

ST. PAUL UCC

Jesus



THE VERY FIRST

AND MOST BEAUTIFUL

CHRISTMAS *gift*

EVER GIVEN.





# St. Paul UCC

Sunday, December 28, 2025 ~ 9:00 am  
First Sunday after Christmas



## TODAY'S WORSHIP LEADERS

Visiting Clergy .....	Rev. Joan Mier
Director of Music .....	Dr. Tristan Frampton
Organist .....	Cynthia Johnson
Liturgist .....	Peggy Burke

## WELCOME

### PRELUDE

*Infant Holy, Infant Lowly*  
(Traditional Polish Carol)  
setting by Michael Ryan

### CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Let us celebrate, beloved, as we rejoice in the coming of the Christ-child into the depths of our hearts once again!

**People: We thought we could only dream of such a beautiful Savior coming into our lives, but the Lord our God has always known that we needed Him—the One who is a guiding light for all people.**

Leader: Let us follow that light, just like the Magi did two-thousand years ago, and let it align us on the path that the Lord our God has placed before us.

**People: We pray for such guidance this Christmas season and into the coming year.**

**ALL: Shine brightly for us, O Lord Jesus, as we praise your holy name!**

Amen.

### \*INVOCATION (Unison)

We dream of the day, Lord Jesus, when we shall live eternally with you; but for now, let your Spirit visit us in this time of gathering in your holy name. We pray that your Spirit will embrace us in divine light and love as we sing praises to you and offer the prayers of our hearts. Find us worthy of a touch of Your grace; we pray in your blessed name. Amen.

### PASSING THE PEACE

\*OPENING HYMN

129

Good Christian Friends, Rejoice

*German and Latin, 14th century  
Transl. John Mason Neale, 1855; alt.*

*Descant*



3 Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart and soul and voice;  
 1 Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart and soul and voice;  
 2 Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart and soul and voice;  
 3 Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart and soul and voice;

now you need not fear the grave: Jesus Christ was born to save!

now give heed to what we say: Jesus Christ is born to-day;  
 now you know of end-less bliss: Jesus Christ was born for this!  
 now you need not fear the grave: Jesus Christ was born to save!

Calls you one and calls you all to gain the ev-er-  
 Ox and ass be-fore him bow, a-sleep with-in the  
 God has o-pened heav-en's door, and you are blessed for-  
 Calls you one and calls you all to gain the ev-er-

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## Good Christian Friends Rejoice , continued

last - ing hall. Christ was born, Christ was born to save!

man-ger now. Christ is born to - day, Christ is born to - day!  
ev - er-more. Christ was born for this, Christ was born for this!  
last-ing hall. Christ was born to save, Christ was born to save!

Tune: IN DULCI JUBILO 6.6.7.7.7.8.5.5.  
*German melody, 14th century*

## PRAYER FOR TRANSFORMATION AND NEW LIFE

One: Seek divine wisdom, beloved of God, in this moment when you open yourselves up to pure communication with your Creator, Sustainer, and Redeemer. God is open to all that you have to say—all that you want to share. 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 Grace.

### Silent Confession and Reconciliation

### \*WORDS OF GRACE

God's love is so great for us that he sent a Son, Jesus, who will help God's people to turn away from sin and seek God's grace and forgiveness. Through Christ Jesus, who offers the gift of salvation, we are set free from the burdens of sinful lives. Let us dream of such grace offered to us and all brothers and sisters. Let it be so. **Amen**

### SPECIAL MUSIC

*Christmas Bell Medley*  
by Christine Anderson  
Mary Lu Bretsch, handbell solo

<b>SCRIPTURE</b>	Isaiah 63:7-9 and Hebrews 2:10-18 Matthew 2:1-23	Peggy Burke Rev. Joan Mier
<b>SERMON</b>	DREAMS	Rev. Joan Mier

## **PASTORAL 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**

In the presence of our Lord—the Christ-child who came to earth two-thousand years ago—let us offer all that we can in His holy name, to help one another to be guided by His light, His love, and His mercy. Let it be so. Amen.

## **COLLECTION OF THE LOVE GIFTS & OFFERTORY MUSIC**

*Amid the Cold of Winter*  
 arr. Bret Rhoades  
 Tristan Frampton, soloist

### **\*DOXOLOGY (Tune: Old Hundredth)**

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 (Unison)**

In the name of Jesus, we offer these gifts to you O' Lord our God, for the continuance of kind and loving ministry out into the world. We pray that through these gifts, your light will shine even brighter from this place of worship, and that people's dreams of a more peaceful existence may stem from this place. Let it be so according to your holy will. Amen.

## **\*CLOSING HYMN      *As with Gladness Those of Old***

## \*COMMISSIONING

The Christmas season is not over, for we are in the Twelve Days of Christmas. So, continue to rejoice in the birth of the Christ-child, celebrate the light that led the Wise Men, and always remember to offer praise to the Divine Son who was given for us—the “Wonderful Counselor, Almighty God, Everlasting Father, and the Prince of Peace.”

## \*BENEDICTION

Go forth and dream of the life that God wishes for every one of us, a life that is guided by holy love and light. Follow the light, receive the light, and be the light for many weary travelers who are seeking peace. Let it be so. **Amen**

## POSTLUDE

*Noël Provençal*  
by Pierre-Joseph Candeille



# As with Gladness Those of Old

159

William C. Dix, 1861; alt.

Matt. 2:1-12

1 As with glad-ness those of old did the guid-ing star be-hold;  
 2 As with joy - ful steps they sped to that low - ly man-ger bed,  
 3 As they of - fered gifts most rare at that man-ger plain and bare,  
 4 Ho - ly Je - sus, ev - ery day keep us in the nar - row way;

As with joy they hailed its light, lead-ing on - ward, beam-ing bright;  
 There to bend the knee be - fore One whom heaven and earth a - dore;  
 So may we with ho - ly joy, pure and free from sin's al - loy,  
 And when mor - tal things are past, bring our ran - somed souls at last

So, true Morn-ing Star, may we ev - er-more your splen - dor see.  
 So may we with will - ing feet ev - er seek your mer - cy seat.  
 All our cost - liest trea - sures bring, Christ, to you from whom they spring.  
 Where they need no star to guide, where no clouds your glo - ry hide.

*After reading the Epiphany gospel, William C. Dix penned this hymn. Dix, the manager of a marine insurance company, was also a gifted hymnwriter. Among his many fine contributions*

Tune: DIX 7.7.7.7.7.7.

Conrad Kocher, 1838

Adapt. William H. Monk. 1861



**GRIEFWORKS**  
An LGBTQIA+  
Grief Support Group

A peer support group for anyone in the LGBTQIA+ community who has experienced loss and is struggling with grief.

MEETINGS HELD  
4TH MONDAY  
EVERY MONTH

6:30-8:00 pm  
St. Paul UCC  
115 W. B Street  
Belleville, IL 62220

griefworks2025@gmail.com



## MONDAY FUN-DAY!

4<sup>th</sup> Monday of every month!

Chair Yoga 6-6:30pm

Yoga 6:30-7pm

Pickleball 6-8pm



St. Paul UCC

115 W. B. Street, Belleville  
Enter on 2<sup>nd</sup> St. at the Activity Center door!  
No cost - just a free will offering!  
618-233-3303



Bring your  
friends!

All are welcome!

## For Your Prayers

<b>Weekly Offerings</b>	<b>12/13/2025</b>
Operating	\$ 11,020.91
Building Fund	\$ 40.00
	\$ 11,060.91
<b>Giving YTD</b>	<b>\$ 333,618.00</b>
Weekly Budget	\$ 6,942.65
Budget to Date	\$ 340,189.93
<b>Total Budget</b>	<b>\$ 361,017.89</b>

### Weekly Attendance - 9AM Service

December 7, 2025 98 + Online Participants  
December 8, 2024 82 + Online Participants

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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

Gene Buxton

Al Stahl

Audrey Krummrich

Rosie Keller

Laura Sadler

Janie Bloomer

Jerry Pierce-Heisler

Mike Foppe

Jerry Messick

Bob Stone, brother of Kathy Birkner

Please call the church for  
prayer requests:

Follow us on ...

