

Palm Sunday Virtual Worship March 28, 2021 No matter who you are, No matter where you are On life's journey, You are welcome here.

PRELUDE Sunshine Day Steve McCarthy

St. Arbucks Trio

CHORAL INTROIT Ride On, Ride On in Majesty Graham George

Chancel Choir

WELCOME AND CALL TO WORSHIP

Sarah Garcia

One: Swing open the doors of your heart and come to worship!

All: This is the day that the Lord has made,

Let us rejoice and be glad in it!

One: Look! The Prince of Peace is coming to you,

Humble and riding on a donkey.

All: Hosanna! Hosanna!

One: Christ is riding into our lives.

All: Hosanna! Hosanna in the Highest!

Hosanna, Loud Hosanna



Dear God we confess that we are uncertain and confused.

We never expected to enter another Holy Week like this.

We expected to be jostled, shoulder to shoulder,

Waving palms in the midst of a crowd.

Help us to trust that Christ still rides into our lives,

No matter where we are, even in our homes.

Turn our imagination toward Jerusalem,

That we might ride with Jesus through the palm processionals,

spend time with him in the upper room,

let him wash our feet,

pray with him in the Garden of Gethsemane,

walk with him to Golgotha,

go with him through the valley of the shadow of death.

And, then, O God, bring us to Easter with a renewed commitment to Christ and a fresh experience of the day of resurrection.

Amen.

SCRIPTURE Steve Schwartzberg

Psalm 118, selection

I will give thanks to you, for you answered me and have become my salvation.

The same stone which the builders rejected

has become the chief cornerstone.

This is the Lord's doing,

and it is marvelous in our eyes.

This is the day that the Lord has made;

we will rejoice and be glad in it!

Hosanna, Lord, hosanna!

Lord, send us now success.

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord;

we bless you from the house of the Lord.

God is the Lord and has shined upon us;

form a procession with branches up to the horns of the altar.

You are my God, and I will thank you;

you are my God, and I will exalt you."

Give thanks to the Lord, for God is good;

God's steadfast love endures forever.

Luke 19:29-40

When Jesus had come to the place called the Mount of Olives, he sent two of the disciples, saying, "Go into the village ahead of you, and as you enter it you will find tied there a colt that has never been ridden. Untie it and bring it here. If anyone asks you, 'Why are you untying it?' just say this, 'The Lord needs it.'"

So those who were sent departed and found it as he had told them. As they were untying the colt, its owners asked them, "Why are you untying the colt?" They said, "The Lord needs it." Then they brought it to Jesus; and after throwing their cloaks on the colt, they set Jesus on it.

As he rode along, people kept spreading their cloaks on the road. As he was now approaching the path down from the Mount of Olives, the whole multitude of the disciples began to praise God joyfully with a loud voice for all the deeds of power that they had seen, saying, "Blessed is the king who comes in the name of the Lord! Peace in heaven, and glory in the highest heaven!" Some of the Pharisees in the crowd said to him, "Teacher, order your disciples to stop." He answered, "I tell you, if these were silent, the stones would shout out."

As he came near and saw the city, he wept over it, saying, "If you, even you, had only recognized on this day the things that make for peace! But now they are hidden from your eyes."

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

Lord! Come Away! Ralph Vaughan Williams from Four Hymns Kurt R. Hansen, tenor; Hannah Barton, viola; and Kevin Dzierzawski, piano

Lord! Come away! Why dost thou stay? Thy road is ready; And thy paths, made straight With longing expectation, wait The consecration of Thy beauteous feet! Ride on triumphantly! Behold we lay lusts and proud wills in Thy way! Hosanna! Welcome to our hearts! Lord, here Thou hast a temple too; And full as dear as that of Sion, And as full of sin: Nothing but thieves and robbers dwell therein; Enter, and chase them forth, And cleanse the floor! Crucify them, that they may nevermore Profane that holy place Where Thou hast chose to set Thy face! And then, if our stiff tongues shall be Mute in the praises of thy Deity, The stones out of the temple wall Shall cry aloud and call-"Hosanna!" And Thy glorious footsteps greet!

SERMON "March into Madness" Jeff Carlson

MEDITATION De colores Mexican Folk Song

Gaby Godinez

OFFERING INVITATION

Matt Fitzgerald

OFFERTORY

Ride On! King Jesus! Chancel Choir

African-American Spiritual arr. Moses Hogan

Ride on, King Jesus, the conquerin' King. Oh ride on, King Jesus, ride on. No man can-a hinder thee.

I was but young when I begun.
No man can-a hinder thee.
But now my race is almost run.
No man can-a hinder thee.
Oh ride on......

King Jesus rides a milk white horse.

No man can-a hinder thee.

The ribber of Jordan he did cross.

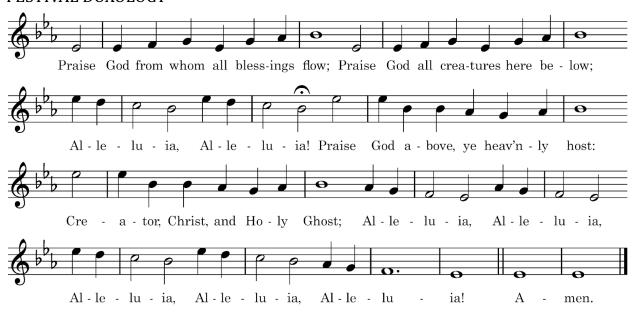
No man can-a hinder thee.

Oh ride on......

He's the King and the Lord.
He's the first and the last.
He's the Lord of Lords.
Jesus is the Prince of Peace.
No man can-a hinder thee.
Oh ride on......

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FESTIVAL DOXOLOGY



PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Matt Fitzgerald

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.

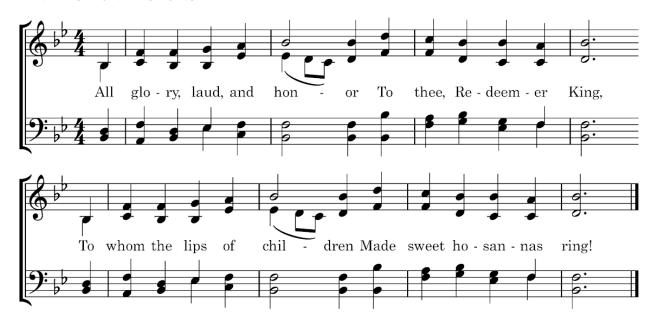
Amen.

All Glory, Laud and Honor



BENEDICTION

BENEDICTION RESPONSE



POSTLUDE

Trumpet Tune in E Major Kevin Dzierzawski, organ David.N. Johnson

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.

PARAMENTS pictured in this week's virtual worship are the beautiful work of Deborah Grant Rose.

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 Matt Plaskota

BORN THIS WEEK IN MARCH & APRIL

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.

March 29	Keeley Chamberlain
March 30	Brendan Henry, Mark Pellegrino
March 31	Diana Penniman, Will Quinton
April 1	Susan Schwendener, Cam Roehm, Collin Panko
April 2	Alexander Cittadine, Anna Kornick, Aubrey Palkon, Reese Carter,
	Peter Wiebe, Sam Riportella
April 3	Laura Schalekamp, Terra Johnson, MacKenzie Rogers

LENT & EASTER

Click the event links for more information and registration details

SERVICES

Palm Sunday | March 28

10:00 AM - Palm branches

Maundy Thursday | April 1

6:00 PM, Courtyard - In-Person meal, limit 35

7:30 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

ACTIVITIES

Lenten Bible Study | Psalms for the Journey

March 31, 12:00 PM, Zoom

Easter Egg Hunt

April 3, 10:00 AM, Courtyard - 30 minute group slots

ANNOUNCEMENTS

EASTER ALTAR FLOWERS

Celebrate or remember a loved one by ordering a flowering plant for the Easter Festival Altar. You can either order a flower for pickup, or donate flowers to be delivered to our senior members and local charities.

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

EASTER COMMUNION BREAD

As we anticipate sharing Communion on Easter as a family of faith, Marcia Knudson will be making mini-loaves for you to have at home as we commune together. To reserve one, please call or leave a text message on Marcia's phone (773) 480-4189 **no later than Thursday, April 1**. Pick up will be on Saturday, April 3 from 3-5 p.m. Location: 2335 W. Belle Plaine parking lot from Marcia's lime green Kia (just off Western, north of Irving Park).

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT PROGRAM (CEP)

Do you miss serving CEP meals? Team up with fellow St. Pauls members to serve Sunday supper for 35 shelter guests at LPCS, 1521 N. Sedgwick. We are seeking 4-6 volunteers to either drop off or cook on-site at the shelter on **Sunday, April 11**. We can work out a menu and plan that works well for whoever volunteers. If you are interested in participating, please contact Jennifer Kew at CEPsupper@gmail.com.

2021 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 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 by the end of March, at spucc.churchcenter.com. Email bookkeeper@spucc.org for help.

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: **April 14, 21.** 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.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

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.

MAR 31 - LENTEN BIBLE STUDY: PSALMS FOR THE JOURNEY - 12 p.m., Zoom Email Pastor Jeff for more information, jcarlson@spucc.org.

Register at spucc.churchcenter.com/registrations/events/761734.

APR 3 - SPRING BIRDWATCHING GROUP - 11 a.m., Montrose Point Bird Sanctuary St. Pauls Social is organizing a spring birdwatching group. Allen Heinemann and Bill Borden have agreed to organize birdwalking walks, the first of which is scheduled for Saturday April 3 at 11 a.m. The group is limited to 10, in accordance with Chicago Department of Public Health guidelines. The group will rendezvous at the entrance to the Montrose Point Bird Sanctuary (aka Magic Hedge) on West Montrose Harbor Drive at the only bicycle racks. From Lake Shore Drive, proceed east on Montrose Avenue and turn right at the first intersection and proceed to the most easterly end of the harbor (about .7 miles). On-street parking is available. Bring your binoculars. Please RSVP to Allen at allenwheinemann@gmail.com.

APR 28 - BOOK DISCUSSION: HOW TO FIGHT RACISM - 5 p.m., Zoom

How can you individually, or we as a church, act to promote racial justice? Join our three-part exploration, using Jemar Tisby's *How to Fight Racism: Courageous Christianity and the Journey toward Racial Justice*. This timely book attempts to move beyond talking about racism to equipping people with practical tools to fight against it. Cindy Ball will lead the series. We will meet the fourth Wednesday of the month at 5 p.m. The remaining one-hour sessions are:

- April 28 Focus on Relationships, pp. 85-140
- May 26 Focus on Commitment, pp. 141-206

We encourage those purchasing books to consider independent Black, Indigenous or People of Color (BIPOC)-owned bookstores. For additional information and to register, contact Cindy Ball, cindyzinn11@gmail.com.

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 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, 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, 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.

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 Gloria's friend Marci at her death.
- Al Cerkan, recovering from major back surgery.
- Doug G. Clark, on the loss of his faithful, trusting and loving companion of many years, Tigger Woods, who was adopted from St. Pauls members and who was blessed at our Pet Blessings.
- The Johnson/Fayhee family. Micki Fayhee's godmother and aunt, Janice C. Snow, died last week in Florida.
- Friends and family mourning the loss of Larry Butcher.
- Family and friends of Gay Kelly's dad, who passed away.
- Juanita Barlow, recovering from 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.
- 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
Ben Emmrich, President of the Congregation, bemmrich@gmail.com
Maddy Lockhart, Director of Operations, mlockhart@spucc.org
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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.