

February 21, 2021 First Sunday in Lent Virtual Worship No matter who you are, No matter where you are On life's journey, You are welcome here.

THOUGHT FOR PREPARATION

"Prayer for the Big Morning"
Daniel Berrigan

People my heart
with the living! Their cries like
fists, their sight healing
my eyes foreclosing night.
Would be
that one and populous
heart of man;
O cries like fists
O sight set free!

PRELUDE

St. Arbucks Trio

CHIMES

INTROIT O Wondrous Sight, O Vision Fair

15th Century English

Chancel Choir

WELCOME AND CALL TO WORSHIP

Sarah Garcia

Based on Psalm 91

One: Let we who live with faith in our Creator proclaim,

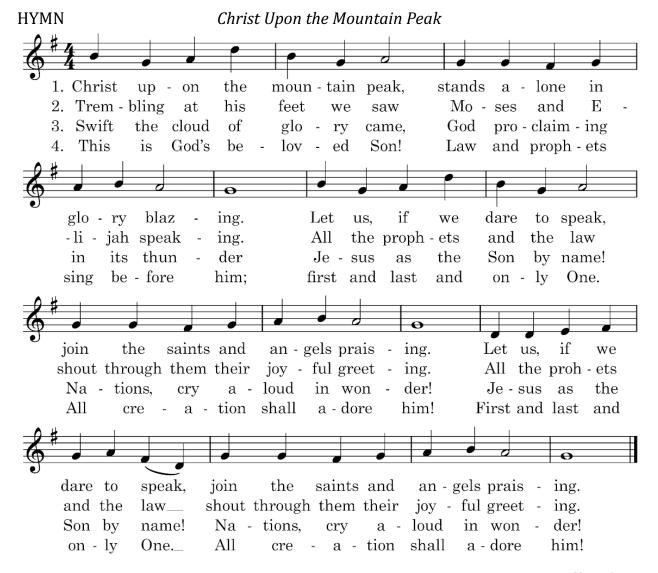
All: "Spirit, You are my refuge and my fortress, my God I will trust forever."

One: Holy love surrounds us always.

All: God's protection will follow us throughout our days.

One: When we call out, we know that we are heard.

All: God is with us in every trial and temptation. Amen.



PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND ASSURANCE

Jeff Carlson

O Lord,

We confess that it is hard to be present to the world around us. The worlds within us. The faces of our neighbors here and on the screen. We confess that it is hard enough to love ourselves with real presence, let alone all the forces we hold power over, faces and beings near and far in our care. We struggle with Lent this year, as we round the bases to a full year locked away from one another. Help us open to you. Help us heal ourselves through witnessing your ministry in the life of Jesus. Lead us far from the tempting forces numbing us to the complexity of this planet. Fortify us through this waiting period to the other side. We can love with greater abandon, because we are loved so well by you every day. We confess with thanksgiving, then, for another new season to take stock. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

SCRIPTURE Sarah Leeper

Psalm 91: 1-4

You who live in the shelter of the Most High, who abide in the shadow of the Almighty, will say to the Lord, "My refuge and my fortress; my God, in whom I trust."

For he will deliver you from the snare of the fowler and from the deadly pestilence; he will cover you with his pinions, and under his wings you will find refuge; his faithfulness is a shield and buckler.

Luke 4:1-13

Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit in the wilderness, where for forty days he was tempted by the devil. He ate nothing at all during those days, and when they were over, he was famished. The devil said to him, "If you are the Son of God, command this stone to become a loaf of bread." Jesus answered him, "It is written, 'One does not live by bread alone.""

Then the devil led him up and showed him in an instant all the kingdoms of the world. And the devil said to him, "To you I will give their glory and all this authority; for it has been given over to me, and I give it to anyone I please. If you, then, will worship me, it will all be yours." Jesus answered him, "It is written,

'Worship the Lord your God and serve only him."

Then the devil took him to Jerusalem, and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple, saying to him, "If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down from here, for it is written,

'He will command his angels concerning you, to protect you,' and 'On their hands they will bear you up, so that you will not dash your foot against a stone.'"

Jesus answered him, "It is said, 'Do not put the Lord your God to the test." When the devil had finished every test, he departed from him until an opportune time.

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)

SERMON "This Lent, celebrate in the haunted house, the world"

Benny VanDerburgh

MEDITATION Prelude Op. 13 No. 3 in G Major Alexandr Scriabin

Kevin Dzierzawski, piano

OFFERING INVITATION Matt Fitzgerald

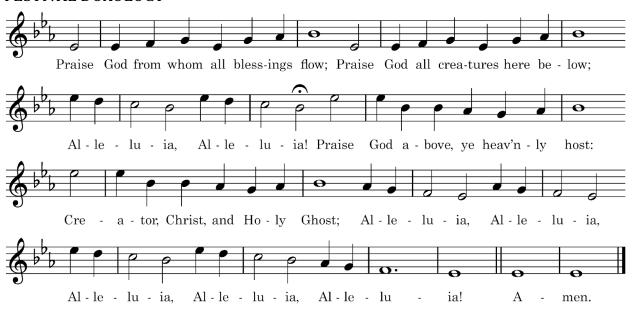
OFFERTORY Know Ye that the Lord Is God George Friderick Handel

Chancel Choir

Know ye now that the Lord He is God
It is He that hath made us, and not we ourselves
We are His people and the sheep of His pasture
Know ye now that the Lord He is God
It is He that hath made us, and not we ourselves

Give to St. Pauls with Zelle: giving@spucc.org or spucc.org/about-us/giving-to-st-pauls

FESTIVAL DOXOLOGY



PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

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.

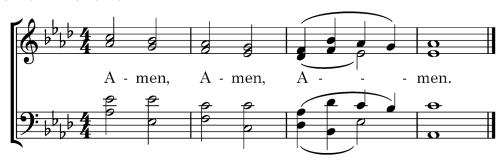
Amen.

Be Thou My Vision Led by Kurt Hansen



BENEDICTION

BENEDICTION RESPONSE



POSTLUDE

I Wish I Knew How It Would Feel to Be Free St. Arbucks Trio **Billy Taylor**

Coffee Hour is on Zoom!

Using a computer or smartphone app, use Meeting ID: **882 5733 7213**, Pswd: **Coffee**By phone, dial **(312) 626-6799**, Meeting ID: **882 5733 7213**, Password: **530750**.

To help contain the spread of COVID-19, worship at Saint Pauls will be streamed online until further notice. Worship services are streamed on Sundays at 10 a.m. Central, and re-streamed every day at 10 a.m., 5 p.m. and 8 p.m. Central, on Saint Pauls website, spucc.org/streaming.

You can also call in to listen to our services at (312) 626-6799 at 10 a.m. Central on Sundays and use Meeting ID: 816 5093 8507, Password: 459359

If you would like someone to pray with you this week, Clergy and Stephen Ministers are available for phone calls.

VIRTUAL WORSHIP PRODUCTION TEAM

Chuck Kent
Mary Beth Hughes, Big Thinking By The Hour
Jim Courtright, Big Thinking By The Hour

VIRTUAL MUSIC PRODUCTION TEAM

Kevin Dzierzawski Breanna Coe Kristofer Hansen

BORN THIS WEEK IN FEBRUARY

We celebrate and give thanks for your life at St. Pauls.

A perfect way to celebrate is by giving one dollar for each year of your life to our

Birthday Fund, which supports A Just Harvest.

- Feb 21 Albert Ettinger, Andrew Dickson, Jen Luerssen, Mike Fenstermacher, Richard Koldyke
- Feb 22 Jeffrey Braun, Mark Chernansky, Nathan Cata, Wes Salsbury
- Feb 23 Colleen Scrivner
- Feb 24 Annie Jaussi, Char Damron, Dan Charlton, Hannah Hafner, Joy Klaben
- Feb 25 Catherine Clarke, Martha Phillips, Tracy Taylor
- Feb 26 Tom Klein
- Feb 27 Geneine VanSomeren, Patrick Sensenbrenner, Steve Panko, Ted Tetzlaff

LENT & EASTER

View the Announcement section for information and registration for events.

March 28 | Palm Sunday

10:00 AM - Palm branches

April 1 | Maundy Thursday

7:00 PM, Zoom - Dinner Church: eat, sing, pray

April 2 | Good Friday

7:30 PM - Communion, Tenebrae with choir

April 4 | Easter Sunday

10:00 AM - Communion, choir, brass

Lenten Movie Group

7:00 PM, Zoom - Sundays: February 21, 28, March 7, 14, 21

Lenten Bible Study | Psalms for the Journey

12:00 PM, Zoom - Wednesdays: February 24, March 3, 10, 17, 24, 31

Mid-Week Prayer Services

8:00 PM, Zoom - Thursdays: February 25, March 4, 11, 18, 25

ANNOUNCEMENTS

SING THE PSALMS WITH JESUS

Our theme this Lent is "Sing the Psalms with Jesus." Each Sunday, we'll explore a psalm that Jesus quotes. They were his songbook. The better we know the songs that Jesus memorized, the better we know God.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT PROGRAM (CEP)

Do you miss serving CEP meals? Team up with fellow St. Pauls members to provide a lasagna or salad as *part* of a meal for 35 shelter guests at the LPCS 1521 N. Sedgwick location on Sunday Feb 28 or March 28. If you are interested in participating, or are looking for other ways to help our neighbors experiencing homelessness, please contact Jennifer Kew at CEPsupper@gmail.com.

2021 PLEDGE & GIVING INFORMATION

Thank you to everyone who has filled out a pledge card for 2021! Your pledges help us plan and budget for the upcoming year, and your generous support of Saint Pauls is greatly needed and much appreciated. If you have yet to pledge your time, talents or treasures for 2021, you can fill out a pledge card at pledge.spucc.org.

- Please note that filling out a pledge card shares your intention to give, so that we can budget for the year. It does not set up a donation. To make donations towards your pledge, see our giving page for more information on all the ways to give to Saint Pauls. spucc.org/about-us/giving-to-st-pauls
- If you were using our previous giving portal to send Saint Pauls a recurring donation towards your pledge, you will need to cancel it and set up a new recurring donation in Church Center **before the end of March**, at spucc.churchcenter.com. Email bookkeeper@spucc.org for help.

NEW DATES: VOLUNTEER TO READ SCRIPTURE

Sundays through August are now available to volunteer to read scripture. While we worship virtually, volunteers are needed to send in a recording of the scripture reading each week. The week before the service for which you've volunteered, the pastor who is preaching that Sunday will send you the scripture passage and recording/uploading instructions.

Sign up here: spucc.churchcenter.com/registrations/events/686988.

LINCOLN PARK COMMUNITY SERVICES NEEDS YOUR HELP!

This St. Pauls founded organization provides comprehensive social services to our neighbors experiencing homelessness. LPCS is looking for volunteers to provide meals during this time. Open dates are: **March 10, 17 and 24.** Please contact Sally Fletcher to sign up at sfletcher1443@gmail.com, or (312) 848-5400. Needed are 35 lunches, including 3 vegetarian, at the 600 W. Fullerton location on each of these days. For other LPCS volunteer opportunities, visit their website at lpcschicago.org to get involved, or contact volunteer coordinator Jameela Chaudhry at volunteer@lpcschicago.org.

PASTORS' VIRTUAL OFFICE HOURS

Want to talk? We are here for you! You can always reach out to one of our pastors, but we are also offering regularly scheduled virtual office hours. To "drop in" during virtual office hours, contact a pastor to make an appointment.

Benny, Pastoral Intern: Mondays, 3-5 p.m. Pastor Matt: Wednesdays, 10 a.m.-12 p.m.

Pastor Jeff: Fridays, 3-5 p.m.

Pastor Sarah: Mondays 11 a.m. - 1 p.m.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

FEB 24 - LENTEN BIBLE STUDY: PSALMS FOR THE JOURNEY - 12 p.m., Zoom Email Pastor Jeff if you'd like to sign up, jcarlson@spucc.org.

FEB 21 - LENT MOVIE GROUP - 7 p.m., Zoom

Discussion each Sunday, February 21 - March 21. Our first movie tonight will be *Some Kind of Heaven*. It is available to stream on YouTube, Vudu and Amazon Prime. Next week's movie is *Beasts of the Southern Wild*. We will watch the movie on our own and then discuss it together on Zoom. Email Pastor Matt for the link, mfitzgerald@spucc.org.

FEB 23 - BOOK DISCUSSION: HOW TO BE AN ANTIRACIST - 7 p.m., Zoom

Prof. Ibram X Kendi may be a rigorous scholar and historian with multiple books on the bestseller lists, but he writes like a passionate, fallible human being who's just trying to get it right. Kendi leads us through the labyrinth of concepts and choices that presents itself when we begin the journey to that elusive goal—antiracism—a term that many of us had never even heard of a few years ago. And he goes with us on our journey, telling stories of all the misconceptions and mistakes he made on his own journey toward antiracism. Kendi's honesty about his trials and errors is engaging and inspiring. Pam Woll will facilitate the discussion. Please RSVP to rnpeterson2017@gmail.com.

FEB 27 - WHODUNIT? - 7 p.m., Zoom

Join St. Pauls Social and hosts Jan Fraccaro and Andrea Koepke for a night of murder. Put your talents to work and participate in a murder mystery game! Please email your reservation to andreakoepke1@aol.com by February 20 and indicate whether you would rather be a suspect or a detective. Follow-up information will be sent after receiving your reservation.

MAR 7 - ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING - 11:15 a.m., Zoom

Please plan to attend the Annual Meeting of the Congregation of St. Pauls where we will vote on the 2021 budget, new members of the Church Council, including Officers and Ministry Chairs, and learn about the activities of 2020 and plans going into 2021. It is an important event in the life of St. Pauls. Members have voice and vote and Friends have voice. The meeting will be held via Zoom. The link for the meeting will be in future bulletins.

MAR 29 - BOOK DISCUSSION: *THE HUNCHBACK OF NOTRE DAME* - 7 p.m., Zoom The Long, Classic Novels Reading Group's first book for 2021 is Victor Hugo's work that had for its original title *Notre Dame de Paris*, indicating that the cathedral in the heart of Paris is the main character of this novel. Hugo wrote this book in part to make his contemporaries aware of the value of preserving the beautiful Gothic architecture falling apart around them. The cathedral is the stage for a story about good and evil and the nature of true beauty and ugliness. Coming up:

The Once and Future King - June Discussion

The Count of Monte Cristo - Sept and Dec Discussions.

To join RSVP to - jcarlson@spucc.org

OPPORTUNITIES

CHURCH CENTER is our new portal for the Saint Pauls community! If you haven't yet, get started on a computer or smart device at spucc.churchcenter.com, or by downloading the "Church Center App" and using "60614" in the manual search during app setup. You'll see our Saint Pauls logo in the top results. On Church Center, you can see our calendar, register for events, update your contact information, join and view our photo directory, manage your online donations and see your giving history, and more!

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.

EMAIL LIST SIGN-UP - Are you new to St. Pauls and want to get more connected, or have you been a longtime friend and missed signing up for our email? Either way, you can go here: spucc.org/connect-learn/signups to fill out our virtual fellowship card to begin receiving our weekly email and special congregational emails, introduce yourself and receive a call from a pastor, request more information about Children and Youth Programming, and more!

FAITH IN ACTION – Some people call it showing up for a protest. Others call it public witness for the values inherent in our faith. Most of us appreciate being able to do both with like-minded congregational members. We are continually building a Faith-in-Action list of people who wish to receive notice of such protests and gatherings – frequently on short notice due to swift governmental action. Please join this email list by contacting Claire Higgins at chiggins@spucc.org.

FAITH AND PUBLIC ISSUES – Help us connect our faith to critical public issues. Do you wish you knew more from a faith perspective about current issues that are important to our public life? Racism, climate change, immigration, to name a few? FPI programs provide opportunities to ask questions, help us understand issues in depth, and discuss possible action. The FPI Task Force plans these programs and we could use your ideas. Contact Toby Rogers at toby@rogers-home.com for information about meetings.

GIFTS, PASSIONS, SKILLS – If you have not already completed our GPS Survey, we still need to hear from you. Please go to forms.gle/jK54YezLs8Ea27uW8 to fill it out. This is an important component of our overall member engagement initiative, as mentioned in the November 10, 2019 congregational meeting. If you prefer to complete a paper document, they are available on the front counter of the office next to the labeled return box. Thank you in advance for your participation.

GREEN TEAM Help us as a congregation live out what we say in our Statement of Faith: God calls us to care for creation. This is the perfect time to plan, as we prepare to reenter and reimagine our common bodily life together. Joe Womack and Jan Fraccaro have volunteered to co-chair our efforts, both bringing a great deal of experience and ideas. To attend, or to be in the email list for future meetings, email Jan at jan.fraccaro@gmail.com.

LITTLE LIGHTS is a St. Pauls early childhood program with classes for 2, 3, and 4-year olds. We are now accepting applications for 2021. Check out www.littlelightslp.org. Email Little Lights Director Erin Fitzgerald at littlelights@spucc.org.

LONG, CLASSIC NOVELS READING GROUP

Last year we read four books from the Zora Canon, written by African American women. See announcement above for this year's selections. Anyone is welcome to join us. Please RSVP to Pastor Jeff for email updates: jcarlson@spucc.org.

NEW OR EXPECTING PARENTS – If you have a new baby or are expecting a baby, please let Corie Gallemore know so that we can find ways to support you (meals, prayer, etc.). Email Corie at corie.gallemore@gmail.com.

OUTREACH AND BENEVOLENCE COMMITTEE – Do you have a passion for reaching out to others? The St. Pauls O&B Committee would love to have you join us in keeping our church engaged in community outreach. For more information contact Pauline Taylor, paulinetaylor933@gmail.com, or Pastor Jeff, jcarlson@spucc.org.

PARENTS OF LITTLE ONES (POLO) has play dates, Moms night out, Dads night out, family pizza parties, prayer groups, and more activities to support families with little ones between the ages of 0 and 5. If you have young children and would like to get involved, please contact Joanne Tong at jctong@yahoo.com.

SAINT PAULS SOCIAL – Get better acquainted with other adults at St. Pauls. If you are interested in hosting, please contact Jen Luerssen at jenluerssen@yahoo.com. Subscribe to the distribution list at eepurl.com/gQ4Eg1, or look out for future events announced in the bulletin calendar.

SAINT PAULS TOGETHER – Our Facebook Group, "Saint Pauls Together," is for St. Pauls Members and Friends to connect and share uplifting thoughts and stories. Check out our Facebook Page to request an invitation if you're a member or friend!

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).

WEDNESDAY BIBLE STUDY – Now meeting every Wednesday at noon via Zoom. Newcomers are always welcome. Increase your faith and your knowledge of the Bible. RSVP: Pastor Jeff at jcarlson@spucc.org to get the Zoom link.

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.

ZOOM MEETINGS – The St. Pauls Zoom account is available to start or continue groups. Email Claire Higgins at chiggins@spucc.org to schedule your meeting.

BULLETIN ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please send any announcements you would like in the following week's bulletin or Friday email to chiggins@spucc.org no later than 10 a.m. on Tuesday.

Verbal announcements are due by Wednesdays at noon.

Please limit announcements to 100 words. Thank you!

SAINT PAULS PRAYS

Please clip this page and pray for those who are named below. To have your prayer request included, 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.

- Gloria Joseph and sons John and Adam at the death of her husband Nial.
- Rod Sippy, recovering from a heart procedure.
- Phill, brother of Bob Ball, diagnosed with a rare form of leukemia and beginning many medical treatments.
- Loved ones of Amy Newman at her death last week, especially her children Alyssa and Miles Van Denburg.
- Young adults trying to find their place in the world.
- Couples navigating pregnancy in a covid world.
- Juggling working from home, zoom school and family life.
- Marci, Gloria Joseph's friend, who recently suffered a stroke.
- Greg Mooney and family at the death of Sheryl.
- Carrie Brugger's brother, Steve, and family at the death of his wife, Barb.
- Juanita Barlow's sister, Maria Dolores Guadalupe, recovering from a stroke.
- The Rieck family at the death of Shirley.
- The Nitzsche family at the tragic death of Dan.
- Jan Bail's sister, Marty, diagnosed with cancer.
- Michael VanZeyl's Aunt Betty, hospitalized, and Laura VanZeyl's parents, Lionel and Donna, coping with isolation.
- Carole Crowley, recovering from a stroke.
- Karl Wirsum, receiving care at home.

Prayer, Support, Mental Health Resources

Even when you walk through the valley of shadows, God is with you. If you or someone you love is feeling completely alone or like life doesn't matter, reach out for help. Help is available for every kind of issue. Contact one of the pastors today for support, referrals, and information that can help you and your loved ones.

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 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 important, over the past 177 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
Tom Henry, Pastor Emeritus, emeritushenry@gmail.com
Benny VanDerburgh, Pastoral Intern, bvanderburgh@spucc.org
Karen E. Johnson, President of the Congregation, kejpiano@aol.com
Maddy Lockhart, Director of Operations, mlockhart@spucc.org
Melissa Miller Furgeson, Bookkeeper, bookkeeper@spucc.org
Kurt R. Hansen, Music Director, kurtsingsbach@gmail.com
Kevin Dzierzawski, Organist, kdzierza@att.net
Brendan Henry, Pianist, brendanhenrypiano@gmail.com
Nancy Voigts, Children's Choir Director, nvoigtsgod@att.net
Kecia Waldschmidt, Youth Choir Director, keciagerman@hotmail.com
Mark Mosley, Intergenerational Orchestra Director, mwmosley@gmail.com
Kevin O'Brien, Lay Liturgical Administrator, kkobrien48@hotmail.com



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.