



RITUALS



Sunday, January 7, 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

January 7, 2023 9:00 am

First Sunday after Epiphany

The Baptism of Christ



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

Chorale Prelude on "Quem Pastores"
Healey Willan

CALL TO WORSHIP (Inspired by Psalm 29)

One: Ascribe to Creator glory and honor!

Many: The Voice of the Holy One hovers over the waters and speaks creation into being.

One: Ascribe to the Holy One strength and peace!

Many: The Voice of the Sovereign One calls for justice, love, and righteousness.

One: Ascribe to the Omnipresent One power and gentleness!

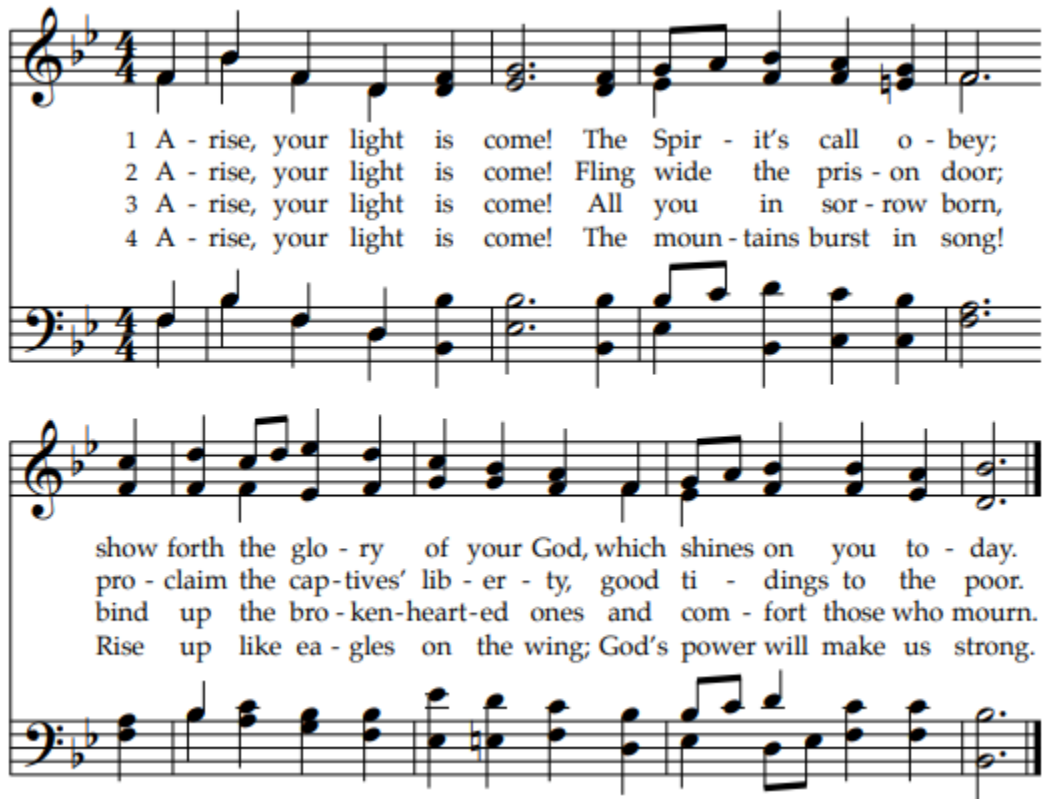
Many: The Voice of the Gracious One gives life and reigns forever and ever.

INVOCATION (UNISON)

Triune God, you come among us in the fullness of your being and affirm the fullness of our humanity—mind, body, and spirit. In you, we find joy and pleasure. In you, we claim peace and hope. In you, we arise to greet a new day and a new way of being. Shape us in this time together that we might reflect your goodness, your light, and your way. Amen.

*OPENING HYMN

Arise, Your Light Is Come



1 A - rise, your light is come! The Spir - it's call o - bey;
2 A - rise, your light is come! Fling wide the pris - on door;
3 A - rise, your light is come! All you in sor - row born,
4 A - rise, your light is come! The moun - tains burst in song!

show forth the glo - ry of your God, which shines on you to - day.
pro - claim the cap - tives' lib - er - ty, good ti - dings to the poor.
bind up the bro - ken-heart-ed ones and com - fort those who mourn.
Rise up like ea - gles on the wing; God's power will make us strong.

(FESTAL SONG)

*PRAYER OF REFLECTION AND RECONCILIATION (UNISON)

Righteous God, we confess our need for you in every aspect of our lives. Lift us from the valleys of despair and hopelessness. Free us from the societal norms, pressures, and conventions that conflict with or diminish your Kingdom. Remind us of our baptismal promises and commitment. Release us from shame and fortify us with grace for transformation and new life. Amen.

*ASSURANCE OF GRACE

Beloved, the Holy One has declared you good in your being as you have been uniquely created. The Holy One has faith in you to be the best version of yourself. The Holy One companions with you in the process of growth, renewal, and sanctification. And, the Holy One empowers and emboldens us to spread the good news, pursue justice and liberation, and be agents of transformation in the world. Receive the grace God gives us to fail, to learn, and to be more like Jesus Christ.

INSTALLATION OF NEW OFFICERS & COUNCIL MEMBERS

Leader: Having prayerfully considered the duties and responsibilities of your ministry are you prepared to serve with the help of God in Christ's name and for the glory of God?

Individuals: I am.

Leader: Do you promise to exercise your ministry diligently and faithfully, showing forth the love of Christ?

Individuals: I do, relying on God's grace.

Leader: Members of this household of faith, you have heard the promises of our brothers and sisters in Christ who have answered God's call to service. Let us affirm our intention to live in covenant with them.

All: We gather in celebration of the joy that is ours to be partners with you in the service of Jesus Christ. We promise to love you, honor your leadership, and assist you that together we may be a faithful church of Jesus Christ.

STATEMENT OF FAITH OF THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

We believe in you, O God, Eternal Spirit,
God of our Savior Jesus Christ and our God, and to your deeds we testify:

You call the worlds into being,
create persons in your own image, and set before each one the ways of life and death.

You seek in holy love to save all people from aimlessness and sin.

You judge people and nations by your righteous will
declared through prophets and apostles.

In Jesus Christ, the man of Nazareth, our crucified and risen Savior,
you have come to us and shared our common lot, conquering sin and death
and reconciling the world to yourself.

You bestow upon us your Holy Spirit, creating and renewing the church of Jesus Christ,
binding in covenant faithful people of all ages, tongues, and races.

You call us into your church to accept the cost and joy of discipleship,
to be your servants in the service of others, to proclaim the gospel to all the world
and resist the powers of evil, to share in Christ's baptism and eat at his table, to join
him in his passion and victory.

You promise to all who trust you forgiveness of sins and fullness of grace,
courage in the struggle for justice and peace, your presence in trial and rejoicing, and
eternal life in your realm which has no end.

Blessing and honor, glory and power be unto you. Amen.

ANTHEM

Epiphany Carol
by Austin Lovelace

SCRIPTURE

Matthew 2:1-12 & Luke 2:22-40 & Mark 1:4-13

SERMON

A Life of Rituals

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

Let us return a portion of our abundance to the creative and liberating energy and work of God in the world. May our resources be used for the glory of the Holy One and in the name of the One who modeled abiding generosity.

We will not have a designated time to collect offerings. Instead, please place your offerings and gifts in the box which you will find in the Narthex as you exit the Sanctuary.

*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)

Holy One, receive our offerings as gifts of ourselves. Increase the gifts and uplift our generosity to new heights. May our giving bear fruit that sustains, nurtures, and feeds a new world into being. Amen.

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. Installation Litany, Statement of Faith, and Benediction from UCC Book of Worship. Communion written by Rev. Michelle Torigian.

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** *Jesus, Oh, What a Wonderful Child* (Sing 2x)

***COMMISSIONING**

As you arise from this gathering of world, in spirit or enfleshed, follow the Voice into the world. Claim your voice for God's Realm. Join our collective voices in spreading Good News. The Voice will be with you. Glory to God. Go in peace.

***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 "As With Gladness"

Jesus, Oh, What a Wonderful Child 219

G Am/D G G9/B C C7 G

Je-sus, Je-sus, oh, what a won-der-ful Child.

G C/D G A7 A9 D

Je-sus, Je-sus, so ho-ly, meek, and mild; new

G Am/G Gm7 Am G C

life, new hope the Child will bring. Lis-ten to the

C#dim7 G/D D7 G Am/G G#dim7 Am A9/E D7 G

an-gels sing, "Glo-ry, glo-ry, glo - ry," let the heav-ens ring!

WORDS and MUSIC: African-American spiritual; arr. Jeffrey Radford (1953-)
Music Arr. © 1992 The Pilgrim Press

WONDERFUL CHILD
Irregular

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

During a church service on January 16, 1946, Reverend Koehler, St. Paul Pastor recited the names of sixteen of our congregation. Why?

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 Dinkelmann	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 Mejias -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



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St Paul UCC, Belleville, IL



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

ANSWER: In recognition of their supreme sacrifice during World War II.

Weekly Attendance

9AM

December 17, 2023 115 + Online Participants December 18, 2022 102 + Online Participants

Offering 12/23/2023 \$3,890

General Fund

Needed each week \$7,605

Giving to..  \$333,899

Budget to..  \$387,873

Total Budget  \$395,479