



September 10, 2017

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

Worship begins with chimes.

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.

THOUGHT FOR PREPARATION

“Church is all about belonging. Even the word *church* reflects this fact. The English word *church* is derived from a Greek word that means ‘belonging to the Lord.’”

- Cornelius Plantinga

CHIMES

PRELUDE

Symphony V—Adagio

C. M. Widor

CHIMES

INTROIT Johnson

Lift Every Voice And Sing

J. Rosamond

Chancel Choir

WELCOME

*WELCOMING EACH OTHER

*CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Beautiful are the works of God!

All: Beautiful also are all of God's people!

One: Beautiful is the mind of God!

All: Beautiful also are the hopes of God's people!

One: God made the heavens and the earth!

All: To God be the glory for the things God has done!

**Please stand if you are able*

*HYMN

Sing Praise to God, Who Has Shaped

Black Hymnal, No. 22

Sing praise to God, who has shaped and sustains all creation!
Sing praise, my soul, in profound and complete adoration!
Gladsome rejoice - organ and trumpet and voice -
Joining God's great congregation!

Praise God, our guardian, who lovingly offers correction,
Who, as on eagle's wings, saves us from sinful dejection.
Have you observed, how we are always preserved
By God's parental affection?

Sing praise to God, with sincere thanks for all your successes.
Merciful God ever loves to encourage and bless us.
Ponder anew all the Almighty can do,
God surely loves and befriends you.

Sing praise, my soul, the great name of your high God commending.
All that have life and breath join you their notes sweetly blending
God is your light! Soul ever keep this in sight:
Amen, Amen never ending!

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**O God, you gather us together
to save us from isolation.
You want us to rejoice in each other.
But we still find ways to be alone.
Forgive us for choosing seclusion
over the hard work of community.
Convinced we can sustain ourselves,
we hide our suffering and ignore our joy.
Shake us free from such loneliness!
Amen.**

SILENT PRAYER

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

At this time Sunday School students will be invited to go to their classrooms. We will send them off class by class to leave with their teachers. If you would like to accompany your child, you are welcome to drop them off and return to worship.

RESPONSE

Black Hymnal, No. 376 vs 2

Thank you, God for gentle pleasures: lessons learned and secrets told,
Hope and scripture held as treasure, passed to young ones by the old,
Pranks and glories, songs and stories, food by loving hands prepared.
God we thank you for your presence in our tears and laughter shared.

ANTHEM

Hymn For The Day
St. Arbucks Trio
Kris Hansen, soloist

Heikki Samanto

Bright sun of morning,
New day a-dawning,
Bright sun of morning,
Warming us all.....

THE BIBLICAL WORD FOR THIS DAY

Matthew 18:18-20

Take this most seriously: A yes on earth is yes in heaven; a no on earth is no in heaven. What you say to one another is eternal. I mean this. When two of you get together on anything at all on earth and make a prayer of it, my Father in heaven goes into action. And when two or three of you gather in my name, there I am in your midst.

*A 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!

*RESPONSE

Black Hymnal, No. 21, vs 1

God reigns o'er all the earth! Green hills and valleys low,
the farms and towns in golds and browns God's grace and beauty show.
God reigns o'er all the earth! Stone banks and spreading plains,
in rainbow hues - reds, yellows, blues - of streams and country lanes.

SERMON

"The preaching is dull, the music is bad.
I've never felt closer to God."

Matt Fitzgerald

*RESPONSE

Black Hymnal, No. 21, vs 2, 3 & 4

God reigns o'er human life! Through youth and aging years,
in death, in birth, in grief, in mirth, in all our hopes and fears.
God reigns o'er human life! Our inspiration still.
Through all our schemes, in all our dreams, we see God's reigning will.

God reigns o'er time and space! In history's bygone days,
Christ's faithful folk in reverence spoke to bring God's earnest praise.
God reigns o'er time and space! O'er galaxy and sun,
through timeless years the cosmos hears the heavenly music run.

God reigns! Emanuel! God with us every day,
in all our past and to the last, our comfort and our stay.
God reigns! Emmanuel! Let praise to Christ be sung!
God's presence here makes all things dear. Let joyful bells be rung!

OFFERTORY

The Heavens Are Telling from Creation Franz Joseph Haydn
Nancy Pifer, Nathan Streeter, and Lee Lichamer, soloists
Chancel Choir

Recitative: The space immense of the azure sky,
A countless host of radiant orbs adorns.
And the sons of God announced the fourth day
In song divine, proclaiming thus his power.

Chorus: The heavens are telling the glory of God
The wonder of his work displays the firmament.

Trio: Today that is coming speaks it the day,
The night that is gone to following night.

Chorus: The heavens....

Trio: In all the lands resounds the word
Never unperceived, ever understood.

Chorus: The heavens...

***FESTIVAL DOXOLOGY**

Praise God from Whom all blessings flow,
Praise God all creatures here below,
Alleluia, Alleluia!
Praise God above, ye heavenly host,
Creator, Christ and Holy Ghost.
Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia! Alleluia, Alleluia! Amen!

THE PRAYERS OF THE DAY

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.**

***HYMN**

What a Fellowship

Red Hymnal, No. 290

What a fellowship, what a joy divine, leaning on the everlasting arms.
What a blessedness, what a peace is mine, leaning on the everlasting arms.
Leaning, leaning, safe and secure from all alarms;
Leaning, leaning, leaning on the everlasting arms.

Oh how sweet to walk in this pilgrim way, leaning on the everlasting arms.
Oh how bright the path grows from day to day, leaning on the everlasting arms.
Leaning, leaning, safe and secure from all alarms;
Leaning, leaning, leaning on the everlasting arms.

What have I to dread? What have I to fear? Leaning on the everlasting arms.
I have blessed peace with my Lord so near, Leaning on the everlasting arms.
Leaning, leaning, safe and secure from all alarms;
Leaning, leaning, leaning on the everlasting arms.

*BENEDICTION RESPONSE *The Lord Bless You And Keep You* Peter Christian Lutkin
Chancel Choir

The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make his face to shine upon you,
And be gracious unto you.
The Lord lift up the light of his countenance upon you,
and give you peace. Amen.
Numbers 6: 24-26

POSTLUDE

Blues For Jezebel
St. Arbucks Trio

Gene Harris

Following Worship, all are invited to join us for coffee and snacks

TODAY'S WORSHIP LEADERS:

Head Usher: Beatrice Jaji

Ushers: Bruce Voice, Brian Hafner, David Baker

Head Greeter: Greg Mooney

Gatekeeper: Dodd Brown

FLOWERS ON THE ALTAR Deon & Micki Fayhee in honor of their 20th anniversary.

A donation has been made to the Colleen Henry Writing Center by Nancy Honeysett in memory of her sister Colleen Henry.

BORN THIS WEEK IN SEPTEMBER

Donations to the Birthday Fund support A Just Harvest

We celebrate and give thanks for your life at St. Pauls. A perfect way to celebrate and help St. Pauls: give one dollar for each year of your life to our Birthday Fund.

- Sep 11: Mary Brown, Nancy Kuhlman, Chris Oswalt
Sep 12: Matt Raterman, Lucas Banks, Eric Moulton, Cora LaVigne
Sep 14: Joan Rowland, Stephen White, Hannah Basil, Jason Held
Sep 15: Betty Chernansky, Linda Nitzsche
Sep 16: Sylvia Pine
Sep 17: Jeff Johnson, Chelsey Sylvester

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Many thanks to ALL of our members and friends who donated to and volunteered for yesterday's Annual Shop the Steeple Rummage Sale. The sale earned money for our church, many households were lightened of "stuff," many other people who were delighted to buy the very same "stuff," new friends were made, hundreds of people were welcomed and the lives of those in need were enriched when they shopped at the end of the sale. What an AMAZING DAY!!!

LGBT People Are the Church. Meeting today at 11:30 in the Parlor.

How can Saint Pauls stand up to the Nashville Statement? How do we let the world know about a church that loves Jesus and gay people? Come hear plans and help brainstorm today.

FIRST WEDNESDAY LUNCHEONS will resume October 4 from 12-1:30 p.m. in the Parlor. Deborah Rose will be presenting on worship art. All are welcome to attend. Cost is \$10/person. Please RSVP to Anna Sardar (asardar@spucc.org)

SAINT PAULS BASKETBALL RETURNS THIS WEDNESDAY AT 7:00 PM

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

CONSTRUCTION - Work near Lincoln Ave begins on Monday, September 11th that will reduce traffic to one lane.. A flagger will help with pedestrians. This work will

last through September 13. Work on Orchard could have some effect on Sunday, September 17. Read the Friday email for an update.

ONE SERVICE CONVERSATIONS Thanks to each of you who attended this summer's One Service Conversations. We are grateful for your questions and the opportunity to discuss any concerns raised and to lift up your ideas and feedback. To help us continue to shape our One Worship service, please share your experience throughout the fall with a member of Church Council or the pastors. We will review again in January.

SUNDAY SCHOOL is offered for children from birth to high school from 10:15-11 a.m. Children should come to worship first with their parents and they will be dismissed to their classes. We will have Sunday school three times a month with no classes one Sunday each month so that families can worship together. Contact Pastor Sarah for more information at sgarcia@spucc.org

YOUTH GROUP for kids in 3rd-8th grade will begin again on Tuesday, September 12. Youth group will meet each Tuesday from 4-6 p.m. with pizza dinner, fun and Christian fellowship.

COLLEGE CARE PACKAGES If you have a son or daughter in college please send us their address so the St. Pauls Connectors can send them a care package. Email Pastor Sarah at sgarcia@spucc.org

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.

UPCOMING EVENTS

BOOK NOOK: It's time to restock the Book Nook in the Social Hall. Simply place books you no longer want (no more than one bagful, please) on the shelves in the book case on the north wall of the Social Hall. General fiction, broad interest nonfiction, youth and children books are ideal along with large print and audio books. Anytime you want a book, simply take one; no need to return it. If you have any questions, please contact Tilly Wilhoite at Tilly1017@gmail.com.

SEPTEMBER 10 - SONGS BY HEART, 2 p.m. Join St. Pauls House for a wonderful afternoon of music, from some of Chicago's finest singers. These concerts occur three times every week in its memory support area, and also its skilled living area. The seed money generated for this program occurred at St. Pauls. Suggested donation for this event is \$25 and all proceeds will support Songs by Heart music programming in the community. RSVP to St. Pauls House at 773-478-4222. Sponsorship opportunities are available should you like to recognize someone special through your gift at <https://www.stpaulshouse.org/songs>.

SEPTEMBER 11 - CHRISTIANITY 101, 8 p.m. Join Pastor Matt 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. Note the time change and please contact Hannah Basil at youngadults@spucc.org with questions and to RSVP.

SEPTEMBER 12 - YOUTH GROUP BEGINS AGAIN! 4-6 p.m.

SEPTEMBER 17 - THE WORD OF THE DAY - Beginning Sept 17, we'll have a new Bible-centered gathering for adults from 9-9:45 a.m., "The Word of the Day." We'll take a dive into the Bible passage that our pastors will preach about at the 10 a.m. service, getting into its background and meaning before worship. Reflecting on scripture with a group enriches our worship. It also benefits those who bring questions and perhaps not a lot of experience with the Bible to church. God is still speaking, and we believe that the primary way God speaks to us is through scripture. Join us as we listen together. Childcare is provided in the nursery. For more information contact Pastor Jeff, jcarlson@spucc.org

SEPTEMBER 17 - MONTHLY YOUNG ADULT BRUNCH KICKOFF, 11 a.m. Join us for brunch after worship and share your ideas for what Young Adults group events you'd

like to see this year. We will gather during Social Hour and walk somewhere close. Have a suggestion of where we should go? Email Hannah at youngadults@spucc.org with your idea and RSVP.

SEPTEMBER 17- CONFIRMATION BREAKFAST, 11:15 a.m. For parents and students in Confirmation 1 and Confirmation 2 to receive an update about the Confirmation breakfast.

SEPTEMBER 23 - OKTOBERFEST, 3-9 p.m. Prost! It's Munich meets Chicago as St. Pauls hosts Oktoberfest in celebration of our German heritage. Come and celebrate with an evening of authentic German food and beer, live music and dancing, a jumpy-house, and games for all ages. This year's live entertainment will once again feature everyone's favorite oompah band, *Die Musikmeisters*. This event is open to the public and family friendly so invite your neighbors and friends. Free admission. In the case of rain, the event will be held in the gymnasium. Stay tuned for fun volunteer opportunities!

SEPTEMBER 24 - MATERIAL WITNESS, 11:15-Noon. Our new altar cloths and companion fabric art hangings are the work of church member Rev. Dr. Deborah Rose. After worship on Sept. 24, she will lead a Faith Formation Conversation in the Sanctuary about her art ministry, Material Witness. She will focus on the creative process of her latest works. School age children and youth are also welcome.

SEPTEMBER 30 - SATURDAY BIBLE STUDY - *Ezekiel* A valley of skeletons, flying angelic beasts, and spinning UFOs. This fall we're taking a wild ride into this peculiar book by a strange and psychotic prophet who nevertheless managed to speak hope to a people who had lost all hope. Meets one Saturday a month 10-11:45 a.m. RSVP jcarlson@spucc.org.

OPPORTUNITIES

FLU AND PNEUMONIA SHOTS AT ST. PAULS - October 22, 9 a.m. - 12 p.m. Pharmacist Lily from Walgreens on Clark Street will provide the shots. Flu shots are covered under Medicare Part B with a valid Medicare card. Under 65 and want the flu shot? Bring your insurance card. No insurance? The flu shot costs \$31.99 or High or double flu for \$59.99. Pneumonia shots are also covered by Medicare Part B with a valid Medicare card. There are two different kinds of Pneumonia shots: Pneumazvaz @ \$109.99 or Prevanar @ \$229.99 if you don't have insurance. You can pay by check or cash.

UCC EMERGENCY APPEAL for HELP HURRICANE HARVEY VICTIMS - The United Church of Christ has launched an emergency appeal to help with long term recovery following Hurricane Harvey—a monster storm that has already displaced thousands of Texans and left at least 70 people dead. Donations can be made to the '[Emergency USA Fund](#)' and marked for Hurricane Harvey. The UCC Global Sharing of Resources team has created a [Hurricane Harvey disaster page](#) that will be updated as the storm continues, with suggestions on ways people in the wider church can help going forward. Prayers for all in the wake of Harvey, and many thanks and blessings on those who will volunteer and/or give to help others in need.

ALTAR FLOWER SIGN UP - 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.

ADULT MISSION TRIP 2018 - We have reserved the week of February 17-24 for an adult mission trip to volunteer with Three Angels Orphanage and School in Haiti. Contact Pastor Jeff if you're interested in going next year: jcarlson@spucc.org.

SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHERS needed for the following classes: JK/K, 1st and 2nd, Confirmation. Please contact Pastor Sarah if you are interested sgarcia@spucc.org

COLLEEN HENRY WRITING CENTER at Lincoln Park High School, initiated by St. Pauls, needs a few tutors. Help students with academic writing that makes their claim and finds evidence to support it. Lunch times and after school. Training is available. 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 Rachel Adams at adams.rachellynn@gmail.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 preschool program with classes for 2 and 3-year-olds in our church nursery with options for two or three mornings per week. Our standard application deadline has passed. However, **we are still working with applicants on a rolling basis**. If you are interested in scheduling a tour or have any questions please visit our website www.spucc.org/littlelights or email Virgie Berry-vberry@spucc.org.

LONG CLASSIC NOVEL READING GROUP is discussing Tolstoy's "Anna Karenina," this fall. To join in on the discussion contact Pastor Jeff Carlson, jcarlson@spucc.org. Meets in the parlor. Discussion dates: Sept. 27 and Dec. 5.

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.

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 Luerssen, jenuerssen@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! More regular events will resume in fall. Any ideas for future events? Email youngadults@spucc.org.

YOUTH GROUP - 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

- Sandra Benedict and her family at the death of Ann Benedict this week.
- Ed Zasadil, with nerve damage restricting use of his left arm.
- Doug Dobmeyer, at the death of his sister.
- A friend of Kurt Hansen, whose grandson suffers with mental illness.
- Bobbi Gannello, diagnosed with lymphoma.
- Lance, a friend of Sally Fletcher's, facing serious health problems.
- Amy Newman recovering from surgery, & sister, Linda, starting chemotherapy.
- Sandra Benedict, recovering from surgery.
- Jan Exworthy and her mother Lucille.
- Rosemarie Hau being treated for a heart condition.
- Carole Knuti undergoing treatment for cancer.
- Carole Crowley recovering from a stroke.
- All those struggling to conceive.
- Dirk R. and family, uncle of Laura Nowack, who has multiple myeloma.
- 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.
- 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.
- For young adults as they make their way in life moving away (physically) from family.
- 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.

Notes

ABOUT ST. PAULS
Making a joyful sound in the city

Saint Pauls UCC has a vibrant history in the city of Chicago. Founded in October 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 173 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
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(773) 348-3829 FAX (773) 348-3858
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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*, kejpliano@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, *Joyful Sounds Choir Director*, brendanphenry@hotmail.com
Nancy Voigts, *Children's Choir Director*, nvoigtsgod@att.net
Kecia Waldschmidt, *Youth Choir Director*, keciagerman@hotmail.com
Kristofer 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 at Children's Memorial Hospital
2300 Block of North Lincoln Ave. – Vouchers Not Needed



WELCOME TO SAINT PAULS UCC!

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

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.