



*Blooming &  
Pruning*

**Sunday, March 23, 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 23, 2025 9:00 am

Third Sunday in Lent

## 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

*A Song at Morning*  
by Dennis Eliot

## SUNG CALL TO WORSHIP (based on Psalm 95 )



Now in this time as you gave your Son, grant us thy peace.

**All: Now in this time as you gave your Son, grant us thy peace.**

Choir: Come, let us sing to the Lord, we the sheep of His hand, let us kneel before the Lord, our God.

**All: Now in this time as you gave your Son, grant us thy peace.**

## INVOCATION (Unison)

**Holy One, draw us into community and connection. Let us receive you and our companions in worship. Keep us open to the unexpected, so that we may perceive your work in the world, and your work in us. 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. Ruth Garwood for UCC Worship Ways. Benediction from the UCC Book of Worship.

\*OPENING HYMN

*God of Grace and God of Glory*

G C G/B G/A G D G/B C6 G/D D G C/E C Am7

1 God of grace and God of glo - ry, on your peo - ple  
 2 Lo! the hosts of e - vil round us scorn your Christ, as -  
 3 Heal your chil - dren's war - ring mad - ness, bend our pride to  
 4 Save us from weak res - ig - na - tion to the e - vils

G/D D7 G C G/B G/A G D G/B C6 G/D D G C/E

pour your power; crown your an - cient Church's sto - ry, bring its  
 sail his ways! Fears and doubts too long have bound us—free our  
 your con - trol; shame our wan - ton, self - ish glad - ness, rich in  
 we de - plore; let the gift of your sal - va - tion be our

G/B C G/D D G D G/D D7 D/F# G D7 G G/B

bud to glo - rious flower. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age  
 hearts to work and praise. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age  
 things and poor in soul. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age  
 glo - ry ev - er - more. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age,

G/B D7/A G D/F# Em7 D G/B D7/A G C G/D D7 G

for the fac - ing of this hour, for the fac - ing of this hour.  
 for the liv - ing of these days, for the liv - ing of these days.  
 lest we miss your king - dom's goal, lest we miss your king - dom's goal.  
 serv - ing you whom we a - dore, serv - ing you whom we a - dore.

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

**Gracious God, sometimes we are disappointed by other people, too ready to dismiss or discard them. Help us to see in others what you see in them: their growth, the fruits that they offer. Forgive us when we too quickly judge others. Forgive us also, when we doubt that we can be worthy followers of you. May we be inspired to nurture your people and ourselves. Amen.**

**\*ASSURANCE OF GRACE**

God's ways are not our ways. Where we would condemn ourselves or others, God forgives. In the name of Jesus Christ you are forgiven.

**ANTHEM**

*As the Deer*  
arr. Lloyd Larson  
Sanctuary Choir

**SCRIPTURE**

Luke 13:1-9

**SERMON**

Blooming and Pruning

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**

From the abundance that God has given us, let us return a portion to be used for God's work through this church.

**COLLECTION OF THE GIFTS & OFFERTORY MUSIC**

*Amazing Grace*  
setting by Mark Hayes

**\*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)**

**Dear God, take these offerings of treasure, and our lives, to use for your purposes in the world. Inspire us to be like the blossoming trees of spring as we awaken in this Lenten season and share our gifts with the world. Amen.**

**\*CLOSING HYMN**      *There is a Wildness in God's Mercy* (See next page)

**\*COMMISSIONING**

Seek God, who is near. Be ready to hear God's word and live, May you trust in the mercy of God, and the blessings of God, today and always.

**\*BENEDICTION**

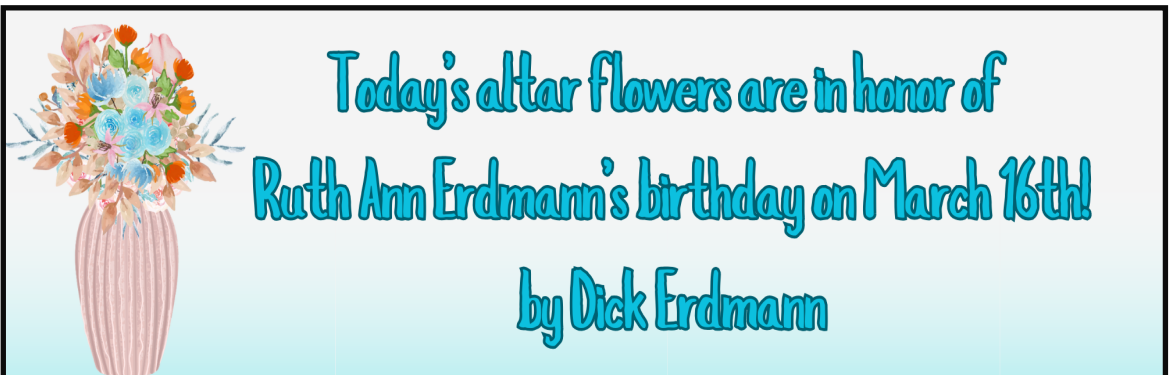
May God bless you and keep you.

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**

*Glory and Honor*  
by Ellen Jane Lorenz



# There's a Wideness in God's Mercy

1 There's a wide-ness in God's mer-cy like the wide-ness of the sea;  
2 There is wel-come for the sin-ner and more grac-es for the good;  
3 For the love of God is broad-er than the meas-ure of our mind;  
4 If our love were but more sim-ple, we would take him at his word,

there's a kind-ness in his jus-tice which is more than lib-er-ty,  
there is mer-cy with the Sav-ior; there is heal-ing in his blood,  
and the heart of the E-ter-nal is most won-der-ful-ly kind.  
and our lives would be il-lu-minated by the pres-ence of our Lord.

The image shows a musical score for the hymn "There's a Wideness in God's Mercy". It consists of two systems of music. Each system has a vocal line (treble clef) and a bass line (bass clef). The key signature is one flat (Bb) and the time signature is 4/4. The lyrics are printed below the vocal line of each system.

## News from the Council

- Taylor Roofing plans to start on our flat roofs after they finish one of their current big jobs.
- The computers used by the staff have been replaced with models that can run Windows 11
- Our keyholder policy has been revised.

If you are the leader/organizer for after hours events/meetings at our church, then you may request a key from the office if your events/meetings occur monthly for at least six months out of a calendar year. A white doorbell has been installed on the right side of the double doors by the Activity Center that face N 2nd St.

The white doorbell should be used when people are in Heritage Hall or the Activity Center, but the church office is closed.



St. Paul UCC  
**MONDAY FUN-DAY**

Our next Monday Fun-day is March 24th from 6-8pm!  
 We hope to see you!!! Everyone is welcome!  
 Building a better community!



**Chair Yoga 6-6:30, Yoga 6:30-7pm - \$10**



**Pickleball - \$5 (bring your own paddle & ball)**

**Board Games (bring your own or play Uno!)**



**BRING YOUR FRIENDS!!!**



115 W. B. St., Belleville

stpaulucc.org

**St. Louis Cardinal Bag Raffle**

Clear vinyl STADIUM BAG with 6 inside pockets  
 & zipper closure handmade by Sonja.

Just in time for opening day!

\$1 per ticket or 6 for \$5.

**Ticket sales on March 16th, 23rd & 30th!**

Drawing to be held after church in  
 Heritage Hall on March 30th!



The Quilters will be selling of Easter and springtime  
 table runners in the Welcome Center.

**March 30th & April 6th**

St. Paul UCC, 115 W. B. St., Belleville  
 618-233-3303



**Dine to Donate**

1128 Merchant's Way, O'Fallon, IL  
 Thursday, March 27  
 4-7pm

Join us at Chicken Salad Chick for the  
 restaurant's Dine to Donate. Proceeds  
 will benefit St. Paul UCC.

This is an excellent way to join up with St.  
 Paul friends and bring others along for  
 some fellowship and good food!

When you purchase food, please let the  
 cashier know that you are with St. Paul  
 UCC's Dine to Donate.

**ST. PAUL UCC RUMMAGE SALE**

**& Bake Sale!** 115 W. B Street - Belleville, IL. Activity Center (Gym) (Across from Franklin School)

INSIDE RAIN OR SHINE!

SALE DATES

**Fri., Apr. 4  
 4-7pm &  
 Sat., Apr. 5th  
 9am-12pm**



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.

# 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

Lou Ann Niemann  
 Cheryl Cooper  
 Debbie Price  
 Christopher Mitchell  
 Sue Sutherland  
 Norma Franke  
 Audrey Krummrich  
 Ralph Eckart, brother in-law of  
 Marlene Mueller

Mike Llamas, brother in law of  
 Mimi Llamas  
 Jennifer Wick, daughter of  
 Stephenie Bauza  
 Venita Jane Rogers  
 Dorothy Maiworm  
 Luci Bradley  
 The loved ones of Sue Kuether

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



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



Like us on Facebook  
*St Paul UCC, Belleville, Il*

## SAVE THE DATE!

## SUNDAY, APRIL 27TH

### Mother, Daughter, Friend event at St. Paul UCC

<b>Weekly Offerings</b>	<b>3/14/2025</b>
Operating	\$ 6,822.00
Building Fund	\$ 250.00
	\$ 7,072.00
<b>Giving YTD</b>	<b>\$ 72,279.25</b>
Weekly Budget	\$ 6,942.65
Budget to Date	\$ 69,426.52
Total Budget	\$ 361,017.89



**Weekly Attendance - 9AM Service**

March 9, 2025	84 + Online Participants
March 10, 2024	104 + Online Participants

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

Contact the church to learn more:  
618.233.3303

[StPaulUCC.org](http://StPaulUCC.org)