



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

<i>Senior Pastor</i>	Rev. Michelle Torigian
<i>Music Director</i>	Dr. Tristan Frampton
<i>Organist</i>	Kevin Chunko
<i>Liturgist</i>	Peggy Burke

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

G G₂ G $\frac{G}{D}$ D7 $\frac{G}{D}$ $\frac{D}{C}$ $\frac{G}{B}$ $\frac{D}{A}$ G $\frac{G}{D}$ D

1 Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Hearts to heaven and voic - es raise:
 2 Al - le - lu - ia, Christ is ris - en! Death at last has met de - feat:
 3 Christ is ris - en, we are ris - en! Set your hearts on things a - bove;
 4 Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Glo - ry be to God on high:

G $\frac{C}{G}$ G7 $\frac{G7}{C}$ C Cmaj7 $\frac{Am}{C}$ $\frac{G}{D}$ D7 $\frac{G}{D}$ D7 G

sing to God a hymn of glad-ness, sing to God a hymn of praise;
 see the an - cient powers of e - vil in con - fu - sion and re - treat;
 there in all the Fa - ther's glo - ry lives and reigns our King of love;
 Al - le - lu - ia to the Sav - ior who has gained the vic - to - ry;

D $\frac{G}{D}$ D $\frac{G}{D}$ D $\frac{B}{D\#}$ B7 Em A D

he who on the cross a vic - tim for the world's sal - va - tion bled—
 once he died, and once was bur - ied: now he lives for - ev - er - more,
 hear the word of peace he brings us, see his wound - ed hands and side!
 Al - le - lu - ia to the Spir - it, fount of love and sanc - ti - ty!

G $\frac{C}{G}$ G7 $\frac{G7}{C}$ C Cmaj7 $\frac{Am}{C}$ $\frac{G}{D}$ D7 $\frac{G}{D}$ D7 G

Je - sus Christ, the King of Glo - ry, now is ris - en from the dead.
 Je - sus Christ, the world's Re - deem - er, whom we wor - ship and a - dore.
 Now let ev - ery wrong be end - ed, ev - ery sin be cru - ci - fied.
 Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia to the Tri - une Maj - es - ty!

***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 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 Hundred*)**

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

The musical score is written in treble clef with a key signature of three sharps (F#, C#, G#) and a common time signature (C). The melody is simple and repetitive, with lyrics written below the notes. Chords are indicated above the staff.

Chords: A, C#m, D, E, F#m, AM7, Bm7, A, E.

Lyrics:

"The bread that I will give is My flesh for the life of the
"Un - less you eat of the flesh of the Son of
"I am the res - sur - rection, I am the
hun - ger. He who be - lieves in me shall not thirst. No one can come to
world. And he who eats of this bread, he shall live for
Man, and drink of his blood and drink of his
life. He who be - lieves in me, e - ven if he
me un - less the Fa - ther draws him." "And I will raise him
ev - er, he shall live for ev - er.
blood, you shall not have life with - in you."
die he shall live for ev - er."

up, and I will raise him up, and I will raise him up on the last day.

Christ Is Alive!

C $\frac{G7}{D}$ $\frac{C}{E}$ F $\frac{G7}{D}$ C $\frac{G}{D}$ $\frac{C}{E}$

1 Christ is a - live! Let Chris - tians sing. The cross stands
 2 Christ is a - live! No long - er bound to dis - tant
 3 In ev - ery in - sult, rift, and war, where col - or,
 4 Wom - en and men, in age and youth, can feel the
 5 Christ is a - live and comes to bring good news to

$\frac{G7}{D}$ C $\frac{G7}{F}$ $\frac{C}{E}$ $\frac{G7}{D}$ C G $\frac{G}{B}$ D G $\frac{G}{B}$

emp - ty to the sky. Let streets and homes with
 years in Pal - es - tine, but sav - ing, heal - ing,
 scorn, or wealth di - vide, Christ suf - fers still, yet
 Spir - it, hear the call, and find the way, the
 this and ev - ery age; till earth and sky and

C $\frac{G}{D}$ D7 G $\frac{G}{F}$ $\frac{C}{E}$ C $\frac{Dm7}{F}$ Dm6 $\frac{C}{E}$ $\frac{Dm}{F}$ $\frac{C}{G}$ G7 C

prais - es ring. Love, drowned in death, shall nev - er die.
 here and now, and touch - ing ev - ery place and time.
 loves the more, and lives, where e - ven hope has died.
 life, the truth, re - vealed in Je - sus, freed for all.
 o - cean ring with joy, with jus - tice, love, and praise.

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 @ 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

For Your Prayers

Lori Coleman	Linda Minton
Carol Hotz	Larry Walton
Marilyn Dinkelmann	Wayne Caughman
Debbie McIntyre, daughter of Arline Worms	Tim Ritter Jr., son of Sandy & Tim Ritter
Tim Ritter	Jerry Hough
Laura (Phillips) Howie	Lou Ann Niemann
Alec Zaber	Cheryl Cooper
Hector Rivera	Debbie Price
Betty Rieso	Donald McCoy
	Jane Bonaldi

ST. PAUL UCC RUMMAGE SALE

115 W. B Street
Belleville, IL
Activity Center (Gym)
(Across from Franklin School)
INSIDE RAIN OR SHINE!

Bake Sale!
Donations of baked goods accepted!

Volunteers Needed!
Call 618-233-3303

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

ANSWER: A steeple was added on to the roof. This cost \$25,00. A new bell, our second, was placed in the structure. The bell cost \$29,500

Find out more how your required minimum distribution (RMD) can benefit St. Paul UCC and save you on taxes!

Contact the church to learn more:
618.233.3303

StPaulUCC.org

Weekly Attendance - 9AM Service

March 17, 2024	127	+ Online Participants
March 18, 2023	92	+ Online Participants



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



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St Paul UCC, Belleville, IL

Weekly Offerings	3/23/2024
Operating	\$ 4,703.00
Building Fund	\$ 513.00
	\$ 5,216.00
Giving YTD	\$ 92,700.49
 Weekly Budget	 \$ 7,638.47
Budget to Date	\$ 91,661.64
Total Budget	\$ 397,200.29