



Sunday, December 1, 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

December 1, 2024 9:00 am

1st Sunday of Advent



TODAY'S WORSHIP LEADERS

<i>Pastor</i>	Rev. Michelle Torigian
<i>Music Director</i>	Dr. Tristan Frampton
<i>Guest Organist/Pianist</i>	Lisa Cleveland
<i>Liturgist</i>	Donna Davis

WELCOME

PRELUDE

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

arr. Joel Raney

Lisa Cleveland & Lynda Marshall, piano duet

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: In this season of Advent, we take one step toward Christmas, the first step of many.

All: Let this journey transform us from beginning to end.

One: Whether your belly is full or empty, whether your heart is broken or whole, look toward the manger and find hope.

All: We look with hope because Christ is coming to fill hearts and satisfy hunger with goodness and peace.

One: Come, let us worship as we journey to where our friend and brother will be born.

All: Glory to God, there is hope today. Let us worship!

INVOCATION (Unison)

Loving God, we rehearse this beloved story, year after year, because, in this world where people are hungry and creation is suffering, the story gives us hope—that all people will be fed and creation will be restored! We gather to worship in this season of hopeful expectation, knowing you are faithful to meet us here in song, prayer, and scripture. Nourish our hearts as we worship, and prepare us to serve the hungry around us. Amen.

*OPENING HYMN

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel 154

Unison

Em Bm G Am Am G D G D Bm C G

1 O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, and ran - som cap - tive
 2 O come, thou Day - spring, come and cheer our spir - its by thine
 3 O come, thou Wis - dom from on high, and or - der all things,
 4 O come, De - sire of na - tions, bind all peo - ples in one

Am Em Bm Em Am Am Em B7 F# Em Bm C D Em

Is - ra - el, that mourns in lone - ly ex - ile here, un -
 ad - vent here; dis - perse the gloom - y clouds of night, and
 far and nigh; to us the path of knowl - edge show, and
 heart and mind; bid en - vy, strife and quar - rels cease; fill

Refrain (Harmony)

D Bm G G Am Am G D G D Em Bm G

til the Son of God ap - pear.
 death's dark shad - ows put to flight.
 cause us in her ways to go. Re - joi - ce! Re - joi - ce! Em -
 the whole world with heav - en's peace.

Am Am G D Em D G G C G Am Em D Em

C C B D Em F# G B C B Am G F# Em

man - u - el shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el!

WORDS: Latin, 9th c.; tr. John M. Neale (1818-1866); vs. 3 and 4 tr. Henry S. Coffin (1877-1954)
 MUSIC: French melody, 15th c.; harm. Thomas Helmore (1811-1890)

VENI EMMANUEL
 L.M.Ref.

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

Compassionate God, when we look outward, the season of Advent heightens our awareness of the hunger in the world around us. Just as Jesus came to meet the physical and spiritual needs of the people, you also call us to that high and holy task. Increase our willingness to serve and our capacity to show generosity and compassion. May our actions reflect the character of Jesus, who fed people everywhere he went. Transform us to be your hands and feet, feeding the hungry and comforting the afflicted. Amen.

***ASSURANCE OF GRACE**

Hear the good news: God is a loving parent with endless compassion who desires all people to flourish. Even when our hope falters, and we feel helpless to address the hunger in our world, God's steadfast love emboldens us to persevere so all creation can be fed. Receive God's pardon and experience hope.

ANTHEM

Emmanuel Shall Come
by Dan Forrest
Sanctuary Choir

SCRIPTURE

Luke 21:25-36 & Matthew 14:13-21 & Luke 2:7

SERMON

Hope in the Times of Discouragement

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.

REFLECTION ON GIVING

God continues to increase love in our hearts for our neighbors within our congregation, community, and world. Through our various gifts, we are able to strengthen our connections and grow with our God, Holy Crafter of Gifts.

***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)**

Generous God, these gifts and offerings are a tangible expression of our hope in Christ. May they nourish those who hunger and spread your love and justice. Bless our giving, inspire us to share with compassion, and help us trust in your abundant provision. Amen.

CELEBRATION OF HOLY COMMUNION

Sentences of Invitation

One: May you know that the God of comfort is with you.

Many: And may you see the God of hope with you.

One: Open wide our anxious hearts!

Many: We open them to God's peace.

One: Let us give thanks and share our joy.

Many: In this space and time, we offer God our love and praise.

Communion Prayer and Words of Remembrance

COMMUNION MUSIC

Bring a Torch, Jeannette, Isabella
arr. Joel Rainey copyright 2003 Hope publishing company
Lisa Cleveland & Lynda Marshall, piano duet

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)

For the nourishment of spirit, mind, and body, for hope that we begin to see, and for comfort from the Prince of Peace, we share our gratitude, Gracious God. Encourage us in these shortened days. Through the long nights of this season, may your hope carry us until dawn arrives again. Amen.

***CLOSING HYMN**

Lift Up Your Heads, O Mighty Gates (See page 7)

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***COMMISSIONING**

May Christ, the Bread of Life, who brings hope to the hopeless, be with you. May the love of our Creator, who calls us to care for the hungry and the oppressed, surround you. And may the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, who empowers us to imagine a Realm where all hunger is satisfied, strengthen you now and always. Go in hope to feed the hungry, comfort the afflicted, and share the good news of Christ's coming.

***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

What Child Is This?

arr. Joel Raney

Lisa Cleveland & Lynda Marshall, piano duet



**St. Paul Friends
Christmas Party**

PLAN TO JOIN ST. PAUL FRIENDS AT OUR CHRISTMAS PARTY ON FRIDAY, DECEMBER 13 BEGINNING AT 6:30 P.M. IN HERITAGE HALL. PLEASE BRING AN APPETIZER OR DESSERT TO SHARE AND YOUR ADULT BEVERAGE OF CHOICE. EVERYONE IS WELCOME BUT PLEASE RSVP TO JUDY KOCH JUDITHKOCH@ATT.NET ; 618-795-6449 OR SANDY WAGNER SKWAGNER51@GMAIL.COM; 618-560-9491. HOHOHO!!!

**TODAY:
Hanging of the
Greens is
at 3pm!**

**Blue Christmas
Service
Tuesday
December 17th
@ 7pm**



Today's altar flowers are in loving memory of

Linda Mentzer

by her family

176 Lift Up Your Heads, O Mighty Gates

The musical score is written in 2/2 time and consists of three systems. Each system has a vocal line (treble clef) and a bass line (bass clef). The lyrics are as follows:

1 Lift up your heads, O mighty gates: behold, the
2 Fling wide the portals of your heart: make it a
3 Redeemer, come! I open wide my heart to
4 So come, my Sovereign, enter in! Let new and

King of glory waits! The King of kings is
temple set apart from earthly use for
you: here, Lord, abide! Let me your inner
nobler life begin! Your Holy Spirit

drawing near, the Savior of the world is here.
heaven's employ, adorned with prayer and love and joy.
presence feel: your grace and love in me reveal.
guide us on, until the glorious crown be won.

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Save the Date:
2025 Budget and Nomination Congregational Meeting
is December 8 immediately following worship.

For Your Prayers

Lori Coleman	Hector Rivera	Mike Llamas, brother in law of
Carol Hotz	Lou Ann Niemann	Mimi Llamas
Marilyn Dinkelmann	Cheryl Cooper	Jeff Lutz, brother in law of
Debbie McIntyre, daughter of	Debbie Price	Debbie Lippert
Arline Worms	Christopher Mitchell	Sue Sutherland
Tim Ritter	Audrey Krummrich	Norma Franke
Betty Rieso	Ralph Eckart, brother in-law of	Richard Gentry, brother of
Larry Walton	Marlene Mueller	Scott Gentry
Wayne Caughman	James Whitmarsh, nephew of	Jack Snyder
Tim Ritter Jr., son of Sandy &	Jan Friedrich	
Tim Ritter	Karen Keuss	



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



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



Like us on Facebook
St Paul UCC, Belleville, IL

Culinares' Breakfast

Sunday December 15!

**IN HERITAGE HALL
FOLLOWING SUNDAY
SERVICE!**

<u>Weekly Attendance - 9AM Service</u>	
November 17, 2024	88 + Online Participants
November 19, 2023	114 + Online Participants
Weekly Offerings	11/23/2024
* Operating	\$ 8,619.00
Building Fund	\$ 205.00
	\$ 8,824.00
Giving YTD	\$308,409.01
* 2 Offerings > \$2,000 ea.	
Weekly Budget	\$ 7,638.47
Budget to Date	\$ 359,008.09
Total Budget	\$ 397,200.29

Note, online giving by credit card will be ending December 31, 2024. Other giving options including automatic withdrawals will be still available. Please call the church for more information.

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

Contact the church to learn more:
618.233.3303

StPaulUCC.org