



Sunday, December 8, 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 8, 2024 9:00 am

2nd 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>	Lynda Marshall
<i>Liturgist</i>	Lou Ryseff

WELCOME

PRELUDE

Shall We Gather at the River
Robert Lowry, arr. Patti Drennan

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

Lynn & Luci Bradley

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: As we begin this second week of Advent, we are focused on peace.

All: May we remember what the angel said, "Be not afraid, Glory to God in the highest!"

One: Born to bring peace, the Spirit of Christ says, "Peace to this house."

All: Born to bring peace, the Spirit of Christ says, "Blessed are the peacemakers."

One: In this season of long nights and expectant hearts, how do we find this peace?

All: Peace happens when we treat each other, ourselves, and the world kindly.

One: Peace emerges when the work of justice is done, when all are free to be who God made us to be.

All: Let us worship in a spirit of peace, proclaiming the coming of the Prince of Peace!

INVOCATION (Unison)

God of starry skies, into your peaceful presence we bring our whole selves: anxieties, concerns, distractions, projects, dreams, and disorders. We know that in this unjust and chaotic world, peace is difficult to find and maintain, but we hunger for peace today. Reveal the ways we have blocked or prevented your peace within us and our communities. Expand our capacity for peace as we remember the manger, where peace first began to grow. Help us reimagine systems that would make space for more peace. May the peace of Christ sustain us in worship today. Amen.

*OPENING HYMN

153 Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

F C F Gm C7 F C Dm C E A C7 F E A Gm Dm C F

1 Come, thou long - ex - pect-ed Je - sus, born to set thy peo-ple free;
2 Born thy peo - ple to de - liv - er, born a child and yet a king,

F C F Gm C7 F C Dm C E A C7 F E A Gm Dm C F

from our fears and sins re - lease us; let us find our rest in thee.
born to reign in us for - ev - er, now thy gra - cious king-dom bring.

Am Dm Gm7 C7 Dm7 C7 F E Dm E G# Gm Bbmaj7 Csus C

Is - rael's strength and con - so - la - tion, hope of all the earth thou art;
By thine own e - ter - nal Spir - it rule in all our hearts a - lone;

E F6 Gm C7 F E Bm7(b5) C7 Bb C7 F E7 A Bb E A Bb E C7 F

dear De - sire of ev - ery na - tion, Joy of ev - ery long-ing heart.
by thine all - suf - fi - cient mer - it raise us to thy glo - rious throne.

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

Holy God, you created us to be at peace with each other and creation, but we confess we have disrupted your good peace. We have not allowed your peace to nourish us when we disconnect ourselves from our own suffering, shunning the healthy disciplines, relationships, and therapies that would bring us internal peace. We have not allowed your peace to nourish us when we choose to hold petty grudges for small grievances, allowing friendships to slip into cold conflict. We have not allowed your peace to nourish us when we cling to relationships and situations we know to bring discord, afraid to leave the familiar for the unknown. In your mercy, help us let go of these unhealthy behaviors and move forward in faith, trusting peace will be our reward. May the world be fed with peace. Amen.

***ASSURANCE OF GRACE**

Hear the good news proclaimed by the angels: “Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those whom God favors.” God is a Loving Parent with endless compassion, desiring all people to flourish. Even when conflict and anxiety abound and peace seems elusive, God’s love remains steadfast. Receive God’s pardon and be at peace.

ANTHEM

Listen Here, Listen Here
by Jay Althouse
Sanctuary Choir

SCRIPTURE

John 14:25-27, Luke 10:1-6, Luke 2:14

SERMON

Where There Is Peace

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

As we share in God’s grace, we seek ways to share our gratitude with God and our neighbors. Through prayer and pondering, we discover new ways to give our offerings of talents, treasures, and time with a joyful spirit.

COLLECTION OF THE GIFTS & OFFERTORY MUSIC

It Came Upon a Midnight Clear
Richard S. Willis

***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)**

Loving God, these gifts and offerings are a reflection of our commitment to Christ's peace. May they provide sustenance to those in need and extend your love and justice throughout the world. Bless the generosity of this community, prompting us to compassionately share in building a world where the hungry are filled. Amen.

***CLOSING HYMN**

Let There Be Peace on Earth

(See pages 6 & 7)

***COMMISSIONING**

May Christ, the Bread of Life, who is the Prince of Peace in a hostile world, bring peace to your hearts and minds. 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 and peace 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

Go Tell It On the Mountain
Spiritual

**Please join us
immediately following
today's service for our
2025 Budget and
Nomination
Congregational Meeting.**



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

614 Let There Be Peace on Earth

Let there be peace on earth, and let it be - gin with me;

let there be peace on earth, the peace that was meant to be.

The musical score is written in 3/4 time. The first system consists of a vocal line in treble clef and a piano accompaniment in bass clef. The second system also consists of a vocal line in treble clef and a piano accompaniment in bass clef. The lyrics are placed below the vocal lines.

WORDS: Sy Miller (1908-1971) and Jill Jackson (1913-1995), alt.
MUSIC: Sy Miller (1908-1971) and Jill Jackson (1913-1995); harm. Charles H. Webb (1933-) Continued on next page

**Today's altar flowers are by
Ruth Ann & Dick Erdmann
in honor of
their 22nd Anniversary on 12/14!**

The banner features a light green background with small heart patterns. It is decorated with holly leaves and red berries on the left and right sides.

**Today's music is sponsored by
Ruth Ann & Dick Erdmann
in memory of Merlin "Bud" Erdmann 12-7-18**

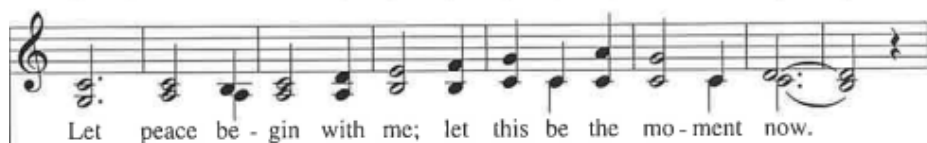
The banner has a background of scattered musical notes and clefs. The text is centered in a white box with a grey border.



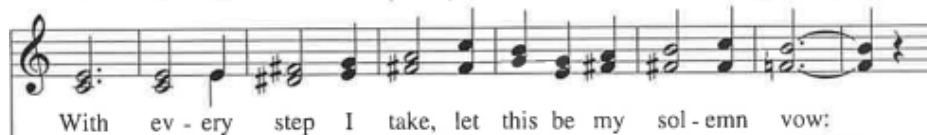
With God our cre - a - tor, chil - dren all are we.



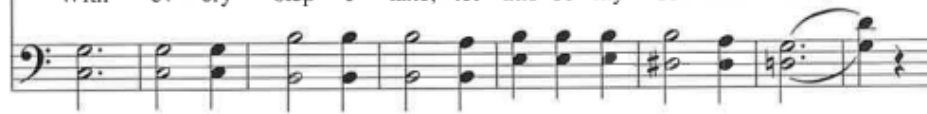
Let us walk with each oth - er in per - fect har - mo - ny.



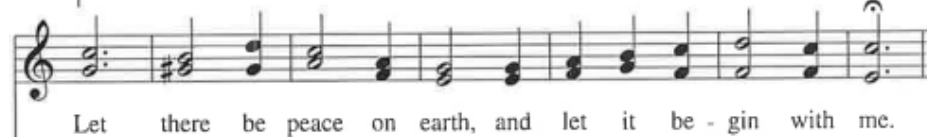
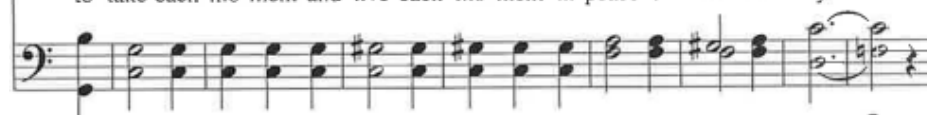
Let peace be - gin with me; let this be the mo - ment now.



With ev - ery step I take, let this be my sol - emn vow:



to take each mo - ment and live each mo - ment in peace e - ter - nal - ly.



Let there be peace on earth, and let it be - gin with me.



For Your Prayers

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

Karen Keuss
 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



**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

**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!**

Weekly Attendance - 9AM Service

November 24, 2024	97 + Online Participants
November 26, 2023	78 + Online Participants

Weekly Offerings	11/30/2024
Operating	\$ 2,186.60
Building Fund	\$ -
	\$ 2,186.60
Giving YTD	\$310,595.61
Weekly Budget	\$ 7,638.47
Budget to Date	\$ 366,646.56
Total Budget	\$ 397,200.29

Star Tree

Please bring your
 wrapped gifts
 to the church by
 Sunday, Dec. 15th.
 Thank you!

**St. Paul Friends
 Christmas Party**

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 13 BEGINNING
 AT 6:30 P.M. IN HERITAGE HALL.