

# The Prophet Speaks



**Sunday, February 2, 2025**

“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

February 2, 2025 9:00 am

4th Sunday after Epiphany

## 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> .....	Donna Davis

## WELCOME

## PRELUDE

*Priere ("Prayer")*  
by Alexandre Guilmant

## CALL TO WORSHIP

One: The Spirit of God has called us to this place and time.

**Many: We gather to hear God's liberating word of love.**

One: Today, past and future meet in the holiness of now.

**Many: May the Spirit of God at work in Jesus, also work in us.**

One: May the vision of flourishing for all be imprinted on our hearts.

**Many: And may it be enacted in our lives!**

## INVOCATION (Unison)

**Gracious God, anoint us anew with your Holy Spirit of Love. By it, form our hearts, minds, and lives into channels of your good news. Grant us a renewed passion for your vision of a world where none are poor and where every weight is lifted. Cultivate your courageous compassion in us to move toward any who have been marginalized or run over by the world. Yes, bless and strengthen us to bless and strengthen others. We pray this in the name of the one whose life fulfilled your Holy Vision, Jesus the Christ. Amen.**

Information about today's service: All St. Paul United Church of Christ services may be recorded and/or streamed. Music is used with permission through Onelicense.net License #A-715913, CCLI #1795791, St. James Press License #17755, or public domain. Liturgy written by Rev. Dr. David Long-Higgins for the UCC Worship Ways. Reflection on Giving and Communion Liturgy written by Rev. Michhelle L. Torigian. Benediction and Installation from the UCC Book of Worship.

\*OPENING HYMN

615

Community of Christ

N.C.  $\frac{Em}{G}$  B Em  $\frac{Am}{C}$  B Em  $\frac{Am}{C}$   $\frac{G}{B}$  Am7 D G

1 Com - mu - ni - ty of Christ, who make the cross your own,  
 2 Com - mu - ni - ty of Christ, look past the church - 's door  
 3 Com - mu - ni - ty of Christ, through whom the word must sound—  
 4 When men - ace melts a - way, so shall God's will be done,

D  $\frac{G}{B}$   $\frac{F\#dim}{A}$  G C  $\frac{G}{B}$  D7 Em Am7  $\frac{G}{D}$  D G

live out your creed and risk your life for God a - lone:  
 and see the ref - u - gee, the hun - gry, and the poor.  
 cry out for jus - tice and for peace the whole world round:  
 the cli - mate of the world be peace and Christ its sun;

G  $\frac{G}{B}$  C#m7(b5) D  $\frac{G}{B}$  C G Am7 Bsus B

the God who wears your face, to whom all worlds be - long,  
 Take hands with the op - pressed, the job - less in your street,  
 dis - arm the powers that war and all that can de - stroy,  
 our cur - ren - cy be love and kind - li - ness our law,

B  $\frac{Em}{G}$  B Em D G  $\frac{Am7}{C}$  Am  $\frac{Em}{G}$   $\frac{Em}{B}$  B Em

whose chil - dren are of ev - ery race and ev - ery song.  
 take towel and wa - ter, that you wash your neigh - bor's feet.  
 turn bombs to bread, and tears of an - guish in - to joy.  
 our food and faith be shared as one for ev - er - more.

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

**Holy God, Divine Love that will not let us go, interrupt our familiar inertias leading down paths of distraction and discouragement. Let today's Sabbath pause gift a freeing grace impossible to imagine on our own. By your abundant outpouring of Spirit lighten every burden carried from yesterday's past. Cleanse the lens of our hearts, that we may see more clearly your vision of a world made new. Forgive us and free us for this delight you yearn to offer, in and through Jesus Christ. Amen.**

### **\*ASSURANCE OF GRACE**

Beloved of God, hear the good news: In Christ, God has declared that you are no longer captives to the past. All that you have carried, the Holy One has lifted. The eternal love of God, made known in Jesus Christ, has anointed you anew. You are forgiven and invited to join in the joy of God's great vision for your life. Thanks be to God who has fulfilled this in your hearing. Amen!

### **ANTHEM**

*God Is My Rock, by Allen Pote*  
Sanctuary Choir  
Tom Birkner, trumpet

### **SCRIPTURE**

Luke 4:14-30

### **SERMON**

The Prophet Speaks!

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**

At work in life is a holy generosity that begins and ends in God. This "yes" of God is the source of everlasting joy. Now, we are invited to this enduring delight. May our hearts and minds be opened anew as we bring our gifts to God with thanksgiving and praise.

*Please place offerings as you exit the sanctuary in the wooden boxes. Thank you!*

**\*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)**

**We thank you, God, for loving us into the freedom of a generous life. Bless these gifts we bring in response to the blessing you have already given us with the gift of life. Form our lives anew into living offerings, sharing Your love with a grace that frees others. Amen.**

## **CELEBRATION OF HOLY COMMUNION**

### **Sentences of Invitation**

One: May you know that the God of comfort is with you.

**Many: And may you see the God of hope with you.**

One: Open wide our anxious hearts!

**Many: We open them to God's peace.**

One: Let us give thanks and share our joy.

**Many: In this space and time, we offer God our love and praise.**

### **Communion Prayer and Words of Remembrance**

### **COMMUNION MUSIC**

*Lord of All Hopefulness*

Hymn Tune: Slane

Setting by Lloyd Larson

### **Distribution of the Elements**

*All are welcome at the Table of Christ! Ushers will release the pews to come forward. Gluten free communion will be in the basket on the table. If you would like white grape juice or wine please take a cup. Bread will be served in your cupped hand, then select grape juice (white juice) in outer ring, wine (red) in inner two rings. Consume the elements and place cup in tray before returning to the pew. If you need service in the pew, please raise your hand.*



## Prayer of Thanksgiving (unison)

For the nourishment of spirit, mind, and body, for hope that we begin to see, and for comfort from the Prince of Peace, we share our gratitude, Gracious God. Encourage us in these shortened days. Through the long nights of this season, may your hope carry us until dawn arrives again. Amen.

\*CLOSING HYMN      *I Have Decided to Follow Jesus*      (See page 7)

## \*COMMISSIONING

May the same Spirit that anointed Jesus, anoint you anew.

May the same grace at work in Jesus, be active in you.

May the good news declared by Jesus, be proclaimed by you in word and deed.

And may the world know that the year of the God's favor is at hand.

Thanks be to God! Amen and Amen!

## \*BENEDICTION

May God bless you and keep you.

May God's face shine upon you and be gracious to you.

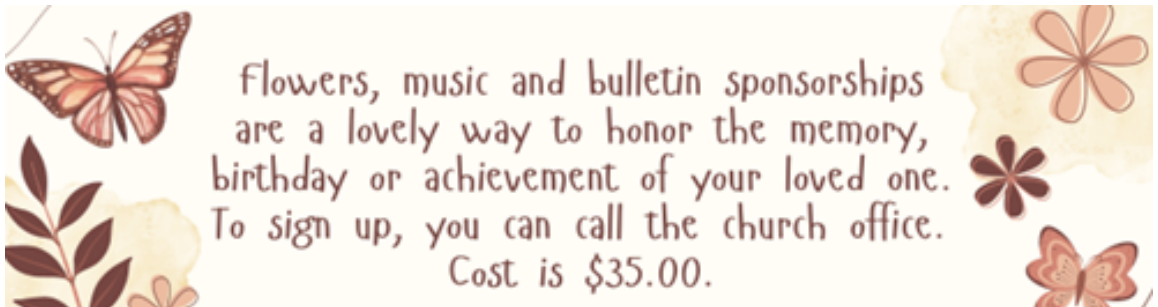
May God look upon you with kindness and give you peace. Amen!

## POSTLUDE

*Solemn Postlude*

by Georg Friedrich Handel

Setting by Van Denman Thompson



**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



*Unison* C C<sup>7</sup>

1 I have de-cid-ed to fol-low Je-sus, I have de-  
 2 The world be-hind me, the cross be-fore me, the world be-  
 3 Though none go with me, I still will fol-low, though none go  
 4 Will you de-cide now to fol-low Je-sus? Will you de-

cid-ed to fol-low Je-sus, I have de-cid-ed to fol-low  
 hind me, the cross be-fore me, the world be-hind me, the cross be-  
 with me, I still will fol-low, though none go with me, I still will  
 cide now to fol-low Je-sus? Will you de-cide now to fol-low

Je - sus— no turn-ing back, no turn-ing back.  
 fore me— no turn-ing back, no turn-ing back.  
 fol - low— no turn-ing back, no turn-ing back.  
 Je - sus?— no turn-ing back, no turn-ing back.

Worship and Rejoice 344

WORDS: Anonymous

MUSIC (ASSAM 10.10.10.8.) Indian folk tune

# 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  
 Sue Sutherland  
 Audrey Krummrich  
 Ralph Eckart, brother in-law of  
 Marlene Mueller  
 James Whitmarsh, nephew of  
 Jan Friedrich

Mike Llamas, brother in law of  
 Mimi Llamas  
 Norma Franke  
 Jennifer Wick, daughter of  
 Stephenie Bauza  
 Jack Snyder  
 Venita Jane Rogers  
 Dorothy Maiworm  
 Lynn Bradley

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



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



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*St Paul UCC, Belleville, IL*



## SOUPER-BOWL OF CARING

Bring in your non-perishable food items  
 on Sundays in February!  
 February 2, 9, 16 & 23  
 for the Community Interfaith Food Pantry.

CANNED ITEMS NEEDED (preferably pull tops):  
 Tuna, chicken, ravioli, SpaghettiOs,  
 chili with beans, chunky soups!

Boxes are marked in the Welcome Center to  
 cheer on your favorite team with your donations.  
 Thank you for participating!

Weekly Attendance - 9AM Service	
January 19, 2025	86 + Online Participants
January 21, 2024	45 + Online Participants

Weekly Offerings	1/25/2025
Operating	\$ 3,086.25
Building Fund	\$ 240.00
	<u>\$ 3,326.25</u>
<i>Giving YTD</i>	<i>\$ 18,861.25</i>
Weekly Budget	\$ 6,942.65
Budget to Date	\$ 20,827.96
Total Budget	\$ 361,017.89

