



Fourth Sunday of Advent
December 23, 2018

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

***We do not have Sunday School today. Children are invited to stay in worship.
There is childcare in the nursery and toddler rooms for children 0 to 5 years old.
Bibles for use during worship are available at each entrance to the Sanctuary.
Please silence cell phones.***

THOUGHT FOR PREPARATION

"God is using us, with our individual flaws and gifts, in all manner of peculiar
and unexpected ways."
- Gail Godwin

PRELUDE

Cradle in Bethlehem Alfred Bryan and Larry Stock
St. Arbucks Trio

Sing sweet and low your lullaby
till angels say, "Amen."

A mother tonight is rocking a cradle in Bethlehem
while wise men follow through the dark a star that beckons them.

A mother tonight is rocking a cradle in Bethlehem.
"A little child shall lead them," the prophets said of old.
In storm and tempest keep 'em until the bells is tolled.

Sing sweet and low your lullaby
till angels say, "Amen."

A mother tonight is rocking a cradle in Bethlehem.
Sing sweet and low your lullaby.

A mother tonight is rocking a cradle in Bethlehem.

CHIMES

INTROIT

Of The Father's Love Begotten

13th Century Chant
Kurt R. Hansen, tenor

LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLE - The Candle of Love

WELCOME

Sarah Garcia

* WELCOMING EACH OTHER

* CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Have no fear!

All: Behold, I bring you good news of a great joy for all people!

One: God will enter history! Day will dawn upon us!

All: A child shall be born unto us!

One: Christ the Lord, the light of the world!

All: It is almost Christmas. Christ is almost here.

* HYMN

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

Red Hymnal No. 86

O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel,
That mourns in lonely exile here, Until the Son of God appear.

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

O come, thou Dayspring, come and cheer, Our spirits by thine advent here;
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night, And death's dark shadows put to flight.

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

O come, thou Wisdom from on high, And order all things, far and nigh;
To us the path of knowledge show, And cause us in her ways to go.

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

O come, Desire of nations bind all peoples in one heart and mind;
Bid envy, strife, and quarrels cease; Fill the whole world with heaven's peace.

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

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

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**It was cold.
Mary and Joseph were fearful.
They were poor
and uncertain about what God wanted from them.
None of this stopped the birth from happening.
Oh God, we confess that
we are still cold and still afraid,
poor in many ways
and often uncertain about what you want from us.
Give us faith to believe that
none of this will stop Christ's birth from happening.
It is not all up to me!
It is not all up to us!
For you do not stand still
when we come to a standstill.
Thank God! Amen!**

MOMENT OF SILENT PRAYER

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

RESPONSE

Black Hymnal No. 127

Lo, how a Rose e'er blooming from tender stem has sprung!
Of Jesse's lineage coming as saints of old have sung.
It came a floweret bright, amid the cold of winter,
When half spent was the night.

ANTHEM

Rise Up, Shepherd, And Follow African-American Spiritual
Nancy Pifer, soprano, and Kevin Dzierzawski, piano

There's a star in the east on Christmas morn.
Rise up shepherd and follow!
It'll lead to the place where the Savior's born.
Rise up shepherd and follow!
If you pay good heed to the angels words.
Rise up shepherd and follow!
You'll leave your flock, you'll leave your herds.
Rise up shepherd and follow!

Leave your sheep, and leave your lambs.
Rise up shepherd and follow!
Leave your ewes and leave your rams.
Rise up shepherd and follow!

There's a star in the east on Christmas morn...

THE BIBLICAL WORD FOR THIS DAY

Lucy Godínez

Matthew 1:1-16

The family tree of Jesus the Messiah, the son of David, the son of Abraham.

Abraham had Isaac, Isaac had Jacob, Jacob had Judah and his brothers, Judah had Perez and Zerah, the mother was Tamar, Perez had Hezron, Hezron had Aram, Aram had Amminadab, Amminadab had Nahshon, Nahshon had Salmon, Salmon had Boaz, his mother was Rahab, Boaz had Obed, Ruth was the mother, Obed had Jesse, Jesse had David, and David became king.

David had Solomon, Uriah's wife was the mother, Solomon had Rehoboam, Rehoboam had Abijah, Abijah had Asa, Asa had Jehoshaphat, Jehoshaphat had Joram, Joram had Uzziah, Uzziah had Jotham, Jotham had Ahaz, Ahaz had Hezekiah, Hezekiah had Manasseh, Manasseh had Amon, Amon had Josiah, Josiah had Jehoiachin and his brothers, and then the people were taken into the Babylonian exile.

When the Babylonian exile ended, Jeconiah had Shealtiel, Shealtiel had Zerubbabel, Zerubbabel had Abiud, Abiud had Eliakim, Eliakim had Azor, Azor had Zadok, Zadok had Achim, Achim had Eliud, Eliud had Eleazar who had Matthan, who had Jacob, Jacob had Joseph, Mary's husband, the Mary who gave birth to Jesus, the Jesus who is called the Messiah.

* 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!**

(adapted from the United Church of Canada)

* RESPONSE

Black Hymnal No. 127

Isaiah twas foretold it, the Rose I have in mind.
With Mary we behold it, the Virgin Mother kind.
To show God's love aright, she bore to us a Savior,
When half spent was the night.

SERMON

"I'm talking about *your other Aunt*"

Matt Fitzgerald

* HYMN

Now Bless the God of Israel

Black Hymnal, No. 110

Now bless the God of Israel, who comes in love and power,
Who raises from the royal house deliverance in this hour.
Through holy prophets God has sworn to free us from alarm,
To save us from the heavy hand of all who wish us harm.

Remembering the covenant, God rescues us from fear,
That we might serve in holiness and peace from year to year;
And you, my child, shall go before to preach, to prophesy,
That all may know the tender love, the grace of God most high.

In tender mercy, God will send the dayspring from on high,
Our rising sun, the light of life for those who sit and sigh.
God comes to guide our way to peace, that death shall reign no more.
Sing praises to the Holy One! O worship and adore!

OFFERTORY

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

arr. Bradley Sowash

* FESTIVAL DOXOLOGY

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

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

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

Good Christian Friends, Rejoice

Black Hymnal No. 129

Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart and soul and voice,
Give you heed to what we say:
Jesus Christ is born today!
Ox and ass before him bow, asleep within the manger now.
Christ is born today! Christ is born today!

Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart and soul and voice;
Now you know of endless bliss;
Jesus Christ was born for this!
God has opened Heaven's door and you are blessed forevermore.
Christ was born for this! Christ was born for this!

Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart and soul and voice;
Now you need not fear the grave.
Jesus Christ was born to save!
Calls you one and calls you all to gain the everlasting hall!
Christ was born to save! Christ was born to save!

* BENEDICTION

* BENEDICTION RESPONSE *Rejoice, rejoice, Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.*

POSTLUDE *Trumpet Tune on Sussex Carol* D. Lasky
 Kevin Dzierzawski, organ

***If you would like someone to pray with you today, Stephen Ministers are present
after the postlude at the right front of the Sanctuary.***

***Following Worship, all are invited for coffee and snacks
downstairs in the Social Hall.***

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, Brian Hafner

Head Greeter: Greg Mooney

Gatekeeper: Dodd Brown

Acolyte Coordinator: Tiffany Jozwiak

Acolytes: Henry Winking

BORN THIS WEEK IN DECEMBER

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.

Dec 23 Kristy Combs, Heather Cerkan, John Cochran, Valerie Schimp,

Sally Etz, Megan Behnke, Jim Alrutz

Dec 25 Dana Dreves, Kevin Tavas

Dec 26 Susan Holt, Sarah Zelonis

Dec 27 Susann Craig

Dec 28 Devlin Jozwiak

Dec 29 Jennifer Kohler, Mary Beth Canfield

ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS AT ST PAULS

SUN, DEC 23 FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT, LIGHTING THE CANDLE OF LOVE

- Worship - 10 a.m., Sanctuary
- Luminary Workshop

MON, DEC 24 CHRISTMAS EVE

- Family Service - 5 p.m., Sanctuary
- Candlelight Service - 9 p.m., Sanctuary
- Christmas story, carols, candles, sermon, and choir

SUN, DEC 30 WORSHIP - 10 a.m., Sanctuary

- Watch for the Light, session three - 11:30 a.m., Oscar Mayer Room

SUN, JAN 20 POLAR PEACE MARCH - 11:15 a.m.

- March to support UCAN's work for non-violence, and honor the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. on this 1.5 mile walk. This family friendly event will start after the 10 a.m. worship service and conclude with soup in the Gym. Invite your friends and family to be a part of your team. YOU CAN be part of the solution to a more peaceful Chicago. Register now at PolarPeaceMarch.org

ANNOUNCEMENTS

TODAY'S BULLETIN contains an offering envelope for the Veterans of the Cross Christmas Fund. This fund assists retired church workers and their families who are confronted by financial crisis because of a lifetime of service in a small or struggling congregation that was unable to afford full-time salaries and contributions into their retirement account. Veterans of the Cross supplements these low or inadequate pensions to help secure necessities, such as medications, food and basic utilities.

SAINT PAULS 175th ANNIVERSARY MUSICAL REVUE - Feb. 3 at 10 a.m. We will be spending the month of January preparing to bring significant historical moments in the life of Saint Pauls to the stage. Each Sunday school class will be using their creative talents to capture moments in Saint Pauls' past. Adults who would like to be involved are also welcome to be part of the production. Rehearsals will take place on Jan. 6, 13, 20, 27 from 10:15 a.m. to 11:15 a.m. If you don't want to be onstage, we need help offstage with costumes, sets and makeup design. To get involved, email Pastor Sarah sgarcia@spucc.org.

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.

A MATCHING GRANT FOR THE POLAR PEACE MARCH - This year, every donation will be doubled with a matching grant! We have an anonymous donor that is going to match funds raised at the Polar Peace March - \$2 for every dollar we raise!!!! Our goal is to raise \$50,000 for UCAN and with our matching grant that means \$150,000 for UCAN - a great way to celebrate UCAN's 150th birthday! If you are not able to join us at the march, please support your fellow St. Pauls marchers.

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 St. Pauls member Steve Patton and Norman Kerr, VP for Violence Prevention at UCAN, for this special Faith Formation/Faith and Public Issues presentation and learn about the good work that our Polar Peace March is supporting.

JANUARY 27 - MONTHLY BRUNCH - 11:30 a.m.

Join the Young Adults Group for brunch after worship. 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.

OPPORTUNITIES

ALTAR FLOWER SIGN UP - Providing flowers for the altar is a great way to celebrate a birthday, anniversary or honor someone special in your life. You can sign up in the Social Hall or online at <http://tinyurl.com/h55pl82>. There are many Sundays available, but be sure to sign up early so you can bring flowers on your preferred date. If you have any questions, please contact the church office.

AMAZON SMILE - Support St. Pauls when buying Amazon products, the AmazonSmile Foundation will donate 0.5% of the purchase price from eligible purchases to St. Pauls. <https://smile.amazon.com/ch/36-2179808>

COLLEEN HENRY WRITING CENTER - Tutors Needed

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 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 at 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@gmail.com.

FAITH IN ACTION - Saint Pauls Strategic Plan calls us 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 find St. Pauls people involved and join them now. Contact Toby Rogers at toby@rogers-home.com for more information.

FEED THE HUNGRY - We need volunteers for February 17 and March 17. Each week St. Pauls welcomes homeless and hungry people to Sunday dinner as part of the Community Engagement Program (CEP). Volunteers prepare and serve dinner. To sign up, contact Jennifer Kew at CEPsupper@gmail.com

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

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 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.) Corie Gallemore at corie.gallemore@gmail.com

PARENTS OF LITTLE ONES - POLO has playdates, Moms night out, family pizza parties, prayer groups and more activities to support families with little ones between the ages of 0 to 5. If you have young children and you would like to get involved please contact Molly Mcgrath mollymcgrath906@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.

ST. PAULS BASKETBALL WEDNESDAYS - 7 p.m. Our weekly pick-up game is co-ed. Ages range widely and skill levels go from 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 3 years old and their parent or caregiver in the church Nursery. Drop in anytime from 10 a.m. – 12 p.m. on Friday mornings. 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 at jenluerssen@yahoo.com and stay tuned for future events.

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. Next meeting: January 26. RSVP: Pastor Jeff jcarlson@spucc.org.

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).

WANT MORE VARIETY AT COFFEE HOUR? - Sign up to bring it by emailing Claire Higgins at chiggins@spucc.org.

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.

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.

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

Please clip this page and pray for those who are named below. We only print requests we receive. To make a request, 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.

- Karen Hein's mom, Christine Schmidt, recovering from a stroke.
- Carole Knuti gives thanks for a completely clear MRI brain scan.
- Friends and family of Gordon Fishburn mourning his death. A service is being planned for January 12.
- The thousands who lost homes and jobs due to the floods and fires this fall, and to those who gave them shelter.
- Liz Rein at the death of her sister, Becky.
- The family of Stacie B., sister of Mark P., at the death of her sister-in-law.
- Michael, nephew of Juanita Barlow, for his recuperation from surgery.
- Kathie Castle, in hospice care for Alzheimer's disease.
- Jessica Ashley and family during her boyfriend Darren McGraw's one-year deployment with the Army National Guard.
- Mary, a beloved friend of Stacy and Brent, and her doctors and children, as she recovers from a brain aneurysm and is still at great risk.
- Toby Knott's aunt, Diane Smith, fighting cancer
- Carole Crowley, recovering from a stroke.
- Karl Wirsum, in rehabilitation for mini-strokes.
- Dede Koldyke, beating cancer.
- Amy Newman's sister, Linda, being treated for cancer.

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 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.

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Kevin Dzierzawski, Organist, kdzierza@att.net

Brendan Henry, Pianist, brendanphentry@hotmail.com

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

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Melissa Miller Furgeson, Bookkeeper, bookkeeper@spucc.org

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.