

Christmas Eve
A Homemade Nativity
December 24, 2018
5:00 p.m.

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

*Children are encouraged to choose a costume from the narthex
and wear it during the service. Please return all costumes after worship.*

Please silence cell phones.

THOUGHT FOR PREPARATION

"God became a child. Wait a minute! Don't speak. Stand still before this
statement! *God became a child!*" - Dietrich Bonhoeffer

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

Matt Fitzgerald

* WELCOMING EACH OTHER

* CALL TO WORSHIP

One: The people who walk in darkness will see a great light;

All: Jesus is coming.

One: Almighty God becomes a dependent baby.

All: Jesus is coming.

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

All: Jesus is coming.

One: Even now, God is coming into our lives in new ways.

Watch and listen, for Jesus is drawing near.

All: Merry Christmas!

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

* HYMN

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.

Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation!
Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!
Glory to God, all glory in the highest!
O come, let us adore Him, O come, let us adore Him,
O come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord!

THE CHRISTMAS STORY IN SCRIPTURE AND SONG

THE PROPHECY FROM THE HEBREW SCRIPTURES Isaiah 9: 2; 6-7

ANTHEM

O Holy Night

Adolphe Adam

Kris and Kurt R. Hansen, 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 ANGELIC ANNOUNCEMENT Luke 1: 26-35; 38

CAROL *Angels We Have Heard on High*
Angels we have on 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.

THE FULFILLMENT IN THE GOSPEL Luke 2: 1; 3-7

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

THE SHEPHERDS VISIT Luke 2: 8-16

CAROL *The First Nowell*
The first Nowell, the angels did say,
Was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay;
In fields where they lay keeping their sheep,
On a cold winter's night that was so deep.
Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell!
Born is the King of Israel!

THE ADORATION OF THE MAGI Matthew 2: 1-12

CAROL *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.

THE WORD BECOMES FLESH John 1: 1-5, 9-14

CAROL *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 CHILDREN ARE INVITED INTO THE STORY Sarah Garcia

*All children who would like to come forward are welcome to do so.
Parents are also welcome to come forward with their children.*

CAROL *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.

Joy to the earth! The Savior reigns! Let us our songs employ:
While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains
Repeat the sounding joy, repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

THE PRESENTATION OF OUR GIFTS

*Every dollar we collect this Christmas Eve will be given to build a new medical clinic at
Three Angels Children's Relief, Haiti.*

OFFERTORY
Sowash

O Come, O Come Emmanuel

arr. Bradley

St. Arbucks Trio and Kris Hansen

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

Jeff Carlson

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.**

THE LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES

The pastors will light the candles of those seated on the aisle. Worshipers will pass the light to each other down the row.

* CAROL

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

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Toccata from Symphony V
Kevin Dzierzawski, organ

Charles Marie Widor

***How silently, how silently, the wondrous gift is given!
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 build a new medical clinic at Three Angels Children's Relief, Haiti. Three Angels serves orphans and at-risk families in Port-au-Prince. Teams from Saint Pauls have travelled to work at Three Angels many times. In February we will return to help build a new medical clinic. The children who live at Three Angels will find healing and relief at in this new clinic. Lives will be saved. 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.

SILENT NIGHT - Tonight is the 200th Anniversary of the composition and first singing of one of the most beloved of our Christmas carols, *Silent Night*. On Christmas Eve 1818 in a small Austrian town, the church's pipe organ broke down so Franz Gruber (1786-1863) wrote the music and the priest, Fr. Joseph Mohr (1792-1848), played the guitar and sang *Stille Nacht* with Gruber.

ADVENT WREATH - Each week during Advent we light another candle in our Advent wreath to anticipate to coming of Christ, the light of the world. These candles symbolize the gifts of hope, love, joy and peace that Christ's coming brings.

TODAY'S WORSHIP LEADERS

Head Usher: Fred Pearson

Ushers: Lauren Vega, Layne Lebahn, Bruce Voice

Head Greeter: Greg Mooney

Gatekeeper: Dodd Brown

Acolyte Coordinator: Tiffany Jozwiak

Acolytes: Valerie Schimp, Jake Gentzen

ANNOUNCEMENTS

SAINT PAULS 175th ANNIVERSARY MUSICAL REVUE - Feb. 3 at 10am. We will be bringing to the stage significant historical moments in the life of Saint Pauls. Each Sunday school class will be using their creative talents to capture moments in Saint Pauls past. Everyone is welcome to join us! Rehearsals will take place on Jan. 6, 13, 20, 27 from 10:15 a.m. to 11:15 a.m. To get involved, email Pastor Sarah.

GIVE THE VERY BEST - People are precious, and when they hurt or suffer, they deserve the best care we can offer. That's why St. Pauls has Stephen Ministers. Their training, commitment, and service help them give their best at providing care for our members. In January 2019, we'll be training a new class of Stephen Ministers. If you'd like to know more, your best move is to contact Pastor Jeff.

POLAR PEACE MARCH JANUARY 20, 2019 AT 11:14 A.M. - March with us in the Polar Peace March. We will be taking a stand against violence in our city and raising support for the powerful work that UCAN does to heal traumatized youth and promote peace. This year, each donation you make will be doubled with a matching grant. Does your employer make grants to charitable organizations doing good work in Chicago? We are looking for sponsors for the Polar Peace March. For more information contact Jan Bail, janbail@me.com.

JANUARY 7 - 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. Email Hannah at youngadults@spucc.org with RSVP or questions.

JANUARY 13 - VIOLENCE INTERRUPTION AND PREVENTION: MENTORING AT RISK YOUTH - 11:30 a.m. Oscar Mayer Room. Join Steve Patton and Norman Kerr, VP for Violence Prevention at UCAN, for this special presentation.

OPPORTUNITIES

CONNECTORS reach out providing networking and support for members and friends of St. Pauls. You can be a connector if you have the time and the inclination to help. Contact Marcia Volk at marcia@volkonline.com.

FAITH IN ACTION -Our church feels called to be increasingly bold and active as we try to live out our faith in an age of rising injustice. If you would like to receive advance notice of protests and actions that call for our faithful witness, join the Faith in Action email list by contacting Claire Higgins at chiggins@spucc.org.

FAITH AND PUBLIC ISSUES - Whether you're interested in supporting women or LGBTQ persons or immigrants and refugees, or interested in planning programs on critical issues, you can join Saint Pauls members in their efforts to promote social justice. 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 here as part of the Community Engagement Program (CEP). Volunteers prepare and serve dinner. We need more volunteers for February. To sign up, contact Jennifer Kew at CEPsupper@gmail.com

LINCOLN PARK COMMUNITY SHELTER NEEDS OVERNIGHT VOLUNTEERS

To sign up: volunteer@lpcsonline.org or call 773-549-6111.

LITTLE LIGHTS is a St. Pauls early childhood education program with classes for 2, 3, and 4-year-olds. We are now accepting applications for 2019-2020. Check out www.littlelightslp.org. Email Virgie Berry at 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.) Contact Corie Gallemore at corie.gallemore@gmail.com.

PARENTS OF LITTLE ONES - If you have little children and you would like to get to know and spend time with other families from Saint Pauls with little ones contact Molly Mcgrath to learn about the opportunities. Email mollymcgrath906@gmail.com

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

ST. PAULS BASKETBALL WEDNESDAYS - 7 p.m. Our weekly pick-up game is co-ed. Ages range widely and skill levels go from enthusiastic to “I think she played in college, you guard her.” All are welcome! pastormatt@spucc.org

ST. PAULS PLAYGROUP - NOW ON FRIDAYS - For children from birth to 4 years old and their parent or caregiver in the church Nursery. Drop in anytime from 10 a.m. – 12 p.m. on Friday mornings. Contact Joanne Tong jctong@yahoo.com

ST. PAULS SOCIAL - Get better acquainted with other adults at St. Pauls. If interested contact Jen Luerssen at jenluerssen@yahoo.com

SATURDAY BIBLE STUDY - One Saturday a month, 10-11:45 a.m. Newcomers are always welcome. Increase your faith and your knowledge of the Bible in this monthly study. Pastor Jeff jcarlson@spucc.org.

STEPHEN MINISTRY AT ST. PAULS - If you're in need of support 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 jcarlson@spucc.org

TUTORS NEEDED AT THE COLLEEN HENRY WRITING CENTER

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 two hours once a week, Monday through Thursday. Training and mentoring are available. For more info, or to volunteer, contact Nancy nhbrandt@sbcglobal.net.

YOUNG ADULTS - A group for fun and fellowship for folks in their twenties and thirties. Monthly brunches. Summer softball and winter volleyball. Deepening faith and friendships. All are welcome! Email young_adults@spucc.org.

YOUTH GROUP - For kids in 4th-8th grade. Meets each Tuesday from 4-6 p.m. in the Gym. Pizza dinner, fun, and Christian fellowship. Contact Pastor Sarah for more details at sgarcia@spucc.org.

YOU ARE BELOVED If you or someone you love would benefit from mental health resources, please contact one of the pastors today. We are here for you, and we have resources and referrals that can help. 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" 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 importantly, over the past 175 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*, emeritus_henry@gmail.com

Kurt R. Hansen, *Music Director*, kurtsingsbach@gmail.com

Kevin Dzierzawski, *Organist*, kdzierza@att.net

Brendan Henry, *Pianist*, brendanphentry@hotmail.com

Nancy Voigts, *Children's Choir Director*, nvoigtsgod@att.net

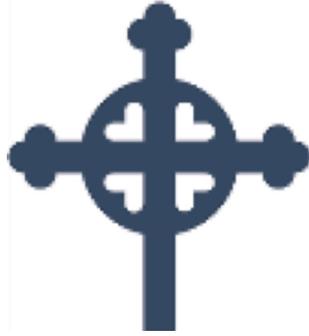
Kecia Waldschmidt, *Youth Choir Director*, keciagerman@hotmail.com

Kristofer Hansen, *Joyful Sounds Choir Co-Director*, TheBeatB0xer1995@gmail.com

Mark Mosley, *Intergenerational Orchestra Director*, mwmosley@gmail.com

Kevin O'Brien, *Lay Liturgical Administrator*, kkobrien48@hotmail.com

Free Parking is available on Sundays from 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. at Lincoln Avenue Parking Garage,
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 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.