

January 3, 2021

Epiphany

Virtual Worship

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

THOUGHT FOR PREPARATION

In the Bible all the good stuff happens in the dark. Darkness attracts everything people are afraid of - the unknown, fears, illness and death and the loss of people we love. The dark is where God does most of God's best work. Our vulnerabilities are high and so is our compassion.

Barbara Brown Taylor

PRELUDE *Prélude sur l'Introït de l'Épiphanie* Maurice Duruflé
Kevin Dzierzawski, organ

CHIMES

CANDLE LIGHTING Amalee and Serena Garcia Knotts

INTROIT *Ding, Dong Merrily on High* French Carol
Chancel Choir

WELCOME AND CALL TO WORSHIP Benny Vanderburgh

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

**All: For darkness covered the earth,
and thick darkness surrounded the peoples;**

One: But the glory of God is appearing 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: We who lived in deep darkness, on us God's light is shining.

Let us give thanks for the Light of the World.

HYMN

We Three Kings of Orient Are

John Henry Hopkins



1. We three kings of O - ri - ent are; bear - ing gifts we
2. Born a King on Beth - le - hem's plain, gold I bring to
3. Frank - in - cense to of - fer have I; in - cense owns a
4. Myrrh is mine; its bit - ter per - fume breathes a life of
5. Glo - rious now be - hold him a - rise; King and God and



tra - verse a - far, field and foun - tain, moor and moun - tain,
 crown him a - gain, King for - e - ver, ceas - ing ne - ver,
 De - i - ty nigh; prayer and prais - ing, voi - ces rais - ing,
 gath - er - ing gloom; sor - rowing, sigh - ing, bleed - ing, dy - ing,
 sac - ri - fice: Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia,



fol - low - ing yon - der star.
 o - ver us all to reign.
 wor - ship - ing God on high. O _____ star of won - der, star of light,
 sealed in the stone - cold tomb.
 sounds through the earth and skies.



star with roy - al beau - ty bright, west - ward lead - ing,



still pro - ceed - ing, guide us to thy per - fect light.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND ASSURANCE

Benny VanDerburgh

**God, we confess that ours is still a world
In which Herod seems to rule:
The visions of the wise are ignored,
The poor are afflicted and the innocent suffer,
While we look away murmuring,
“What can I do? It’s not happening right here.”
You show us that salvation comes
In the vulnerability of a child,
Yet we hunger for the “security” of wealth and comfort.
You teach us that freedom comes in love of service,
Yet we trample on others in our efforts to be “free.”
Forgive us, God, when we look to the palace
Instead of the stable,
Renew us with the spirit of the magi
Who did not grow weary in their quest to be with you
And who offered you the best of what they had.
Here and now we surrender to you our fears and proud opinions,
our deep seated sins and our apathy towards change and renewal.
Please forgive the darkness and pain we have inflicted on others,
and restore the light-starved hopes and ideals within our own souls.
Through Christ Jesus. Amen!**

SCRIPTURE

The Wallace Family

Matthew 2:1-12

After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, Magi from the east came to Jerusalem and asked, "Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him." When King Herod heard this he was disturbed, and he asked them where the Messiah was to be born. "In Bethlehem in Judea," they replied, "for this is what the prophet has written."

Then Herod called the Magi secretly and found out from them the exact time the star had appeared. He sent them to Bethlehem and said, "Go and search carefully for the child. As soon as you find him, report to me, so that I too may go and worship him."

After they had heard the king, they went on their way, and the star they had seen when it rose went ahead of them until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw the star, they were overjoyed. On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to go back to Herod, they returned to their country by another route.

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

Sarah Garcia

HYMN

What Child Is This? 16th Century English Folk Song



1. What child is this, who laid to rest, — On Mar - y's lap — is sleep - ing?
2. Why lies the Child in man - ger bare — where ox and ass — are feed - ing?
3. Bring gifts of in - cense, gold, and myrrh; come, join in ju - bi - la - tion;



Whom an - gels greet with an - thems sweet while shep - herdswatch are keep - ing?
Give heed, draw near; for sin - ners here — the si - lent Word is plead - ing.
The Ho - ly Child, though meek and mild, has come with God's sal - va - tion.



This, this — the an - gels sing, — is Christ, God's ho - ly of - fer - ing;
Nails, spear shall pierce him through, the cross be borne for me, for you;
Raise, raise — the song on high, — the moth - er sings her lul - la - by;



Haste, haste your praise to bring the babe, the child — of Mar - y!
Hail, hail — the Word made flesh, the babe, the child — of Mar - y!
Joy, joy, — for Christ is born, — the babe, the child — of Mar - y!

MISSION MOMENT

Polar Peace March

Chuck Kent

OFFERING INVITATION

Matt Fitzgerald

OFFERTORY

Infant Holy, Infant Lowly

Polish Carol

Kecia Waldschmidt, Christie Ward, Jen Kew,
Breanna Coe, Todd Coe, Andy Dow, and Ross Penniman

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

FESTIVAL DOXOLOGY



Praise God from whom all bless-ings flow; Praise God all crea-tures here be - low;



Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia! Praise God a - bove, ye heav'n - ly host:



Cre - a - tor, Christ, and Ho - ly Ghost; Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia,



Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia! A - men.

CELEBRATION OF THE SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION

Matt Fitzgerald

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 ready your bread and wine or juice.

Wait to partake until all are invited. We will eat and drink together.

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.

HYMN

In the Bleak Midwinter

Gustav Holst

1. In the bleak mid - win - ter, frost - y wind made moan,
 2. An - gels and arch - an - gels may have gath - ered there,
 3. What_ can I give Him, poor_ as I am?

earth stood hard as i - ron, wa - ter like a stone;
 cher - u - bim and ser - a - phim thronged_ the air;
 If I were a shep - herd, I would bring a lamb.

Snow had fall - en, snow on snow, snow_ on_ snow,
 But on - ly His Moth - er in her maid - en bliss,
 If I were a Wise_ one, I would do my part; yet

in the bleak mid - win - ter, long_ a - go.
 wor - shiped the be - lov - ed with_ a kiss.
 what I can I give Him, give_ my heart.

BENEDICTION

Sarah Garcia

BENEDICTION RESPONSE *Gloria in excelsis Deo*

Refrain from "Angels We Have Heard on High"

French Carol

Glo - - - - - ri - a

in ex - cel - sis De - o, Glo - - - - -

- - - - - ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - - o.

POSTLUDE

Now Behold the Lamb

Kirk Franklin

St. Arbucks Trio

Brendan Henry, piano; Alex Austin, bass;
Matt Plaskota, drums; and Kris Hansen, vocals and trumpet

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 JANUARY

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.*

Jan 3 Brian Earl, Paul Starr, Susan Michod, Theresa Busker

Jan 5 Christine Frisch, Sally Glowiak

Jan 6 Elizabeth Harper

Jan 7 Carol Graham, Courtney Sensenbrenner, Jeffrey Wagner, Mark Lueck,
Peter Kaiser

Jan 8 Caleb Patton, Don Curtis, Hope Basil, Kathy Freise, Oscar Schrimpf

Jan 9 Gisele Jozwiak, Grayson Colosi-McCann

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PASTORS' VIRTUAL OFFICE HOURS

Want to talk? Ask for a prayer? Share an idea? Be consoled? Seek forgiveness? Think through a problem? Hear a word of hope? Start a church program? Find a referral to a therapist? Think about the future? Search for God? 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, beginning next week. 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. (Off Christmas and New Year's Day)

CALLING ALL STORYTELLERS - There have got to be a lot of good, unusual, true stories in our congregation. St. Pauls Social is looking to plan a “Moth Radio Hour” type event for those stories to be told. If you've got a story to tell, or if you'd like some help writing your story, let Pastor Jeff know in order to help us plan, jcarlson@spucc.org.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT PROGRAM (CEP) - CEP meals in the St. Pauls courtyard are being discontinued until warmer weather returns. We are currently offering laundry services to street-based guests - hygiene services are particularly important during the pandemic. If you are looking for other ways to help our neighbors experiencing homelessness, please contact Jennifer Kew at CEPsuper@gmail.com.

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 individuals to provide meals during this time. Open dates are: **January 4, 12, 14, 25, 27, 31 and February 3, 10, 17.** Please contact Sally Fletcher to sign up at sfletcher1443@gmail.com, or (312) 848-5400. Needed are 20 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

JAN 6 - WEDNESDAY BIBLE STUDY: Stories of Christmas & Epiphany- 12 p.m., Zoom
We're looking at the stories in Matthew and Luke that surround the birth of Christ. You can participate online, or call in from your phone. Email Pastor Jeff with questions or to get the meeting invitation and instructions, jcarlson@spucc.org.

JAN 17, 2021 - 7TH ANNUAL POLAR PEACE MARCH - 10 a.m.

Even though we are unable to march in person, we can still participate in this year's march by joining other members of St. Pauls for our virtual program immediately following worship. Let's all help to raise awareness of the impactful work that UCAN does every day and to raise money to support their programs. For more information and to set up your own fundraising page, visit polarpeacemarch.org. Your donations will be matched 2 for 1 by an anonymous family foundation. Together we can make a difference in the lives of so many young people in Chicago.

JAN 24, 2021 - LECTURE AND DISCUSSION - SPIRITUALS AND CULTURAL APPROPRIATION - 3 p.m., Zoom.

Join internationally known composer, conductor and educator Dr. Rollo Dilworth. Dr. Dilworth will speak about the history of spirituals and also address the important issue of cultural appropriation. More details soon with the Zoom link. Please mark your calendars and plan to join us.

OPPORTUNITIES

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, and 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.

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 –

This year we read four books from the Zora Canon, written by African American women. Our meetings for 2020 have concluded and readings for 2021 are being set, so stay tuned! 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.

- 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 Nietzsche family at the tragic death of Dan.
- Jenny Benefield, recovering from shoulder surgery.
- Kristin Mack and family at the deaths of her grandfather, Dennis Carlson, and granny, Charlotte.
- Ninon Freeman at the death of her mother, Alba Young.
- 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.
- Molly Dierks, in the hospital.
- Erick, an Army friend of Bruce Voice.
- Bruce Voice, recovering from surgery.
- A mother and her two children going through a very difficult time.
- Patty, friend of Petrine and Garold Ashley, as she undergoes a third knee transplant.
- Mark Huddle at the death of his father, Mike.
- Sheryl Mooney, who is receiving treatment for leukemia.
- Mary Train, recovering from a broken wrist.
- Amy Newman, being treated for cancer.
- Rob and Shannon Castle's friend, Mike, in treatment for cancer.
- Pat Ruch's sister, Aline, beginning treatment for brain cancer.
- Carole Crowley, recovering from a stroke.
- Karl Wirsum, in rehabilitation for mini-strokes.

You are beloved – to others, to the world you live in, and most important, to God. God knows your struggles and failures, as well as your joys and triumphs. Even when you walk through the valley of shadows, God is with you. If you or someone you love has lost hope, is feeling completely alone or like life doesn't matter, reach out for help. Contact one of the pastors today for information about mental health care advocacy and resources that can help you and your loved ones. Contact information for the pastors is at the back of this bulletin.

ABOUT ST. PAULS
Making a Joyful Sound in the City!

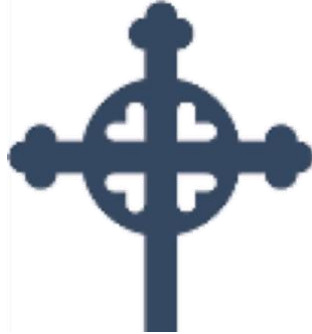
Saint Pauls UCC has a vibrant history in the city of Chicago. Founded in 1843, we are one of the city's oldest churches. In 1989, we became one of America's first congregations to declare ourselves "Open and Affirming" of LGBTQ women and men.

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
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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.