

February 7, 2021
Communion Sunday
Virtual Worship

No matter who you are,
No matter where you are
On life's journey,
You are welcome here.

PRELUDE

Prélude modal
Kevin Dzierzawski, organ

Jean Langlais

CHIMES

INTROIT

Here, O My Lord, I See Thee Face to Face
Chancel Choir

13th Century Chant

WELCOME AND CALL TO WORSHIP

Matt Fitzgerald

One: May God be with you!

All: And also with you!

One: Lift up your hearts!

All: We lift them up to God!

One: This is the day that our God has made!

All: Let us rejoice and be glad in it!

HYMN

I Come with Joy
Led by Hannah Barton



1. I come with joy, a child of God, for - giv - en, loved, and
2. I come with Chris - tians far and near to find, as all are
3. As Christ breaks bread, and bids us share, each proud di - vi - sion
4. And thus we meet, and bet - ter know the Pres - ence, ev - er
5. To - geth - er met, to - geth - er bound, in friend - ship we will



free,_____ The life of Je - sus to re - call, in
fed,_____ The new com - mu - ni - ty of love in
ends._____ The love that made_ us, makes us one, and
near,_____ And join our hearts and sing with joy that
stay,_____ And go with joy___ to love the world and



love laid down for me,___ in love laid down for me.____
Christ's com - mu - nion bread,___ in Christ's com - mu - nion bread.____
strang - ers now_ are friends, and strang - ers now_ are friends.
Christ is ris - en here,___ that Christ is ris - en here.____
live the way_ we pray,___ and live the way_ we pray.____

SCRIPTURE

Thomas Clancy

Isaiah 40:21-31

Have you not known? Have you not heard? Has it not been told you from the beginning? Have you not understood from the foundations of the earth? God sits above the circle of the earth, and its inhabitants are like grasshoppers; who stretches out the heavens like a curtain, and spreads them like a tent to live in; who brings princes to naught, and makes the rulers of the earth as nothing. Scarcely are they planted, scarcely sown, scarcely has their stem taken root in the earth, when he blows upon them, and they wither, and the tempest carries them off like stubble.

To whom then will you compare me, or who is my equal? says the Holy One. Lift up your eyes on high and see: Who created these? He who brings out their host and numbers them, calling them all by name; because he is great in strength, mighty in power, not one is missing.

Why do you say, O Jacob, and speak, O Israel, "My way is hidden from the Lord, and my right is disregarded by my God"? Have you not known? Have you not heard? The Lord is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. He does not faint or grow weary; his understanding is unsearchable. He gives power to the faint, and strengthens the powerless. Even youths will faint and be weary, and the young will fall exhausted; but those who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength, they shall mount up with wings like eagles, they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint.

STATEMENT OF FAITH

**We believe in God who has created and is creating,
who has come to us in Jesus Christ to reconcile and make us new,
who works in us and others by the Holy Spirit.**

**We trust God. God calls us to be the Church,
to celebrate God's presence,
to love and serve others,
to care for creation,
to seek justice and to resist evil,
to proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen, our judge and our hope.**

In life and death, in life beyond death, God is with us.

We are not alone. Thanks be to God!

(adapted from the United Church of Canada)

SERMON

"Lift Up Your Eyes"

Jeff Carlson

MEDITATION

Hip-Hop Prayer No. 3
Rachel Barton Pine, violin

Daniel Bernard Roumain

OFFERING INVITATION

Benny VanDerburgh

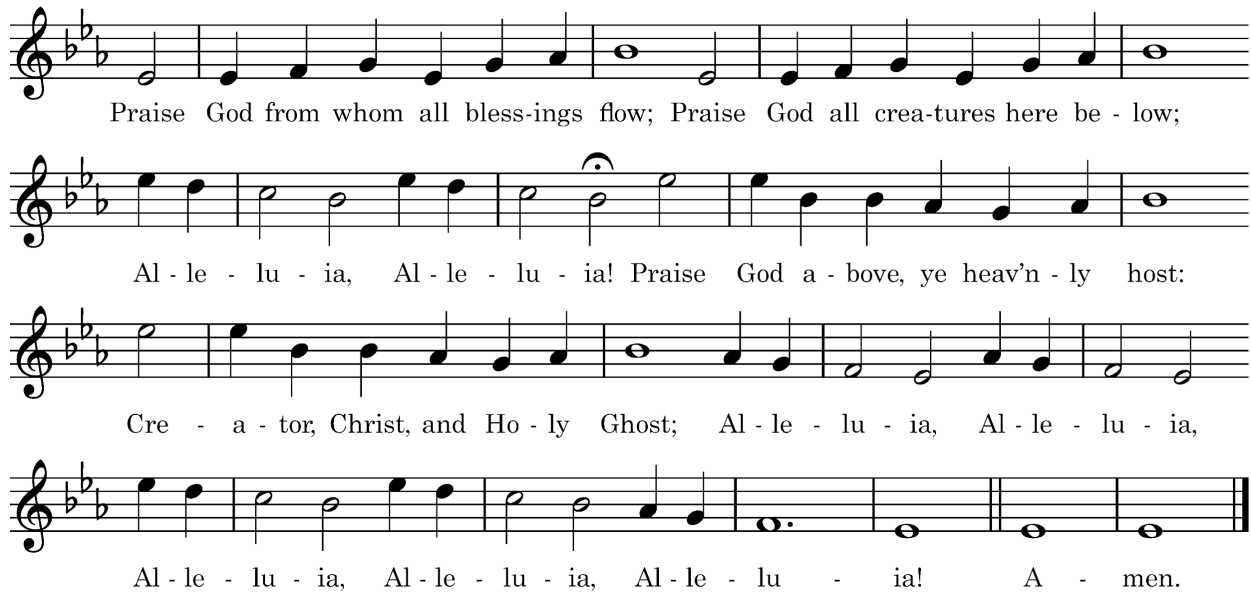
OFFERTORY

Spaseniye sodelai Op. 25 No. 5 Pavel Chesnokov
(Salvation Is Created - Sung in Old Church Slavonic)
Chancel Choir

Salvation is created,
In midst of the earth,
O our God.
Alleluia.
Psalm 74: 12

Give to St. Pauls with Zelle: giving@spucc.org or spucc.org/about-us/giving-to-st-pauls

FESTIVAL DOXOLOGY



Praise God from whom all bless-ings flow; Praise God all crea-tures here be - low;
Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia! Praise God a - bove, ye heav'n - ly host:
Cre - a - tor, Christ, and Ho - ly Ghost; Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia,
Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia! A - men.

CELEBRATION OF THE SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

Benny VanDerburgh

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Holy God, we confess that we are afraid to confess the truth.
We are prone to self-deception.
We clothe ourselves in false piety.
We do not want to reveal our insecurity or sin.
We are comfortably hidden behind our masks.
Yet, thank God, you know us completely, as we truly are, and you love us.
Meet us in our weakness and sin,
And feed us with the love and grace of Jesus Christ.
Lord, have mercy upon us.
Christ, have mercy on us.
Lord, have mercy upon us.**

KYRIE

Chancel Choir

Kecia Waldschmidt

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

Benny VanDerburgh

WORDS OF INSTITUTION & PRAYER OF CONSECRATION

Sarah Garcia

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.**

SERVING OF THE BREAD AND CUP

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Generous God, thank you for the gift of your presence in the simplicity and splendor of this holy meal. Fed by Christ's body and blood, let us live as the Body of Christ, with our eyes freshly opened to your presence in the world and in the people we meet. Fill us with your Spirit, that we might be a rainbow of hope in an uncertain world. Amen.

HYMN

Taste and See
Led by Meg Tazelaar

Refrain

Taste and see, taste and see the good - ness

of the Lord. O, taste and see, taste and

see the good - ness of the Lord, of the Lord.

1. I will bless the Lord at all times. His
2. Glo - ri - fy the Lord with me. To -
3. Wor - ship the Lord, all you peo - ple.

praise shall al - ways be on my lips; my
- geth - er let us all praise his name. I
You'll want for noth - ing if you ask. I

soul shall glo - ry in the Lord; for
called the Lord and he an - swered me; from
taste and see that God is good; in

he has been so good to me.
all my trou - bles he set me free.
him we need put all our trust.

BENEDICTION

BENEDICTION RESPONSE



A - men, A - men, A - - - men.

POSTLUDE

Sweet Beulah Land
St. Arbucks Trio

Squire Parsons, Jr.

Coffee Hour is on Zoom!

*Using a computer or smartphone app, use Meeting ID: **882 5733 7213**, Pswd: **Coffee**
By phone, dial **(312) 626-6799**, Meeting ID: **882 5733 7213**, Password: **530750**.*

To help contain the spread of COVID-19, worship at Saint Pauls will be streamed online until further notice. Worship services are streamed on Sundays at 10 a.m. Central, and re-streamed every day at 10 a.m., 5 p.m. and 8 p.m. Central, on Saint Pauls website, spucc.org/streaming.

*You can also call in to listen to our services at **(312) 626-6799** at 10 a.m. Central on Sundays and use Meeting ID: **816 5093 8507**, Password: **459359***

If you would like someone to pray with you this week, Clergy and Stephen Ministers are available for phone calls.

VIRTUAL WORSHIP PRODUCTION TEAM

Chuck Kent

Mary Beth Hughes, Big Thinking By The Hour

Jim Courtright, Big Thinking By The Hour

VIRTUAL MUSIC PRODUCTION TEAM

Kevin Dzierzawski

Breanna Coe

Kristofer Hansen

BORN THIS WEEK IN FEBRUARY

We celebrate and give thanks for your life at St. Pauls.

*A perfect way to celebrate is by giving one dollar for each year of your life to our
Birthday Fund, which supports A Just Harvest.*

Feb 7 Aaron Fangman, Nathan Jernigan, Nolan Tavas

Feb 8 Ethan Frisch, Sherrie Myers

Feb 9 Bruce Reider

Feb 10 Becky Kornick, Cameron Rogers, Jan Bail, Melinda Schrimpf

Feb 12 Bobbi Gannello, Jim Brandt

Feb 13 Dana Peterson Harrits

ANNOUNCEMENTS

MARK YOUR CALENDARS – MARCH 7, 2021 – ANNUAL MEETING

Please plan to attend the Annual Meeting of the Congregation of St. Pauls where we will vote on the 2021 budget, new members of the Church Council, including Officers and Ministry Chairs, and learn about the activities of 2020 and plans going into 2021. It is an important event in the life of St. Pauls. Members have voice and vote and Friends have voice. The meeting will be held via Zoom. The link for the meeting will be in future bulletins.

2021 PLEDGE & GIVING INFORMATION

Thank you to everyone who has filled out a pledge card for 2021! Your generous support of Saint Pauls is greatly needed and much appreciated. If you have yet to pledge your time, talents or treasures for 2021, you can fill out a pledge card at pledge.spucc.org. Your pledges help us plan and budget for the upcoming year.

- **VERY IMPORTANT** - If you were using our previous giving portal to send Saint Pauls a recurring donation towards your pledge, you will need to cancel it and set up a new recurring donation in Church Center before the end of March, at spucc.churchcenter.com. Email bookkeeper@spucc.org with questions or for help.
- **EQUALLY IMPORTANT** - If your pledge has changed from last year and you would like to evenly distribute your donations throughout the year, you will need to adjust your donation amount accordingly for any method of giving you use. The easiest way to do this is through our new Give portal. You can set up recurring donations or make one-time gifts. Click your profile icon to view “My Giving” – see 2021 giving history (including Zelle, cash, and check), track pledge progress, and download future statements. Email bookkeeper@spucc.org with questions or for help.

NEW DATES: VOLUNTEER TO READ SCRIPTURE

Sundays through August are now available to volunteer to read scripture. While we worship virtually, volunteers are needed to send in a recording of the scripture reading each week. The week before the service you've volunteered for, the pastor who is preaching that Sunday will send you the scripture passage and recording/uploading instructions.

Sign up here: spucc.churchcenter.com/registrations/events/686988.

SPUCC CHURCH CENTER

Thank you to everyone who has logged in and connected with our new portal for the Saint Pauls community! If you haven't yet, get started on a computer or smart device at spucc.churchcenter.com, or by downloading the "Church Center App" and using "60614" in the manual search during app setup. You'll see our Saint Pauls logo in the top results.

CALLING ALL STORYTELLERS

There have to be a lot of good, unusual, true stories in our congregation. St. Pauls Social is looking to plan a "Moth Radio Hour" type event for those stories to be told. If you've got a story to tell, or if you'd like some help writing your story, let Pastor Jeff know in order to help us plan, jcarlson@spucc.org.

LINCOLN PARK COMMUNITY SERVICES NEEDS YOUR HELP!

This St. Pauls founded organization provides comprehensive social services to our neighbors experiencing homelessness. LPCS is looking for volunteers to provide meals during this time. Open dates are: **March 3, 10, 17 and 24**. Please contact Sally Fletcher to sign up at sfletcher1443@gmail.com, or (312) 848-5400. Needed are 35 lunches, including 3 vegetarian, at the 600 W. Fullerton location on each of these days. For other LPCS volunteer opportunities, visit their website at lpcschicago.org to get involved, or contact volunteer coordinator Jameela Chaudhry at volunteer@lpcschicago.org.

PASTORS' VIRTUAL OFFICE HOURS

Want to talk? We are here for you! You can always reach out to one of our pastors, but we are also offering regularly scheduled virtual office hours, beginning next week. To "drop in" during virtual office hours, contact a pastor to make an appointment.

Benny, Pastoral Intern: Mondays, 3-5 p.m.

Pastor Matt: Wednesdays, 10 a.m.-12 p.m.

Pastor Jeff: Fridays, 3-5 p.m.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

FEB 10 - WEDNESDAY BIBLE STUDY - 12 p.m., Zoom

A Non-Biblical Bible Study. Join us as we take a look inside a first-Century Christian document called *The Didache*, or the Teaching. This fascinating writing gives us a glimpse from outside the pages of the Biblical canon into what was important to early Christians as they lived as a minority within the Roman Empire. Email Pastor Jeff if you'd like to sign up, jcarlson@spucc.org.

FEB 10 - ST. PAULS GREEN TEAM START-UP - 5:30 p.m., Zoom

A St. Pauls Green Team is forming to help us as a congregation live out what we say in our Statement of Faith: God calls us to care for creation. This is the perfect time to plan, as we prepare to reenter and reimagine our common bodily life together. Joe Womack and Jan Fraccaro have volunteered to co-chair our efforts, both bringing a great deal of experience and ideas. To attend, or to be in the email list for future meetings, email Pastor Jeff, jcarlson@spucc.org by February 9.

FEB 16 - HEALTH AND WELLNESS WEBINAR - 7 p.m., Zoom

Want to up your health in 2021? One great way to do it is by eating more leafy greens! Join St. Pauls Social and our member Molly McGrath, Chef and Founder of Light Work Kitchens, while she reviews the benefits of adding more dark leafies to each meal, while also demonstrating recipes for adding greens to breakfast, lunch and dinner. Cooking along welcome but certainly not required! Please RSVP to molly@lightworkkitchens.com, Zoom link will be provided on Monday, February 15.

FEB 20 - REFUGEE ONE DONATION KITS - 10:30 a.m. - 12 p.m., Church Parking Lot

This month, Refugee One is conducting a drive to collect items for their families that have been particularly hard hit by the pandemic. For a list of items and to sign up to donate a kit, visit spucc.churchcenter.com/registrations/events/719390

Refugee One has been in existence since 1982 and is the largest resettlement agency in Illinois. Since inception, they have welcomed over 18,000 refugees and helped them to find housing, employment, health care and a variety of services to assist them in adjusting to their new home.

For more information, contact Pauline Taylor paulinetaylor933@gmail.com

FEB 23 - BOOK DISCUSSION: HOW TO BE AN ANTIRACIST - 7 p.m., Zoom
Prof. Ibram X Kendi may be a rigorous scholar and historian with multiple books on the bestseller lists, but he writes like a passionate, fallible human being who's just trying to get it right. Kendi leads us through the labyrinth of concepts and choices that presents itself when we begin the journey to that elusive goal—antiracism—a term that many of us had never even heard of a few years ago. And he goes with us on our journey, telling stories of all the misconceptions and mistakes he made on his own journey toward antiracism. Kendi's honesty about his trials and errors is engaging and inspiring. Pam Woll will facilitate the discussion. Please RSVP to rnpeterson2017@gmail.com.

OPPORTUNITIES

CONNECTORS reach out providing networking and support for members and friends of St. Pauls. Membership is open to all who have the time and the inclination to help. Contact Marcia Volk at marcia@volkonline.com.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT PROGRAM (CEP) - Do you miss serving CEP meals? Team up with fellow St. Pauls members to provide *part* of a meal for 35 shelter guests at the LPCS 1521 N. Sedgwick location on Sunday Feb 14 or Feb 28. If you are interested in participating, or are looking for other ways to help our neighbors experiencing homelessness, please contact Jennifer Kew at CEPsupper@gmail.com.

EMAIL LIST SIGN-UP - Are you new to St. Pauls and want to get more connected, or have you been a longtime friend and missed signing up for our email? Either way, you can go here: spucc.org/connect-learn/signups to fill out our virtual fellowship card to begin receiving our weekly email and special congregational emails, introduce yourself and receive a call from a pastor, request more information about Children and Youth Programming, and more!

FAITH IN ACTION – Some people call it showing up for a protest. Others call it public witness for the values inherent in our faith. Most of us appreciate being able to do both with like-minded congregational members. We are continually building a Faith-in-Action list of people who wish to receive notice of such protests and gatherings – frequently on short notice due to swift governmental action. Please join this email list by contacting Claire Higgins at chiggins@spucc.org.

FAITH AND PUBLIC ISSUES – Help us connect our faith to critical public issues. Do you wish you knew more from a faith perspective about current issues that are important to our public life? Racism, climate change, immigration, to name a few? FPI programs provide opportunities to ask questions, help us understand issues in depth, and discuss possible action. The FPI Task Force plans these programs and we could use your ideas. Contact Toby Rogers at toby@rogers-home.com for information about meetings.

GIFTS, PASSIONS, SKILLS – If you have not already completed our GPS Survey, we still need to hear from you. Please go to forms.gle/jK54YezLs8Ea27uW8 to fill it out. This is an important component of our overall member engagement initiative, as mentioned in the November 10, 2019 congregational meeting. If you prefer to complete a paper document, they are available on the front counter of the office next to the labeled return box. Thank you in advance for your participation.

LITTLE LIGHTS is a St. Pauls early childhood program with classes for 2, 3, and 4-year olds. We are now accepting applications for 2021. Check out www.littlelightslp.org. Email Little Lights Director Erin Fitzgerald at littlelights@spucc.org.

LONG, CLASSIC NOVELS READING GROUP

Last year we read four books from the Zora Canon, written by African American women. Readings for 2021 are being set, so stay tuned! Anyone is welcome to join us. Please RSVP to Pastor Jeff for email updates: jcarlson@spucc.org.

NEW OR EXPECTING PARENTS – If you have a new baby or are expecting a baby, please let Corie Gallemore know so that we can find ways to support you (meals, prayer, etc.). Email Corie at corie.gallemore@gmail.com.

OUTREACH AND BENEVOLENCE COMMITTEE – Do you have a passion for reaching out to others? The St. Pauls O&B Committee would love to have you join us in keeping our church engaged in community outreach. For more information contact Pauline Taylor, paulinetaylor933@gmail.com, or Pastor Jeff, jcarlson@spucc.org.

PARENTS OF LITTLE ONES (POLO) has play dates, Moms night out, Dads night out, family pizza parties, prayer groups, and more activities to support families with little ones between the ages of 0 and 5. If you have young children and would like to get involved, please contact Joanne Tong at jctong@yahoo.com.

SAINT PAULS SOCIAL – Get better acquainted with other adults at St. Pauls. If you are interested in hosting, please contact Jen Luerksen at jenluerksen@yahoo.com. Subscribe to the distribution list at eepurl.com/gQ4Eg1, or look out for future events announced in the bulletin calendar.

SAINT PAULS TOGETHER – Our Facebook Group, “Saint Pauls Together,” is for St. Pauls Members and Friends to connect and share uplifting thoughts and stories. Check out our Facebook Page to request an invitation if you’re a member or friend!

STEPHEN MINISTRY AT ST. PAULS – If you’re in need of support through a tough time and would like to be matched with someone who would support you with companionship and prayer, or you’re feeling called to offer support, speak to Pastor Jeff Carlson (jcarlson@spucc.org), Marti Pechnyo (mpechnyo@gmail.com), or Barb Kaiser (bkaiser2213@gmail.com).

WEDNESDAY BIBLE STUDY – Now meeting every Wednesday at noon via Zoom. Newcomers are always welcome. Increase your faith and your knowledge of the Bible. RSVP: Pastor Jeff at jcarlson@spucc.org to get the Zoom link.

YOUNG ADULTS – A group for fun and fellowship for folks in their twenties and thirties. All are welcome! Volunteers needed! Any ideas for future events? Email them at youngadults@spucc.org.

ZOOM MEETINGS – The St. Pauls Zoom account is available to start or continue groups. Email Claire Higgins at chiggins@spucc.org to schedule your meeting.

BULLETIN ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please send any announcements you would like in the following week’s bulletin or Friday email to chiggins@spucc.org no later than 10 a.m. on Tuesday.

Verbal announcements are due by Wednesdays at noon.

Please limit announcements to 100 words. Thank you!

SAINT PAULS PRAYS

Please clip this page and pray for those who are named below. To have your prayer request included, simply ask a pastor in person, on the phone or by email.

Our practice is to run each prayer request for four weeks and then remove it.

If you would like to continue a prayer request after four weeks, let a pastor know.

- Phill, brother of Bob Ball, diagnosed with a rare form of leukemia and beginning many medical treatments.
- Loved ones of Amy Newman at her death last week, especially her children Alyssa and Miles Van Denburg.
- Young adults trying to find their place in the world.
- Couples navigating pregnancy in a covid world.
- Juggling working from home, zoom school and family life.
- Nial, Gloria Joseph's husband, who is dealing with a cancer diagnosis and beginning treatments.
- Marci, Gloria Joseph's friend, who recently suffered a stroke.
- Greg Mooney and family at the death of Sheryl.
- Prayers for our democracy.
- Carrie Brugger's brother, Steve, and family at the death of his wife, Barb.
- Juanita Barlow's sister, Maria Dolores Guadalupe, recovering from a stroke.
- The Rieck family at the death of Shirley.
- The Nietzsche family at the tragic death of Dan.
- Kristin Mack and family at the deaths of her grandfather, Dennis Carlson, and granny, Charlotte.
- Ninon Freeman at the death of her mother, Alba Young.
- Jan Bail's sister, Marty, diagnosed with cancer.
- Michael VanZeyl's Aunt Betty, hospitalized, and Laura VanZeyl's parents, Lionel and Donna, coping with isolation.
- Molly Dierks, in the hospital.
- Erick, an Army friend of Bruce Voice.
- Bruce Voice, recovering from surgery.
- A mother and her two children going through a very difficult time.
- Patty, friend of Petrine and Garold Ashley, as she undergoes a third knee transplant.
- Mark Huddle at the death of his father, Mike.
- Mary Train, recovering from a broken wrist.
- Rob and Shannon Castle's friend, Mike, in treatment for cancer.
- Pat Ruch's sister, Aline, beginning treatment for brain cancer.
- Carole Crowley, recovering from a stroke.
- Karl Wirsum, in rehabilitation for mini-strokes.

You are beloved – to others, to the world you live in, and most important, to God. God knows your struggles and failures, as well as your joys and triumphs. Even when you walk through the valley of shadows, God is with you. If you or someone you love has lost hope, is feeling completely alone or like life doesn't matter, reach out for help. Contact one of the pastors today for information about mental health care advocacy and resources that can help you and your loved ones. Contact information for the pastors is at the back of this bulletin.

ABOUT ST. PAULS
Making a Joyful Sound in the City!

Saint Pauls UCC has a vibrant history in the city of Chicago. Founded in 1843, we are one of the city's oldest churches. In 1989, we became one of America's first congregations to declare ourselves "Open and Affirming" of LGBTQ women and men.

From founding Chicago's largest provider of social services to at-risk children to starting a home for the elderly, from housing protestors at the 1968 Democratic Convention to hosting Lincoln Park's first MLK day march against violence on Chicago's streets, we are proud to make a joyful sound in the city.

Most important, over the past 177 years we are glad to have introduced thousands of children and adults to the amazing, inclusive, life changing, uplifting love of God. We do so in worship that is traditional, but far from conventional.

St. Pauls United Church of Christ
2335 North Orchard Street Chicago, Illinois 60614
(773) 348-3829 FAX (773) 348-3858
www.spucc.org

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Kecia Waldschmidt, *Youth Choir Director*, keciagerman@hotmail.com
Mark Mosley, *Intergenerational Orchestra Director*, mwmosley@gmail.com
Kevin O'Brien, *Lay Liturgical Administrator*, kkobrien48@hotmail.com



WELCOME TO SAINT PAULS UCC!

Welcome to those whose hearts are on fire with faith,
and to those who bring their doubt inside our doors.

Welcome to our first time guests and
our longtime members.

Welcome to single people, tiny children,
grandparents and families of all configurations.

Welcome to those who rejoice and to those who grieve.

Welcome to each and to everyone.

We are an Open and Affirming church.

We welcome all.

We are blessed by your presence and
we are glad you are here.