



Christmas Eve
A Homemade Nativity
December 24, 2017
5:00 p.m.

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

*The prelude is a time of reflection and preparation for the worship of God.
Please silence cell phones.
Bibles for use during worship are available at each entrance to the Sanctuary.*

PRELUDE

O Little Town of Bethlehem

Lewis Redner

Gospel Trio

arr. Carl Strommen

Brendan Henry, piano; Joel Kelsey, bass; and Matt Plaskota, drums
Kris Hansen, soloist

WELCOME

* WELCOMING EACH OTHER

* CALL TO WORSHIP

One: The impossible is about to happen in a stable. The people who walk in
darkness will see a great light;

All: Jesus is coming, Merry Christmas!

One: This is the moment when the infinite enters our time and space.
Almighty God becomes a baby.

All: Jesus is coming, Merry Christmas!

One: God embraces humanity from the inside, as one of us.

All: Jesus is coming, Merry Christmas!

One: Even now, God is coming into our lives in a new way.
Watch and listen, for Jesus is drawing near.

* *Please stand if you are able to do so.*

ANTHEM

O Holy Night

Adolphe Adam

Todd and Breanna Coe, soloists

O Holy Night!

The stars are brightly shining;
It is the night of the dear Savior's birth!
Long lay the world in sin and error pining,
Till he appear'd and the soul felt its worth.
A thrill of hope the weary soul rejoices,
For yonder breaks a new and glorious morn!

Fall on your knees,
Oh, hear the angel voices
Oh, night divine;
Oh, night when Christ was born.
Oh, night divine.
Oh, night divine.

Truly He taught us to love one another;
His law is love and His gospel is peace.
Chains shall He break for the slave is our brother,
And in His name all oppression shall cease.
Sweet hymns of joy in grateful chorus raise we,
Let all within us praise His holy name.

Fall on your knees...

THE STORY BEGINS

O Little Town of Bethlehem

O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep, the silent stars go by:
Yet in the dark streets shineth the everlasting light;
The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.

MARY AND JOSEPH TRAVEL TO BETHLEHEM AND BABY JESUS IS BORN

Scripture Reading Luke 2:1-7

Away in a manger

Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,
The little Lord Jesus lay down his sweet head.
The stars in the sky looked down where he lay;
The little Lord Jesus asleep in the hay.

The cattle are lowing, the poor Baby wakes
But little Lord Jesus no crying He makes.
I love Thee, Lord Jesus, look down from the sky
And stay by my side 'til morning is nigh.

THE SHEPHERDS HEAR THE GOOD NEWS

Children dressed as shepherds and animals are invited to come forward.

What Child Is This?

What child is this, who, laid to rest, on Mary's lap is sleeping?
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet while shepherds watch are keeping?
This, this, the angels sing, is Christ, God's holy offering;
Haste, haste your praise to bring the babe, the child of Mary!

THE ANGELS GLORIFY GOD

Scripture Reading Luke 2:8-17

Children dressed as angels are invited to come forward now.

Angels We Have Heard on High

Angels we have heard high, sweetly singing o'er the plains.
And the mountains in reply, echoing their joyous strains.
Gloria in excelsis Deo
Gloria in excelsis Deo.

KINGS BRING GIFTS TO JESUS

Children dressed as stars, kings and queens are invited to come forward now.

We Three Kings

We three kings of Orient are
Bearing gifts we traverse afar.
Field and fountain, moor and mountain, following yonder star.

O star of wonder, star of night,
Star of royal beauty bright,
Westward leading, still proceeding,
Guide us to thy perfect light.

GOD LOVES EVERYONE

All children who would like to come forward are now welcome.

O Come All Ye Faithful

O come all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant
O come ye, O come ye, to Bethlehem;
Come and behold him, born the King of angels;
O come let us adore him, O come let us adore him,
O come let us adore him, Christ the Lord.

SHARE THE GOOD NEWS

During the following song, children return to the pews.

Go Tell It On the Mountain

Go, tell it on the mountain, over the hills and everywhere
Go, tell it on the mountain, that Jesus Christ is born.

While shepherds kept their watching o'er silent flocks by night
Behold throughout the heavens there shone a holy light.

Go, tell it on the mountain, over the hills and everywhere
Go, tell it on the mountain, that Jesus Christ is born.

OFFERTORY

O Come, O Come Emmanuel
St. Arbucks Trio and Kris Hansen

arr. Bradley Sowsh

O come, O come, Emmanuel
And ransom captive Israel,
That mourns in lonely exile here,
Until the Lord of Lords appear.

Rejoice, rejoice!
Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

THE CHRISTMAS EVE PRAYER

*** Silent Night**

Silent night, Holy night
All is calm, all is bright
'Round yon virgin, mother and child
Holy infant so, tender and mild
Sleep in heavenly peace,
Sleep in heavenly peace.

Silent Night, Holy Night
Shepherds quake at the sight.
Glories stream from heaven afar
Heavenly hosts sing Alleluia,
Christ the Savior is born!
Christ the Savior is born

LET YOUR LIGHT SHINE

Scripture Reading John 1:1-5, 14-18

*** Joy to the World**

Joy to the world! The Lord is come.
Let earth receive her King!
Let every heart prepare Him room
And heaven and nature sing, and heaven and nature sing

And heaven, and heaven and nature sing.

He rules the world with truth and grace
And makes the nations prove
The glories of His righteousness
And wonders of his love, and wonders of his love
And wonders and wonders of his love.

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Toccata from Symphony V
Kevin Dzierzawski, organ

Charles Marie Widor

***Yes, There is Room at the Inn.
Tonight's offering will save lives.
Text: 773-825-6816***

We are giving this evening's offering away. Every dollar collected will be given to the Lincoln Park Community Shelter. LPCS is a home for those who are experiencing homelessness. Seventy percent of LPCS guests graduate to permanent housing. LCPS saves lives, finds strength and sees dignity. Saint Pauls was the first home of LCPS, opening our doors during the frigid winter of 1985. Since then our congregation and the shelter's guests have been close. LPCS will soon move to a new home and expand its impact. Please give generously through the offering plate or by texting 773-825-6816 with the dollar amount you would like to contribute (example: 250 -- no dollar sign). You'll then be sent a link. Click on it to complete your gift and receive a receipt.

TODAY'S WORSHIP LEADERS:

The Holy Family: Van and Elizabeth Ewing and their son Van Ewing III

Head Usher: Beatrice Jaji

Ushers: Bruce Voice, Fred Pearson

Head Greeter: Greg Mooney

Special Accommodations: Dodd Brown

THE CHRISTMAS TREE IS A CHRISMON TREE - The white and gold ornaments represent the glory and majesty of Christ. Each one is a symbol or monogram of Christ and has been made by members and friends of St. Pauls. The tree itself is a gift to the church from the Crowley and Opp-Ekdahl families.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Last Sunday's Christmas market and bake sale raised over \$1600 for the Polar Peace March. Thank you to all of our bringers, bakers and shoppers!

SPONSOR VIOLENCE PREVENTION - Does your employer make grants to charitable organizations doing good work in Chicago? We are looking for sponsors for our January 14 Polar Peace March that supports the violence prevention initiatives of UCAN. For more information contact Jan Bail janbail@me.com or Pastor Jeff Carlson jcarlson@spucc.org.

CONSTRUCTION UPDATE- Work to prepare building A2 for water service will begin on Tuesday, 1/9/18 and continue through Wednesday, 1/17/18. One lane traffic will be maintained at all times. Construction area will be barricaded off during work hours from 9 a.m.-4 p.m. There will be no parking signs set up from Kemper Avenue to Lincoln Avenue on both sides of street during our construction.

“GIVE ODDLY” TO ST. PAULS IN 2018: St. Pauls’ 2018 Giving Campaign kicked off on October 29 and invites all who take part in the impactful worship and ministries at St. Pauls Church to “Give Oddly” to support St. Pauls’ 175th Anniversary year. Please consider adding an odd amount such as 7% to your typical “even” giving level in 2018 to help St. Pauls carry out our “wondrously odd” kind of Christianity for another 175 years and move toward a balanced annual operating budget. Every gift of treasure, talent, and time is counted, so help us achieve 100% congregational participation! Fill out and turn in a giving card from the pew rack, or go to SPUCC.org and click on “GIVE” at the top of the homepage. Thank you for your generous support of St. Pauls!

BIBLE STORY THEATRE - For the month of January children in Junior Kindergarten through high school are invited to join in the creative process of bringing Bible stories to life through song, dance, art and drama. We will have BST worships instead of Sunday school on January 14, 21 and 28 from 10:15-11:30 a.m. The BST performance will take place on Sun Feb. 4th at 11 a.m.

SUNDAYS 9-9:45 a.m. - THE WORD OF THE DAY - God is still speaking, and the primary way God speaks to us is through scripture. In this adult faith formation class, we take a dive into the Bible passages that our pastors will preach on, because reflecting on scripture with a group enriches our worship and understanding. No Bible experience necessary. Your questions are welcome. Childcare is provided in the Nursery. Meets in the Parlor. **Does not meet on December 24th or 31st.**

JANUARY 7 - PARENTS OF LITTLE ONES - 3 p.m. in the St. Pauls kitchen - We will be making the CEP dinner for people in need. Let Corie know if you can come or bring food. Children can help prepare food but we will also have childcare provided. Contact corie.gallemore@gmail.com.

JANUARY 8 - CHRISTIANITY 101- 7:30 p.m. Parlor. Join Pastor Jeff and fellow young adults for a lively discussion of the real-life questions we face in our daily lives. There is no need to prepare in advance. Please contact Hannah Basil at youngadults@spucc.org with questions and to RSVP.

JANUARY 14, 2018 POLAR PEACE MARCH TO BENEFIT UCAN. Join us as we honor the memory of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. at our 1.5 mile walk to benefit UCAN and its violence prevention initiative in Chicago. This family friendly event will start with a program in the Sanctuary at 4 p.m. and conclude with a cup of soup in the Gym. Invite your friends, neighbors, co-workers and family to be a part of your team. Register online at www.polarpeacemarch.org. YOU CAN be part of the solution to a more peaceful Chicago.

JANUARY 26 - WINE TASTING PARTY - 7:30 p.m. Hannah and Caleb's home. Join the Young Adults Group for a Wine Tasting Party. Bring one bottle of wine to share and tasting notes will be available. No wine knowledge is necessary. Due to space limitations, this event will be open to the first 20 people that RSVP yes to the forthcoming Punchbowl invitation.

OPPORTUNITIES

ALTAR FLOWER SIGN UP - The 2018 signup is now available! If you would like to purchase flowers for the altar please go to our link at <http://tinyurl.com/h55pl82> and sign up. If you have any questions, please contact the church office.

AMAZON SMILE - Use <https://smile.amazon.com/ch/36-2179808> if you would like to support St. Pauls when buying Amazon products. The AmazonSmile Foundation will donate 0.5% of the purchase price from eligible purchases to St. Pauls.

BIBLE STUDY - Meets one Saturday a month. This in-depth study explores a book of the Bible from start to finish, looking at its original context as well as its meaning for us as Christians today. No December study. Next Study: January 27th Contact: Pastor Jeff jcarlson@spucc.org.

COLLEEN HENRY WRITING CENTER- We can always use a few new tutors at the writing center to help students learn to write clearly and convincingly. This program at Lincoln Park High School was initiated by St. Pauls and developed in connection with the English and Social Studies Departments. Tutors volunteer once a week, Monday through Thursday. Training and mentoring are available. For more information, or to volunteer, contact Nancy Brandt - nhbrandt@sbcglobal.net .

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 - marcia@volkonline.com

CONSIDER THE LILIES - Deliver our Sunday Altar Flowers to members and friends who need to know St. Pauls is thinking of them. If you would like to be part of this initiative, please contact Maureen Grunst at mvgrunst@aol.com. Join us!

FAITH IN ACTION/FAITH AND PUBLIC ISSUES - Whether you're interested in supporting women or GLBTQ persons or immigrants and refugees, or interested in planning programs on critical issues, you can find St. Pauls people involved and join them now. Contact Toby Rogers at toby@rogers-home.com for more information.

FEED THE HUNGRY - Each week St. Pauls welcomes homeless and hungry people to Sunday dinner. To volunteer to prepare and serve dinner to guests of the Lincoln Park Community Shelter, contact Brent Carstensen at bcarstensen@ameritech.net .

FOOD FOR THOUGHT - Visit our Food for Thought blog <http://www.spucc.org/blogs/food-for-thought> .

GET YOUR NEW NAME TAG! - Email Virgie at vberry@spucc.org

LINCOLN PARK COMMUNITY SHELTER NEEDS OVERNIGHT VOLUNTEERS
- To sign up: volunteer@lpcsonline.org 773-549-6111.

LITTLE LIGHTS is a St. Pauls early childhood education program with classes for 2 and 3-year-olds 2 or 3 mornings per week in our church's toddler room. If your child turned 2 or 3 this fall we accept new students in January. If you are interested, email Virgie Berry- vberry@spucc.org .

NEW OR EXPECTING PARENTS - If you have a new baby or are expecting a baby, please let Corie know so that we can find ways to support you (meals, prayer, etc.) and so that we can inform you of opportunities in our Parents of Little Ones (POLO) group. Also let us her know if you have small children and are new to the church. corie.gallemore@gmail.com

SARAH'S SISTERS gather every Wednesday morning to make 40 bag lunches to be distributed to homeless people. Come to the church kitchen at 9:30 a.m.

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 Diana Laskaris dianaminlead@gmail.com .

SAINT PAULS BASKETBALL WEDNESDAYS - 7 p.m. Our weekly pickup game is co-ed. Ages range from young and fast to old and not as fast. Skill levels range from enthusiastic to "I think he played in college, you guard him." All are welcome! Contact pastormatt@spucc.org

ST. PAULS PLAY GROUP for children from birth to 3 years old in the church Nursery. Drop in anytime from 10:30 a.m. – 12 p.m. Wednesdays. Corie Gallemore at corie.gallemore@gmail.com

ST. PAULS SOCIAL - Get better acquainted with other adults at St. Pauls. If interested in hosting please contact Jen Luerksen, jenuerksen@yahoo.com and stay tuned for future events.

UCC DAILY DEVOTIONAL - To register: http://www.ucc.org/daily_devotional

WANT MORE VARIETY AT COFFEE HOUR? - Sign up to bring it at
<http://bit.ly/1RtSUuh>

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 youngadults@spucc.org .

YOUTH GROUP for kids in 3rd-8th grade will meet each Tuesday from 4-6 p.m. with pizza dinner, fun and Christian fellowship. Meet in the gym. Resumes in September, most Tuesdays, grades 3-8 from 4-6 p.m. Contact sgarcia@spucc.org

BULLETIN ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please send any announcements you would like in the following week's Friday email to announcements@spucc.org no later than 10 a.m. on Tuesday . Please limit announcements to 70 words. Thank you.

SAINT PAULS PRAYS

- For Stacie B., sister of Mark P., for strength as she deals with her diagnosis of an incurable auto-immune disorder.
- Larry Simpson, with the death of his spouse, Ed Zasadil.
- For Aylmer Gifford's close friend, Mario Dominis, who is facing difficult health challenges.
- For Robin Scott's friend, Michelle, for her physical health and mental well-being.
- Al Cerkan and family, at the loss of his sister-in-law, Maureen.
- For Bruce and Betty who need prayers for their uncle Victor in the hospital.
- For Rod Robert, brother of Susanne Baker, and brother-in-law of David Baker, as he recovers from difficult health challenges.
- Jan Bail's friend, Genel Daley, starting a second round of chemotherapy.
- Dale Martin and his family.
- For young people who struggle to do the right thing but are surrounded by those who seem to benefit from wrong-doing.
- Bobbi Gannello, diagnosed with lymphoma.
- Amy Newman's sister Linda, being treated for cancer.
- Sandra Benedict, recovering from surgery.
- Carole Knuti undergoing treatment for cancer.
- Carole Crowley recovering from a stroke.
- All those struggling to conceive.
- Sylvia Pine's grandfather, Terry Barton, recovering from strokes.
- Candi Huber's niece, Kathryn, continuing treatments for cancer.
- Michelle's friends Michael, Chris and Jerry, all sick with chronic illnesses.
- Lorri Gunn Wirsum, for her husband, Karl Wirsum, and her brother, Jim, who is recovering from transplant surgery.
- Mary Train and her nephew Carl and family.
- Jonah, Sean, and Kevin and all homeless individuals with mental illness living in this city.
- For those struggling with mental health issues.
- For all those touched by violence in Chicago.
- Steve Warsh, undergoing chemotherapy.
- Tom Palkon being treated for cancer.
- Pat Kirby, recovering from heart attack and complications.
- Those killed and injured in terrorist attacks around the world and all refugees.

NEARLY 1 IN 5 ADULTS STRUGGLE WITH A MENTAL HEALTH ISSUE. 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 to and Affirming of" LGBT 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 importantly, over the past 174 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
Matt Fitzgerald, Senior Pastor, mfitzgerald@spucc.org
Jeff Carlson, Associate Pastor, jcarlson@spucc.org
Sarah Garcia, Associate Pastor for Children and Youth, sgarcia@spucc.org
Karen E. Johnson, President of the Congregation, kejplano@aol.com
Tom Henry, Pastor Emeritus, emeritushenry@gmail.com
Kurt R. Hansen, Music Director, kurtsingsbach@gmail.com
Kevin Dzierzawski, Organist, kdzierza@att.net
Brendan Henry, Pianist, brendanhenry@hotmail.com
Nancy Voigts, Children's Choir Director, nvoigtsgod@att.net
Kecia Waldschmidt, Youth Choir Director, keciagerman@hotmail.com
Kristopher Hansen, Joyful Sounds Choir Co- Director, TheBeatB0xer1995@gmail.com
Mark Mosley, Intergenerational Orchestra Director, mwmosley@gmail.com
Tom Vaitsas, Pianist, tomvaitsas@gmail.com
Kevin O'Brien, Lay Liturgical Administrator, kob48@att.net

Free Parking is available on Sundays from 9am-1pm at Children's Memorial Hospital
2300 Block of North Lincoln Ave. – Vouchers Not Needed

