



*Rejoice
Again!*

Sunday, December 15, 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 15, 2024 9:00 am

3rd Sunday of Advent

TODAY'S WORSHIP LEADERS

<i>Pastor</i>	Rev. Michelle Torigian
<i>Music Director</i>	Dr. Tristan Frampton
<i>Organist</i>	Cynthia Johnson
<i>Liturgist</i>	Dick Erdmann

WELCOME

PRELUDE

Pastoral Symphony, from Messiah
by George Frideric Handel

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

Pete Kobernus and Sherry Davinroy

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Have you heard the good news? A baby is to be born in Bethlehem, and his birth will bring joy to the world!

All: Jesus will be born to make all things new!

One: Have you heard the good news? God anointed Jesus to proclaim good news to the poor.

All: Jesus will proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind.

One: Jesus will set the oppressed free, and proclaim the year of the Lord's favor.

All: Let us worship with glad and joyful hearts—Jesus will be born soon

INVOCATION (Unison)

God of abundance and joy, like the shepherds who heard the angel's good news, we celebrate the good news of your Son's arrival. Fill us with uncontainable joy as we lift our voices in praise and gratitude. While we gather in spirit and truth, comfort the sorrowful places in our hearts, and help us mend the broken relationships. Let the deep joy of this third week of Advent nourish our souls today. Amen.

***OPENING HYMN** *Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn* (Pages 6 & 7)

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

God of abundant grace, in this season of Advent, we confess the times we've sought our own happiness or comfort at the expense of others. We have ignored others' needs and joys, overlooked the hungry, and forgotten true joy comes from sharing our abundance. We have forsaken the joy found in uplifting others and ensuring their needs are met. Help us turn away from self-centeredness and toward a life of compassion and generosity. Likewise, we confess the times we have neglected our own joy, treated ourselves unkindly, worked when we should have rested, abandoned the interests and hobbies we cherish, and served purposes that drag us down. Let the expectant joy of Advent inspire us to return to ways that bring us joy. May the world be fed with joy. Amen.

***ASSURANCE OF GRACE**

Hear the good news: God's joy is for all people, and God's forgiveness is for all who seek it. Because of God's great love for us, we are forgiven. Receive God's pardon and be at peace

***UCC STATEMENT OF FAITH (UNISON)**

We believe in you, O God, Eternal Spirit, God of our Savior Jesus Christ and our God, and to your deeds we testify:

You call the worlds into being, create persons in your own image, and set before each one the ways of life and death.

You seek in holy love to save all people from aimlessness and sin.

You judge people and nations by your righteous will declared through prophets and apostles.

In Jesus Christ, the man of Nazareth, our crucified and risen Savior, you have come to us and shared our common lot, conquering sin and death and reconciling the world to yourself.

You bestow upon us your Holy Spirit, creating and renewing the church of Jesus Christ, binding in covenant faithful people of all ages, tongues, and races.

You call us into your church to accept the cost and joy of discipleship, to be your servants in the service of others, to proclaim the gospel to all the world and resist the powers of evil, to share in Christ's baptism and eat at his table, to join him in his passion and victory.

You promise to all who trust you forgiveness of sins and fullness of grace, courage

in the struggle for justice and peace, your presence in trial and rejoicing, and eternal life in your realm which has no end.

Blessing and honor, glory and power be unto you. Amen.

ANTHEM *Soprano Recitatives, Nos. 14-16 and No. 17 Chorus " Glory to God"*
from *Messiah*, by G.F. Handel
Osceola Mueller, soloist

SCRIPTURE Philippians 4:4-7, Luke 19:1-10, Luke 2:20

SERMON Rejoicing Again! 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

Embracing radical joy transforms our spirits, creating a gentle energy within us. We are renewed, and we sense God's call more clearly. In seeking God's message, we know how to joyfully share our talents, treasures, and time, bringing more peace and comfort into our world.

COLLECTION OF THE GIFTS & OFFERTORY MUSIC

Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming
Es Ist Ein Ros', 16th Century Carol
Setting by Gregg Sewell

***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)**

**God of Holy Darkness and Returning Light,
We give of our full hearts, knowing that you will bless this world with love. We give of our full minds, knowing that you will bless this world with peace. We give of our full souls, knowing that you will bless this world with hope. May the joy of your gifts encourage us to share the best we have, creating your Realm here on earth. Amen.**

***CLOSING HYMN** *My Soul Proclaims with Wonder* (See pages 8)

***COMMISSIONING**

May Christ, the Bread of Life, in whom we find joy and strength for the journey, bring you cheer this week. May the love of our Creator, who calls us to care for the hungry and oppressed, surround you. And may the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, who empowers us to imagine a kin-dom where all needs are met, strengthen you, now and always. Go in hope, peace, and joy 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 *Resonet in Laudibus, 14th Century Carol*

“Let praises resound with joyous acclaim, Sion and their faithful”

Setting by E.A. Hovdesven



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160 Awake! Awake, and Greet the New Morn

G
Am7
G
C
D
D7

1 A - wake! a - wake, and greet the new morn, for
 2 To us, to all in sor - row and fear, Em -
 3 In dark - est night his com - ing shall be, when
 4 Re - joice, re - joice, take heart in the night, though

G
C
Am7
D7
G
Am7

an - gels her - ald its dawn - ing. Sing out your joy, for
 man - u - el comes a - sing - ing, his hum - ble song is
 all the world is de - spair - ing, as morn - ing light so
 dark - the win - ter and cheer - less, the ris - ing sun shall

G
C
D
G
Am7
D
C
G

soon he is born, be - hold! the Child of our long - ing.
 qui - et and near, yet fills the earth with its ring - ing;
 qui - et and free, so warm and gen - tle and car - ing.
 crown you with light, be strong and lov - ing and fear - less.

D G D Em Am D

Come as a ba - by weak and poor, to bring all hearts to -
 mu - sic to heal the bro - ken soul and hymns of lov - ing -
 Then shall the mute break forth in song, the lame shall leap in
 Love be our song and love our prayer and love our end - less

Em D7 G C B7 Em

geth - er, he o - pens wide the heaven - ly door and
 kind - ness, the thun - der of his an - thems roll to
 won - der, the weak be raised a - bove the strong, and
 sto - ry; may God fill ev - ery day we share and

Am7 D7 G Am7 G

lives now in - side us for ev - er.
 shat - ter all ha - tred and blind - ness.
 weap - ons be bro - ken a - sun - der.
 bring us at last in - to glo - ry.

My Soul Proclaims with Wonder 170

Refrain (Unison)

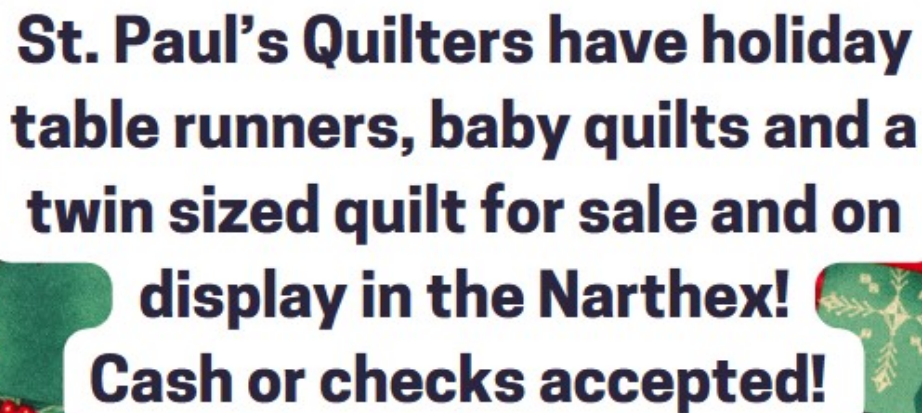
My soul pro-claims with won - der the great-ness of the Lord,

re - joic - ing in God's good - ness my spir - it is re - stored.


1 To me has God shown fa - vor, to one the world thought frail,
 2 God's mer - cy shields the faith - ful and saves them from de - feat,
 3 The might - y have been van-quished, the low - ly lift - ed up.
 4 To A - bra-ham's de - scend - ants, the Lord will stead - fast prove,

to Refrain

and ev - ery age will ech - o the an - gel's first "All hail!"
 with strength that turns to scat - ter the proud in their con - ceit.
 The hun - gry find a - bun - dance, the rich, an emp - ty cup.
 for God has made with Is - rael a cov - e - nant of love.



**St. Paul's Quilters have holiday
table runners, baby quilts and a
twin sized quilt for sale and on
display in the Narthex!
Cash or checks accepted!**



Blue Christmas
at
St. Paul United Church of Christ

December 17

7pm

in St. Paul UCC

Heritage Hall

115 West B Street, Belleville

StPaulUCC.org



IT'S TIME TO ORDER
POINSETTIA'S
IN HONOR/MEMORY OF YOUR LOVED ONES

COST IS \$12.00

EACH 6.5" POT COVERED WITH FOIL WILL HAVE
10 OR MORE BLOOMS. ORDER BY 12/15/24



YOU MAY ALSO PLACE A CHRISTMAS EVE MEMORIAL
WITHOUT THE POINSETTIA.

PLEASE MAIL OR DROP OFF YOUR MEMORIAL INFO
TO THE OFFICE. BY DECEMBER 15.

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IN HONOR/MEMORY OF:

BY: _____

OF POINSETTIAS: _____ MEMORIAL GIFT ONLY: Y OR N



ST. PAUL UCC

Holiday Worship Services

Blue Christmas

December 17th
7:00 pm in Heritage Hall

Advent Sunday

December 22nd
9:00 am

Christmas Eve

Tuesday, December 24th
4:30 pm and 7:00 pm

ST. PAUL UCC, 115 WEST B STREET, BELLEVILLE
STREAM AT STPAULUCC.ORG
ALL ARE WELCOME!



For Your Prayers

Lori Coleman
 Carol Hotz
 Marilyn Dinkelman
 Debbie McIntyre, daughter of
 Arline Worms
 Tim Ritter
 Betty Rieso
 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
 Jeff Lutz, brother in law of
 Debbie Lippert
 Sue Sutherland
 Norma Franke
 Richard Gentry, brother of
 Scott Gentry
 Jack Snyder
 Sam Sivewright



**Please call the church for prayer requests:
 618-233-3303 [stpaulucc.org](https://www.stpaulucc.org)**



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



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St Paul UCC, Belleville, IL

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**THE WOMEN'S GUILD IS
 COLLECTING PAPER
 GROCERY BAGS FOR NEXT
 YEAR'S RUMMAGE SALES.
 PLEASE PLACE THEM ON
 THE SHELF IN THE
 HALLWAY BY
 HERITAGE HALL**

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<u>Weekly Attendance - 9AM Service</u>	
December 1, 2024	82 + Online Participants
December 3, 2023	96 + Online Participants

Weekly Offerings	12/7/2024
Operating	\$ 8,874.00
Building Fund	\$ 75.00
	\$ 8,949.00
Giving YTD	\$319,544.61
Weekly Budget	\$ 7,638.47
Budget to Date	\$ 374,285.03
Total Budget	\$ 397,200.29



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

[StPaulUCC.org](https://www.stpaulucc.org)

Contact the church to learn more:
 618.233.3303

