

February 28, 2021 Second 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

"Oh no, I see a darkness. Do you know [that] how much I love you, is a hope that somehow you can save me from this darkness?"

**Bonnie Prince Billy** 

**Jeff Carlson** 

PRELUDE Andante cantabile con moto Ludwig van Beethoven

from Symphony No. 1 in C Major, Op. 21 Intergenerational Orchestra Mark Mosley, conductor

CHIMES

INTROIT Lenten Call to Worship Chant

Chancel Choir

WELCOME AND CALL TO WORSHIP

*Psalm 6, The Message*One: God, how long will it take for you to let up?

All: Break in God! If you love me, get me out of here!

One: I am tired of my tears, tired of the fight, so tired.

All: At last, God has heard my sobs!

One: God will accept my prayers!

All: My enemies have disappeared, disgraced!

### A Mighty Fortress Is Our God Led by Nancy Pifer



### PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND ASSURANCE

Benny VanDerburgh

Lord, you are impossible.

You tell us:

**Love Proud Boys.** 

Forgive rioters.

Pray for Q Anon.

Bless gun nuts.

Do good to bigots.

We confess that

we despise

such nonsense.

Like the psalmist,

we want you to

shame and disturb

our enemies.

Do it.

Amen.

### **SCRIPTURE**

Diane Biegert

Psalm 6

O Lord, do not rebuke me in your anger, and do not chastise me in your wrath. Show favor to me, O Lord, for I have grown weak, heal me, O Lord, for my bones have been disturbed.

My soul has been greatly disturbed,
And you, O Lord, - how long?
Return, O Lord, rescue my soul.
Deliver me for the sake of your kindness.
Because there is no remembrance of you in death.
In Sheol, who will sing your praise?

I have grown tired in my groaning.

I make my bed swim every night,

I make my couch dissolve with tears.

My eyes have wasted away from grief,

They grow weak because of my enemies.

Turn away from me, all you workers of sorrow,
For the Lord has heard the sound of my weeping.
The Lord has heard my supplication,
The Lord will accept my prayer.
All my enemies will feel shame and be exceedingly disturbed.

#### Luke 13:22-30

He went on teaching from town to village, village to town, but keeping on a steady course toward Jerusalem.

Someone said, "Lord, will only a few be saved?"

He said, "Whether few or many is none of your business. Put your mind on your life with God. Strive to enter through the narrow door; for many, I tell you, will try to enter and will not be able. One day you're going to be banging on the door, wanting to get in, but you'll find the door locked and the Master saying, 'Sorry, you're not on my guest list.'

"You'll protest, 'But we've known you all our lives!' only to be interrupted by him. 'Get away from me, all you workers of sorrow. You don't know the first thing about me.' That's when you'll find yourselves out in the cold, strangers to grace. You'll watch Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, and all the prophets march into God's kingdom. You'll watch outsiders stream in from east, west, north, and south and sit down at the table of God's kingdom. And all the time you'll be outside looking in—and wondering what happened. This is the Great Reversal: some are last who will be first, and some are first who will be last."

#### 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 "Oh No, I See a Darkness" Matt Fitzgerald

MEDITATION Hope in Suspense Alex Hansen

Alex Hansen, piano

OFFERING INVITATION Jeff Carlson

OFFERTORY How Lovely Is Thy Dwelling Place Johannes Brahms

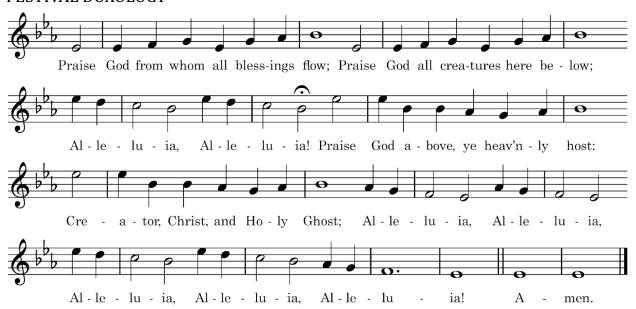
from <u>Ein Deutsches Requiem</u>
Sung in English
Chancel Choir

How lovely is Thy dwelling place, O Lord of Hosts
For my soul, it longeth, yea, fainteth for the courts of the Lord;
My soul and body crieth out, yea, for the living God
How lovely is Thy dwelling place, O Lord of Hosts
Blest are they that dwell within Thy house;
They praise Thy name evermore,
How lovely is Thy dwelling place.

Psalm 84

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

### FESTIVAL DOXOLOGY



### PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Sarah Garcia

### 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.

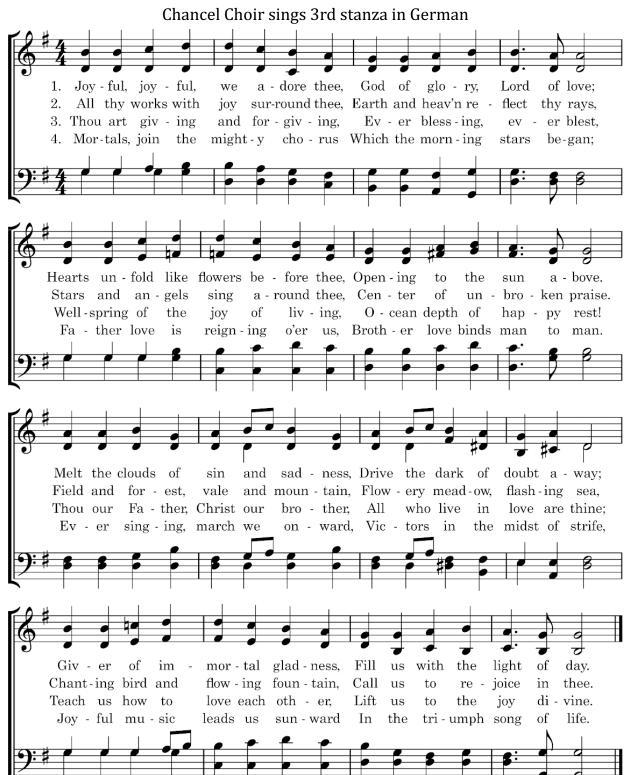
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever.

Amen.

### Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee

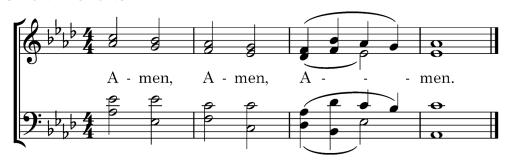
# With the Intergenerational Orchestra

## **Chancel Choir and Congregation**



BENEDICTION Matt Fitzgerald

### BENEDICTION RESPONSE



POSTLUDE Finale - *Allegro* Beethoven from Symphony No. 5 in C minor, Op. 67

### Coffee Hour is on Zoom!

Intergenerational Orchestra

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 & MARCH**

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 28 Chris Roark, Molly Canfield
- Mar 1 Denika McMillen, Kent Carter, Tommy Demery
- Mar 2 Fred Pearson, Sue Moulton, Chip Moehrke, Ely Taylor, Mahalia Henry
- Mar 3 Brandon Frost, David Schmahl, Terry Stumpf, Annie Doerr
- Mar 4 Martha Sanders, Sue Finkle
- Mar 5 Winona Koldyke
- Mar 6 Marcia Gulbrandsen, Jameson Beck

### **LENT & EASTER**

View the Announcement section for information and registration for events.

### **Sundays of Lent** | February 28, March 7, 14, 21

10:00 AM - Virtual Worship

### Palm Sunday | March 28

10:00 AM - Palm branches

### Maundy Thursday | April 1

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

### **Good Friday** | April 2

7:30 PM - Communion, Tenebrae with choir

### Easter Sunday | April 4

10:00 AM - Communion, choir, brass

### **Lenten Movie Group**

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

### **Lenten Bible Study | Psalms for the Journey**

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

### Mid-Week Prayer Services

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

#### 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.

### **EASTER ALTAR FLOWERS**

Celebrate or remember a loved one by purchasing a flowering plant for the Easter Festival Altar. Use the below registration form link to share your dedication information and complete your order of \$30 per plant online, or select "Pay Later" if you'd like to mail a check. Purchased plants may be picked up in the Church Courtyard on Easter Sunday from 2-3PM.

Registrations must be completed **by March 30th** for inclusion in the Easter Bulletin. https://spucc.churchcenter.com/registrations/events/752085

### **COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT PROGRAM (CEP)**

Do you miss serving CEP meals? Team up with fellow St. Pauls members to provide *part of* a lasagna supper for 35 shelter guests at LPCS, 1521 N. Sedgwick. We need volunteers to provide 3 more lasagnas and dessert for drop-off **Sunday, 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 you can 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.

#### **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, 24, and April 7.** 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.

#### MARK YOUR CALENDAR

### FEB 28 - LENT MOVIE GROUP - 7 p.m., Zoom

Discussion each Sunday thru March 21. Our movie tonight will be *Beasts of the Southern Wild.* The movie we'll discuss on March 7th is *Crip Camp.* We will watch the movies on our own and then discuss together on Zoom. Email Pastor Matt for the link, mfitzgerald@spucc.org.

**MAR 3 - LENTEN BIBLE STUDY: PSALMS FOR THE JOURNEY -** 12 p.m., Zoom Email Pastor Jeff if you'd like to sign up, jcarlson@spucc.org.

### 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. Please see the meeting event page for more information and details:

https://spucc.churchcenter.com/registrations/events/746689

### MAR 16 - WOMEN'S BOOK GROUP - 7:30 p.m., Zoom

Please join us as we read *The Time is Now: A Call to Uncommon Courage*, by Joan Chittister. We will discuss the first half of the book on this day. All are welcome. Email Corie Gallemore for more information: corie.gallemore@gmail.com.

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 -* September and December 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.

### 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.

Pastor Sarah: Mondays 11 a.m. - 1 p.m. Benny, Pastoral Intern: Mondays, 3-5 p.m. Pastor Matt: Wednesdays, 10 a.m.-12 p.m.

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

**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.

- Family and friends of Gay Kelly's dad, who passed away this week.
- Juanita Barlow on March 1st having a procedure on a blood vessel.
- 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, 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

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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.