



Sunday, March 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
March 2, 2025 9:00 am
Transfiguration Sunday

TODAY'S WORSHIP LEADERS

| | |
|----------------------|------------------------|
| Pastor..... | Rev. Michelle Torigian |
| Music Director | Dr. Tristan Frampton |
| Organist..... | Cynthia Johnson |
| Liturgist | Ruth Ann Erdmann |

WELCOME

PRELUDE

Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise
Hymn Tune: St. Denio; Setting by Roger C. Wilson

CALL TO WORSHIP (based on Psalm 37)

One: The call of the Holy One has brought us together.

Many: We have been called to pray and to praise.

One: We are called to worship and to holy wonder.

Many: May the light of Love burn brightly in us.

One: May it transfigure and transform our hearts and minds.

Many: May it become a beacon of hope for others.

INVOCATION (Unison)

God of mountaintops and valleys and everywhere in between, we thank you for meeting us where we are. We thank you also for leading us to this place of prayer and renewal. Enlighten our minds, radiate our hearts, and ready us for Your alive Word of Love. Let it shine in and through us, lighting a path of grace, hope, and joy. May the same transfiguring power, shown forth in Jesus Christ, also shine in us for the good of the world. 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. Benediction from the UCC Book of Worship. Communion liturgy written by Rev. Michelle L. Torigian.

*OPENING HYMN

We Have Come at Christ's Own Bidding

Matt. 17:1-8; Mark 9:2-8; Luke 9:28-36

Carl P. Daw, Jr., 1988

1 We have come at Christ's own bid - ding to this high and
2 Light breaks through our clouds and shad - ows, splen - dor bathes the
3 Strength-ened by this glimpse of glo - ry, fear - ful lest our

ho - ly place, Where we wait with hope and long - ing for some
flesh-joined Word, Mo - ses and E - li - jah mar - vel as the
faith de - cline, We, like Pe - ter, find it tempt-ing to re -

to - ken of God's grace. Here we pray for new as -
heav - enly voice is heard. Eyes and hearts be - hold with
main and build a shrine. But true wor - ship gives us

sur - ance that our faith is not in vain, Search - ing
won - der how the Law and Proph - ets meet: Christ with
cour - age to pro - claim what we pro - fess, That our

like those first dis - ci - ples for a sign both clear and plain.
gar - ments drenched in bright - ness, stands trans - fig - ured and com-plete.
dai - ly lives may prove us peo - ple of the God we bless.

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

Holy God, it has been easy to live with our eyes veiled. Too often, we have hidden from the hard realities within us and around us. We have shielded Your light of Love, instead of sharing it. Something deep within has often hardened our hearts, leading to inertia and restraint. But there is a deeper longing within. We hunger for the forgiveness and renewal You revealed in Jesus Christ. Forgive us, Holy One, and unveil our eyes and our hearts. With Your shining love, light a path of forgiveness for us that we may share it with others. By this, we may know the freedom of new life you revealed in Jesus Christ. Amen.

***ASSURANCE OF GRACE**

Hear the good news! Do not lose heart! God is merciful. Bit by bit, we are being transformed into the image of God's glory made known in Jesus Christ. In our turning, God has forgiven us and unveiled our lives. God has also called us to listen to Jesus Christ, the Beloved, who calls us by the same name. Beloved, may the forgiving light of God's love shine through us, and bear the hope of a new beginning to others. Thanks be to God! Amen.

ANTHEM

Christ upon the Mountain Peak
by Paul Bouman
Sanctuary Choir

SCRIPTURE

Luke 9:28-43

SERMON

Transforming

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

On the Mount of Transfiguration, the law of love and the prophecy of holy peace joined each other in Jesus as he prayed. God's generous love bore a radiant flash, kissing earth with heavenly light. So, the heart of God was revealed in Jesus, and a call was extended. It was the call to listen to Jesus and love generously like him. So we are invited to taste heavenly joy as we generously share the gifts we have received from the One who has born us into life. In this spirit, may we bring our gifts to the one who transfigures everything with love.

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)**

O Spirit of Life, shine on us again and again that we may become the blessing you intend. Keep awakening us to Your holy mystery and Your sacred call. Bless these gifts we bring so that Your energy of love may be shared with others and offer the light of a new beginning. By this, and more than we can name, continue to transfigure us and the world. 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

Where He Leads Me

Hymn Tune: Norris, Setting by Todd Beaney

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** *O Splendor of God's Glory Bright* (See next page)

***COMMISSIONING**

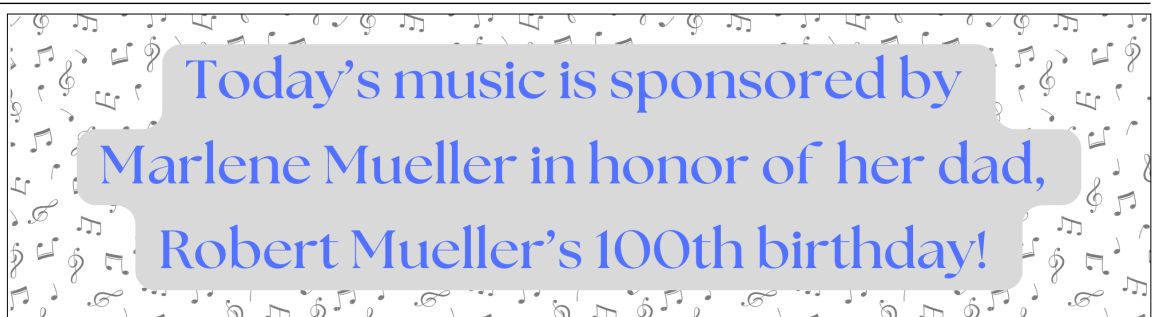
May the Holy radiance of transfiguration continually light the wick of your life.
May it be a light that bears joy and hope and love.
May the voice of Jesus enter not only your ears but also your heart.
And may that voice shape your voice for the good of the world.
Blessings on you all! Amen and Amen.

***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

Tollite Hostias
by Camille Saint-Saëns
("Exult All Ye Peoples, for the Lord Now Appears in Glory")



144 O Splendor of God's Glory Bright

1 O splen-dor of God's glo - ry bright, from light e - ter - nal bring-ing light,
2 Come, ver - y Sun of heav-en's love, in last-ing ra - dian-ce from a - bove,
3 Con-firm our will to do the right, and keep our hearts from en - vy's blight;
4 All praise to God the Fa - ther be, all praise, e - ter - nal Son, to thee,

O Light of light, the four-tain spring, O Day, all days il - lu - min - ing:
and pour the Ho - ly Spir-it's ray on all we think or do to - day.
let faith her ea - ger fires re - new, and hate the false, and love the true.
whom with the Spir - it we a - dore for - ev - er and for - ev - er - more.

WORDS: Ambrose of Milan, 4th c.; tr. composite
MUSIC: Trier manuscript, 15th c.; adapt. Michael Praetorius (1571-1621)

PUER NOBIS
L.M.



AGESMART COMMUNITY RESOURCES

Please join our St Paul UCC With You Team
on Wednesday, March 5th from 1:00 – 2:00 p.m.
in the Amazing room (big meeting room) for a presentation by Chris Fulton.
"Resources & Assistance; Answers on Aging"

Some of the topics to be addressed: transportation, Meals on Wheels, senior dining programs,
resident advocates in long-term care facilities, legal services and help for grandparents raising grandchildren.
This agency serves 7 counties in Illinois.



St. Paul UCC, 115 W. B. St., Belleville, IL 62220
618-233-3303 stpaulucc.org



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
 Jan Friedrich
 Sue Kuether
 Luci Bradley

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 UCC Fine Arts

series presents

Sunday, March 16 @ 3pm

Heritage Hall
 St. Paul UCC, 115 W. B. St., Belleville, IL
 A free will offering is greatly appreciated!

| <u>Weekly Attendance - 9AM Service</u> | |
|--|--------------------------|
| February 16, 2025 | 56 +Online Participants |
| February 18, 2024 | 146 +Online Participants |

| Weekly Offerings | 2/22/2025 |
|-------------------------|---------------------|
| Operating | \$ 1,563.00 |
| Building Fund | \$ 300.00 |
| | \$ 1,863.00 |
| Giving YTD | \$ 51,873.25 |
| Weekly Budget | \$ 6,942.65 |
| Budget to Date | \$ 48,598.56 |
| Total Budget | \$ 361,017.89 |

Interested in knowing the various ways you can give to St. Paul UCC?

Contact the church to learn more:
 618.233.3303

StPaulUCC.org