



Hope ❄️ Peace ❄️ Joy
Love



Sunday, December 22, 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 22, 2024 9:00 am

4th 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>	Mimi Llamas & St. Paul Youth

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.

The King of Glory Comes

159

Refrain (Unison)

Em Bm7 Em Bm7 Em

The King of glo - ry comes, the na - tion re - joic - es,

1-4 Final ending

Em Bm7 Em Bm7 Em Em

O - pen the gates be - fore him, lift up your voic - es. voic - es.

sffz

Verses

G Am7 G/B C D7 Am/C G/B G

1 - Who is the King of glo - ry: what shall we call him?
 2 In all of Gal - i - lee, in cit - y or vil - lage,
 3 He gave his life for us, the pledge of sal - va - tion,
 4 He con - quered sin and death; he tru - ly has ris - en,

Em D Cmaj7 G/B Cmaj7 D G

to Refrain
B7+5

He is Em - man - u - el, the prom - ised of a - ges.
 he goes a - mong his peo - ple, cur - ing their ill - ness.
 he took up - on him - self the sins of the na - tion.
 and he will share with us his heav - en - ly vi - sion.

WORDS: Willard F. Jabusch (1930-)
 MUSIC: Israeli folk song; arr. John Ferguson (1941-)
 Words © 1966, 1992 Willard F. Jabusch (Adren, OCLP Publications)

PROMISED ONE
 12.12.Ref.

***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

Joy to the World!

D Em G D A7 D D F# G A

1 Joy to the world! the Lord is come; let earth re - ceive her
 2 Joy to the earth! the Sav - ior reigns; let all their songs em -
 3 No more let sins and sor - rows grow, nor thorns in - fest the
 4 He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the na - tions

D G D D G D D

King; let ev - ery heart pre - pare him room,
 ploy; while fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains
 ground; he comes to make his bless - ings flow
 prove the glo - ries of his right - eous - ness,

D A

and heaven and na - ture sing, and heaven and na - ture
 re - peat the sound - ing joy, re - peat the sound - ing
 far as the curse is found, far as the curse is
 and won - ders of his love, and won - ders of his
 (1) and heaven and na - ture sing,

A7 D G D D Em G D A A7 D

sing, and heaven, and heaven and na - ture sing.
 joy, re - peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.
 found, far as, far as the curse is found.
 love, and won - ders, won - ders of his love.
 heaven and na - ture sing,



Please join us in person or online for St. Paul UCC's

Christmas Eve Services

December 24

4:30 & 7:00 p.m.

We can't wait to see you!



115 W. B. St., Belleville, IL
stpaulucc.org



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



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
 Venita Jane Rogers



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

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

Weekly Attendance - 9AM Service

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

Weekly Offerings	12/14/2024
Operating **	\$ 27,575.75
Building Fund	\$ 125.00
	<u>\$ 27,700.75</u>
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!

StPaulUCC.org

Contact the church to learn more:
 618.233.3303

