

The Light Reveals!



Celebrating Epiphany

Sunday, January 12, 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

January 12, 2025 9:00 am

1st 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>	Dick Erdmann

WELCOME

PRELUDE

What Child Is This?

Hymn Tune: Greensleeves (English Folk Tune)

Setting by Patricia Lou Harris

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: The light shines in dimness

Many: And dimness did not overtake the light.

One: The light shines in each space.

Many: No gloom, no despair will overtake it.

One: The light shines in our souls.

Many: The shadows of life did not shade Divine light.

One: We celebrate the light of Christ

Many: A steadfast presence from the beginning

Which will shine through the end of time.

INVOCATION (Unison)

Holy Lamplighter, as night prematurely encroaches upon us each day, may your illumination brighten our souls. As we wait for dawn's first glimmer, may the warmth you carry radiate across this community. Kindle our hearts made cold by the world's frostiness, and brighten the road ahead as we ponder what is most important in our lives. 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 Illustrated Ministry's *From the Manger* program. Reflection on Giving and Communion Liturgy written by Rev. Miexhelle L. Torigian. Benediction and Installation from the UCC Book of Worship.

*OPENING HYMN

We Three Kings of Orient Are 233

Em B7 Em B7 Em

1 We three kings of O - ri - ent are, bear - ing gifts we trav - erse a - far,
 2 Born a king on Beth - le - hem's plain, gold I bring to crown him a - gain,
 3 Frank - in - cense to of - fer have I, in - cense owns a de - i - ty night;
 4 Myrrh is mine; its bit - ter per - fume breathes a life of gath - er - ing gloom;
 5 Glo - rious now be - hold him a - rise, King and God and Sac - ri - fice;

Em D G G D7 G Am Am Em B7 Em

field and foun - tain, moor and moun - tain, fol - low - ing yon - der star.
 King for - ev - er, ceas - ing nev - er o - ver us all to reign.
 prayer and prais - ing, voic - es rais - ing, wor - ship - ing God on high.
 sor - rowing, sigh - ing, bleed - ing, dy - ing, sealed in the stone - cold tomb.
 Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! sounds through the earth and skies.

Refrain
 D D7 G Em C G Em C G

O star of won - der, star of night, star with roy - al beau - ty bright,

Em D G C G Dsus Bm D G Em C G

west - ward lead - ing, still pro - ceed - ing, guide us to thy per - fect light.

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

One: Spirit of God, we have blocked your light and love from our neighbors. We have barricaded the Divine glow which enlightens and empowers all of us. We have turned our backs on the gleam of your wisdom, God.

All: Yet no matter how far we flee, your light still flows near. You will never hide your light from us. Encourage us to open doors and shutters to your brilliance so that your illumination will reach our souls. May this enlightenment bring us closer to your intentions for this earth. Amen.

***ASSURANCE OF GRACE**

One: God's warmth melts our hardened hearts. God's brilliance lights the path on which we will start again. May we embrace God's luminosity as we start on this new year journey. Amen!

INSTALLATION OF NEW OFFICERS & COUNCIL MEMBERS AND STATEMENT OF FAITH *(see insert)*

ANTHEM

Beautiful Star of Bethlehem
arr. Keith Christopher
Sanctuary Choir

SCRIPTURE

Isaiah 60:1-6 and Matthew 2:1-2

SERMON

The Light Reveals

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 seek the presence of God in our lives, we will begin to sense how God is calling us to use our gifts to build our church, our community, and our world. It is a privilege to share what we have been given to love and light this earth.

***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)**

Divine Lamplighter, in gratitude, we share our treasures, our talents, and our time with this congregation. We humbly ask that you illuminate our minds and hearts as we use all our resources to craft a just world for all. 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

Of the Father's Love Begotten

Hymn Tune: *Divinum Mysterium* (11th Century Chant)

Setting by Mark Hayes

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** *Jesus, Oh What A Wonderful Child* (Sing 2x - See page 7)

*COMMISSIONING

One: As we travel dim streets during this new year, God,
Be our Divine Lamplighter. May your light shine on the road ahead of us.
May the warmth from your flame melt the frost covering our hearts.
May our souls come alive at the sight of your brilliance.
And may your light draw us closer to our neighbors as we begin this season together.
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

How Brightly Shines the Morning Star
Hymn Tune: Wie schön leuchtet (16th Century Chorale)

Starting Tuesday, January 14th @ 10am - St. Paul UCC Genesis Room - 115 W. B. St.

Seekers Bible Study - Pick a Psalm January 2025

Seekers are asked to pick a Psalm, except the 23rd. Bring your Bible.

The Seeker can do any of the following:

- Read out loud and discuss what their psalm means to them or group discussion
- Use The African Bible Study Method [Formational Reading of Scripture: The African Bible Study Method - Forming Lutherans](https://www.forminglutherans.org/2024/08/30/formational-reading-of-scripture-the-african-bible-study-method/)<https://www.forminglutherans.org/2024/08/30/formational-reading-of-scripture-the-african-bible-study-method/>
- Be an active listener

We will continue each week until we have all 149 psalms covered or we have no more presentations. To aid in discussions, there are numerous sources online, in our church library, in your study Bible, and in your heart. We're going to try to stick to our usual 10:00 to 11:00 time slot and schedule four psalms each week. If we run out of time, we will move the scheduled psalm to the next week. It is important that we have the number of the psalm to be discussed ahead of time.

Jan 14 Psalm 1 and 27 Kris
Psalm 139 Mary Ellen
Psalm 96 or 121 Lynn

Jan 21 Psalm 118 Anonymous

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

Sing 2 times

Jesus, Oh, What a Wonderful Child 219

Chords: G, Am/D G, G9/B C, C7, G

Je-sus, Je-sus, oh, what a won-der-ful Child.

Chords: G, C/D G, A7, A9, D

Je-sus, Je-sus, so ho-ly, meek, and mild; new

Chords: G, Am/G, Gm7, Am, G, C

life, new hope the Child will bring. Lis-ten to the

Chords: C#dim7, G/D, D7, G Am/G G#dim7 Am, A9/E, D7, G

an-gels sing, "Glo-ry, glo-ry, glo-ry," let the heav-ens ring!

For Your Prayers

Lori Coleman	Cheryl Cooper	Norma Franke
Carol Hotz	Debbie Price	Jennifer Wick, daughter of
Marilyn Dinkelmann	Christopher Mitchell	Stephenie Bauza
Debbie McIntyre, daughter of	Audrey Krummrich	Richard Gentry, brother of Scott
Arline Worms	Ralph Eckart, brother in-law of	Gentry
Tim Ritter	Marlene Mueller	Jack Snyder
Wayne Caughman	James Whitmarsh, nephew of	Venita Jane Rogers
Tim Ritter Jr., son of Sandy &	Jan Friedrich	The loved ones of Sam
Tim Ritter	Mike Llamas, brother in law of	Sivewright
Hector Rivera	Mimi Llamas	The loved ones of Shirley
Lou Ann Niemann	Sue Sutherland	Boeschen

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

**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**

<u>Weekly Attendance - 9AM Service</u>	
December 22, 2024	124 + Online Participants
December 24, 2023	274 + Online Participants

Weekly Offerings	12/28/2024
Operating	\$ 8,555.00
Building Fund	\$ 210.00
	\$ 8,765.00
Giving YTD	\$373,975.36
Weekly Budget	\$ 7,638.47
Budget to Date	\$ 397,200.44
Total Budget	\$ 397,200.29

Flowers, music and bulletin sponsorships
 are a lovely way to honor the memory,
 birthday or achievement of your loved one.
 To sign up, you can call the church office.
 Cost is \$35.00.