



Sunday, May 4, 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

May 4, 2025 ~ 9:00 am

Third Sunday of Easter

TODAY'S WORSHIP LEADERS

<i>Senior Pastor</i>	Rev. Michelle Torigian
<i>Director of Music</i>	Dr. Tristan Frampton
<i>Organist</i>	Cynthia Johnson
<i>Liturgist</i>	St. Paul Youth

WELCOME

Rev. Michelle Torigian

PRELUDE

Contemplation
by Charles Callahan

CALL TO WORSHIP (inspired by Psalm 30)

One: O God, you have lifted us up,

Many: So empires of this galaxy will not enjoy our defeat.

One: In our most desperate hour we cried to you:

Many: "Help us, O God! You are our only hope!"

One: Hearing our cries for help, you healed us;

Many: Bringing us from Chaos, you restored our lives.

One: Weeping lingers for a night,

Many: But joy comes with the morning.

One: You have transformed our lives from mourning to joy.

Many: May we give thanks, and praise God for ever and ever.

INVOCATION (UNISON)

Voice-Echoing God,

As you call to us in the night, our spirits are moved from the vibrations of your call. As the dawn wakes and flickers its hues of hope, we see the light of possibilities. May your Spirit, your Holy Force, move us to the places you need us to go. May your love strengthen us as we discern where we are called. Amen.

*OPENING HYMN

All Creatures of Our God and King

D Bm Em7 Asus A $\frac{D}{F\#}$ G $\frac{D}{F\#}$ $\frac{A7}{E}$ D Bm Em7

1 All crea-tures of our God and King, lift up your voice and with us
 2 O rush-ing wind that art so strong, you clouds that sail in heaven a -
 3 O flow-ing wa - ter, pure and clear, make mu - sic for your Lord to
 4 All you who are of ten - der heart, for - giv - ing oth - ers, take your
 5 Let all things their Cre - a - tor bless, and wor - ship him in hum - ble -

Asus A $\frac{D}{F\#}$ G D Bm $\frac{A}{C\#}$ D E A $\frac{D}{F\#}$ D Bm7 $\frac{A7}{E}$ D $\frac{G}{B}$

sing Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia! O burn - ing sun with gold - en
 long, O praise him, Al - le - lu - ia! O ris - ing morn in praise re -
 hear, Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia! O fire so mas - ter - ful and
 part, sing prais - es, Al - le - lu - ia! All you who pain and sor - row
 ness, O praise him, Al - le - lu - ia! Praise, praise the Fa - ther, praise the

Asus A $\frac{D}{F\#}$ G $\frac{D}{F\#}$ $\frac{A7}{E}$ D $\frac{G}{B}$ $\frac{Dmaj7}{A}$ G $\frac{D}{F\#}$ $\frac{G}{B}$ $\frac{D}{A}$ G6 $\frac{A}{G}$ $\frac{D}{F\#}$ Em7 $\frac{D}{F\#}$

beam, and sil - ver moon with soft - er gleam, O praise him, O
 joyce, O lights of eve - ning, find a voice, O praise him, O
 bright, pro - vid - ing us with warmth and light, O praise him, O
 bear, praise God and on him cast your care, O praise him, O
 Son, and praise the Spir - it, Three in One, O praise him, O

G6 A7 Bm $\frac{A}{C\#}$ D6 E A Bm7 $\frac{F\#m}{C\#}$ D Em $\frac{A}{C\#}$ $\frac{B7}{D\#}$ Em $\frac{D}{F\#}$ $\frac{Em7}{G}$ A A7 D

praise him, Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia!

WORDS: St. Francis of Assisi (1182-1226); tr. William H. Draper (1855-1933), alt.
 MUSIC: Geistliche Kirchengesäng, Cologne, 1623; arr. Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872-1958)

LASST UNS ERFREUEN
 L.M. Alleluias

***PRAYER OF REFLECTION (UNISON)**

Nurturer of the Universe: Whether in the depths of night or in the sunny daytime, you draw us into your intentions for our lives. You call to us, and your voice appears in different ways and through our various senses. You ask us to seek this voice, awaken from our slumber, and discern throughout our days. But sleep and stagnation are more comfortable than stretching ourselves to find you. Surround our minds with wisdom and our hearts with strength. May your Spirit, your Holy Force, give us the focus and excitement to seek a future with hope. Amen.

***ASSURANCE OF GRACE**

Dear ones, you are children of our Heavenly God made in God's image. God hears our prayers, both spoken and those we are too ashamed to pass through our lips. Join with the celestial beings who offer a chorus of praise to honor our Divine Parent, who paves our way in the universe with grace. Be faithful, be strong, and be a light in this world. Amen.

RECOGNIZING OUR GRADUATES

ANTHEM

A New Horizon, by Greg Gilpin
Sanctuary Choir

Dedicated to our seniors graduating from high school

SCRIPTURE

1 Samuel 3:1-20

SERMON

May the Force Be with You

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

God knows you by name.

God stirs our hearts.

God appears in your works for justice.

God is revealed in our hope for change.

Let us carry this spirit into our giving.

Let us praise God with our gifts of tithes and offerings.

***DOXOLOGY** (Tune: *Old Hundreth*)

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 God, you offer us wonderful gifts. In these offerings, may we dream of a time that doesn't yet exist and universe that seems so far away. May we celebrate our dreams as we pray with the hope of Christ Jesus. Amen.

CELEBRATION OF HOLY COMMUNION

Sentences of Invitation

One: On this day, we celebrate the risen Christ

Many: On this day, we celebrate resurrection in our lives.

One: On this day, we embrace the grace which reaches from the tomb.

Many: On this day, we embrace faith by committing to love in action.

One: On this day, we shout Hallelujah!

Many: On this day we shout, Christ is risen! Alleluia!

Communion Prayer and Words of Remembrance

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.

COMMUNION MUSIC

The Call, from Five Mystical Songs
by Ralph Vaughan Williams (1911)

Text from *The Temple: Sacred Poems* by George Herbert (1633)

Prayer of Thanksgiving (unison)

Through this space and time together today, we celebrate the covenant that ties us with God, Jesus the Christ, our neighbors and creation. Thank you, Divine Crafter of the Table, for fashioning us a holy meal unites us with the Body of Christ. Send us into the world resurrected, refreshed and ready to share Christ's unconditional love. Amen.

***CLOSING HYMN** *God, You Spin the Whirling Planets* (See page 7)

*COMMISSIONING

Send us, O God.

Send us to search for your name.

Send us to count your works.

Send us to feel you calling our name.

Send us, O God, into your dream.

*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

Flourish on Lobe den Herren
(Praise to the Lord, the Almighty)

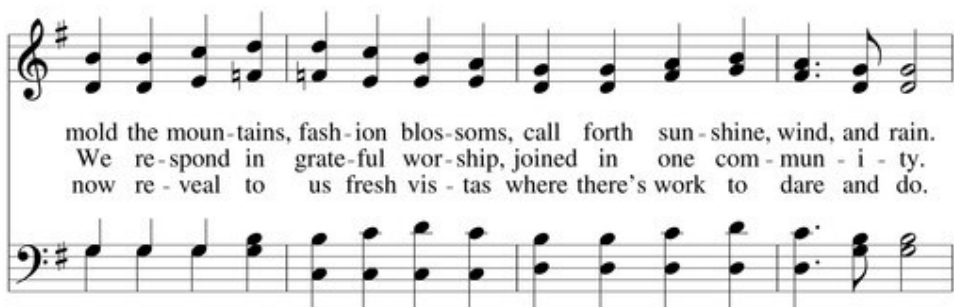
Tune from the *Erneuerten Gesangbuch*, setting by Douglas E. Wagner

Call to Worship, Assurance of Grace written for UCC Worship Ways. Invocation, Prayer of Reconciliation, and Communion Liturgy written by Rev. Michelle L. Torigian. Reflection on Giving, Blessing of the Gifts, and Commissioning written by Rev. Elsa Peters Cook for UCC Worship Ways. Benediction from UCC Book of Worship. 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.

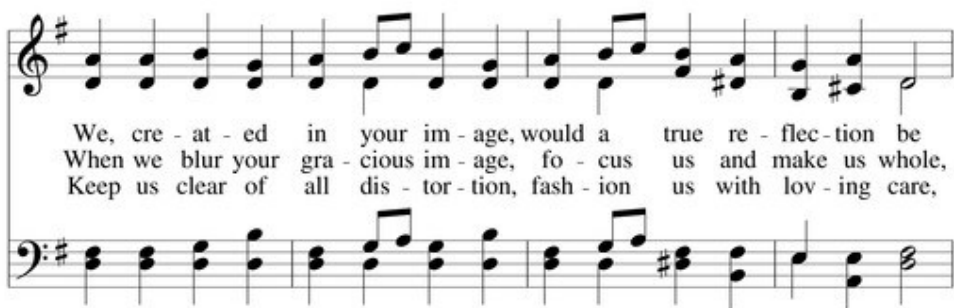
God, You Spin the Whirling Planets 24



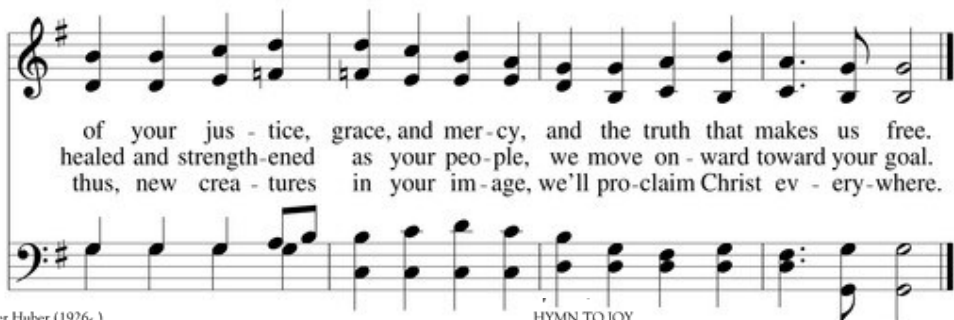
1 God, you spin the whirl-ing plan-ets, fill the seas and spread the plain,
2 You have called us to be faith-ful in our life and min - is - try.
3 God, your will is still cre - at - ing, call - ing us to life made new,



mold the moun-tains, fash-ion blos-soms, call forth sun-shine, wind, and rain.
We re-pond in grate-ful wor-ship, joined in one com-mun-i-ty.
now re-veal to us fresh vis-tas where there's work to dare and do.



We, cre-at-ed in your im-age, would a true re-flec-tion be
When we blur your gra-cious im-age, fo-cus us and make us whole,
Keep us clear of all dis-tor-tion, fash-ion us with lov-ing care,



of your jus-tice, grace, and mer-cy, and the truth that makes us free.
healed and strength-ened as your peo-ple, we move on-ward toward your goal.
thus, new crea-tures in your im-age, we'll pro-claim Christ ev-ery-where.

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

Debbie Price
 Christopher Mitchell
 Sue Sutherland
 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
 JoAnn Elmore
 Bette Rotert Bennett
 The loved ones of Nancy Davis
 The loved ones of Donna
 Wooden
 The loved ones of Doug Bush

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

CAMP DUBOIS WORK WEEK

May 12-16

TO DO LIST:

- Build a climbing wall
- Dismantle a deck
- Painting



If you can help, please
 call Roger Harris 618-631-4502.

Weekly Offerings	4/26/2025
Operating	\$ 3,914.00
Building Fund	\$ 152.00
	<u>\$ 4,066.00</u>
Giving YTD	\$ 132,396.25
Weekly Budget	\$ 6,942.65
Budget to Date	\$ 111,082.40
Total Budget	\$ 361,017.89

Weekly Attendance - 9AM Service

April 20, 2025	170 + Online Participants
April 21, 2024	85 + Online Participants

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.