

Sunday, April 7, 2024

"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 April 7, 2024 9:00 am Second Sunday after Easter

TODAY'S WORSHIP LEADERS

Senior Pastor	Rev. Michelle Torigian
Music Director	
Organist	Kevin Chunko
Liturgist	
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WELCOME

Rev. Michelle Torigian

PRELUDE

Prelude in G Felix Mendelssohn

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: As we join in worship this day, we might feel like the disciples, overwhelmed by grief. After all, the state of the world is so uncertain now.

Many: But our resurrected Christ comes to us, saying, "Peace be with you." One: We might feel like Thomas, looking for physical signs that the unbelievable could be true. After all, nothing like this has ever happened before.

Many: But our resurrected Christ comes to us, saying, "Here are the marks on my body."

One: Can we really believe that Jesus is here again?

Many: Jesus breathes the Holy Spirit on us. Christ's peace is with us. We don't need to be afraid.

One: Our resurrected Christ calls us to worship, and we receive the peace of Christ. Many: Let us worship with joy! Alleluia!

INVOCATION (UNISON)

Resurrected Christ, you have taught us how the unbelievable can be possible. When there is so much to fear in the world, we can find peace in your presence. As we worship, breathe your Spirit on us, that we may carry it with us. Help us comfort our neighbors. Help us serve a world of need. We pray this with thanksgiving for your work among us. Amen.

*OPENING HYMN Alleluia, Alleluia! Hearts to Heaven 289



*PRAYER OF REFLECTION AND RECONCILIATION (UNISON) God, we confess that we too might be like Thomas. As we are overwhelmed by the world's grief, it's natural for us to be cynical. It's hard to believe that hope is possible when hope is hard to find. But when we stop believing in hope, we also stop believing that liberation and change are possible. When we stop working to eliminate discrimination and disrespect, we stop others from experiencing the peace we have found in you. Forgive our unbelief, calm our fears, and help us be instruments of your peace. Amen.

*ASSURANCE OF GRACE

Beloved, Jesus comes to us with grace, telling us we can believe. Because we believe, we can also be empowered to do the work of Christ. Yes, the world is heavy. No, the work will never be totally done. But because we know Christ's love, we can share it with others. And because we know the grace of God, we know peace.

ANTHEM	In Christ Is Gladness, arr. Douglas Sanctuary Choir	Christ Is Gladness, arr. Douglas Wagner Sanctuary Choir		
SCRIPTURE	John 20:19-31			
SERMON	Differing Minds	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

Jesus has empowered us with the Holy Spirit. We have life because of his presence with us. Let us join in God's abundance, giving what we can to offer peace to a hurting world.

*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)**

God of the Resurrection, help us use our gifts to offer hope where there is sorrow, peace where there is chaos and love where there is fear. We can do incredible things because your Spirit lives within us. Amen.

HYMN I Am the Bread of Life (vs. 1, 2, & 4) (See next page)

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.

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

Christ Is Alive

(See page 7)

*COMMISSIONING

Beloved, go in peace, and go be peace! Receive the Holy Spirit deep in your souls, and share your new life in Christ with the world! 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 Improvisation on "*Christ Is Alive*"

I Am the Bread of Life (vs. 1, 2, & 4)

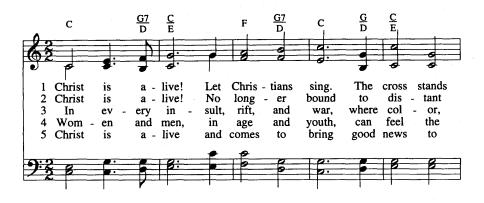
Suzanne Toolan



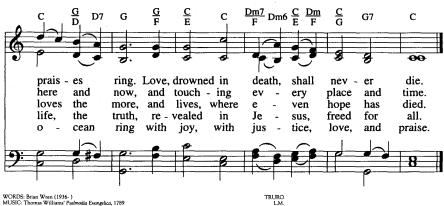
Information about today's service: All St. Paul United Church of Christ services may be recorded and/or streamed. Music is used with permission through Onelicense.net License #A-715913, CCLI #1795791, St. James Press License #17755, or public domain. Worship written by Rev. Jacob Nault for UCC Worship Ways; Communion written by Rev. Michelle L. Torigian. Benediction from UCC Book of Worship.

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Christ Is Alive!







WORDS: Brian Wren (1936-) MUSIC: Thomas Williams' Psalmodia Evangelica, 1789 Words © 1975, 1995 Hope Publishing Company

Archives Artifacts - St. Paul trivia from the desk of Roger Henke

In 1842, our church building was improved. What was that improvement?

Upcoming Events

Church Council meeting-3rd Thursday @ 6pm **Community Dinner**-every Tuesday @ 5pm Culinaires Breakfast-every 3rd Sunday Finance Meeting-every 2nd Tuesday (a) 5pm Mats for Community-3rd Tuesday @ 1pm Mission Meeting-2nd Sunday after service Personnel Meeting-2nd Thursday @ 7pm Quilters-every Tuesday @ 9am Seekers Adult Bible Study – Tuesdays @ 10am Shufflers-2nd Tuesday of the month @ 12pm Wednesdays-Bells (6pm) & Choir (7:15pm) With You group-1st Wednesday @ 1pm Women's Guild-3rd Wednesday @ 1pm

st. Paul UCC Rummage Sale



For Your Prayers

Lori Coleman Carol Hotz Marilyn Dinkelmann Debbie McIntyre, daughter of Arline Worms Tim Ritter Laura (Phillips) Howie Alec Zaber Hector Rivera Betty Rieso

Linda Minton Larry Walton Wayne Caughman Tim Ritter Jr., son of Sandy & Tim Ritter Jerry Hough Lou Ann Niemann Cheryl Cooper **Debbie** Price Donald McCov Jane Bonaldi

Please call the church for prayer requests: 618-233-3303 stpaulucc.org

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Contact the church to learn more: 618.233.3303

\$ 397,200.29

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Weekly Attendance - 9AM Service	Weekly Offerings	3/23/2024
17, 2024 127 + Online Participants	Operating	\$ 4,703.00
127 + Online Participants 18, 2023 92 + Online Participants	Building Fund	\$ 513.00
o, 2025 52 Formie Furticipants		\$ 5,216.00
Wether Verter	Giving YTD	\$ 92,700.49
Watch videos on YouTube: https://www.youtube.com/		
	Weekly Budget	\$ 7,638.47
Like us on Facebook	Budget to Date	\$ 91,661.64

Budget to Date Total Budget

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March 17, 2024

March 18, 2023

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