

Sunday, December 31, 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 31, 2023 9:00 am

First Sunday after Christmas

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>	Fred Hotz

Thank you to our supply preacher J. Frederick Accola for leading
worship today!

WELCOME

PRELUDE

Ding, Dong! Merrily On High
Quentin Thomas

CALL TO WORSHIP (Inspired by Psalm 148)

One: Praise God in the heavens! Praise God among us! Praise the Holy One!

Many: Praise God who vindicates us! Praise God who sustains us!

One: Praise God from the depths! Praise God in all circumstances!

Many: Praise Creator who made us! Praise God who shapes us!

One: Let all praise the name of the Holy One!

Many: The glory of God reigns in heaven and on earth! Praise the Holy One!

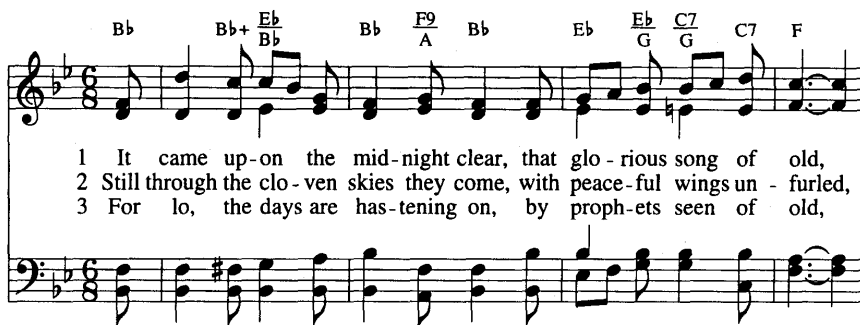
INVOCATION (UNISON)

Redeeming God, you have met us in valleys, on storming seas, and on mountaintops. We welcome your presence now as we come to worship you. We gather in gratitude and assurance that you are our God, and we proclaim with gladness that we are your people. Some come in need of encouragement or comfort. Others need a healing touch. We hunger and thirst for righteousness as we praise and honor your name. Transform us to be living vessels of your love and living witnesses of your continuing presence in the world. Amen.

*OPENING HYMN

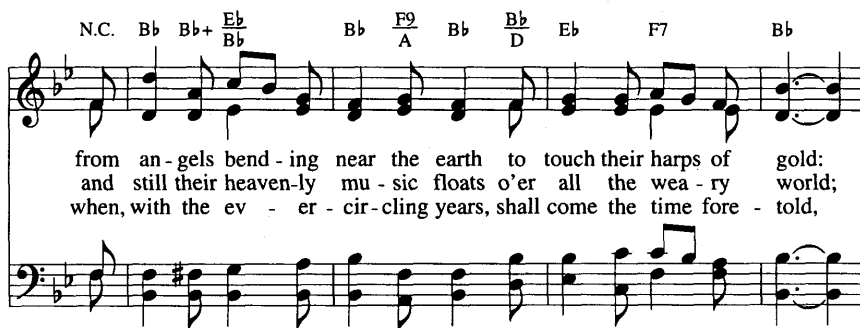
It Came upon the Midnight Clear

B \flat B \flat + $\frac{E\mathbb{b}}{B\mathbb{b}}$ B \flat $\frac{F9}{A}$ B \flat E \mathbb{b} $\frac{E\mathbb{b}}{G}$ $\frac{C7}{G}$ C7 F



1 It came up-on the mid- night clear, that glo- rious song of old,
 2 Still through the clo- ven skies they come, with peace- ful wings un- furled,
 3 For lo, the days are has- tening on, by proph- ets seen of old,

N.C. B \flat B \flat + $\frac{E\mathbb{b}}{B\mathbb{b}}$ B \flat $\frac{F9}{A}$ B \flat $\frac{B\mathbb{b}}{D}$ E \mathbb{b} F7 B \flat



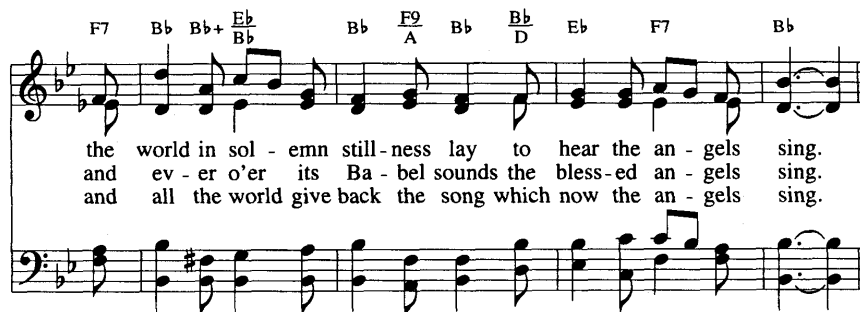
from an- gels bend- ing near the earth to touch their harps of gold:
 and still their heaven-ly mu- sic floats o'er all the wea- ry world;
 when, with the ev- er- cir- cling years, shall come the time fore- told,

N.C. D $\frac{D}{C}$ $\frac{Gm}{B\mathbb{b}}$ D Gm $\frac{Gm}{B\mathbb{b}}$ $\frac{F}{C}$ C7 F



"Peace on the earth, good-will to all, from heaven's all gra- cious King":
 a- bove its sad and low- ly plains they bend on hov- ering wing,
 when peace shall o- ver all the earth its an- cient splen- dors fling,

F7 B \flat B \flat + $\frac{E\mathbb{b}}{B\mathbb{b}}$ B \flat $\frac{F9}{A}$ B \flat $\frac{B\mathbb{b}}{D}$ E \mathbb{b} F7 B \flat



the world in sol- emn still- ness lay to hear the an- gels sing.
 and ev- er o'er its Ba- bel sounds the bless- ed an- gels sing.
 and all the world give back the song which now the an- gels sing.

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

Sovereign God, you have been our help from age to age. Remind us to turn to you when confronted with difficult choices. Remind us that you strengthen us on the journey. Remind us that our actions and attitudes impact our neighbors and ourselves. Renew our minds and spirits as we strive to follow your way of love and peace in the world. Amen.

***ASSURANCE OF GRACE**

Beloved, you are loved with an everlasting love by the Most High God. Know that each day and each year brings new opportunities for faithful and flourishing life in the name and path of Jesus. Redemption is available, and God's grace is sufficient for transformation and new life.

SPECIAL MUSIC

Amid the Cold of Winter
(In the Bleak Midwinter/Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming)
by Bret Rhoades
Tristan Frampton, tenor
Kevin Chunko, piano

SCRIPTURE

Ecclesiastes 3:1-13 and Matthew 25:31-46

SERMON

Resolutions

J. Frederick Accola

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

Let us rejoice in the God of salvation through our giving. May we embody the generosity modeled by Jesus Christ, who came to serve, heal, and to restore.

COLLECTION OF THE GIFTS & OFFERTORY MUSIC

He Is Born The Holy Child

arr. Keyte/Parrott

***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)**

Generous God, we thank you for every good and perfect gift you have given to us and through us. Use our offerings this day for the benefit of creation, the redemption of humanity, and your glory. Amen.

***CLOSING HYMN** *Go, Tell It on the Mountain* (See next page)

***COMMISSIONING**

As we depart this place and this year, may we go forward...vindicated, restored, and empowered in order to be the blessing needed in the world. Share the hope, peace, joy, and love of Christ in word and deed to the glory of God. 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

O God, Our Help In Ages Past
Franklin Ashdown



218 Go, Tell It on the Mountain

Refrain (Unison)

F B \flat F Dm Gm B \flat C F B \flat C

Go, tell it on the moun - tain, o-ver the hills and ev - ery-where;

F B \flat F Dm B \flat 6 B \flat C7 F

go, tell it on the moun - tain that Je - sus Christ is born.

Parts

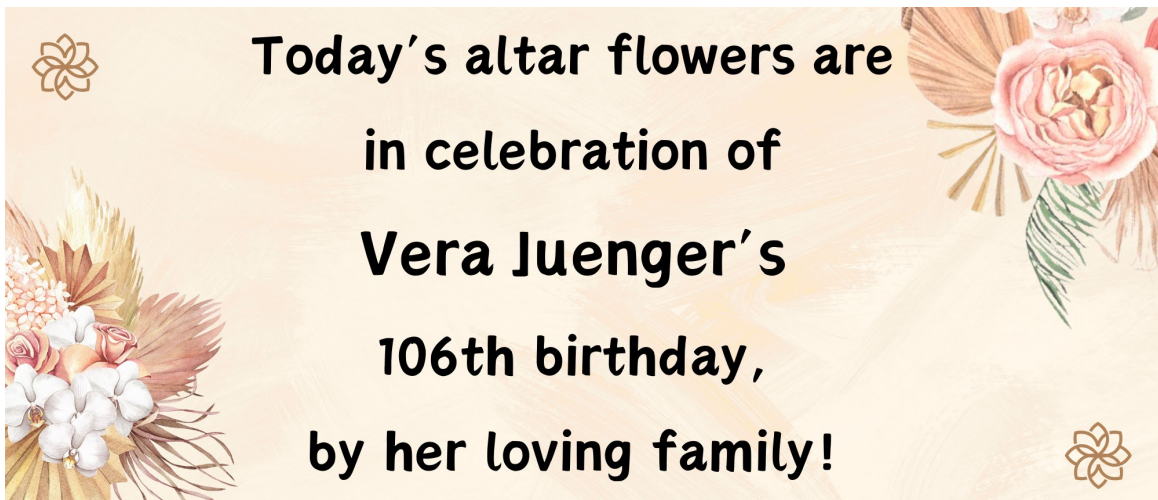
F C7 G F A F A Gm B \flat C7 F

1 While shep-herds kept their watch-ing o'er si - lent flocks by night,
2 The shep-herds feared and trem-bled when, lo! a - bove the earth
3 Down in a low - ly man - ger the hum - ble Christ was born,

F Am7 E Dm7 G G7 C C7 E

to Refrain

be - hold, through-out the heav - ens there shone a ho - ly light.
rang out the an - gel cho - rus that hailed our Sav - ior's birth.
and God sent us sal - va - tion that bless - ed Christ-mas morn.



Today's altar flowers are
in celebration of
Vera Juenger's
106th birthday,
by her loving family!



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. Rev. Dr. Cheryl Lindsay for UCC Worship Ways. Benediction from UCC Book of Worship.

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

In the 2000's, the church had an active group going by the acronym SPY. What was this?

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

For Your Prayers

Lori Coleman	Scott Martin, son of
Carol Hotz	Shirley Martin
Marilyn Dinkemann	Betty Rieso
Debbie McIntyre,	Linda Minton
daughter of Arline	Wayne Caughman
Worms	Tim Ritter Jr., son of
Tim Ritter	Sandy & Tim Ritter
Laura Howie, daughter	Jerry Hough
of Elgee Phillips	Peggy Mejas -friend of
Alec Zaber	Mimi Llamas
Hector Rivera	Lou Ann Niemann
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: St. Paul Youth.

Weekly Attendance

9AM

December 10, 2023 122 + Online Participants December 11, 2022 101 + Online Participants

Offering 12/16/2023 \$7,004

General Fund

Needed each week \$7,605

Giving to... \$329,776

Budget to... \$380,268

Total Budget \$395,479