



Sunday, January 5, 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 5, 2025 9:00 am

Online Edition - Worship from Epiphany Sunday, January 8, 2023

WELCOME Rev. Michelle Torigian

PRELUDE *Noel I, III, IV*
from L'Organiste
Cesar Franck

CALL TO WORSHIP (Inspired by John 1)

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.

OPENING HYMN

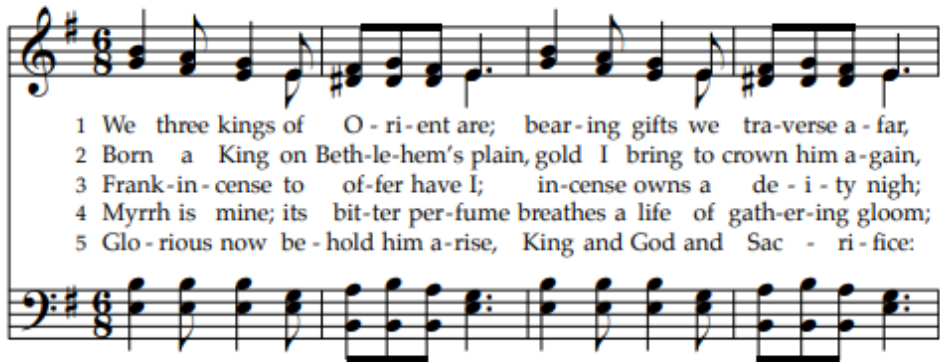
We Three Kings

(See next page)

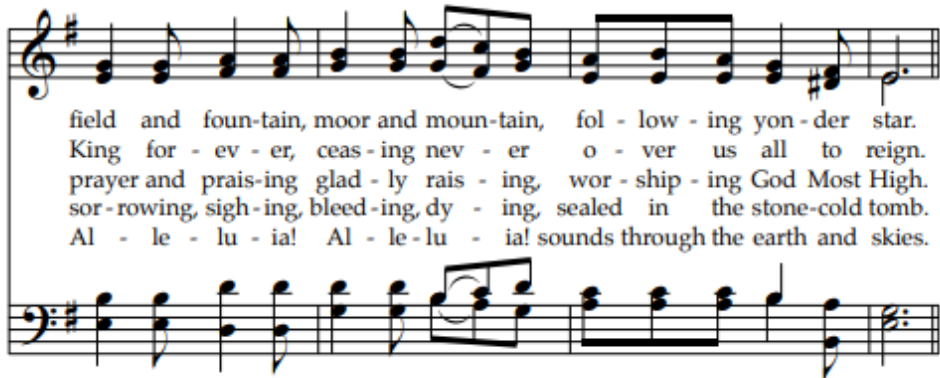
TODAY'S WORSHIP LEADERS

Senior Pastor.....	Rev. Michelle Torigian
Music Director	Dr. Tristan Frampton
Guest Organist.....	Janet Spencer
Liturgist	Karen Kuess

We Three Kings of Orient Are

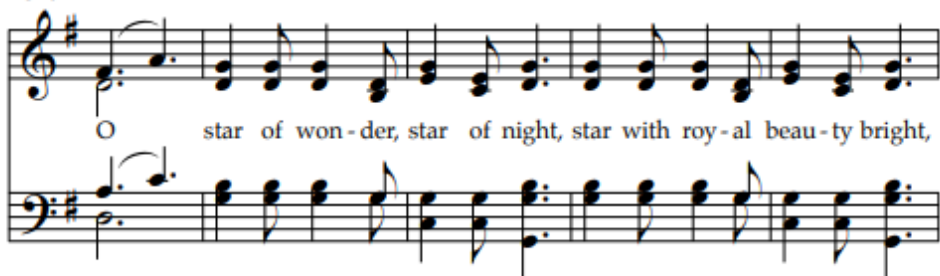


1 We three kings of O - ri - ent are; bear - ing gifts we tra - verse a - far,
2 Born a King on Beth - le - hem's plain, gold I bring to crown him a - gain,
3 Frank - in - cense to of - fer have I; in - cense owns a de - i - ty nigh;
4 Myrrh is mine; its bit - ter per - fume breathes a life of gath -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

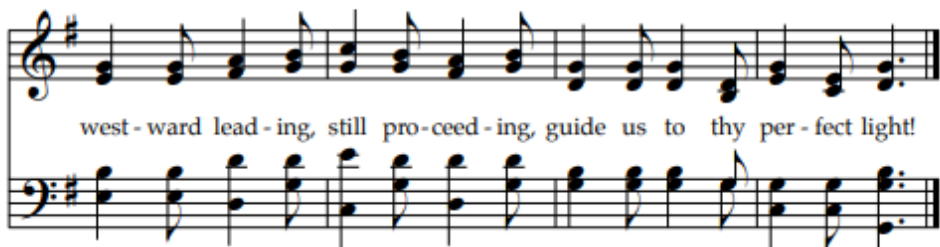


field and foun - tain, moor and moun - tain, fol - low - ing yon - der star.
King for - ev - er, ceas - ing nev - er o - ver us all to reign.
prayer and prais - ing glad - ly rais - ing, wor - ship - ing God Most High.
sor - rowing, sigh - ing, bleed - ing, dy - ing, sealed in the stone - cold tomb.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

Refrain



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



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

(KINGS OF ORIENT)

PRAAYER OF REFLECTION

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. 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 AND HOPE

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!

ANTHEM *A Life-Giving Stream*
by Greg Gilpin
Sanctuary Choir

SCRIPTURE Matthew 2:1-12

SERMON Openness 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.**

CLOSING HYMN *Arise, Your Light Is Come!* (See next page)

***COMMISSIONING**

As we travel dim spaces 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

Fantasia on O Morning Star, How Fair and Bright
Dietrich Buxtehude



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Invocation and Prayer of Reflection from Rev-o-lution Resources by Rev. Mindi Welton-Mitchell <http://rev-o-lution.org>, (c) 2021. Blessing of the Gifts, Communion, Prayer of Thanksgiving, and Benediction written by Rev. Michelle L. Torigian

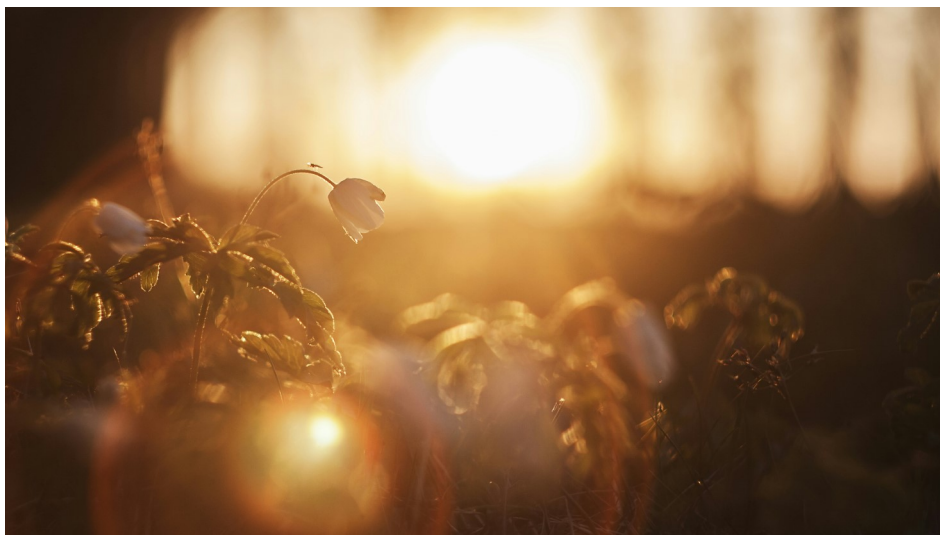
Arise, Your Light Is Come!

1 A - rise, your light is come! The Spir - it's call o - bey;
2 A - rise, your light is come! Fling wide the pris - on door;
3 A - rise, your light is come! All you in sor - row born,
4 A - rise, your light is come! The moun - tains burst in song!

show forth the glo - ry of your God, which shines on you to - day.
pro - claim the cap - tives' lib - er - ty, good ti - dings to the poor.
bind up the bro - ken - heart - ed ones and com - fort those who mourn.
Rise up like ea - gles on the wing; God's power will make us strong.

The image shows a musical score for a song. It consists of two systems of music. Each system has a treble and bass staff. The first system contains four lines of lyrics, each corresponding to a different part of the melody. The second system contains three lines of lyrics. The music is written in 4/4 time and features a mix of eighth and quarter notes, with some rests. The lyrics are written in a simple, sans-serif font.

(FESTAL SONG)



St. Paul UCC offices is closed and all activities cancelled on Monday, January 6, 2025 due to winter weather forecast.

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:

- a. Read out loud and discuss what their psalm means to them or group discussion
- b. 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/>
- c. 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

Celebrate Epiphany Next Sunday!

January 12, 2025 9am

In person and online StPaulUCC.org

Communion

Installation of Officers & New Council Members

Star Words

No matter who you are
or where you are on
life's journey, you are
welcome here!



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
Sue Sutherland
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
Norma Franke
Richard Gentry, brother of
Scott Gentry
Jack Snyder
Venita Jane Rogers
The loved ones of Betty Riesio
The loved ones of Sam
Sivewright



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



Weekly Attendance - 9AM Service

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.

