

WELCOME TO ST. PAUL UCC



October 19, 2025

stpaulucc.org

All are welcome here!



St. Paul UCC



Sunday, October 19, 2025 ~ 9:00 am
Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost

TODAY'S WORSHIP LEADERS

<i>Visiting Clergy</i>	Rev. Joan Mier
<i>Director of Music</i>	Dr. Tristan Frampton
<i>Organist</i>	Cynthia Johnson
<i>Liturgist</i>	Roger Relfe

WELCOME

PRELUDE

Flute Song
by Steven Scott

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: We come before the Lord our God, who is merciful, loving, and just. We feel confident coming before our God to seek justice for ourselves, our loved ones, and ALL who are in need of feeling the unconditional love and divine care of Jesus.

People: Thanks be to our God who hears our prayers and our cries for mercy.

Leader: We are people of the Christian faith who do not give in to the evil and unjust ways of the world. We choose to walk in the footsteps of Jesus, showing love, empathy, and compassion to those most downtrodden. We continually come before our God seeking justice for them

People: Thanks be to our God who hears our prayers and our cries for mercy. **ALL:** Let us stand tall in our faith, speaking words of sacred truth, guided always by the divine light of Jesus our beloved Savior. Let it be so. Amen.

INVOCATION (UNISON)

Light of the World, shine upon us in this moment, look deep within the very heart and soul of each person gathered here to worship you. We pray that you are pleased with what you find in us—people of open hearts and open minds; people with hearts for justice and peace in this ever-demanding and challenging world. Transform us so that we truly feel your Spirit of justice working within us. We pray for this in the holy name of Jesus. Amen

PASSING THE PEACE

*OPENING HYMN

584

John 8:12



I Am the Light of the World

Jim Strathdee, 1969; rev. 1981

In response to a Christmas poem by Howard Thurman

Unison Introduction

Refrain

"I am the light of the world!"

You peo-ple come and fol-low me!" If you fol-low and love you'll

Last time, end

learn the mys-ter-y of what you were meant to do and be.

1 When the song of the an-gels is stilled, when the
 2 7 To find the lost and lone-ly one, 7 to
 3 7 To free the pris-oner from all chains, 7 to
 4 To bring hope to ev-ery task you do, 7 to

I Am The Light of the World, continued

The musical score is written for a single melodic line on a treble clef staff, with a bass clef staff below it for accompaniment. The key signature has one flat (B-flat), and the time signature is 7/8. The melody is composed of eighth and quarter notes, with some rests. The lyrics are written below the treble staff, aligned with the notes. The score is divided into three systems, each with a key signature change indicated above the staff: Gm, Dm, C, F, Bb, C, F, Dm, Bb, Gm7, C. The final system ends with a double bar line and the instruction 'Return to §'.

star in the sky is gone, When the
 heal the bro - ken soul with love, 7 To
 make the pow - er - ful care, To re -
 dance at a ba by's new birth, 7 To

sag - es and the shep - herds have found their way home, the
 feed the hun - gry chil - dren with warmth and good food, To
 build the na - tions with strength of good will, to
 make mu - sic in . . . an old per - son's heart, and

work of Christ-mas is be - gun:
 feel the earth be - low, the sky a - bove!
 see all God's chil - dren ev - ery - where!
 sing to the col - ors of the earth!

Tune: LIGHT OF THE WORLD Irr.
 Jim Strathdee, 1969

PRAYER OF REFLECTION AND RECONCILIATION

One: Jesus shared the story of the Good Samaritan to remind all of His followers that we are to care for our human brothers and sisters who are wounded and hurting, even when they do not act like us or look like us. In this moment, let each of us be very reflective on how we are honoring or dishonoring Christ's command to "love our neighbor as ourselves." As I cannot put words into your mouth in regard to what you need to say to God, I welcome you into a time of silent confession and reconciliation, and then I will offer the Words of Assurance:

Silent Confession and Reconciliation

ASSURANCE OF GRACE

Feel a reassurance in your souls, beloved of Christ, that our Lord has heard the sincerity of our prayers. In that sacred moment of sharing words that were drawn from the very heart of who we truly are in the “eyes” of God, God smiled upon us and offered us grace beyond measure. How blessed we are to have such a just and forgiving God. Amen

ANTHEM

He, Watching Over Israel
by Felix Mendelssohn
Sanctuary Choir

SCRIPTURE

Psalm 119:97-104
2 Timothy 3:14-4:5
Luke 18:1-8

Roger Relfe
Roger Relfe
Rev. Joan Mier

SERMON

Seeking Justice

Rev. Joan Mier

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE 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

It is right and just to offer the gifts that we can to further the ministry of Jesus Christ in the world—a world so in need of people who follow the path of the Savior; people who open their hands and hearts with divine love; people who speak words of trust and justice. Amen.

RECEIVING OF THE GIFTS & OFFERTORY MUSIC

Song Without Words
by Darwin Wolford

***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)**

Oh most glorious and loving God, we come before you as your faithful servant people, people who ask for your blessing to be upon all that is offered this day in the holy name of Jesus. We seek your justice for your people! Therefore, show us the wonderful ways in which we can use these gifts for your righteous purpose in the world. Amen.

***CLOSING HYMN**

Lead On Eternal Sovereign

(See next page)

***COMMISSIONING**

You are most precious and dearly loved by God. God sees deep into the hearts of good people, because good people make it a point to do good things in the world—not to hurt, not to create fear, not to demean, but to make people feel seen and heard and recognized for the goodness of God that is within each person. God leans in to your good energy, may that divine glow give you the confidence to live ever more fully into the Christian life. Let it be so. Amen

***BENEDICTION**

May the Lord bless you and keep you in divine care until we see each other again. For you are givers of divine care and justice and most worthy to receive divine care and justice. Amen

POSTLUDE

A Trumpeting
by Edward Broughton



Lead On Eternal Sovereign

Ernest W. Shurtleff, 1887; alt.

1 Lead on e - ter - nal Sov - ereign, we fol - low in your way;
 2 Lead on e - ter - nal Sov - ereign, we fol - low not with fear,
 3 Lead on e - ter - nal Sov - ereign, till sin's fierce war shall cease,

loud rings your cry for jus - tice, your call for peace this day:
 for in each hu - man con - flict your words of strength we hear:
 and all your saints to - geth - er will sing a hymn of peace;

Through prayer-ful prep - a - ra - tion, your grace will make us strong,
 That when we serve with glad - ness, you will not let us fall,
 Then all in your do - min - ion will live with hearts set free,

to car - ry on the strug - gle to tri - umph o - ver wrong.
 our trust is in your prom - ise that love will con - quer all.
 to love and serve each oth - er for all e - ter - ni - ty.

For Your Prayers

Carol Hotz & Fred Hotz Tim Ritter Tim Ritter Jr., son of Sandy & Tim Ritter Lou Ann Niemann Ralph Eckart, brother in-law of Marlene Mueller	Mike Llamas, brother in law of Mimi Llamas Jennifer Wick, daughter of Stephenie Bauza Venita Jane Rogers Gene Buxton Al Stahl	The loved ones of Donna Kelly The loved ones of Irene Hargis, JoAnn Elmore's sister
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Please call the church for prayer requests: 618-233-3303 stpaulucc.org

Weekly Offerings		10/11/2025
Operating	\$	13,953.00
Building Fund	\$	15.00
	\$	13,968.00
Giving YTD	\$	281,832.09
*Large Donation		
Weekly Budget	\$	6,942.65
Budget to Date	\$	277,706.07
Total Budget	\$	361,017.89

Weekly Attendance - 9AM Service

October 5, 2025 92 + Online Participant
 October 6, 2024 102 + Online Participant

St. Paul UCC MONDAY FUN-DAY

Every 4th Monday - 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!



115 W. B. St., Belleville

stpaulucc.org

SUNDAY WORSHIP LEADERS!

October 26 - Rev. Joan Mier
 November 2 - Rev. Dr. Chance Beeler
 November 9 - Rev. Joan Mier
 November 16 - Rev. Joan Mier

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