



of prophets who were at Jericho drew near to Elisha and said to him, “Do you know that today the LORD will take your master away from you?” And he answered, “Yes, I know; keep silent.”

<sup>6</sup> Then Elijah said to him, “Stay here, for the LORD has sent me to the Jordan.” But he said, “As the LORD lives and as you yourself live, I will not leave you.” So the two of them went on. <sup>7</sup> Fifty men of the company of prophets also went and stood at some distance from them, as they both were standing by the Jordan. <sup>8</sup> Then Elijah took his mantle and rolled it up and struck the water; the water was parted to the one side and to the other, and the two of them crossed on dry ground.

<sup>9</sup> When they had crossed, Elijah said to Elisha, “Tell me what I may do for you before I am taken from you.” Elisha said, “Please let me inherit a double share of your spirit.” <sup>10</sup> He responded, “You have asked a hard thing, yet if you see me as I am being taken from you, it will be granted you; if not, it will not.” <sup>11</sup> As they continued walking and talking, a chariot of fire and horses of fire separated the two of them, and Elijah ascended in a whirlwind into heaven. <sup>12</sup> Elisha kept watching and crying out, “Father, father! The chariots of Israel and its horsemen!” But when he could no longer see him, he grasped his own clothes and tore them in two pieces.

### **Mark 9:2-9 (IB)**

<sup>2</sup> Six days later, Jesus took Peter and James and John and led them up a high mountain where they could be alone. And there Jesus was transfigured before their eyes, <sup>3</sup> the clothes Jesus wore became dazzling bright, such as no one on earth could brighten them. <sup>4</sup> Elijah appeared to them, as did Moses, and the two of them were talking with Jesus. <sup>5</sup> Then Peter said to Jesus, “Rabbi, how wonderful it is for us to be here! Let us make three shelters: one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah.” <sup>6</sup> Peter did not know what to say, so overcome were they with awe. <sup>7</sup> Then a cloud overshadowed them, and from the cloud there came a voice, “This is my Beloved, my Own, listen to this One!” <sup>8</sup> Suddenly when they looked around, they saw no one with them anymore, but only Jesus.

<sup>9</sup> As they were coming down the mountain, Jesus gave them orders not to tell anyone about what they had seen, until after the Promised One had risen from the dead.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church!

**Thanks be to God!**

### **A Message for All God’s Children**

*Following this, children ages 4-11 will be escorted to “Curious with Christ.”*

#### **Special Music**

“Swing Low, Sweet Chariot”  
arr. Alice Parker and Robert Shaw

*Chancel Choir*

#### **Message**

“Least Expected Change”

Rev. Beckie Sweet

### **Responding with Joy and Generosity**

#### **\*Hymn of Response**

“Steal Away to Jesus”

UMH #704

#### **Prayers of the People And The Lord’s Prayer**

*Jami Breedlove-Crouch*

#### **Offering Our Gifts to God**

#### **Offertory**

“Ave Verum”  
by W. Mozart

*Sondra Wayman, organ*

#### **\*Doxology**

“Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow”

UMH # 94

**\*Prayer of Dedication**

God of all times and places, we could remember the giants of the past, or serve the little ones of today; we could add on to grand facilities, or enhance the lives of our neighbors; we could stay on mountaintops, or go into the valleys of loneliness with our arms full of grace. May the lives and gifts we offer be used in your work of justice and hope, we pray. Amen.

**Going Forth to Serve and to Bless**

**\*Closing Hymn**

“Swing Low, Sweet Chariot”

UMH # 703

**Announcements**

**Dismissal with Blessing**

**Postlude**

“Prelude and Fugue in F Major”  
by JS Bach

*Sondra Wayman, organ*

**-----PRAYERS-----**

For **Prayer Chain Requests**, confidential concerns seen only by those who participate in the Prayer Chain, please contact Pastor Beckie at [pastor@stpaulsithaca.org](mailto:pastor@stpaulsithaca.org).

**Prayer Requests:** Joan Reppert; Nancy Potter and George Gull; the Agua Viva team in Costa Rica; Kimberly Lyons (Branchport); Mary and Matthew Boardman.

Pray for healing within the United Methodist Church, especially for those who are excluded because of sexual orientation and gender identification. Pray for those preparing for General Conference.

Prayer requests will be published in the bulletin for four weeks. If you would like someone to remain on the list, contact Jami Breedlove-Crouch at [lovingcare@stpaulsithaca.org](mailto:lovingcare@stpaulsithaca.org) or 607-269- 5509. Please remember that we also need permission from the person listed.

***Card Ministry Update***

Every month, several people send cards to a few congregants. If you would like to participate in this loving and fun group, contact: Jami or email her at [lovingcare@stpaulsithaca.org](mailto:lovingcare@stpaulsithaca.org).

***St. Paul’s Ministries ~ Week of February 11, 2024***

**Sunday, February 11 – Transfiguration**

**Sunday**

10:30am – Worship and “Curious with Christ.”  
11:30am – Coffee/Fellowship Time in Memorial Room

**Monday, February 12**

Spring Newsletter Deadline  
5:30pm – Local & World Missions – Memorial Room  
5:00pm – Lay Leadership Team meeting - ZOOM

**Tuesday, February 13**

11:30am – OAM Shrove Tuesday Pancake Brunch – Memorial Room  
7:15pm – Trustees Meeting - ZOOM

**Wednesday, February 14 – Ash Wednesday**

10:00am – Staff Meeting – ZOOM  
7:00pm – Ash Wednesday Service

**Thursday, February 15**

6:00pm – Festival Chimes Rehearsal – Sanctuary  
7:15pm – Choir Rehearsal – Dining Room

**Friday, February 16 – Church Offices Closed**

**Saturday, February 17**

**Sunday, February 18**

10:30am – Worship and “Curious with Christ”  
11:30am – Coffee/Fellowship Time in Memorial Room

**Children and Worship** – Children are always welcome in worship! To help keep hands busy, we have books and toys on the black cart near the main sanctuary door. *Children ages 4-11 are invited to attend “Curious with Christ.”*

### ***Pancake Brunch This Tuesday!***

St. Paul’s Older Adult Ministries (OAM) will observe the beginning of Lent with their traditional Shrove Tuesday pancake brunch this **Tuesday, February 13**, from **11:30am-1:30pm**. Join us for this delicious mid-winter feast! Afterwards George Ferrari, CEO of the Community Foundation of Tompkins County, will give a brief presentation entitled "Philanthropy is for Everyone: Moving from Charity to Solidarity." Contact [Jami Breedlove-Crouch](mailto:Jami.Breedlove-Crouch@stpaulsithaca.org) at [lovingcare@stpaulsithaca.org](mailto:lovingcare@stpaulsithaca.org) if you’re interested in attending.

### ***Ash Wednesday Service This Wednesday at 7:00pm***

Ash Wednesday is the beginning of Lent, a season of repentance and cleansing one’s heart and soul in preparation for EASTER. This year’s service will offer an introduction to our Lenten Worship Series "BUSY: Reconnecting with an Unhurried God." Folks will be invited to receive the traditional imposition of ashes and begin helpful spiritual disciplines in order to draw closer to God as we journey with Jesus. All are welcome!

### ***Opportunity to Meet Bishop Héctor A. Burgos Núñez***

Laity of the Finger Lakes District are invited to meet our bishop on **Monday, February 26, 2024, 7:00-8:30 pm** at the Lansing UMC (32 Brickyard Road). All are welcome!

### ***Justice Seekers Host “Witness to Injustice Blanket Exercise”***

Mark **March 16** on your calendar: that’s when Justice Seekers will be hosting the “Witness to Injustice Blanket Exercise,” facilitated by Neighbors of the Onondaga Nation (NOOM) from **1-4pm**. A unique participatory workshop, the exercise explores the history of the colonization of Turtle Island and its impact on Indigenous People’s nationhood up to the present. Seating is limited to fifty, so if you’re interested, please contact Karen Kaufmann at [tunafiki@twcny.rr.com](mailto:tunafiki@twcny.rr.com)

### **Our Staff**

**Rev. Rebekah (Pastor Beckie) Sweet** / Senior Pastor / [pastor@stpaulsithaca.org](mailto:pastor@stpaulsithaca.org)  
**Jami Breedlove-Crouch** / Loving Care Ministries Coordinator / [lovingcare@stpaulsithaca.org](mailto:lovingcare@stpaulsithaca.org)  
**Deirdre Levine** / Church Administrative Assistant & Communications / [office@stpaulsithaca.org](mailto:office@stpaulsithaca.org)  
**Michelle Eells** / Business & Building Ministries Coordinator / [business@stpaulsithaca.org](mailto:business@stpaulsithaca.org)  
**Maia Finkel** / Choral and Ensembles Director / [choirdirector@stpaulsithaca.org](mailto:choirdirector@stpaulsithaca.org)  
**Molly MacMillan** / Pianist / [pianist@stpaulsithaca.org](mailto:pianist@stpaulsithaca.org)  
**David Kingsley** / Technical Director / [dkingsley@stpaulsithaca.org](mailto:dkingsley@stpaulsithaca.org)  
**Dorothy Preston** / Festival Chimes Director / [dpreston@stpaulsithaca.org](mailto:dpreston@stpaulsithaca.org)  
**Sue Orzel** / Custodian

*“St. Paul’s is a compassionate community led and transformed by the Spirit.”*

**St. Paul’s United Methodist Church, A Reconciling Congregation**

402 North Aurora Street, Ithaca, NY

Find us at [www.stpaulsithaca.org](http://www.stpaulsithaca.org), Facebook and Instagram

**Church Office Hours are 9:00 AM-12:00 PM Sunday – Thursday**

Office Phone: 607-273-5971 Pastoral Care Phone: 607-269-5509

## Christ, Whose Glory Fills the Skies 173

1. Christ, whose glo - ry fills the skies, Christ, the true, the  
 2. Dark and cheer - less is the morn un - ac - com - pa -  
 3. Vis - it then this soul of mine; pierce the gloom of

on - ly light, Sun of Righ - teous - ness, a - rise,  
 nied by thee; joy - less is the day's re - turn,  
 sin and grief; fill me, Ra - dian - cy di - vine,

tri - umph o'er the shades of night; Day-spring from on  
 till thy mer - cy's beams I see; till they in - ward  
 scat - ter all my un - be - lief; more and more thy -

high, be near; Day - star, in my heart ap - pear.  
 light im - part, cheer my eyes and warm my heart.  
 self dis - play, shin - ing to the per - fect day.

## Steal Away to Jesus

*Refrain*

Steal a-way, steal a-way; steal a-way to Je - sus.

Steal a - way, steal a - way home. I ain't got long to stay here.

1. My Lord he calls me, he calls me by the thun - der; the  
 2. Green trees a - bend - ing, poor sin - ners stand a - trem - bling; the  
 3. My Lord he calls me, he calls me by the light - ning; the

trump - et sounds with - in - a my soul. I ain't got long to stay here.

D.C.

WORDS: Afro-American spiritual (1 Cor. 15:51-52)

MUSIC: Afro-American spiritual; adapt. and arr. by William Farley Smith, 1986

Adapt. and arr. © 1989 The United Methodist Publishing House

STEAL AWAY  
57.87 with Refrain

## 94 Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow

*Unison*

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise

*Harmony*

God, all creatures here below: Al-le-lu-ia! Al-le-

*Unison*

lu-ia! Praise God, the source of all our gifts! Praise

*Harmony*

Je-sus Christ, whose power uplifts! Praise the Spir-it, Ho-ly Spir-it!

WORDS: Thomas Ken, 1674; adapt. by Gilbert H. Vieira, 1978

MUSIC: *Geistliche Kirchengesänge*, 1623; harm. by Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1906

LASST UNS ERFREUEN

88.44.88 with Refrain

*Unison*

Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

The image shows a musical score for a unison setting of 'Alleluia'. It consists of two staves: a treble clef staff on top and a bass clef staff on the bottom. The key signature has one flat (B-flat), and the time signature is common time (C). The melody is written in a simple, homophonic style. The lyrics 'Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!' are centered between the two staves. The first staff ends with a double bar line, and the second staff also ends with a double bar line.