



First Sunday After Christmas

It's time to dive into resolutions,
setting goals that inspire
hope and determination.

Sunday, December 29, 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 29, 2024 9:00 am

1st Sunday after Christmas

WORSHIP LEADERS

<i>Senior Pastor</i>	Rev. Michelle Torigian
<i>Music Director</i>	Dr. Tristan Frampton
<i>Organist</i>	Cynthia Johnson
<i>Liturgist</i>	Fred Hotz

Thank you to our supply preacher Chance Beeler for leading worship today!

WELCOME

PRELUDE

The First Noel
Setting by Hugo Gehrke

CALL TO WORSHIP (inspired by Psalm 148:1-6)

One: Hallelujah!

Praise the LORD from the heavens, and in the high places; all you great cloud of witnesses, praise the LORD.

Many: Sun and moon, and star strewn cosmos; edges of the universe, and echoes of creation, praise the LORD!

One: Praise the name of the LORD, who commanded and they were created;

Many: who set them in place for ever and ever; who gave them order which will never fade away.

~ written by Jeff Shrowder, and posted on **The Billabong.ack** <http://thebillabong.info/> For use in worship, with knowledge. © Jeff Shrowder 2000, 2012.

INVOCATION (UNISON)

Lord of Love and Light, shine through our darkness, bringing us hope. Open our hearts for the journey, our eyes for the light, our spirits for the peace which you bring. Fill our mouths with laughter and speech with shouts of joy that we shall reveal the love with which you surround us. Amen

*OPENING HYMN

190 Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming

F B♭ F C Dm B♭ F $\frac{C}{E}$ $\frac{Gm}{D}$ Dm Csus C F

1 Lo, how a Rose e'er bloom-ing from ten-der stem hath sprung,
 2 I - sa - iah 'twas fore - told it, the Rose I have in mind;
 3 This flower, whose fra-grance ten - der with sweet-ness fills the air,

F B♭ F C Dm B♭ F $\frac{C}{E}$ $\frac{Gm}{D}$ Dm Csus C F

of Jes - se's lin - eage com - ing as saints of old have sung.
 with Mar - y we be - hold it, the vir - gin moth - er kind.
 dis - pels with glo - rious splen - dor the dark-ness ev - ery - where.

F Gm Am F G C $\frac{C}{E}$ F B♭ F

It came, a flower - et bright, a - mid the cold of
 To show God's love a - right she bore to us a
 True man yet ver - y God, from sin and death he

C D Gm $\frac{E}{A}$ $\frac{Gm}{B♭}$ $\frac{Am7}{C}$ $\frac{F}{C}$ Csus C F

win - ter, when half - spent was the night.
 Sav - ior, when half - spent was the night.
 saves us and light - ens ev - ery load.

WORDS: German, 16th c.; tr. Theodore Baker (1851-1934);
 tr. vs. 3, Harriet Krauth Spaeth (1845-1925)

MUSIC: Alte Catholische Geistliche Kirchengesäng, 1599; arr. Michael Praetorius (1571-1621)

ES IST EIN ROS'
 7.6.7.6.6.7.6.

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

O God, we long to rest in you, to trust in your goodness, in your care for us, in your abundant life. But we don't know how to rest. And we have forgotten how to trust:

We seek material goods that we don't really need. We befriend people not always out of love.

We ask questions of you like the Sadducees did of Jesus, questions that try only to prove our point, not to grow in understanding of your desires for us. Slow us down, Holy One. Attend to us, Holy One, And show us that you are our salvation and our resting place. Amen

***ASSURANCE OF GRACE**

God is God of the living. The Holy One will make a place for you that is full of life and love, forgiveness and humility, kindness and justice. Your belonging to God is your salvation. You may rest in that truth.

SPECIAL MUSIC

Holy Night Medley
arr. Christine Anderson
Mary Lu Bretsch, soloist
Janie Bloomer, piano

SCRIPTURE

Luke 2:41-52

SERMON

Searching

Chance Beeler

PASTORAL PRAYER AND LORD'S PRAYER (New Zealand Version)

Eternal Spirit,
Earth-maker, Pain-bearer, Life-giver,
Source of all that is and that shall be,
Father and Mother of us all,
Loving God, in whom is Heaven:
The hallowing of your name echo through the universe!
The way of your justice be followed by the peoples of the world!
Your Heavenly will be done by all created beings!
Your commonwealth of peace and freedom sustain our hope and come on Earth.

With the bread we need for today, feed us.
In the hurts we absorb from one another, forgive us.
In times of temptation and testing, strengthen us.
From trials too great to endure, spare us.
From the grip of all that is evil, free us.

For you reign in the glory of the power that is love, now and forever.

Amen.

REFLECTION ON GIVING

The generous life rests on gratitude and trust in God's abundance. As we give, we acknowledge that we have communally received more than enough to meet our collective needs. Our offerings serve to realize the reign of God's realm on the earth.

COLLECTION OF THE GIFTS & OFFERTORY MUSIC

Come with Me to Bethlehem

by John Carter

Tristan Frampton, soloist

***DOXOLOGY** (Tune: *Old Hundreth*)

**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, cultivate and nurture gratitude and trust in us. May our gifts be used for the benefit of your Realm and all creation in your name. Amen.



**Happy 107th Birthday
to Vera Juenger on 12/31!**



***CLOSING HYMN**

In the Bleak Midwinter

(See next page)

***BLESSING**

May God, who comes to us in the things of this world, bless your eyes and be in your seeing.

May Christ, who looks upon you with deepest love, bless your eyes and widen your gaze.

May the Spirit, who perceives what is and what may yet be, bless your eyes and sharpen your vision.

May the Sacred Three bless your eyes and cause you to see.

~ from *In the Sanctuary of Women*, copyright © Jan L. Richardson. Posted on the painted prayerbook. <http://paintedprayerbook.com/>

POSTLUDE

In Dulci Jubilo (“In sweet rejoicing”)

Traditional German Carol

Setting by Johann Michael Bach



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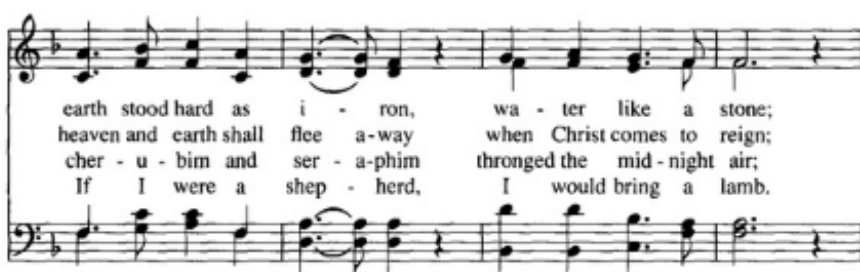
In the Bleak Midwinter

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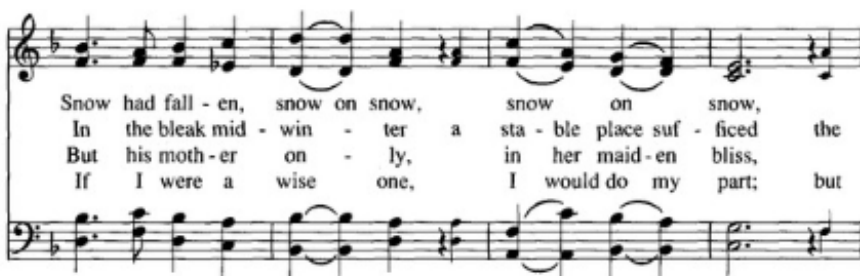
Christina G. Rossetti, 1872; alt.



1 In the bleak mid - win - ter, frost - y wind made moan,
 2 Our God tran-scends all heav - en, earth, and its do - main;
 3 An - gels and arch - an - gels may have gath - ered there,
 4 What can I of - fer, poor as I am?



earth stood hard as i - ron, wa - ter like a stone;
 heaven and earth shall flee a-way when Christ comes to reign;
 cher - u - bim and ser - a-phim thronged the mid - night air;
 If I were a shep - herd, I would bring a lamb.



Snow had fall - en, snow on snow, snow on snow,
 In the bleak mid - win - ter a sta - ble place suf - ficed the
 But his moth - er on - ly, in her maid - en bliss,
 If I were a wise one, I would do my part; but



in the bleak mid - win - ter, long a - go.
 sov - ereign God al - might - y, Je - sus Christ.
 wor - shipped the be - lov - ed with a kiss.
 what I can I of - fer: all my heart.

Christina Rossetti has portrayed the Christmas story, not in warm Bethlehem, but in the winter of her native England. Rossetti was an accomplished writer of poetry and prose, noted for her deep spirituality.

Tune: CRANHAM 1rr.
 Gustav Hobt, 1906

For Your Prayers

Lori Coleman
Carol Hotz
Marilyn Dinkelman
Debbie McIntyre, daughter of
Arline Worms
Tim Ritter
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 Rogers
The loved ones of Betty Rieso

**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



Weekly Attendance - 9AM Service

December 15, 2024 115 + Online Participants

December 17, 2023 115 + Online Participants

Weekly Offerings 12/21/2024

Operating ** \$ 16,780.00

Building Fund \$ 1,175.00

\$ 17,955.00

Giving YTD \$365,210.36

**** Large donations > \$5,000**

Weekly Budget \$ 7,638.47

Budget to Date \$ 389,561.97

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

StPaulUCC.org