



"My soul magnifies the
Lord, and my spirit rejoices
in God my Savior."

Luke 1

Sunday, December 19, 2021
Advent 4

"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



Welcome and Announcements

Rev. Michelle Torigian

Opening Voluntary

Vom Himmel Hoch
Johann Pachelbel (1653-1706)

Chant

Creator of the Stars of Night

Lighting of the Advent Candle

Avery White

Hymn Candlelighting Song, Verse 4 (*see next page*)

Invocation

In December Darkness (*poem by Ann Weems, adapted*)

Pastor: The whole world waits in December darkness for a glimpse of the Light of God. Even those who snarl “Humbug!” and chase away the carolers have been seen looking toward the skies.

**People: The one who declared he never would forgive has for given,
and those who left home have returned,**

Pastor: and even wars are halted, if briefly, as the whole world looks starward.

**People: In the December darkness we peer from our windows
watching for an angel with rainbow wings to announce the Hope
of the World**

Pastor: Let us worship God.

***Opening Hymn**

Angels from the Realms of Glory (see page 4)

***Hymn** Season of Longing and Anticipation (Candlelighting Song, Verse 4)

In this sea-son of long-ing and an-ti-ci-pa-tion, God is at work in the heart of cre-a-tion,
of-fer-ing all new life and sal-va-tion: A wom-an ans-wers God's call! O-pen our
eyes to sights signs, and won-der; o-pen our ears to hear your word; o-pen our hearts to live with each
oth-er in love, In-car-nate Lord!

***Prayer of Reflection**

In Search of Our Kneeling Places
(poem by Ann Weems, adapted)

Pastor: In each heart lies a Bethlehem,

People: An inn where we must ultimately answer whether there is room or not.

Pastor: When we are Bethlehem-bound, we experience our own advent in his.

People: When we are Bethlehem-bound, we can no longer look the other way, conveniently not seeing stars, not hearing angel voices. We can no longer excuse ourselves by busily tending our sheep or our kingdoms.

Pastor: This Advent, let's go to Bethlehem and see this thing the Lord has made known to us.

People: In the midst of shopping sprees, let's ponder in our hearts the Gift of Gifts. Through the tinsel, let's look for the gold of the Christmas Star.

Pastor: In the excitement and confusion, in the merry chaos, let's listen for the brush of angels' wings.

All: This Advent, let's go to Bethlehem and find our kneeling places.

Angels, from the Realms of Glory

Sts. 1-3, James Montgomery, 1771-1854, *alt.*,
St. 4, *Salisbury Hymn Book*, 1857

REGENT SQUARE
Henry T. Smart, 1813-79

All in Harmony: 1. An - gels, from the realms of glo - ry, Wing your flight o'er all the earth;
Unison Women: 2. Shep - herds, in the fields a - bid - ing, Watch - ing o'er your flocks by night,
Unison Men: 3. Sa - ges, leave your con - tem - pla - tions, Bright - er vi - sions beam a - far;
All in Unison: 4. All cre - a - tion, join in prais - ing God, the Fa - ther, Spir - it, Son,

Once you sang cre - a - tion's sto - ry, Now pro - claim Mes - si - ah's birth:
God with us is now re - sid - ing, Yon - der shines the in - fant light.
Seek the great de - sire of na - tions, You have seen his na - tal star.
Ev - er - more your voic - es rais - ing To th'e - ter - nal Three in One.

Come and wor - ship, come and wor - ship, Wor - ship Christ, the new - born king.



Assurance of God's Grace

The Child Is Born Again (poem by Ann Weems, adapted)

*Pastor: Each year the Child is born again. Each year some new heart
finally hears,
finally sees,
finally knows
love.*

People: And in heaven there is great rejoicing!

Pastor: There is a festival of stars!

People: There is celebration among the angels!

*Pastor: For in the finding of one lost sheep, the heart of the Shepherd
is glad, and Christmas has happened once more.*

People: The Child is born anew and one more knee is bowed!

Pastor: Friends, let us rejoice in the good news:

**People: In Jesus Christ, our sins are forgiven and all is made new!
Thanks be to God.**

Pastor: May the peace of Christ be with you.

Song of Praise

Lift Up Your Heads (Verse 3)

Re - deem - er, come! I o - pen wide my heart to thee; here,

7 Lord, a - bide. Let me thy in - ner pre - sence feel; thy

13 grace and love in me re - veal.

Scripture Reading

Luke 1:39-45

Donna Davis

Musical Meditation -

Kneeling in Bethlehem:

A Festival of Readings and Carols for Advent and Christmas

Musical arrangements and original music by Michael Burkhardt

Readings form “Kneeling in Bethlehem” by Ann Weems

- | | |
|----------------|---|
| Carol | All My Heart Again Rejoices
(Fröhlich soll mein Herze springen) |
| Reading | <i>The Decree</i> —Dick Erdmann |
| Carol | <i>Morning Star</i> |
| Reading | <i>Sitting on the Hillsides</i> —Donna Davis |
| Carol | <i>Shepherd’s Carol</i> |
| Reading | <i>Unexpected</i> - Sue Hoffmann |
| Carol | <i>Jesus, Jesus, Rest Your Head</i> |
| Reading | <i>God So Loved the World</i> —Fred Hotz |
| Hymn | <i>Prepare the Royal Highway</i> (see page 7)
Verse 1 – All
Verse 2—Choir
Verse 3—Choir
Verse 4—All |



Hymn

Prepare the Royal Highway

Frans Mikael Franzén
Tr. Lutheran Book of Worship

BEREDEN VÄG FÖR HERRAN
17th century Swedish folk tune



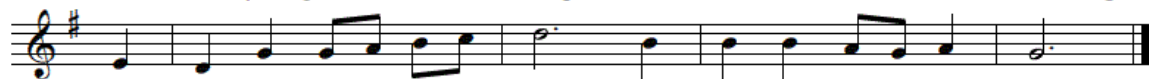
All: 1. Pre - pare the roy - al high - way; The King of kings is near!
All: 4. His is no earth - ly king - dom; It comes from heav'n a - bove.



Let ev - 'ry hill and val - ley A lev - el road ap - pear!
His rule is peace and free - dom And jus - tice, truth, and love.



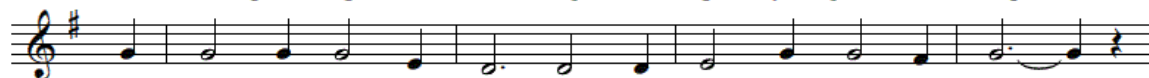
Then greet the King of glo - ry, Fore - told in sa - cred sto - ry:
So let your praise be sound - ing For kind - ness so a - bound - ing:



Ho - san - na to the Lord, For he ful - fills God's word!
Ho - san - na to the Lord, For he ful - fills God's word!



*Choir: 2. God's peo - ple, see him com - ing: Your own e - ter - nal king!
All: 3. Then fling the gates wide o - pen To greet your prom - ised king!



Palm branch - es strew be - fore him! Spread gar - ments! Shout and sing!
Your king, yet ev - 'ry na - tion Its trib - ute too may bring.



God's prom - ise will not fail you! No more shall doubt as - sail you!
All lands will bow be - fore him; Their voic - es join your sing - ing:



Ho - san - na to the Lord, For he ful - fills God's word!
Ho - san - na to the Lord, For he ful - fills God's word!



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.**

***Closing Hymn** *Angels We Have Heard on High*
(An interlude follows each stanza) (See next page)

***Blessing of the Gifts (Unison):**

With these gifts, dear God, accept the praise and thanksgiving of our hearts. We rejoice in your goodness and love. Let our gifts point to your presence in the world, and further your dream for all of your children through Jesus, Emmanuel, God-with-us. Amen.

***Benediction**

Pastor Michelle

Let us go forth with eyes to see and ears to hear and voices to proclaim:

In the ordinary and the vulnerable: God-with-us!

In the challenge of the unexpected: God-with-us!

In love giving life in justice and mercy: God-with-us!

In the work of peace: God-with-us!

Let us go forth sharing the love of Christ and celebrating the Christ who abides with us in our midst. Amen!

Postlude

Noel II

Jean-Jacques Beauvarlet-Charpentier (1734-1794)



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Blessing of the Gifts & Benediction from **God-with-Us! Service Prayers for the Fourth Sunday of Advent** written by the Rev. Susan A. Blain. Advent candle lighting prayer by Rev. Michelle L. Torigian.



Angels We Have Heard on High

GLORIA

18th-century French carol

French carol

Tr. The Crown of Jesus, Part 2, London, 1862



Men: 1. An - gels we have heard on high, Sweet - ly sing - ing o'er the plains,
Women: 2. Shep - herds, why this ju - bi - lee? Why your joy - ous strains pro - long?
All: 3. Come to Beth - le - hem and see Him whose birth the an - gels sing;



And the moun - tains in re - ply, Ech - o - ing their joy - ous strains.
What the glad - some tid - ings be Which in - spire your heav'n - ly song?
Come a - dore on bend - ed knee Christ the Lord, the new - born king.

Refrain: All in Harmony



Participants:

**Pastor:**

Rev. Michelle Torigian

Music Director:

Dr. Bill Wade

Readers :

Dick Erdmann, Donna Davis, Sue Hoffmann and Fred Hotz

Choir:

Stephenie Bauza, Pam Walton, Osceola Mueller, Peggy
Burke, Kristine Mueller, Lisa Hudnall, Luci Bradley
Susan Relfe, Sandra Wagner, Teresa Schmidt,
Laura Sadler, Mimi Llamas

Tom Birkner, Ruth Klingel, Linda Herrmann,
Karey Sadler, Lou Ryseff, Hector Rivera, Stephen Schmidt,
Rusty Wagner and Roger Relfe

Organists:

Jan Spencer, Dr. Bill Wade

Glory Ringers:

Mary Lu Bretsch, Karen Boeschen, Ruth Klingel, Susan Relfe

Instrumentalists:

Maggie Watts, violin I; Victoria Voumard, violin II; Savannah
Brannan, viola; Missy Banker, cello; Colleen McCracken,
flute; Melissa Gustafson-Hinds, oboe
Soprano Soloist: Sharifa Black,
Alto Soloist: Caetlyn Van Buren





ST PAUL UCC
HOLIDAY SCHEDULE
Blue Christmas Service

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 21

7PM SERVICE

FOR OUR FRIENDS AND THEIR LOVED
ONES WHO ARE GOING THROUGH A
TOUGH TIME DURING THE HOLIDAYS

Christmas Eve

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 24

4:30PM AND 7PM SERVICES

All services held in the Sanctuary at
St. Paul UCC, 115 West B Street, Belleville
or stream at stpaulucc.org
All are welcome!



Today at 3:00 pm
St. Paul UCC Sanctuary



THE GATEWAY RINGERS,
ST. LOUIS PREMIER HANDBELL GROUP

Sponsored by
St. Paul UCC Fine Arts



Free will offering
Masks required



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

St. Paul members have always enjoyed getting together and playing cards. What was the name of our 2006 group?



This Week

Sundays

9am Traditional Worship
10am Coffee & Donuts
(Culinaire's Breakfast 3rd Sunday)

Here is how to stay in touch with St. Paul

1) **Watch the services and check for event updates on FACBOOK -**

Like us at *St. Paul United Church of Christ Belleville, IL*

2) **Go to stpaulucc.org**

-and you will find: videos of services, sermons, archives, and much more!!

For Your Prayers

Gus Kuether Bev Juenger
Lori Coleman Karen Zaber
Al Stahl Audrey Krummrich
Carol Hotz Joyce Maurer
Shirley Martin Lev Reynolds
Scott Schmidt, brother of Steve Schmidt

PRAYER REQUESTS

Please send prayer requests to
pastormichelle@stpaulucc.org

or call 618-233-3303

Praying for your health and well being!



Like us on Facebook
*St Paul United Church of Christ,
Belleville, Illinois*

ANSWER:
St. Paul Card Characters



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



Weekly Attendance

9am Dec 5, 2021 103 + Online Participants Dec 6, 2020 All Virtual

Offering for 12/5/2021 - \$10,002

General Fund

Needed each week \$8,082

Giving to Date  \$368,801

Budget to...  \$396,018

Total Budget  \$420,256