

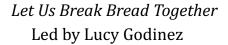
May 2, 2020 Communion Virtual Worship No matter who you are, No matter where you are On life's journey, You are welcome here.

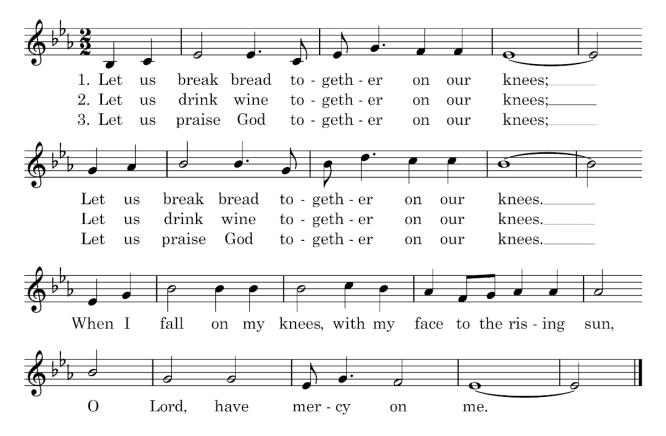
PRELUDE	The Peace May Be Exchanged	Dan Locklair
	Kevin Dzierzawski, organ	
CHIMES		
INTROIT	Come Down, O Love Divine	Ralph Vaughan Williams
	Chancel Choir	

WELCOME AND CALL TO WORSHIP

Jeff Carlson

- One: The risen Christ is glorious, full of truth and beauty!
- All: We bring our strange modern faith to church.
- One: We need Jesus! We can't admit it.
- All: That won't stop God!
- One: The grave itself could not stop God!
- All: Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!





PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND ASSURANCE

Sarah Garcia

Lord Jesus, you have given us a command as impossible to answer as "Flap your arms and fly like birds." You don't say that, but you do say this: *"Love each other as I have loved you."*

We can't do it. You love freely. We trade favors. You give yourself away. We use each other.

HYMN

Let us see ourselves through your eyes: *beloved and capable of miracles.* In you all things are possible. Burn our limitations down with your intense mercy. Amen.

Kaili Emmrich

THE BIBLICAL WORD FOR THIS DAY Selections from John 15

"I am the True Vine and my Father is the Farmer. He cuts off every branch of me that doesn't bear grapes. And every branch that is grape-bearing he prunes back so it will bear even more. You are already pruned back by the message I have spoken.

Live in me. Make your home in me just as I do in you. In the same way that a branch can't bear grapes by itself but only by being joined to the vine, you can't bear fruit unless you are joined with me. I am the Vine, you are the branches. When you're joined with me and I with you, the relation intimate and organic, the harvest is sure to be abundant. Separated, you can't produce a thing. This is how my Father shows who he is—when you produce grapes, when you mature as my disciples.

Love one another the way I loved you. This is the very best way to love.You didn't choose me, remember; I chose you, and put you in the world to bear fruit, fruit that won't spoil. As fruit bearers, whatever you ask the Father in relation to me, he gives you.

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	"The Fact of Being Branches"	Matt Fitzgerald
MEDITATION	<i>Cattle Call</i> Jeffrey Wagner, piano	Edvard Grieg
OFFERING INV	VITATION	Jeff Carlson
OFFERTORY	The Promise of Living from <u>A Tender Land</u> Chancel Choir Todd Coe, Karin Magnuson, and Breanna Coe, soloists Jeffrey Wagner, piano & Kevin Dzierzawski, organ The promise of living With hope and thanksgiving Is born of our loving Our friends and our labor. The promise of growing With faith and with knowing Is born of our sharing Our love with our neighbor.	Aaron Copland

The promise of living The promise of growing Is born of our singing In joy and thanksgiving.

For many a year we've know these fields And known all the work that makes them yield, Are you ready to lend a hand? We're ready to work, We're ready to lend a hand. By working together we'll bring in the harvest, The blessing of harvest.

We plant each row with seeds of grain, And Providence sends us the sun and the rain, By lending a hand, By lending an arm, Bring out, bring out from the farm, Bring out the blessings of harvest, The blessings of harvest.

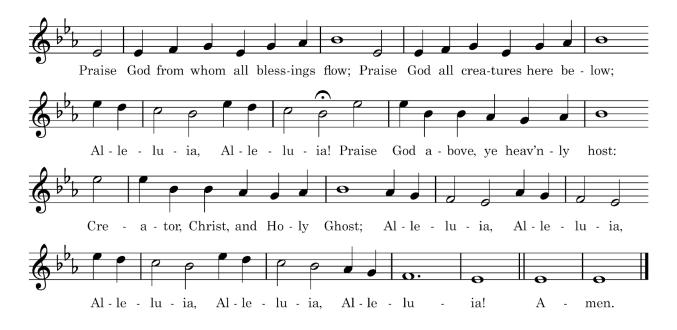
Give thanks there was sunshine, Given thanks there was rain, Give thanks we have hands to deliver the grain, [Come join us in thanking the Lord for his blessing.] O let us be joyful, O let us be grateful to the Lord for His blessing.

The promise of ending [Oh let us sing our song, and let our song be heard] In right understanding [Let us sing our song with our hearts, and find a promise in that song.] Is peace in our own hearts And peace with our neighbor.

> The promise of living The promise of growing The promise of ending Is labor and sharing and loving.

Give to St. Pauls at spucc.churchcenter.com/giving or with Zelle to giving@spucc.org

FESTIVAL DOXOLOGY



CELEBRATION OF THE SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION

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

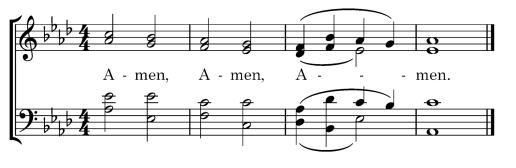
Benny VanDerburgh

We thank you, God, for inviting us to your table, for never leaving us, for bringing us together in the name of Christ so we can do Christ's work in this world. Strengthen our faith, increase our love for one another, and keep us attentive to our place at this sacred table. Amen.

HYMN Great Is Thy Faithfulness Led by Karin Magnuson Thy faith - ful - ness. Ο 1. Great is God. Cre a - tor. 2. Sum - mer and win ter, and spring - time and har - vest, 3. Par - don for sin and а peace that en dur - eth, • 0. There of Thee; isshad turn - ing with no ow Sun. cours - es bove moon, and stars in their а _ Thy dear pres cheer to guide; own ence to and Thou chang est not. Thy com pas - sions they fail not: Join with ture in man - i all na fold wit - ness Strength for to day and bright hope for to -mor - row, Thou Thou for Ashast been wilt be. ev er То Thy faith ful - ness, love. great _ mer -CV, and side! Bless - ings all mine. with ten be thou - sand -Great is Thy faith - ful - ness! Great is Thy faith - ful - ness! Morn - ing by Ι All Ι need - ed Thy morn - ing new mer - cies have see; hand hath pro - vid - ed- Great is Thy faith - ful - ness, Lord, un - to me!

BENEDICTION

BENEDICTION RESPONSE



POSTLUDE

I Saw the Light St. Arbucks Trio

Hank Williams

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**

Morning worship at Saint Pauls will be streamed online until further notice, on Sundays at 10 a.m. Central, at spucc.org/streaming. For updates about in-person afternoon worship, see the announcements section below! You can also call in to listen to our services at **(312) 626-6799** at 10 a.m. Central on Sundays. 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 Matt Plaskota

BORN THIS WEEK IN MAY

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.

- May 2 John Schloerb
- May 3 Chuck Deters, Adam Kornick
- May 4 Michelle Schneir, Alexander Young
- May 5 Frank Schmitz, Sonja Rae, Maia Sanders, Jennifer Stuart
- May 6 David Bueschel, Kent Davidson, Kimberly Cochran, Denise Beitelschmidt
- May 7 Carri Johnson, Myers Emmrich, Owen Waldschmidt
- May 8 Doug Clark, Francois Millard, Joel Grachan

ANNOUNCEMENTS

REOPENING UPDATE

We are eager to see church members and friends in person. While the entire staff hasn't yet been vaccinated, we are moving toward that goal. To see a pastor at church during the week, please contact Matt, Sarah, or Jeff by telephone or email to schedule. If you need to come to the church building for another reason on a weekday, please contact Claire, chiggins@spucc.org, or Maddy, mlockhart@spucc.org, in the church office to schedule your visit. Masks are required inside the building.

IN-PERSON AFTERNOON WORSHIP

In-person worship is each Sunday afternoon at 4 p.m., in addition to our 10 a.m. virtual worship service. Attendance is currently limited to 50 people, including staff, until updated by the CDC and local guidelines. For this reason, please make sure you register everyone who will be attending. See more info and registration details at: <u>spucc.churchcenter.com/registrations/events/category/34510</u>

CREATION CORNER

The Parliament of the World's Religions is the world's premier interfaith convening organization. In 1893, Chicago was the birthplace of this interfaith movement whose vision includes sustainability. The "Climate Action 2021" section includes:

"For all persons of good faith and goodwill, 2021 **must** be a year of action to reduce human-caused greenhouse gas emissions and to prepare for and address the inescapable consequences of the changes we have already imposed upon our planet. Our faith calls us to be warriors for the sustainability and well-being of our world. **No one can do all that must be done, but everyone can do something.**"

SUMMER CAMP!

We are excited to have you join us for summer camp this year! Along with arts and crafts, games, and water activities, campers enjoy exploring local parks and going on daily adventures! St. Pauls Summer Camp is for school aged children 6-12. Summer camp will run July 5 through July 30 with options for Full Day (9 a.m.-3 p.m.) or Half Day (9 a.m.-12 p.m.). Sign up on a weekly basis, Monday to Friday. Learn more and sign up here: https://spucc.churchcenter.com/registrations/events/823571

PROVIDE A MEAL FOR LPCS

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: **May 4, 11, 18 & 25.** 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 these days.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT PROGRAM (CEP)

We are seeking **CEP Laundry** volunteers on Saturday morning. One volunteer is needed each week to greet street-based guests and launder their clothes on-site at St. Pauls from 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. If you have any interest in **cooking in-person** meals for homeless neighbors in the coming months, please contact Jennifer Kew at <u>CEPsupper@gmail.com</u>. If you are not interested in in-person activities, we continue to have opportunities to drop off meals for LPCS.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

MAY 2 - RALLY AGAINST RACISM - 12 p.m., Buddhist Temple of Chicago The Uptown Clergy Group is hosting an inter-faith Uptown Rally Against AAPI Racism outdoors at the Buddhist Temple of Chicago, 1151 W. Leland Avenue, Chicago. The rally addresses hate crimes against Asian-American Pacific Islanders in the United States and the Uptown neighborhood of Chicago. Speakers include Illinois State Senator Mike Simmons, Rev. Patti Nakai of the Buddhist Temple of Chicago, Rev. Rev. Ji Euh Mori O of the Ravenswood UMC, and Pastor Nick Kim of Uptown Baptist. Aloha Center Chicago will provide a musical program.

MAY 6, 13 & 20 - BOOK DISCUSSION: *CLIMATE CHURCH, CLIMATE WORLD*

7-8 p.m., Zoom

Why should people of faith engage the moral challenge of climate change – and how should we do it? This book, recently featured in the <u>Chicago Tribune</u>, helps answer these questions and empowers the reader to join others in taking action. The author, Rev. Jim Antal, serves as Special Advisor on Climate Justice to the General Minister and President of the United Church of Christ. Please purchase a copy from your favorite merchant and RSVP at the link below. Discussion sponsored by our St. Pauls Green Team. <u>https://spucc.churchcenter.com/registrations/events/827095</u>

MAY 7 - PLAY READING: INHERIT THE WIND - 7:30 p.m., Zoom

St. Pauls Social invites adults of all ages to join hosts Henry and Nancy Godinez for a play reading of *Inherit the Wind*, originally performed on Broadway in 1955. Both actors and spectators are needed. If you are interested in a part in the play, let them know in your RSVP. Parts can be played by any gender. A Zoom link will be emailed to all RSVPs prior to the reading. Send your RSVP to Henry and Nancy at nanvg61@gmail.com.

MAY 26 - 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 session is:

• 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, <u>cindyzinn11@gmail.com</u>.

OPPORTUNITIES

CHURCH CENTER – spucc.churchcenter.com is our new portal for the Saint Pauls community. 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 & 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 & 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 Jennifer Kew, JenniferLKew@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 (<u>bkaiser2213@gmail.com</u>).

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 you've volunteered for, the speaking pastor for that Sunday will send you the scripture passage and recording/uploading instructions.

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

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** <u>100 words</u>. 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.

- Friends of the Ashley family who are in times of crisis Walt and Heidi, Sven and Bitten.
- Tilly Wilhoite, her brother Bert, and family, at the passing of her sister-in-law, Caryl.
- Family and friends at the death of Ruth Cuzman.
- Pauline Taylor's son, Greg, being treated for cancer.
- Colleen Henry's 100-year-old mother in hospice care.
- Jeff Johnson and family at the death of his mother, Jeanine.
- Prayers of blessing for Robin Scott as she moves to Boston for a new job.
- Family and friends of Gloria's friend, Marci, at her death.
- Al Cerkan, recovering from major back surgery.
- Friends and family mourning the loss of Larry Butcher.
- Juanita Barlow, recovering from a procedure on a blood vessel.
- Phill, brother of Bob Ball, diagnosed with a rare form of leukemia and beginning many medical treatments.
- Juggling working from home, Zoom school, and family life.
- 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.
- 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 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



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.