



Fourth Sunday of Advent
December 24, 2017
10:00 a.m.

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

*HYMN

Once in Royal David's City

Tune: Red Hymnal No. 104

Solo:

Once in royal David's city stood a lowly cattle shed,
Where a mother laid her baby in a manger for his bed:
Mary was that mother mild, Jesus Christ her little child

All:

He came down from earth to heaven, who is God and Lord of all,
And his shelter was a stable, and his cradle was a stall;
With the poor and mean and lowly, lived on earth this Savior lowly.

And our eyes at last shall see him, through his own redeeming love;
And that child so dear and gentle is our Lord in heaven above;
And he leads his children on to the place where he has gone.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

O God of wonder and of love, if our lives have become blurred with cynicism so that we no longer feel the depths of joy,

Or if we hear the Christmas story and hand it over to children, as though we have less wonder in our hearts, forgive us.

If we have so exhausted our bodies and souls with preparations for this night that we have little energy left for coming near to the fullness of all that you bring, forgive us.

Gather us in and surprise us with new delight in the coming of Christ. Amen.

MOMENT OF SILENT PRAYER

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

RESPONSE

Tune: Black Hymnal No. 124

Be near me, Lord Jesus, I ask thee to stay,
Close by me forever and love me, I pray.
Bless all the dear children in thy tender care,

And fit us for heaven to live with thee there.

THE HEBREW SCRIPTURE

Kevin O'Brien

Isaiah 11:1-9

A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots. The spirit of the Lord shall rest on him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord. His delight shall be in the fear of the Lord.

He shall not judge by what his eyes see, or decide by what his ears hear; but with righteousness he shall judge the poor, and decide with equity for the meek of the earth; he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked. Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist, and faithfulness the belt around his loins.

The wolf shall live with the lamb, the leopard shall lie down with the kid, the calf and the lion and the fatling together, and a little child shall lead them. The cow and the bear shall graze, their young shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den. They will not hurt or destroy on all my holy mountain; for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the Lord as the waters cover the sea.

ANTHEM

Lo, How A Rose E'er Blooming 16th Century German Carol

Kurt R. Hansen, tenor

Es ist ein' Ros entsprungen aus einer Wurzel zart,
Wie uns die Allen sungen: von Jesse kam die Art
Und hat ein Blümlein bracht mitten im kalten Winter
Wohl zu der halben Nacht.

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 haif spent was the night.

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.

THE GOSPEL

Joseph JaQuay

Matthew 1:18-25

Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins."

All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet: "Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel," which means, "God is with us."

When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife, but had no marital relations with her until she had borne a son; and he named him Jesus.

*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. 105

Women Only: Gentle Joseph, Joseph dear, stay with me for the baby's near;

God will surely your goodness hear,

As you will love this newborn child, says Mary.

Men Only: Gladly Mary, Mary mine, I will cradle the child divine;

Here will heaven and earth combine,

For you will bear God's child, O dearest Mary.

All: Peace to all and God's goodwill,

Heav'n and earth with this song will fill;

Soon will God in the evening still, be born in Bethlehem,
the child of Mary.

SERMON

"A Quiet Man"

Jeff Carlson

*HYMN

In the Bleak Midwinter

Tune: Red Hymnal No.

102

In the bleak mid-winter frosty wind made moan;

Earth stood hard as iron, water like a stone;

Snow had fallen, snow on snow, snow on snow,

In the bleak mid-winter long ago.

Our God, heaven cannot hold Him nor earth sustain,

Heaven and earth shall flee away when He comes to reign:

In the bleak mid-winter a stable-place sufficed

The Lord God Almighty — Jesus Christ.

What can I give Him, poor as I am? —

If I were a Shepherd I would bring a lamb;

If I were a Wise Man I would do my part, —

Yet what I can I give Him, — Give my heart.

OFFERTORY

He Shall Feed His Flock

George Frideric Handel

from Messiah

Nancy Pifer, soprano and Theresa Brancaccio Hansen, mezzo-soprano

He shall feed his flock like a shepherd,
And he shall gather the lambs with his arm,
And carry them in his bosom,
And gently lead them that are with young.

Isaiah 40: 11

Come unto him, all ye that labour,
Come unto him that are heavy laden,
And he will give you rest.
Take his yoke upon you and learn of him;
For he is meek and lowly of heart:
And ye shall find rest unto your souls.

Matthew 11: 28 & 29

***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 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 *God Rest You Merry Gentlemen*

God rest you merry gentlemen let nothing you dismay,
Remember Christ our Savior was born on Christmas Day,
To save us all from Satan's pow'r when we were gone astray.
Oh tidings of comfort and joy, comfort and joy,
Oh tidings of comfort and joy!

From God our Heavenly Father a blessed Angel came,
And unto certain Shepherds brought tidings of the same,
How that in Bethlehem was born the Son of God by name.
Oh tidings of comfort and joy, comfort and joy,
Oh tidings of comfort and joy!

Now to the Lord sing praises, all you within this place,
With brotherhood and sisterhood each other now embrace,
This holy tide of Christmas all other doth deface.
Oh tidings of comfort and joy, comfort and joy,
Oh tidings of comfort and joy!

*BENEDICTION

*CHORAL BENEDICTION

Rejoice, Rejoice Emmanuel Shall Come To Thee, O Israel.

POSTLUDE *Dieu parmi nous* (God among us) Olivier Messiaen
from La Navivité du Seigneur (The Nativity of Our Lord)
Nathan Laube, organ

TODAY'S WORSHIP LEADERS:

Head Usher: Beatrice Jaji

Ushers: Lauren Vega, Layne Lebahn, Bruce Voice, Fred Pearson

Head Greeter: Greg Mooney

Special Accommodations: Dodd Brown

OUR GUEST ORGANIST is a dear friend of St. Pauls, Nathan Laube. We are so grateful that he shares his talents with us this morning. We also thank his family for sharing him with us on Christmas Eve morning.

TONIGHT

Christmas Eve

5 p.m. Family Service

9 p.m. Candlelight Service. Christmas story, carols, candles, sermon and choir.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 31

New Years Eve

10 a.m. Worship. No Church School.

ADVENT WREATH- This year our Advent wreath is being lit by members of Consider the Lilies, one of our lay caregiving groups. Each week they bring the altar flowers to church members who are sick or hospitalized to remind them that they are beloved.

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. Thanks to Lorne Frank, Greg Basil, Fernando Diaz, Jill Minetz, Kres and Doug Roewer, Liz Raiman, Kirk Chernansky, Beverley Petrunich, Gretchen Althen, Barb Kaiser, and Jan Bail.

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.

Dec. 24	McKenzie Liebergen
Dec. 25	Dana Dreves, Kevin Tavas
Dec. 26	Susan Holt
Dec. 27	Christine Reeds, Kenneth Stone
Dec. 28	Devlin Jozwiak, Jeff Williams
Dec. 29	Diana Laskaris, Jennifer Kohler, Mary Beth Canfield
Dec. 30	Bob Britt, Sally Fletcher
Dec. 31	Claire Nitzsche, Gemma Kate Womack, Jessica Parman, Justin Hartanov

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!

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.

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 .

“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. We will be making the CEP dinner for people in need in the St. Pauls kitchen. 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 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, 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, jenluerksen@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.

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www.spucc.org

Matt Fitzgerald, *Senior Pastor*, mfitzgerald@spucc.org

Jeff Carlson, *Associate Pastor*, jcarlson@spucc.org

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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*, brendanpherry@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