



Sunday, December 3, 2023

“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

December 3, 2023 9:00 am

First Sunday of Advent

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>	Donna Davis

WELCOME

PRELUDE

Pastorale (op. 59, no. 2)

Max Reger

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

SUNG CALL TO WORSHIP (from 1 Corinthians 1 & Luke 21)



All: Grace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

Choir: There will be signs, signs in sun, moon, and stars. They will see the Son of Man coming. There will be stars.

All: Grace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

INVOCATION (UNISON)

God of the mountains who quake at your presence,

You meet us in our memory of you. We'd invite you to come down and dwell

among us, Yet we know that you are already and always with us. You are

Emmanuel, ever present one, in our collective memory from ages past— God

beside us, God before us, God behind us, and God within us. Let your face shine

so that we might remember you more clearly. Give us life and we will call on your

name As we worship you in spirit and in truth. Amen.

*OPENING HYMN

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel 154

Unison

Em Bm G G Am Am G D G D Bm G C G

1 O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, and ran - som cap - tive
 2 O come, thou Day - spring, come and cheer our spir - its by thine
 3 O come, thou Wis - dom from on high, and or - der all things,
 4 O come, De - sire of na - tions, bind all peo - ples in one

Am Em Bm Em Am Am Em B7 Em Bm C D Em

Is - ra - el, that mourns in lone - ly ex - ile here, un -
 ad - vent here; dis - perse the gloom - y clouds of night, and
 far and nigh; to us the path of knowl - edge show, and
 heart and mind; bid en - vy, strife and quar - rels cease; fill

Refrain (Harmony)

D Bm G G Am Am G D G D Em Bm G

til the Son of God ap - pear.
 death's dark shad - ows put to flight.
 cause us in her ways to go. Re - jice! Re - jice! Em -
 the whole world with heav - en's peace.

Am Am G D Em D G G C G Am Em D Em

man - u - el shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el!

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

Great Alpha and Omega, Divine Beginning and the End,

We come singing songs of hope, this morning. Though we may not be inspired much right now, we still sing. Though it may take us time to sit with our hampered thoughts and sift through the growing pile of despair, we still sing. In spite of everything ridiculous and sad, some of us got dressed, and some of us made it out of bed or out the door and we still sing of hope. God, remind us that we have gotten through a lot of things we didn't think we could and that you have not left us nor forsaken us. With you and our neighbors, we continue on the journey with hope. Our individual and collective ancestors still sang new songs in the valleys of death. And so, we still sing, too. Embolden us as we try to show the world the we can find hope, even when it seems impossible to bear. Hope must be there. Fear never wins. The work begins in us. Amen.

***ASSURANCE OF GRACE**

God who has been with us, is with us, and continues to be with us will never let us down and continues to pour grace and hope into our lives. We celebrate God's presence and mercy.

WELCOMING OF NEW MEMBERS

Invitation

Questions of the Candidates

Affirmation of Faith

Pastor: Let us unite with the church in all times and places in confessing our faith in the triune God.

Pastor: Do you believe in God?

All: I believe in God.

Pastor: Do you believe in Jesus Christ?

All: I believe in Jesus Christ.

Pastor: Do you believe in the Holy Spirit?

All: I believe in the Holy Spirit.

Address and Question about Participation

Welcome and Reception

Unison Welcoming Statement

We welcome you with joy in the common life of this church. We promise you our friendship and prayers as we share the hopes and labors of the church of Jesus Christ. By the power of the Holy Spirit may we continue to grow together in God's knowledge and love and be witnesses of our risen Savior.

Greeting of Christian Love

ANTHEM

Advent Hymn, by Don Besig
Sanctuary Choir

SCRIPTURE

Mark 13:24-37

SERMON Sparks of Hope and Joy in the Apocalypse Rev. Michelle Torigian

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

As recipients of the generous deeds of God and to build hope around us, let us share our generosity with each other and the community.

***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)**

One: For the wondrous ways this offering with breath hope into community

All: We dedicate these gifts.

One: For the ways it'll help us live out God's mission

All: We dedicate these gifts.

One: Let these gifts strengthen our call to carry out God's justice and mercy.

Amen.

CELEBRATION OF HOLY COMMUNION

Sentences of Invitation

One: May you know that the God of comfort is with you.

Many: And may you see the God of hope with you.

One: Open wide our anxious hearts!

Many: We open them to God's peace.

One: Let us give thanks and share our joy.

Many: In this space and time, we offer God our love and praise.

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)

For the nourishment of spirit, mind, and body, for hope that we begin to see, and for comfort from the Prince of Peace, we share our gratitude, Gracious God. Encourage us in these shortened days. Through the long nights of this season, may your hope carry us until dawn arrives again. Amen.

***CLOSING HYMN**

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

O God, Our Help in Ages Past

Chords: C, F, C/E, Am, Dm⁷/F, G, C

1 O God, our help in a - ges past, our
 2 Un - der the shad - ow of your throne your
 3 Be - fore the hills in or - der stood or
 4 A thou - sand a - ges in your sight are

Chords: Am, Em, Am/C, D, G, G, C, F, Dm, G

3 hope for years to come, our shel - ter from the
 saints have dwelt se - cure; suf - fi - cient is your
 earth re - ceived her frame, from ev - er - last - ing
 like an eve - ning gone, short as the watch that

Chords: C, Dm/F, E, C/E, F, C/E, Dm, G, C

6 storm - y blast, and our e - ter - nal home.
 arm a - lone, and our de - fense is sure.
 you are God, to end - less years the same.
 ends the night be - fore the ris - ing sun.

***COMMISSIONING**

Go forth with the gift of hope
Remembering God's deeds
Trusting God's presence
And Becoming God's handiwork.
May God's face shine on us now and forever,
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

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus
Ralph Vaughn Williams



**St Paul Friends
Christmas Party!**

Everyone is invited to attend the St. Paul Friends Annual Christmas Party on Friday, December 15 at 6:30 p.m. in Heritage Hall. Please bring an appetizer or dessert to share and your adult beverage of choice. Soft drinks and paper goods will be provided. Please RSVP to Judy Koch (judithkoch@att.net) or Sandy Wagner (skwagner51@gmail.com) RSVP is appreciated but not required for attendance. Come celebrate the season with your St. Paul Friends!

Today's music is by
Dick & Ruth Ann Erdmann

In Loving Memory of
Dad, Merlin 'Bud' Erdmann on
the anniversary of his
December 7, 1918 Birthday!

Save the date!

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

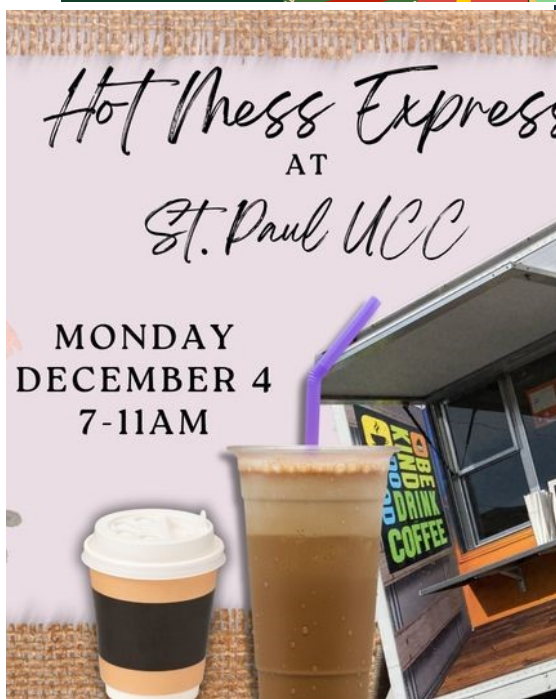
to discuss the 2024 budget and nominations to council will be December 10th immediately after worship.

Copies of the budget and slate of officers will be available in the Narthex beginning on November 26th.



ST. PAUL UCC MISSION BOARD IS ACCEPTING MONETARY DONATIONS FOR FRANKLIN NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

Money collected will be given to Franklin Neighborhood Association to purchase holiday food baskets for those in need! Please consider donating and help others have a blessed holiday. Please send in your donations to St. Paul UCC by December 8th. Please make checks payable to their full name of Franklin Neighborhood Association.





ST. PAUL UCC

Holiday Worship Schedule

Blue Christmas

December 19th

7:00 pm in Heritage Hall

Advent Sunday Service

December 24th

9:00 am

Christmas Eve Services

December 24th

4:30 pm and 7:00 pm

ST. PAUL UCC, 115 WEST B STREET, BELLEVILLE

STREAM AT STPAULUCC.ORG

ALL ARE WELCOME!



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

The “Our St. Paul” publication of January, 2000 included a section authored by our archivists. They referred to themselves as ‘church mice.’ Who were these two people?

Upcoming Events

Church Council meeting-3rd Thursday @ 6pm
Community Dinner-every Tuesday @ 5pm
Culinaires Breakfast-every 3rd Sunday
Executive Council-3rd Monday @ 7pm
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
Hanging of the Greens-December 3 @ 3-6pm
Metro East Chorale Concert-December 10 @ 3pm
St. Paul Friends Christmas Party-December 15 @ 6:30pm

For Your Prayers

Lori Coleman	Scott Martin, son of
Carol Hotz	Shirley Martin
Marilyn Dinkelmann	Betty Rieso
Debbie McIntyre,	Linda Mentzer
daughter of Arline	Linda Minton
Worms	Wayne Caughman
Tim Ritter	Tim Ritter Jr., son of
Laura Howie, daughter	Sandy & Tim Ritter
of Elgee Phillips	Jerry Hough
Alec Zaber	Peggy Mejias -friend of
Hector Rivera	Mimi Llamas
Dawson Anderson	

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



Like us on Facebook
St Paul UCC, Belleville, IL



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

ANSWER: Alice Jerome and Sandy Kuehn

Weekly Attendance

9AM

November 12, 2023 99 + Online Participants November 13, 2022 74 + Online Participants

Offering 11/18/2023 \$6,347

General Fund

Needed each week \$7,605

Giving to...  \$310,393

Budget to...  \$349,846

Total Budget  \$395,479