pastor.....Rev. Michelle Torigian
Music DirectorDr. Tristan Frampton
Guest Organist/Pianist.....Lisa Cleveland
LiturgistStephenie Bauza

WELCOME

PRELUDE

Come Let Us Worship and Bow Down
words & music by Dave Doherty; arr. Mark Hayes

CALL TO WORSHIP (Inspired by Psalm 26)

One: The Holy One dwells within and beyond the congregation and makes a home among us.

Many: Prove us, and try us; Holy One, test our hearts and minds.

One: The glory of the Sovereign One abides with us, illuminating our journey, energizing our gathering, and warming our spirits.

Many: Prove us, and try us; Holy One, test our hearts and minds.

One: Bless the Name of Names, the God of Truth, and the Giver of Life with songs of praise, prayers of hope, and moments of connection.

Many: Prove us, and try us; Holy One, test our hearts and minds.

INVOCATION (UNISON)

Majestic God, your realm encompasses the universe, the earth, and our community. All creation declares your glory. May we unite with our kin around the world in celebrating you and the connections we share. As we gather in your name, may we remember those we join in faith, hope, and worship on every continent representing every tradition. May we declare in spirit and in truth...one bread, one body...the church striving to one as you, Sustainer, Redeemer, and Spirit are one. Amen.

*OPENING HYMN

As We Gather at Your Table 695

Unison
N.C. F B \flat B \flat / $\overset{\text{C}}{\text{C}}$ F

1 As we gath - er at your ta - ble, as we lis - ten to your word,
2 Turn our wor - ship in - to wit - ness in the sac - ra - ment of life;
3 Gra - cious Spir - it, help us sum - mon oth - er guests to share that feast

N.C. F B \flat B \flat / $\overset{\text{C}}{\text{C}}$ F

help us know, O God, your pres - ence; let our hearts and minds be stirred.
send us forth to love and serve you, bring - ing peace where there is strife.
where tri - um - phant Love will wel - come those who had been last and least.

N.C. Am7 Dm Am7 Dm $\overset{\text{Am}}{\text{C}}$ B \flat 2 B \flat

Nour - ish us with sa - cred sto - ry till we claim it as our own;
Give us, Christ, your great com - pas - sion to for - give as you for - gave;
There no more will en - vy bind us nor will pride our peace de - stroy,

$\overset{\text{C7}}{\text{G}}$ F Fmaj7 B \flat B \flat / $\overset{\text{C}}{\text{C}}$ F

teach us through this ho - ly ban - quet how to make Love's vic - tory known.
may we still be - hold your im - age in the world you died to save.
as we join with saints and an - gels to re - peat the sound - ing joy.

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

Holy One, we come to this gathering, the table, and your presence mindful that this day particularly celebrates our human connectedness. The reality lies far from the idea and your vision of beloved community. You call us to remember the poor, the marginalized, the immigrant, the isolated and abandoned. You command us to love our neighbor and have blessed us to live in an era in which we may know our neighbors from across the world to amazing degrees. Yet, we cling to our echo chambers and isolationist tendencies. We place our desires and comforts over the good of the world. We demonize difference rather than dignify diversity. Forgive us and have mercy on us while propelling us to new life. Extend your grace to transform our attitude and actions and infuse us with openness, curiosity, and love. Amen.

***ASSURANCE OF GRACE**

Beloved, God's grace and power reside in you in mutual support of a transformed life. As 1 Corinthians 10:13 assures, "No testing has overtaken you that is not common to everyone. God is faithful, and God will not let you be tested beyond your strength, but with the testing God will also provide the way out so that you may be able to endure it." Allow the testing to strengthen you, to build your endurance, and to do a new thing in you and through you for the glory of God.

ANTHEM

Living Bread
arr. Joel Raney
Sanctuary Choir

(see next page)

SCRIPTURE

Mark 2:13-22

SERMON

Which Comes First?

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.**

MISSION MOMENT

Neighbors in Need

REFLECTION ON GIVING

When we consider the gifts of God, stewardship of our resources rises among them. The psalmist marveled, “What are humans that you are mindful of them, mortals that you care for them? Yet you have made them a little lower than God and crowned them with glory and honor. You have given them dominion over the works of your hands; you have put all things under their feet.” The Sovereign God has given us responsibility and care of our sibling, creation. May we respond to the call to glorify God by the work of our hands, the allocation of our resources, and the generosity of our hearts.

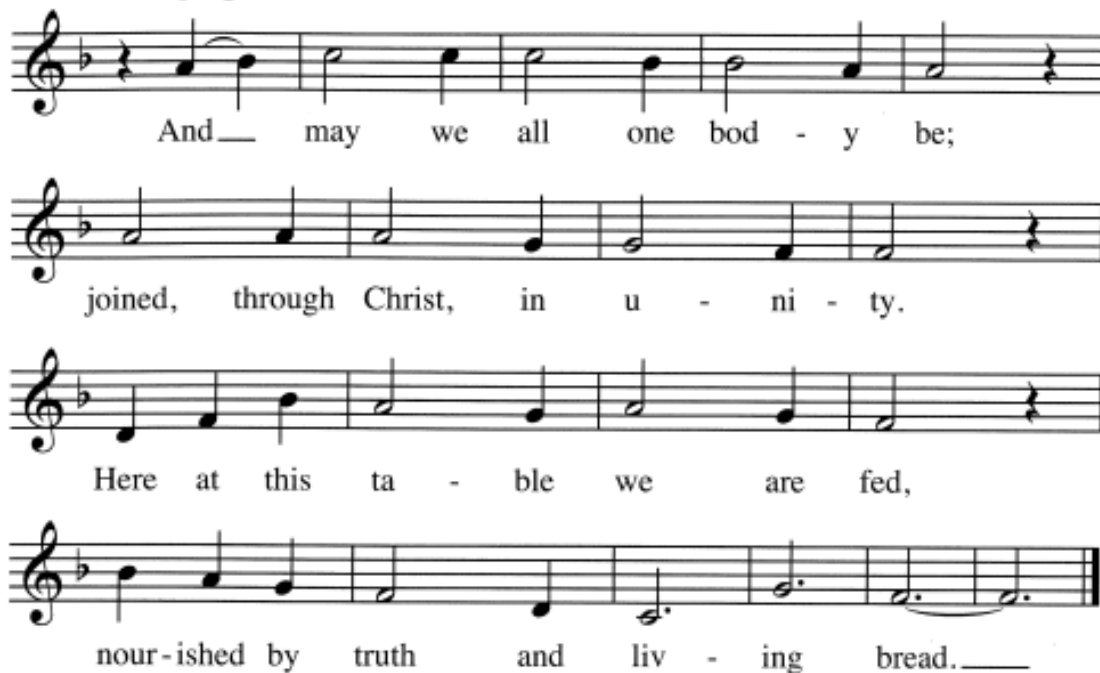
***DOXOLOGY** (Tune: *Old Hundredth*)

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)**

Holy One, we thank you for our abundance and the privilege to share in the flourishing of our community and the world. Bless these gifts and be glorified by our generosity and trust in your provision, sufficiency, and renewing power. Amen.

Congregation:



And — may we all one bod - y be;
joined, through Christ, in u - ni - ty.
Here at this ta - ble we are fed,
nour-ished by truth and liv - ing bread. —

CELEBRATION OF HOLY COMMUNION
Sentences of Invitation
Communion Prayer and Words of Remembrance

Distribution of the Elements

All are welcome at the Table of Christ! Ushers will release the pews to come forward. Gluten free communion will be in the basket on the table. If you would like white grape juice or wine please take a cup. Bread will be served in your cupped hand, then select grape juice (white juice) in outer ring, wine (red) in inner two rings. Consume the elements and place cup in tray before returning to the pew. If you need service in the pew, please raise your hand.

Prayer of Thanksgiving (unison)

We celebrate our gratitude, Loving God, Divine Companion. As this spiritual meal has nourished us, inspire us to feed our neighbors and journey with the lonely. Through our co-creation together, may we spread love throughout our world and extend your hospitality to people in need. Amen.

***CLOSING HYMN**

We Meet as Friends at Table

(next page)

***COMMISSIONING**

May the strength of the Spirit fill you, the power of the Spirit embolden you, and the leading of the Spirit guide you as co-creators of the kingdom of God...now and forever. Go in abundant hope, peace and love.

***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

Great Is the Lord

words & music by Michael W. Smith and Deborah D. Smith

arr. Mark Hayes



704 We Meet as Friends at Table

Unison
N.C. C Em7 F2 F Dm F Dm7 C G

1 We meet as friends at ta - ble, to lis - ten, and be heard, u -
 2 With food and drink for shar - ing the ta - ble soon is spread. The
 3 We share our lives and long - ings, and when the meal is done we
 4 Ful - filled, and glad to fol - low wher - ev - er Christ may lead, we

F Dm7 C E Am7 Dm7 Dm7 A G7sus G7 E G

nit - ed by the Spir - it, at - ten - tive to the Word. Through
 free - dom meal of Je - sus is crowned with wine and bread, and
 pray as friends at ta - ble, and prom - ise to be one. To
 jour - ney from the ta - ble to love a world in need with

C Em7 F2 F Dm F Dm7 C G

prayer and con - ver - sa - tion we tune our var - ied views to
 all, with - out ex - cep - tion, may eat, and speak, and stay, for
 Christ, and to each oth - er, we cheer - ful - ly be - long: a -
 pa - tience, truth and kind - ness, that jus - tice may in - crease and

F Dm7 C E Am7 Dm7 Dm7 G G7 C

Christ, whose love has made us the bear - ers of good news.
 this is Christ's own ta - ble where none are turned a - way.
 part, our hope is fruit - less; to - geth - er, we are strong.
 all may sit at ta - ble in free - dom, joy, and peace.

WORDS: Brian Wren (1936-)
 MUSIC: Hal H. Hopson (1933-)

Words and Music © 1996 Hope Publishing Company

MEAL OF LOVE
 7.6.7.6.D.

For Your Prayers

Lori Coleman
 Carol Hotz
 Marilyn Dinkelmann
 Debbie McIntyre, daughter of
 Arline Worms
 Tim Ritter
 Laura (Phillips) Howie
 Betty Rieso
 Larry Walton
 Wayne Caughman

Tim Ritter Jr., son of Sandy &
 Tim Ritter
 Hector Rivera
 Lou Ann Niemann
 Cheryl Cooper
 Debbie Price
 Christopher Mitchell
 Audrey Krummrich
 Ralph Eckart, brother in-law of
 Marlene Mueller

James Whitmarsh, nephew of
 Jan Friedrich
 Mike Llamas, brother in law of
 Mimi Llamas
 The family of Sandy Karstens
 The family of Wilma
 Weisenstein
 The family of Cheryl Stanger



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



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



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St Paul UCC, Belleville, IL



**Interested in knowing the various ways you
 can give to St. Paul UCC?**

StPaulUCC.org

Contact the church to learn more:
 618.233.3303



Weekly Attendance - 9AM Service

September 15, 2024 100 + Online Participants
 September 17, 2023 89 + Online Participants

Weekly Attendance - 9AM Service

September 22, 2024 70 + Online Participants
 September 24, 2023 102 + Online Participants

| Weekly Offerings | 9/21/2024 |
|-------------------|----------------------|
| Operating | \$ 2,735.00 |
| Building Fund | \$ 140.00 |
| | \$ 2,875.00 |
| Giving YTD | \$ 240,592.91 |
| Weekly Budget | \$ 7,638.47 |
| Budget to Date | \$ 290,261.86 |
| Total Budget | \$ 397,200.29 |



| Weekly Offerings | 9/28/2024 |
|-------------------|----------------------|
| Operating | \$ 3,973.10 |
| Building Fund | \$ 200.00 |
| | \$ 4,173.10 |
| Giving YTD | \$ 244,766.01 |
| Weekly Budget | \$ 7,638.47 |
| Budget to Date | \$ 297,900.33 |
| Total Budget | \$ 397,200.29 |