

# Epiphany Sunday

May the light of Epiphany brighten your path  
and fill your life with joy, peace, and blessings.



St. Paul United Church of Christ

# Welcome to St. Paul UCC

Sunday, January 4, 2025 ~ 9:00 am

Epiphany Sunday ~ Second Sunday after Christmas

## TODAY'S WORSHIP LEADERS

<i>Visiting Clergy</i> .....	Rev. Dr. Chance Beeler
<i>Director of Music</i> .....	Dr. Tristan Frampton
<i>Organist</i> .....	Cynthia Johnson
<i>Liturgist</i> .....	Karen Keuss

## WELCOME

## PRELUDE

*We Three Kings of Orient Are*  
setting by Fred Bock

## SETTING THE STAGE FOR EPIPHANY\*

Beloved of God, Epiphany is the season of revealing—  
the holy moment when what is hidden becomes known.

One: One wise one brings gold, the finest of what they have,  
the gift God asks of us: to do justice.

**People: Look! God's dwelling is now among us.**

**All: The end of God's justice is joy.**

One: One wise one brings frankincense, the fragrance of prayer and praise, the  
gift God asks of us: to delight in what is good.

**People: Look! God's dwelling is now among us.**

**All: The end of God's justice is joy.**

One: One wise one brings myrrh, balm for the broken and mercy for the world,  
the gift God asks of us: to love compassion.

**People: Look! God's dwelling is now among us.**

**All: The fruit of God's compassion is peace.**

One: One shepherd brings light for the journey and bread for the road, the gift  
God asks of us: to walk humbly and live in peace.

**People: Look! God's dwelling is now among us.**

**All: The fruit of God's compassion is peace.**

One: The gifts are given, the desires of God made visible—  
Justice, Joy, Compassion, and Peace now shine among us.  
People of God—lift your eyes up, lift your hearts up.  
Holy, holy, holy is the Lord!

### **CALL TO WORSHIP**

One: Rise and shine — the Light is revealed.  
Look! God's dwelling is now among us.  
From the sea comes abundance,  
from the desert comes hope;  
all creation moves toward joy.

**Many: I lift my eyes up. We lift our eyes up.**  
**Holy, holy, holy is the Lord.**

One: Like frankincense, we offer our prayers,  
that our longing may breathe with God's longing,  
that our voices rise with all who seek peace.

**Many: I lift my eyes up. We lift our eyes up.**  
**Holy, holy, holy is the Lord.**

One: Like myrrh, we offer compassion—  
balm for the broken, mercy for the wounded.  
Where rivalries have ruled, grace now gathers;  
the scattered come home, nations share their treasures.

**Many: I lift my eyes up. We lift our eyes up.**  
**Holy, holy, holy is the Lord.**

One: Let us desire what God desires—  
life for all creation,  
justice that sets every captive free,  
and joy where justice is fulfilled.  
The end of God's justice is joy.  
The end of God's compassion is peace.  
Look! God's dwelling is now among us.

**Many: I lift my eyes up. We lift our eyes up.**  
**Holy, holy, holy is the Lord.**

\*Adapted from <https://www.ucc.org/worship-way/epiphany-a-january-6/>

**\*INVOCATION (Unison)**

**Radiant and Revealing God,  
you dwell not in temples or thrones  
but among us—  
in caravans of mercy,  
in the faces of those returning home,  
in the shimmering abundance of the sea.**

**You are the star that stirs our seeking,  
the Presence that refuses to be hidden,  
the Word made flesh in neighbor and stranger alike.  
As we gather,  
let your justice take root in our hearts,  
your joy rise on our lips,  
your compassion steady our hands,  
and your peace settle upon this world you so dearly love.**

**Lift our eyes, O Holy One,  
so that we may see as you see—  
creation radiant, humanity restored,  
and your dwelling now among us. Amen.**

**PASSING OF THE PEACE**

**\*OPENING HYMN**      *Come Away from Rush and Hurry*  
Dr. Marva Dawn  
Tune: Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing)

**Lyrics**

- 1.** Come away from rush and hurry to the stillness of God's peace.  
From our vain ambition's worry, come to Christ and find re-lease.  
Come away from noise and clamor, life's demands and frenzied pace.  
Come to join the people gathered here to seek and find God's face.
- 2.** In the pastures of God's goodness, we lie down to rest our soul.  
From the waters of his mercy we drink deeply, are made whole.  
At the table of his presence all his saints are richly fed.  
With the oil of his anointing into service, we are led.
- 3.** Come, then, children, with your burdens, life's con-fusions, fears, and pain.  
Leave them at the cross of Jesus; take in-stead his kingdom's reign.  
Bring your thirsts, for he will quench them – he alone will satisfy.  
All our longings find attainment when to self we gladly die.

## **\*PRAYER FOR TRANSFORMATION AND NEW LIFE**

Leader:

Holy One who dwells among us,  
you call us to rise, to see, and to rejoice—  
yet too often we turn inward,  
protecting our comfort instead of pursuing your justice.

When your radiance invites us to lift our eyes,  
we close them against the pain of the world.  
When your abundance flows like the sea,  
we grasp rather than share.  
When your caravans of mercy draw near,  
we hesitate to join the journey.

Forgive us, O God.  
Lift us once more into your light of love.  
Transform the fear that keeps us small  
into courage that acts with compassion.  
Renew the weariness that dims our hope  
into joy that moves us toward peace.

**All:**

**Look! God's dwelling is now among us.  
By grace, we are made new.  
Amen.**

## **\* WORDS OF GRACE**

Leader:

People of God, hear this good news:  
The Holy One has not remained distant or hidden.  
Look! God's dwelling is now among us—  
radiant with mercy, generous with forgiveness,  
overflowing with new life.  
In every act of justice,  
in every gesture of compassion,  
in every moment of peace,  
Christ is revealed.

**All:**

**We lift our eyes and see.  
By grace, we are forgiven.  
By love, we are made whole.  
Thanks be to God!**

**SPECIAL MUSIC**

*Good King Wenceslas*, Traditional  
Roger Relfe, soloist

**SCRIPTURE**

Isaiah 60:1-6  
Mathew 2: 1-12

Karen Keuss  
Rev. Dr. Chance Beeler

**SERMON**

The Gift - Revealed

Rev. Dr. Chance Beeler

**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**

Leader:

People of God,  
the caravans are moving again—  
hands open, hearts lifted,  
bearing what creation has always longed to give.

From the abundance of the sea, gifts rise;  
from the fragrance of the earth, praise ascends.  
We come with the treasures of our lives—  
our time, our care, our courage, our hope—  
the offerings that make justice visible  
and joy possible.  
Let what we bring become blessing,  
a sign that God's dwelling is among us,  
that generosity itself is revelation.

**All:**

**Holy One, receive the gifts we share.  
Turn them toward compassion,  
stretch them toward peace,  
and let your joy be known through all we do.**

## RECEIVING OF THE GIFTS & OFFERTORY MUSIC

*In the Bleak Midwinter*  
setting by Mark Hayes

### **\*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 (Unison)**

Leader:

Radiant God,  
you have revealed your dwelling among us—  
in bread shared,  
in mercy offered,  
in justice imagined and begun.

We thank you for the gifts that flow like rivers,  
for the abundance that rises from the sea,  
for the courage to give and to receive.

Bless now these offerings  
and the hearts from which they come.  
Let them join the caravans of compassion  
moving through this world,  
bringing joy where despair has lingered,  
and peace where fear has taken root.

**All:**

**Look! God's dwelling is now among us.  
May our lives shine with the glory of God,  
our hands carry God's grace,  
and our gifts become good news for all creation.  
Amen.**



## **Service of Holy Communion for the Season of Epiphany\*\***

May God be with you

**And also with you.**

Lift your hearts.

**We lift them up to God.**

Let us give thanks to the God we love.

**We freely give God thanks and praise.**

### **Preface**

It is right and meet, beautiful and holy  
that we should, in ceaseless joy  
Give our thanks and praise to you,  
Holy and merciful God,  
Through Jesus Christ, our Savior.

And so, in grateful procession of endless praise  
With the church that is, was, and shall be forever,  
We glorify you, joining this unending song:

### **Sanctus**

**Holy, Holy, Holy Lord God of hosts.**

**Heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

**Hosanna in the highest.**

**Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.**

**Hosanna in the highest.**

### **Eucharistic Prayer**

Holy are you, Eternal One. You sit above, through, and within the circle of the earth setting light into being, casting the stars in the sky, founding the evolving earth and all that dwell within it.

Limitless is your power, and great is your wisdom. You look upon the lowly as your most cherished creatures. You visit upon the downtrodden with presence, grace, and the promise of eternal justice.

You sent to us your own child, Jesus, who reached into unexpected places, calling women beyond the limits of their times, equipping men for nurturing love and welcoming children into your holy embrace.

And so, we recall that on the night of betrayal and desertion,

The light of the world took bread, broke and gave it to the disciples, saying:



"This is my body, given for you.

Do this for the remembrance of me."

"This is the cup of the new covenant [in my blood]  
poured out for you and for all people  
for the forgiveness of sins.

Do this, as often as you drink of it,  
for the remembrance of me."

Life's greatest feast before us,

We excitedly proclaim:

**Christ has died Christ is risen Christ will come again.**

Dear God, you transform.

You transform all that is before you, so that at the touch of your grace, we are  
never the same.

Dear God, you illumine.

You bring light to all peoples light to the nations, light into our hearts, and light  
on your Way.

Dear God, we pray for your Spirit.

Transform, illumine, bless. Make these ordinary gifts of bread and cup into the  
extraordinary presence of Christ with us.

**In so doing, hold us as your own renew us as your people for the sake of  
the world you love.**

For all honor and glory are yours, O God,

Through Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit in your  
glorious creation both now and forever.

**Amen.**

No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey, you are welcome at  
this table. Come, for the table is set.

### **Post-Communion Prayer**

Let us pray:

**We have been fed, Holy One, by your presence.**

**We have been led, Eternal One, by your light.**

**May we bask in this glow**

**Now and forevermore. Amen.**

**\*\*Service of Holy Communion for Season after Epiphany** was written by the Rev. Kaji Douša, a United  
Church of Christ Pastor who serves as a pastor of Park Avenue Christian Church in New York City. [https://  
www.ucc.org/worship-way/communion-service-for-epiphany-season/](https://www.ucc.org/worship-way/communion-service-for-epiphany-season/)

## **\*CLOSING HYMN**

*What Child Is This*

*(Page 11)*

## **\*COMMISSIONING**

People of God, lift your eyes and see: the Holy One's presence fills the earth.  
The sea still carries abundance, the caravans still bring gifts, and the world still  
waits for the radiance you bear.

Go now as stargazers of the Spirit— seeking justice, sharing compassion,  
celebrating joy, and walking in peace.

## **\*BENEDICTION**

Leader: Let your lives be light enough to travel and bright enough to reveal  
love's way.

**All: Look! God's dwelling is now among us.  
We lift our eyes and go in joy.  
Amen.**

## **POSTLUDE**

*The First Noel*  
setting by Hugo Gehrke

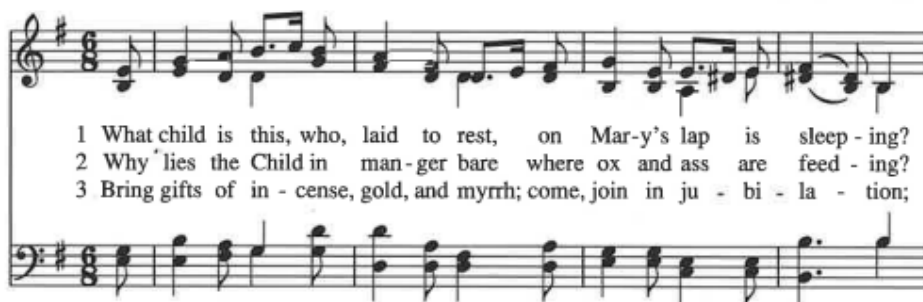


# What Child Is This

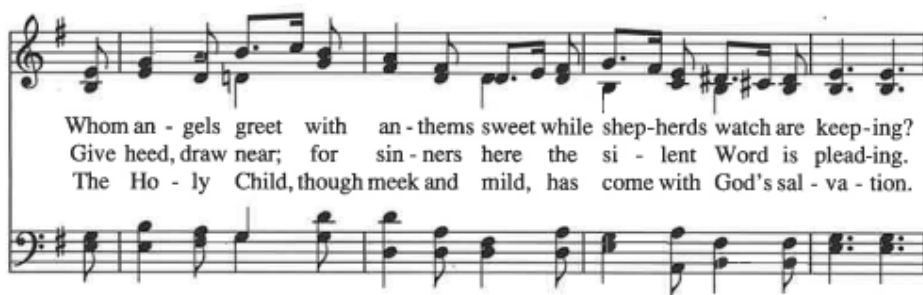
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William C. Dix, 1865; alt.

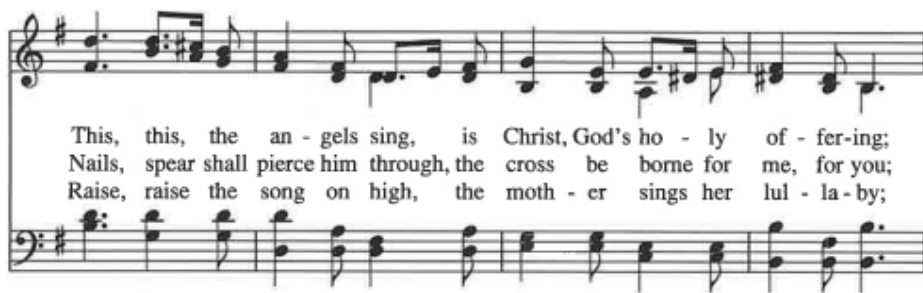
Luke 2:7-14, 25-32; Matt. 2:11; John 1:14;  
John 19:16b-18, 34



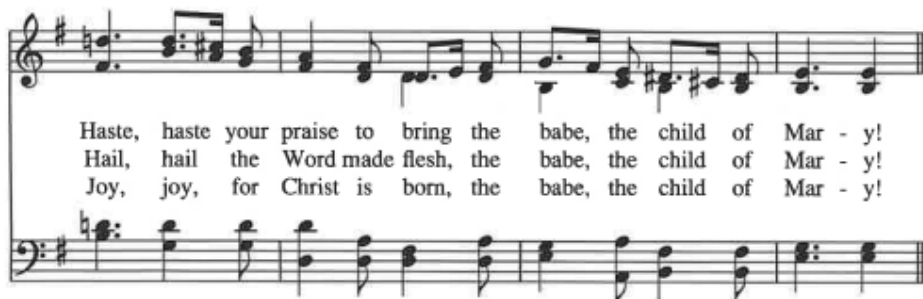
1 What child is this, who, laid to rest, on Mar-y's lap is sleep - ing?  
2 Why 'lies the Child in man - ger bare where ox and ass are feed - ing?  
3 Bring gifts of in - cense, gold, and myrrh; come, join in ju - bi - la - tion;



Whom an - gels greet with an - thems sweet while shep - herds watch are keep - ing?  
Give heed, draw near; for sin - ners here the si - lent Word is plead - ing.  
The Ho - ly Child, though meek and mild, has come with God's sal - va - tion.



This, this, the an - gels sing, is Christ, God's ho - ly of - fer - ing;  
Nails, spear shall pierce him through, the cross be borne for me, for you;  
Raise, raise the song on high, the moth - er sings her lul - la - by;



Haste, haste your praise to bring the babe, the child of Mar - y!  
Hail, hail the Word made flesh, the babe, the child of Mar - y!  
Joy, joy, for Christ is born, the babe, the child of Mar - y!



**SOUPER-BOWL OF CARING**

Bring in your non-perishable food items  
on Sundays in February!  
February 1, 8, 15 & 22  
for the Community Interfaith Food Pantry.

**CANNED ITEMS NEEDED (preferably pull tops):**  
Tuna, chicken, ravioli, SpaghettiOs,  
chili with beans, chunky soups!

Boxes are marked in the Welcome Center to  
cheer on your favorite team with your donations.  
Thank you for participating!

<b>Weekly Offerings</b>	<b>12/27/2025</b>
Operating	\$ 11,211.04
Building Fund	\$ 445.00
	\$ 11,656.04
<b>Giving YTD</b>	<b>\$ 350,140.04</b>
<b>*Christmas Eve Included</b>	
Weekly Budget	\$ 6,942.65
Budget to Date	\$ 354,075.24
Total Budget	\$ 361,017.89

**Weekly Attendance - 9AM Service**

December 21, 2025 99 + Online Participants  
December 22, 2024 115 + Online Participants

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## Seekers Adult Bible Study!

Tuesdays @ 10:00 a.m.  
Genesis Room

We are studying Acts chapters 1-6 of the Listen Up series.

We will begin Jan 6, 10:00 a.m.

Each booklet is \$4.95 plus tax.

You can download it as a PDF.

<https://thepilgrimpress.com/products/listen-up-bible-studies>



St. Paul UCC - 115 W. B. St., Belleville, IL  
[www.stpaulucc.org](http://www.stpaulucc.org)  
618-233-3303

## 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  
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  
Alec Zaber

**Please call the church for  
prayer requests:  
618-233-3303 [stpaulucc.org](http://stpaulucc.org)**

**Follow us on ...**

