

January 7, 2018
Communion Sunday
Epiphany

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.

PRELUDE

O Holy Night
St. Arbucks Trio

Adolphe Adam

CHIMES

CHORAL INTROIT

Ding, Dong, Merrily On High!
Chancel Choir

French Carol

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Matt Fitzgerald

* WELCOMING EACH OTHER

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

* CALL TO WORSHIP (Based on Isaiah 60)

ONE: Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of God has risen upon you.

ALL: For darkness shall cover the earth, and thick darkness the peoples;

ONE: But the Lord will arise upon you, and his glory will appear over you.

ALL: Nations shall come to your light, and rulers to the brightness of your dawn.

ONE: The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light;

ALL: Those who lived in a land of deep darkness, on them light has shined.

ONE: Let us celebrate the Light of the world, for upon us has the Light shined.

**ALL: God is here among us. Let us rejoice
and be glad in God's presence.**

* HYMN

The First Nowell

Black Hymnal, No. 139

The first Nowell, the angel 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 in a manger, Emmanuel.

They looked above and saw a star
Shining in the east, beyond them far,
And to the earth it gave great light,
And so it continued both day and night.
Nowell, nowell, nowell, nowell, born in a manger, Emmanuel.

And by the light of that same star
Three sages came from country far;
To seek for a king was their intent,
And to follow the star wherever it went.
Nowell, nowell, nowell, nowell, born in a manger, Emmanuel.

This star shone bright in the northwest,
O'er Bethlehem it seemed to rest,
And there it did both stop and stay,
Right over the place where Jesus lay.
Nowell, nowell, nowell, nowell, born in a manger, Emmanuel.

Then entered in those magi three,
And bending low upon their knee,
They offered there, in great reverence,
Their gold and myrrh and frankincense.
Nowell, nowell, nowell, nowell, born in a manger, Emmanuel.

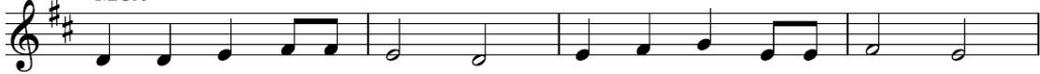
PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Your light shines in the darkness, O God,
and we confess that sometimes we prefer to hide
under cover of darkness, where we are free to participate in injustice,
to hurt others and ourselves, to do whatever it takes to get ahead,
to operate only in our comfort zone without challenge.
We forget that your light of true freedom will shine,
calling us to a more excellent way.
We forget that the promise of a child is a promise for the future—
that there is more beyond us,
beyond our desires, beyond our brokenness, beyond our understanding.
Forgive our hardened hearts.
Forgive our complicity in systems that hurt and abuse
your earth, your people, your church, your world.
Shine your light again this day,
that we may see you and walk in the light or your love. Amen.**

KYRIE

Healey Willan

Men



Lord, have mer - cy up - on us. Lord, have mer - cy up - on us.

Women



Lord, _____ have mer - cy up - on us. Christ, have mer - cy up -



- on _____ us. Christ, have mer - cy up - on us. Christ, have mer - cy up -

All



- on _____ us. Lord, have mer - cy up - on us.



Lord, have mer - cy up - on us. Lord, _____ have mer - cy up - on us.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

CELEBRATION OF THE SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION

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

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

PRAYER OF CONSECRATION

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.**

SERVING OF THE BREAD AND CUP

(Please come forward for communion. Take the bread and eat it. Take the cup and drink. The outer ring of cups contains grape juice. The inner rings contain wine. Return to your seat by the side aisles, depositing your cups in the baskets provided. A gluten-free option is wrapped and available on each tray.)

*PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Holy God, as the travellers with their treasures were overwhelmed with joy on finding Jesus, so we too are overwhelmed on finding out the depth of God's love for us at this table. In this bread and in this cup, we celebrate something we can't fully understand. We thank you for the mysterious and wonderful gift of the Word made flesh—Jesus Christ. God with us. Now and always. Thank you. Amen.

Children are now invited to go to theater workshops to prepare for Bible Story Theatre. 1k through 2nd grade please go to the Social Hall and 3rd to 7th graders please go to the Oscar Mayer room. If you would like to walk your kids to their rooms you are welcome to go and come back.

RESPONSE

We Three Kings

V. 1 and Refrain

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 light,
Star with royal beauty bright,
Westward leading still proceeding,
Guide us to thy perfect light.

THE BIBLICAL WORD FOR THIS DAY

Allen Heinemann

Matthew 2:1-12

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, asking, "Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage." When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. They told him, "In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet: "And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who is to shepherd my people Israel.'" Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, "Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage."

When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

*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

We Three Kings

v. 2 and refrain

Born a King on Bethlehem's plain,
Gold I bring to crown him again,
King forever, ceasing never,
Over us all to reign.

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

SERMON

"Epiphany"

Sarah Garcia

RESPONSE

What Child Is This?

Black Hymnal, No. 148

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!

Bring gifts of incense, gold, and myrrh; come, join in jubilation;
The Holy Child, through meek and mild, has come with God's salvation.
Raise, raise the song on high, the mother sings her lullaby;
Joy, joy, for Christ is born, the babe, the child of Mary!

OFFERTORY

The Three Kings
Chancel Choir

Healey Willan

Who knocks tonight so late?
The weary porter said.
Three Kings stood at the gate,
Each with a crown on head.
The serving man bowed down;
The inn was full, he knew.
Said he, In all this town
Is no fit place for you!
A light the manger lit:
There lay the Mother meek.
Said they, This place is fit:
Here is the rest we seek!
They loosed their latchet strings;
So stood they all unshod.
Come in, come in, ye Kings!
And kiss the Feet of God.

*HYMN

Arise your Light is Come

Black Hymnal, No. 164

Arise, your light is come! The Spirit's call obey;
Show forth the glory of your God which shines on you today!

Arise, your light is come! Fling wide the prison door;
Proclaim the captive's liberty, good tidings to the poor.

Arise, your light is to come! All you in sorrow born,
Bind up the broken hearted ones and comfort those who mourn.

Arise, your light is come! The mountains burst in song!
Rise up like eagles on the wing; God's power will make us strong.

*BENEDICTION

*BENEDICTION RESPONSE Gloria in excelsis Deo!

POSTLUDE *Wie schön leuchtet der Morgenstern* J. Pachelbel

Following Worship, all are invited to join us for coffee and snacks in the Social Hall.

TODAY'S WORSHIP LEADERS:

Head Usher: Beatrice Jaji

Ushers: Fred Pearson, Bruce Voice

Communion Coordinators: Jana O'Brien, Kevin O'Brien

Communion Servers: Lydia Murray, Tom Murray

Communion bread baked by Marcia Knudson

Acolytes: Colleen Kompare

Head Greeter: Greg Mooney

Special Accommodations: Dodd Brown

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.

Jan. 7 Carol Graham, Courtney Sensenbrenner, Jeffrey Wagner, Sherri Castner

Jan. 8 Daniel Stober, Don Curtis, Hope Basil, Kathy Friese

Jan. 9 Gisele Jozwiak

Jan. 10 Bethany Grachan, Denise Baumann, Matt Crowley

Jan. 12 Amy Williams, Lauren Fangman, Petrine Ashley, Susan Rodriguez

Jan. 13 Ginger Hecht, Leanne Turner, Max Waldschmidt, Phil Canfield,
Sune Millard

A donation has been made in honor of Ed Zasadil by Liz Raiman.

A donation has been made in honor of Ed Zasadil by Michael Toomin.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CONSTRUCTION UPDATE- Beginning Tuesday, 1/9/18, work on the water main will begin and continue through Wednesday, 1/17/18. One lane traffic will be maintained at all times. Construction area will be barricaded 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 the 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.

BIBLE STORY THEATRE WORKSHOPS take place instead of Sunday school for the month of January. Children in Jr. Kindergarten through highschool embrace the creative process bringing Bible stories to life through drama, music and dance. BST Workshops with the Church School are Sunday mornings from 10am to 11:30 AM on January 14, 21, and 28. BST performance Sunday is February 4 at 11AM.

BIBLE STORY THEATRE NEEDS YOU GROWNUPS TOO! Whatever your gifts and skills, there is a role for you in the creative process of developing BST 2018. Come join this year's exploration of the Bible with our St. Pauls children and young people as we work together to bring the scripture from the page to the stage. Get out your scissors or paint brush, your tap shoes or your hammer. Script Development and Design Teams have begun work but still need your fresh ideas.. Contact Sharon Phillips TODAY and let her know how you'd like to participate. Email: sphillips.7340@gmail.com. Mobile: 773-547-1943.

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.

JANUARY 8 - CHRISTIANITY 101- 8 p.m. Parlor. 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. Please contact Hannah Basil at youngadults@spucc.org with questions and to RSVP. Note the time change.

JANUARY 14 - 4th ANNUAL 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 21 - WHY BAPTISM? 11:15 in the Parlor. Baptism is central to Christianity but raises many questions. Why do we baptize babies before they can choose it for themselves? Why did Jesus have to be baptized? Do you have to be baptized to be saved? What does baptism mean, especially in a UCC context? This Adult Faith Formation is for everyone who has questions about this sacrament, so bring yours. Led by Gregg Taylor.

JANUARY 26 - YOUNG ADULTS GAME NIGHT - 7 p.m. Banjavcic's Home. Join the Young Adults Group for the fifth Winter Game Night! Bring your favorite game, a beverage to share, and \$10 to chip in for pizza. We will gather at Scott and Shannon's home and spend the evening enjoying games, laughter, and the company of friends. Wine Night will move to March and please RSVP to the Punchbowl invitation.

JANUARY 27 - BIBLE STUDY: EZEKIEL. One of the strangest books of the Bible is oddly encouraging; this month we enter the Valley of Dry Bones as the prophet speaks a word of new life to people whose hope is all dried up. 10 - 11:45 a.m. Newcomers welcome. RSVP Pastor Jeff: jcarlson@spucc.org

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 27. 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

- Rodney Higginbotham's elderly father, requesting urgent prayers that he would regain the ability to swallow after a seizure episode and possible stroke.
- For Stacie B., sister of Mark P., for strength as she deals with her diagnosis of an incurable autoimmune disorder.
- Larry Simpson, with the death of his spouse, Ed Zasadil. A memorial service will be held at St. Pauls on January 20th at 11AM.
- 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.
- 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 wrongdoing.
- 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, in hospice care.
- 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
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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*, 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

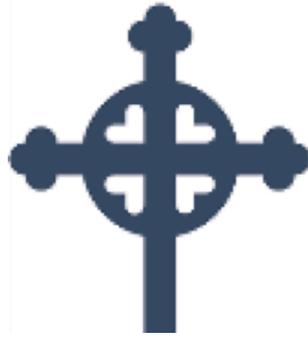
Mark Mosley, *Intergenerational Orchestra Director*, mwmosley@gmail.com

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

Notes



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.