



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

First Sunday in Lent

TODAY'S WORSHIP LEADERS

Pastor.....Rev. Michelle Torigian
Music DirectorDr. Tristan Frampton
Organist.....Cynthia Johnson
LiturgistKaren Keuss

WELCOME

PRELUDE

Pastorale
by Sydney Watson

SUNG CALL TO WORSHIP (based on Psalm 32)

$\text{♩} = 66$ *rit. a tempo*

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: A hiding place for me, surely steadfast love holds those who trust in the Lord.

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

INVOCATION (Unison)

Holy One, we come to you in gladness as we begin our Lenten exploration. You offer steadfast love as our strong refuge; your boundless grace is our sheltering presence, and we rejoice! In the unity of worship, we trust that you will speak to us and through us as we begin this journey. Prepare our hearts to seek you and embrace you. With gladness and expectation we pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

***OPENING HYMN**

Open My Eyes, That I May See

Ab Eb7 Bb Eb7 Ab

1 O - pen my eyes, that I may see glimps - es of truth you have for me;
2 O - pen my ears, that I may hear voic - es of truth you send so clear;
3 O - pen my mouth, and let me bear glad - ly the warm truth ev - ery - where;

C7 G Fm C7 E Fm C7 Fm Bb7 Bb Gm Bb Bb7 Eb

place in my hands the won - der - ful key that shall un - lock and set me free.
and while the mes - sage sounds in my ear, ev - ery - thing false will dis - ap - pear.
o - pen my heart, and let me pre - pare love with your chil - dren thus to share.

Ab Eb7 Bb Eb7 Ab

Si - lent - ly now, on bend - ed knee, read - y I wait your will to see;

Ab Ab7 C Db Eb7 Db Eb Ab

o - pen my eyes, il - lu - mine me, Spir - it di - vine!
o - pen my ears, il - lu - mine me, Spir - it di - vine!
o - pen my heart, il - lu - mine me, Spir - it di - vine!

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

Holy Listener, unlike you, we have turned ourselves away from our neighbors wanting to tell us their stories. We have walked away instead of listening to their pain. We have become irritated by the lives of others rather than being provoked to love them. When we are called to encourage those around us, too often our actions and words discourage them. Even when offered lives of peace and hope, we wander around filled with anxiety and despair. Forgive us, Divine Counselor. Open our minds so we might be more loving. This we pray in the name of Jesus the Christ.

***ASSURANCE OF GRACE**

This is the good news: God gives us hope, God gives us peace, God gives us joy so we may share these gifts with everyone we meet. Thanks be to God who always listens and always forgives. Amen.

ANTHEM

If You Will Only Let God Guide You

arr. David Schwoebel

Sanctuary Choir

SCRIPTURE

Genesis 3:1-14 & Luke 4:1-13

SERMON

The Shadow of the Devil

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

Beloved Friends, God wishes to be seen and wishes to be sought. God wishes to be trusted. There are multitudes of individuals who long for God, who are seeking God, but do not know where or how to search. May this church, this congregation be a lamp to light the pathway for those who are seeking God. All of our offerings help us to shine our collective light brightly.

COLLECTION OF THE GIFTS & OFFERTORY MUSIC

Come, Humble Sinner
American Folk Tune
Arr. by Stewart Landon

*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)

Thank you, O God, for loving us and laboring with us as we seek you and as we help others in their seeking. Bless these offerings which we return to you. May our light illumine someone's path. Guide us in your wisdom and love that we may use these gifts to manifest your presence in the world. Amen.

*CLOSING HYMN *O God, Our Help in Ages Past* (See next page)

*COMMISSIONING

Let us go forth following as the Holy Spirit leads us. Know that "angels will guard your heart and your soul, and will bear you up" so that even in harm's way you will not be consumed. Friends, whether in falling or in rising we are ever protected in God's love. Even as we journey, we abide in the shelter of God's love. Go forth on your journey. Amen.

*BENEDICTION

May God bless you and keep you.

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

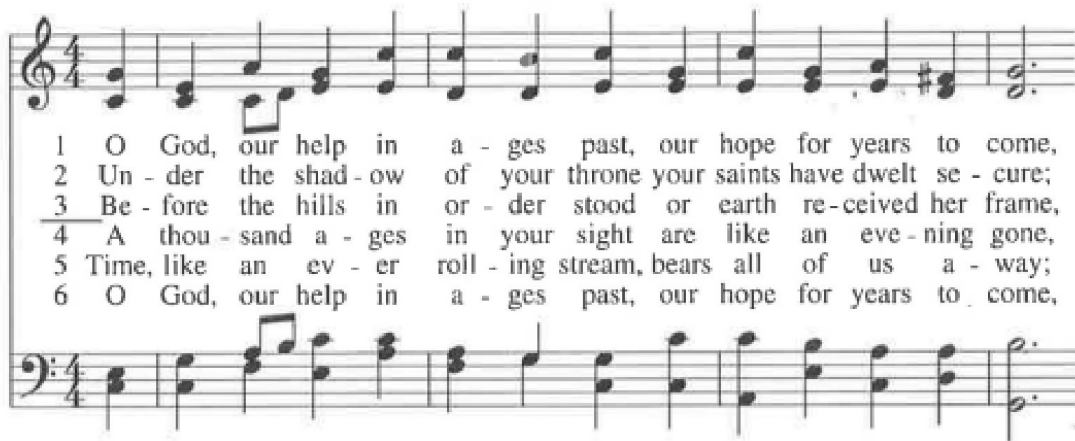
May God look upon you with kindness and give you peace. Amen!

POSTLUDE

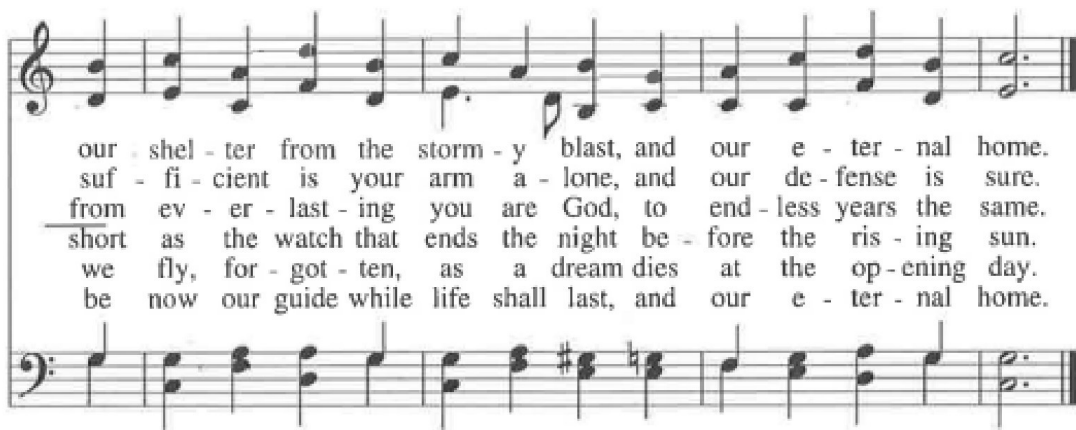
Finale in D minor
by Eric H. Thiman

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 from Dwelling in the Shelter of God's Love: Service Prayers for the First Sunday of Lent was written by the Rev. Dr. Cari Jackson, Founder and Director of the Center for Spiritual Light, NYC. Call to and Prayer of Reconciliation and Assurance of Grace based on prayers at Lectionary Liturgies written by Thom M. Shuman and found at <http://lectionaryliturgies.blogspot.com/2018/11/liturgy-wcommunion-for-november-2018.html>

84 O God, Our Help in Ages Past



1 O God, our help in a - ges past, our hope for years to come,
 2 Un - der the shad - ow of your throne your saints have dwelt se - cure;
 3 Be - fore the hills in or - der stood or earth re - ceived her frame,
 4 A thou - sand a - ges in your sight are like an eve - ning gone,
 5 Time, like an ev - er roll - ing stream, bears all of us a - way;
 6 O God, our help in a - ges past, our hope for years to come,



our shel - ter from the storm - y blast, and our e - ter - nal home.
 suf - fi - cient is your arm a - lone, and our de - fense is sure.
 from ev - er - last - ing you are God, to end - less years the same.
 short as the watch that ends the night be - fore the ris - ing sun.
 we fly, for - got - ten, as a dream dies at the op - ening day.
 be now our guide while life shall last, and our e - ter - nal home.



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 618.233.3303



ST. PAUL PROGRESS TEAM – A NEW IDEA!

There's a new team in town and its name is St. Paul Progress. How did it come about? Late last fall, the Personnel Team came up with the concept of forming a new group to brainstorm about promoting St. Paul in the greater Belleville community as well as energizing our Congregation to become more involved in our St. Paul Family. The first gathering yielded many positive and creative ideas, such as: sponsoring a float in the Santa Claus parade, providing Christmas yard signs, having a Shrove Tuesday pancake supper and many other exciting events and concepts. It was immediately evident that the group needed to grow if these many ideas were to be successful. Since then, folks from the Finance, Stewardship, Christian Ed, Mission, St. Paul Friends, Community Dinner teams and Church Council members have joined forces to "make it all happen!" Many hands will certainly make the tasks easier. Anyone is welcome to become involved and be a part of this group as we look forward toward our St. Paul future. Please let Pastor Michelle, Brett White, Al Scharf or Sandy Wagner know if you'd like to become an active member of this new team. St. Paul is an integral part of the Belleville community and we need to build on that truth!

THANK YOU

to all who participated in making our Shrove Tuesday Murder and Maple Syrup dinner a success.

These events could not take place without all of the wonderful volunteers who

SAVE THE DATE!
SUNDAY, APRIL 27TH

Mother, Daughter, Friend
event at St. Paul UCC

The Quilters will be selling raffle tickets and Easter table runners in the Welcome Center on the following Sundays:
March 16, 23 & 30
April 6 & 13

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

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
 The loved ones of Jack Snyder
 The loved ones of Edna Mae
 Schwarz

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 23, 2025	95 + Online Participants
February 25, 2024	84 + Online Participants

Weekly Offerings	3/1/2025
Operating	\$ 3,690.00
Building Fund	\$ 72.00
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	\$ 3,762.00
Giving YTD	\$ 55,635.25
Weekly Budget	\$ 6,942.65
Budget to Date	\$ 55,541.21
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

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