



WELCOME TO ST. PAUL UCC



August 3, 2025



STPAULUCC.ORG





St. Paul UCC



Sunday, August 3, 2025 ~ 9:00 am

Seventh Sunday after Pentecost

TODAY'S WORSHIP LEADERS

<i>Guest Pastor</i>	Rev. Chance Beeler
<i>Director of Music</i>	Dr. Tristan Frampton
<i>Organist</i>	Cynthia Johnson
<i>Liturgist</i>	Donna Davis

WELCOME

PRELUDE

Be Still, My Soul (Finlandia by Jean Sibelius)
Arr. by Laura Bergquist

CALL TO WORSHIP (Inspired by Psalm 107)

One: Hallelujah! Give thanks! Give thanks to God!

Many: For the Holy One redeemed us and sustained us through the time of trouble.

One: Give thanks to the Holy One, for God is good!

Many: For the Compassionate One heard our cry and sustained us through the time of trouble.

One: Give thanks to the Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer.

Many: Hallelujah! Give thanks! Give thanks to God!

INVOCATION

Amazing God, we honor and celebrate your presence among us. We rejoice in your goodness and delight in your wonderful works. We lament the suffering of the world and take courage that you are with us. We ask that you make your presence known to us. Speak, O God, for we attune our attention for your guidance. Receive our praise as we glorify your name! Amen.

Parents: if you have a child with you this morning, we have activity bags with coloring pages in the Narthex along with fidget toys (for all ages). There is also a Family Room just off of the Welcome Center if you need a quiet place at any time during the service. Please ask an usher for assistance. They will be happy to assist.

*OPENING HYMN

34 O God, We Bear the Imprint

Unison

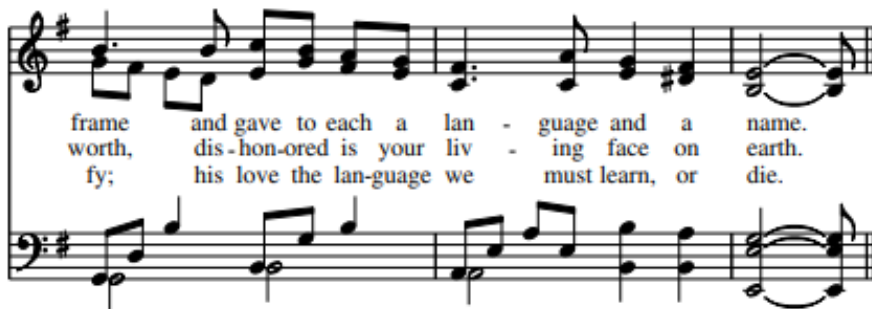
The musical score is written for a unison voice part. It consists of four systems of music, each with a vocal line and a bass line. The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 4/4. The lyrics are written below the vocal line of each system.

1 O God, we bear the im-print of your face: the col - ors
2 Where we are torn and pulled a - part by hate be - cause our
3 O God, we share the im-age of the One whose flesh and

of our skin are your de - sign, and what we have of
race, our skin is not the same, while we are judged un -
blood are ours, what-ev - er skin; in Christ's hu - man - i -

beau - ty in our race as man or wom-an, you a -
e - qual by the state and vic-tims made be - cause we
ty we find our own, and in his fam - i - ly our

lone de - fine, who stretched a liv - ing fab-ric on our
own our name, hu - man - i - ty re-duced to lit-tle
prop - er kin: Christ is the broth - er we still cru-ci -



WORDS: Shirley Erena Murray
MUSIC: Margaret R. Tucker
Words © 1987 Hope Publishing Company
Music © 1988 Hope Publishing Company

TODOS LOS COLORES

***PRAYER FOR TRANSFORMATION AND NEW LIFE**

Holy God, too often we seem determined to turn away from you. You, however, continually call us to repentance—to turn-back to you and your way. We pray for fortitude to remain on the path set by Jesus and embody the ministry of Christ in the world. Deliver us from the insignificant concerns that distract us and empower us to do the work you have called us to do. Most of all, grant us grace to be the people you have made us to be. Amen.

***WORDS OF GRACE**

Beloved, you have received an inheritance of riches in God. These treasures of hope, strength, encouragement, peace, grace, joy, rest, and love are yours to claim. They are yours to live. Receive them freely and abundantly.

SPECIAL MUSIC

Oh, May My Soul Commune with Thee
by Martin Green
Teresa and Steve Schmidt, soloists

SCRIPTURE

Psalm 107:1-9, 43 and Luke 12:13-21

Donna Davis

SERMON

The Point

Rev. Chance Beeler



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

Having received the gifts of God, let us seek the kingdom and return a portion of our abundance to the ministry of this faith community so that our collective offering will bless God and God's people. We are grateful for the many ways you give of your time, talents, and financially. All of these gifts are important to our shared ministry here at St Paul's. If you are looking for ways to get involved, please let us know. Since today is a communion Sunday, we will not pass the offering plate, but we do have a box as you leave the sanctuary where you can place your offering.

***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**

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING AND DEDICATION

Holy One, bless these offerings, prosper the work of our hands, and the gifts we bring. We dedicate them to your kingdom forever and ever. Amen.

CELEBRATION OF HOLY COMMUNION

Communion Liturgy for General Synod 34 and GS@Home

Invitation

One: The Spirit of Creation is with you!

Many: And the Spirit of Creation walks next to you.

One: Open wide your souls.

Many: We open them to the Creator's love.

One: Let us give thanks to the God of Earth and Rain.

Many: With joyous voices, hearts, and hands, we exclaim to God our praise.



Prayer of Communion

We delight with our Holy God on this earth, and we rejoice forever in what God has created, is creating, and will be created. The Spirit of Creation built this vast universe, including our beautiful, strong, and fragile planet. The earth held the plants and animals in the Garden of Eden. Later, the earth carried the Israelites on their wilderness journey and while they danced joyously in the promised land. The earth absorbed the tears of Job, supported the steps of the prophesying Elijah, and carried David in the shadow-filled valleys. Jesus taught on mountains and plains, walked throughout the land healing the aching, and prayed in gardens late at night. In times of exile and times of return, the land held the stories of our ancestors in faith.

Today, we abide on this earth in houses of worship, in homes, and in halls. We know this land we share today is sacred. It bears much fruit. It holds the flora of friendships. And deep within its cells are the stories of its ancestors - parents, guardians, and leaders of the faith. We know their footprints are still felt by the earth.

And we remember the ones who held this land as their own centuries ago. They were the first to tend to the land, to nurture it as a parent would nurture their child. The winds of occupation seared the land and crushed the hearts and lives of its first inhabitants. Through the hydrating tears of our God, the land remembered its strength from its ancestors. In our spaces today, we remember their place on the land and their care for creation.

From the strength of those who have gone before comes the seeds for grains and grapes. The land has given birth to the fruits of our sacrament.

With glory to our God, we praise the Spirit of Creation:

**All: Holy, Holy, Holy, Spirit of Earth, Air, Fire, and Water,
Heaven and Earth delights in your glory,
Hosanna, Hosanna.**

**Blessed is the one who brings love and light to our world.
Hosanna to our God. Alleluia!**

On the night before Jesus walked the ground carrying the tree to Golgotha, he gathered with faithful friends. From the grain in the ground came the bread that Jesus took and broke in his hand. He blessed the bread and said to his friends "This is my body broken for you. When you eat this bread, remember me."

And then after supper, Jesus took a cup filled with the fruit of the vine. Knowing they were all connected like the vine and branches, Jesus said to them “This cup is the new covenant (in my blood). As you drink from the cup, remember me.”

Spirit of God, just as you hovered over creation and renewed your church at Pentecost, surround these elements. Encircle us, energize our souls, and connect us with each living being here on earth. Just as you have delighted in humans since creation, may your presence create joy in our spirits, transforming us into new beings.

Bless the soil that birthed the grains and grapes that we share today. May these elements be transformed into a meal that connects us all. Like the lion and ox, like the lamb and wolf, we eat together - whether near or far, whether well or ill, whether marginalized or privileged. May this meal be one in which we embrace the power we have and strengthen the world with justice and peace, kindness and love. Amen.

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.

COMMUNION MUSIC

Communion Interludes on Gregorian Themes

Paratur Nobis (It is Prepared For Us)

O Sacrum Convivium (O Sacred Banquet)

Adoro Te (Thee We Adore)

Settings by Sr. Mary Gilana and Henry Coleman



Prayer of Thanksgiving (UNISON)

Holy God, Divine Designer-

With gentle compassion, you unite us as vine and branches, whether near or far. For your meal we share our gratitude. With thanksgiving we voice our joy for our siblings in faith who shared the table with the Christ and with us. Our souls are rejuvenated with your Holy Refreshment. Send us into the world today with joy in our hearts and excited to proclaim your radical love in this world. Amen.

***CLOSING HYMN** *My Life Flows on in Endless Song* (See pages 10 & 11)

COMMISSIONING

Go now as those raised with Christ,
wondering at God's great love
and telling the story of your salvation.
Be on your guard against all kinds of greed
and set your minds on the ways of heaven.

***BENEDICTION**

And may God reach out to you and nourish you;
May Christ Jesus renew you in the image of your creator;
And may the Holy Spirit lead you with cords of kindness and love.
We go in peace to love and serve the Lord,
...**In the name of Christ. Amen.**

POSTLUDE

Allein zu dir, Herr Jesu Christ
(Only Upon You, Lord Jesus Christ)
by Johann Pachelbel



St. Paul Friends Fundraiser at Scharf Farm!

Saturday, August 9th from 6-10pm

\$20 per person for all who attend!
(all to benefit mission projects of St. Paul UCC)

WHAT TO BRING:

Your friends - the more the merrier!
Your favorite hors d'oeuvre/snack to share!
Your lawn chair and a cooler of your favorite beverage!

Music by:
Jillian & Chris
Ritter

Contact Sandy Ritter if you
have any questions!
618-222-1123



Pampered Chef Fundraiser!



On Sunday, August 24th a Pampered Chef consultant will be in the Welcome Center taking orders . . . or you may order online.
Great gift ideas for birthdays, Christmas and anniversaries!
35% of the proceeds goes to **Community Interfaith Food Pantry!**
Brochures are available in the Welcome Center!

August Seekers Outing

TUESDAY, AUGUST 5TH @ 9AM
ALL ARE INVITED!

The Seekers Bible Study group & friends will meet in the church parking lot at 9:00 a.m. on Tuesday, August 5th to visit the Old Courthouse (downtown St. Louis.)

Our travelers, so far, are: Mary Ellen Bertram, Edie Elliott,
Pam Nicholson, Susan Relfe

Will YOU be joining us?

RSVP susanreife@outlook.com or call the office!

NURSERY VOLUNTEERS NEEDED



**WE NEED CARING ADULTS TO STAFF
OUR NURSERY DURING WORSHIP SERVICES!
TWO VOLUNTEERS (NOT FROM THE SAME
HOUSEHOLD) ARE NEEDED EACH SUNDAY.
A BACKGROUND CHECK AND ONLINE COURSE
TRAINING ARE REQUIRED. YOU WILL NEED TO READ
AND SIGN OFF ON THE "SAFE CHURCH POLICY".
THERE IS A SIGN-UP SHEET IN THE WELCOME
CENTER OR YOU CAN CALL THE CHURCH OFFICE TO
SIGN UP. IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS,
PLEASE SEE BRETT WHITE OR
CALL SHERRY AT THE CHURCH MON. - THUR.**

618-233-3303



STARTING JUNE 10TH THE SHUFFLERS ARE RESHUFFLING!

Those who like to play cards
and have good conversation,
come on the 2nd Tuesday of
the month at 1:00 p.m. to
Pastor Kuether's house.

For directions,
call 618-616-0077.



My Life Flows on in Endless Song

(How Can I Keep from Singing)

Ps. 46:1-7; 1 Cor. 3:21-23; 2 Cor. 5:17

Anon. in Bright Jewels for the Sunday School,
ed. Robert Lowry, 1869; alt.
St. 3, Doris Plenn, c. 1957

1 My life flows on in end - less song; a - bove earth's lam - en -
 2 What though my joys and com - forts die? My Sav - ior still is
 3 When ty - rants trem - ble, sick with fear, and hear their death knells
 4 I lift my eyes; the cloud grows thin; I see the blue a -

ta - tion, I hear the sweet, though far - off hymn that
 liv - ing. What though the shad - ows gath - er 'round? A
 ring - ing; When friends re - joice both far and near, how
 bove it; And day by day this path - way smooths, since

hails a new cre - a - tion. Through all the tu - mult
 new song Christ is giv - ing. No storm can shake my
 can I keep from sing - ing? In pris - on cell and
 first I learned to love it. The peace of Christ makes

and the strife, I hear the mu - sic ring - ing; It
 in - most calm, while to that Rock I'm cling - ing; Since
 dun - geon vile our thoughts to them are wing - ing; When
 fresh my heart, a foun - tain ev - er spring - ing; All



Tune: ENDLESS SONG 8.7.8.7.D.
Attrib. to Robert Lowry in Bright Jewels
for the Sunday School, New York, 1869

Today's altar flowers are in honor of
Sandra Frerking on 80th birthday!
by Bobby Lee Frerking

St. Paul UCC
MONDAY FUN-DAY

Our next Monday Fun-Day is August 25th, from 6-8pm!
We hope to see you!!! Everyone is welcome!
Building a better community!



Chair Yoga 6-6:30. Yoga 6:30-7



Pickleball (bring your own paddle & ball)

Board Games (bring your own or play Uno!)

FREE WILL OFFERING!



**BRING YOUR
FRIENDS!!!**



115 W. B. St., Belleville

stpaulucc.org

Group training for SafeChurch/
Praesidium:

August 6th @ 9:30 am

August 13th @ 1:00 pm

You are welcome to join one of the
groups, or you can do the training
from home. Contact the office if you
have any questions.

Sherry will set up you up online.
training from home.

For Your Prayers

Lori Coleman	Christopher Mitchell	Venita Jane Rogers
Carol Hotz	Audrey Krummrich	Fred Hotz
Tim Ritter	Ralph Eckart, brother in-law	Jim Young
Wayne Caughman	of Marlene Mueller	Syndy Kalinowski
Tim Ritter Jr., son of Sandy	Mike Llamas, brother in law	Larry Walton
& Tim Ritter	of Mimi Llamas	Betty Eckert
Lou Ann Niemann	Jennifer Wick, daughter of	Laura Sadler
Debbie Price	Stephenie Bauza	



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

Weekly Offerings		7/26/2025
Operating	\$	1,810.74
Building Fund	\$	20.00
	\$	1,830.74
Giving YTD	\$	212,057.09
Weekly Budget	\$	6,942.65
Budget to Date	\$	201,336.90
Total Budget	\$	361,017.89

Weekly Attendance - 9AM Service

July 20, 2025	81 + Online Participants
July 21, 2024	83 + Online Participants



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



Like us on Facebook
St Paul UCC, Belleville, IL



Flowers, Music and Bulletin sponsorships are a lovely way to honor the memory, birthday or achievement of your loved one. To sign up, you can call the church office. Cost is \$35.00.

Lynn Koehler's sister Julie Koehler Seikel passed away on May 4th, 2025. A Celebration of Life gathering for her will be held Saturday, August 16th from 1 to 3pm at the Ravenel Clubhouse, 1901 Ravenel, in Swansea.

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The Communion Liturgy for General Synod 34 and GS@Home was written by Rev. Michelle L. Torigian.

This worship service is live streamed and recorded.

*Notes where to stand if comfortably able.