



SAINT PAUL

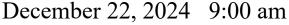
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

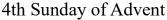
"No matter who you are, No matter where you are on life's journey, You are welcome here."



Welcome to Worship

at St. Paul UCC







TODAY'S WORSHIP LEADERS	
Pastor	Rev. Michelle Torigian
Music Director	Dr. Tristan Frampton
	Cynthia Johnson

WELCOME Pastor Michelle

PRELUDE

Angel Tidings arr. Cynthia Dobrinski Glory Ringers

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

Carly Dahm

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Love deeply, creating the wells of kinship, Many: For in the Body of Christ we belong.

One: Love boldly, like the spirited colors of a rainbow,

Many: For in the Body of Christ we find peace. One: Love joyfully, like the blissful songs in the wind,

Many: For in the Body of Christ we claim our connections.

INVOCATION

Holy Tapestry of Bliss,

The patches of memories are stitched together as we tell our stories with you, Loving God. We cherish the individual pieces of our diverse stories and the beauty of narratives sewed together. We honor the ways these Holy Threads have connected us. May the creation from our connections be like a quilt to our souls, keeping us warm in this season of reflection. Amen.



*PRAYER OF REFLECTION AND RECONCILIATION

Divine Light and Love,

We have been weighed down by the heaviness of the season, the sorrows carried from the past, and the expectations of the present and future. We hide in shadows instead of the light. We embrace individualism instead of basking in the joy of community love. Create a new path in our hearts so that we can find levity and grace. Reconnect us with the Body of Christ instead of the distressing comfort of spiritual solitude. Amen.

*ASSURANCE OF GRACE

The grace of God infinitely streams into our lives, drawing us from the shadows into the light, and reconnecting us again with our neighbors. May the mercy of our Creator help us rediscover the Spirit of Joy in our midst.

ANTHEM

Mary, Did You Know? arr. Jack Schrader Sanctuary Choir & Jillian Ritter, soloist

SCRIPTURE

Luke 2:1-20, Luke 2:25-35, Matthew 9:25-37

SERMON

Love

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.

SPECIAL MUSIC

Have a Holly Jolly Christmas

Jack Wilson

THE CHRISTMAS FUND: VETERANS OF THE CROSS

REFLECTION ON GIVING

We reconnect in this space and time to seek God's call for our lives and our congregations. As part of our spiritual journeys, we share our treasures, time, and talents, bringing God's light into our world. We do not give to impress God or share offerings because of our shame. Instead, we bring our offerings to celebrate the Body of Christ.

COLLECTION OF THE GIFTS & OFFERTORY MUSIC

Patapan arr. Martha Lynn Thompson Glory Ringers

*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 All Joy, Holy Hope,

We delight in living in your ways as we create your Realm here on earth. These offerings of talents, treasures, and time are not to appease you but to collaborate with you. As co-creators, we seek your intentions and celebrate your love for us and our neighbors. Amen.

*CLOSING HYMN

Joy to the World

(See page 7)

*COMMISSIONING

God of All Joy, Holy Hope,

We delight in living in your ways as we create your Realm here on earth. These offerings of talents, treasures, and time are not to appease you but to collaborate with you. As co-creators, we seek your intentions and celebrate your love for us and our neighbors. Amen.

*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

Vom Himmel Hoch Da Komm' Ich Her "From Heaven on High to Earth I Come" by Martin Luther (1534); setting by Johann Pachelbel

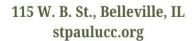
C.M.Repeats

MUSIC: George Frideric Handel (1685-1759); arr. Lowell Mason (1792-1872)



Christmas Eve Services December 24 4:30 & 7:00 p.m.

We can't wait to see you!





Thank you to our Youth and Young Adult participants: Carly Dahm, Colette Smith, Nathan Smith, Jillian Ritter, Avery White, Jack Wilson



For Your Pravers

Lori Coleman Carol Hotz

Marilyn Dinkelmann

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

Venita Jane Rogers



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

Weekly Attendance - 9AM Service

December 8, 2024 95 + Online Participants December 10, 2023 122 + Online Participants

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

Weekly Offerings 12/14/2024 Operating ** 27,575,75 **Building Fund** 125.00 27,700.75 Giving YTD \$347,255.36 ** Large donations > \$5,000

Weekly Budget 7.638.47

Budget to Date \$ 381,923.50

Total Budget \$ 397,200,29

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

> Contact the church to learn more: 618.233.3303



























