

May 23, 2021
Pentecost
Confirmation Sunday
Virtual Worship

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

THOUGHT FOR PREPARATION

There is a deeper strata of truth than the accountant's truth.
There is such a thing as ecstatic truth.

Werner Herzog

PRELUDE

Nun bitten wir den heiligen Geist, BuxWV 208
Kevin Dzierzawski, organ

D. Buxtehude

CHIMES

INTROIT

Come Down, O Love Divine
Chancel Choir

Ralph Vaughan Williams

WELCOME AND CALL TO WORSHIP

Benny VanDerburgh

One: The Holy Spirit comes like rushing wind!

All: The Holy Spirit comes like tongues of flame!

One: The Holy Spirit brings visions and dreams!

All: The Holy Spirit is out of control! Amen.

HYMN

Immortal, Invisible God Only Wise

Led by Alex Hansen

1. Im - mor - tal, in - vis - i - ble, God on - ly wise,
2. Un - rest - ing, un - hast - ing, and si - lent as light,
3. Your life is life - giv - ing— to both great and small;
4. So per - fect your glo - ry, so bril - liant your light,

in light in - ac - ces - si - ble hid from our eyes,
not want - ing, not wast - ing, but rul - ing in might;
in all life you're liv - ing, the true life of all;
your an - gels a - dore you, all veil - ing their sight;

Most bless - ed, most glo - rious, the An - cient of Days,
Your jus - tice like moun - tains high soar - ing a - bove,
We blos - som and flour - ish as leaves and as flowers,
All praise we now ren - der as your an - gels do:

al - might - y, vic - to - rious, your great name we praise.
your clouds which are foun - tains of good - ness and love.
then with - er and per - ish— but naught dims your powers.
in awe at the splen - dor of light hid - ing you.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND ASSURANCE

Sarah Garcia

**Oh God, your Spirit comes
like a rush of violent wind,
strong enough to toss
our furniture around.**

**We nail ourselves
to the floor.**

**Oh Christ, your Spirit comes
raving like tongues on fire;
hot enough to burn
rational religion down.**

**We smother the flames
with a written prayer.**

**Oh Holy Spirit, you are wild.
We want to tame you.
We insist on control,
even of wild you.**

**Have mercy on us.
Amen.**

SCRIPTURE

Cindy Ball

Acts 2:1-21

When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. And suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability.

Now there were devout Jews from every nation under heaven living in Jerusalem. And at this sound the crowd gathered and was bewildered, because each one heard them speaking in the native language of each. Amazed and astonished, they asked, "Are not all these who are speaking Galileans? And how is it that we hear,

each of us, in our own native language? Parthians, Medes, Elamites, and residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya belonging to Cyrene, and visitors from Rome, both Jews and proselytes, Cretans and Arabs—in our own languages we hear them speaking about God’s deeds of power.” All were amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, “What does this mean?” But others sneered and said, “They are filled with new wine.”

But Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed them, “Men of Judea and all who live in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and listen to what I say. Indeed, these are not drunk, as you suppose, for it is only nine o’clock in the morning. No, this is what was spoken through the prophet Joel:

‘In the last days it will be, God declares,
that I will pour out my Spirit upon all flesh,
and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy,
and your young men shall see visions,
and your old men shall dream dreams.
Even upon my slaves, both men and women,
in those days I will pour out my Spirit;
and they shall prophesy.
Then everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.’”

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 "A Creature Who Belongs" Matt Fitzgerald

MEDITATION *Plaines Pastorale*
Kris Hansen, trumpet

OFFERING INVITATION Sarah Garcia

OFFERTORY *The Heavens Are Telling* Franz Joseph Haydn
from The Creation
Nancy Pifer, Nathan Streeter, and Lee Lichamer, soloists
Chancel Choir

Recitative: The space immense of the azure sky
In numerous host of radiant orbs adorns;
And the sons of God announced the fourth day,
Proclaiming thus his power

Chorus: The heavens are telling the glory of God
The wonder of his work displays the firmament.

Trio: Today that is coming speaks it the day,
The night that is gone to following night.

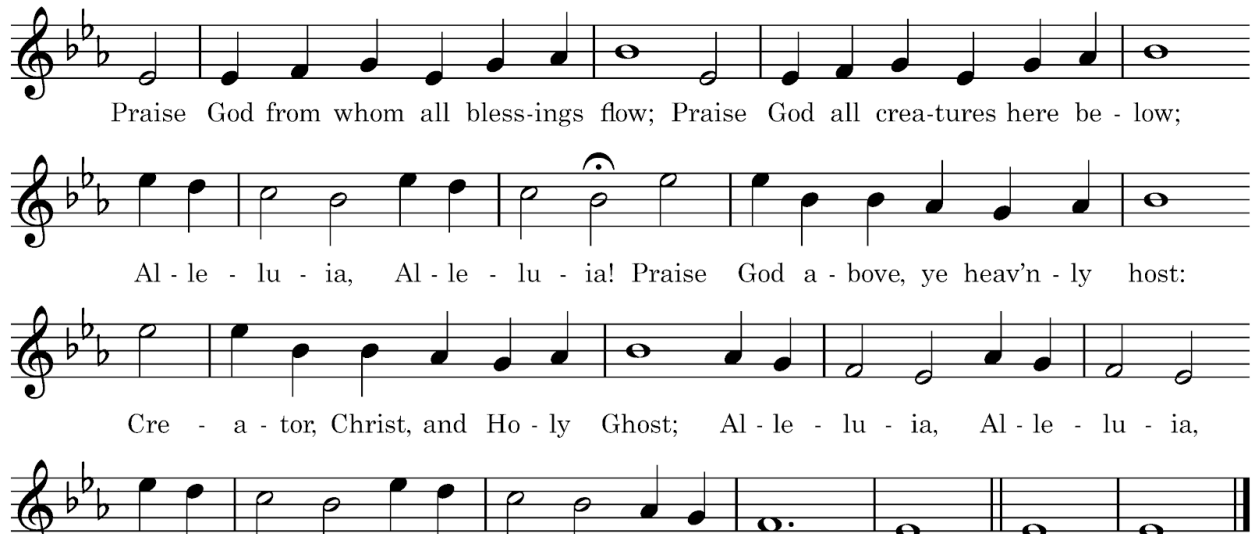
Chorus: The heavens....

Trio: In all the lands resounds the word
Never unperceived, ever understood.

Chorus: The heavens...

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

FESTIVAL DOXOLOGY



The musical notation for the Festival Doxology is written on four staves in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The melody is simple and hymn-like, with lyrics written below each staff. The first staff begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). The lyrics are: "Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise God all creatures here be - low;". The second staff continues with: "Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia! Praise God a - bove, ye heav'n - ly host:". The third staff continues with: "Cre - a - tor, Christ, and Ho - ly Ghost; Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia,". The fourth staff concludes with: "Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia! A - men." The notation includes various note values (quarter, eighth, and half notes) and rests, with a final double bar line at the end of the fourth staff.

Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise God all creatures 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.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Jeff Carlson

THE LORD'S PRAYER

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.
Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread,
and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever.
Amen.**

HYMN

What a Covenant
Led by Meg Tazelaar

1. What a cov - e - nant, what a joy di - vine, lean - ing
2. Oh, how sweet to walk in this pil - grim way, lean - ing
3. What have I to dread, what have I to fear, lean - ing

on the ev - er - last - ing arms. What a bless - ed - ness,
on the ev - er - last - ing arms. Oh, how bright the path
on the ev - er - last - ing arms? I have bless - ed peace

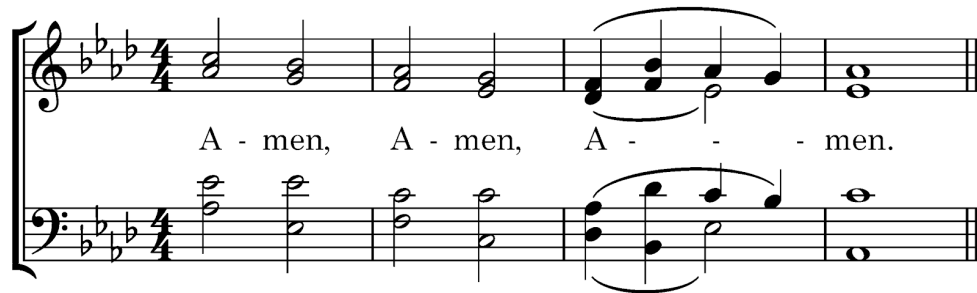
what a peace is mine, lean - ing on the ev - er - last - ing arms.
grows from day to day, lean - ing on the ev - er - last - ing arms.
with my Sav - ior near, lean - ing on the ev - er - last - ing arms.

Lean - ing, lean - ing, safe and se - cure from all a - larms;

lean - ing, lean - ing, lean - ing on the ev - er - last - ing arms.

BENEDICTION

BENEDICTION RESPONSE



POSTLUDE

Symphony No. 1 in D, Op. 14—Finale
Kevin Dzierzawski, organ

Louis Vierne

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

BEING CONFIRMED AT 11:30 A.M. TODAY

Ethan Ashley-Ferguson

Meghan Canfield

Hannah Fitzgerald

Vivian Hein

Devlin Jozwiak

Jack Kahan

Kaitlyn Mcvey

Zoe Lawrence

Nolan Tavas

Nick Walvoord

Henry Weil

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 23 Julia Walker
- May 25 Carlos Cata, Karen Rieck, Becca Fayhee
- May 26 Karen Brach, Mary Kay Campbell, Ryan Gillmore
- May 27 Libby Braband, Norman Beck, Graham Roark
- May 28 Christine Terborg, Kim Beck, Nancy Curotto, Tyler Holland,
Alayna McMillen
- May 29 Jennifer Byrne, Larry Kearns, Alexandra Beck

ANNOUNCEMENTS

REOPENING UPDATE

The Church Council has approved a plan to reopen our building for weekday use. This means that most church ministries and committees can meet in the building. So can our partners, including 12-step meetings, Lighthouse UCC, and others. Here is even better news: On Sunday, June 13, we will return to in-person worship on Sunday mornings at 10 a.m. Current city guidelines permit us to gather in a group that comprises 25% of our sanctuary's capacity. This means we can welcome between 200 and 215 people to worship on a Sunday morning. In the meantime, we will continue to meet in groups of 50 or fewer on Sunday afternoons at 4 p.m. Register here! spucc.churchcenter.com/registrations/events/category/34510 Please know that we will continue to offer virtual worship before and after June 13. Streamed services are here to stay.

CREATION CORNER

Saint Pauls "Green Team - Caring for Creation" needs and wants the help of every member of the congregation. There are so many ways to offer your support:

- Pray
- Read your emails/bulletins and initiate appropriate action
- Eagerly and actively support changes made at church as ways to care for God's creation
- Make these same changes at home and work if possible
- Involve all members of your family
- Please share additional ideas you may have and help you would like to give by contacting St. Pauls.

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>

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

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 us for our last meeting – Focus on Commitment, pp. 141-206 – in the 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. For additional information and to register, contact Cindy Ball, cindyinn11@gmail.com.

MAY 31 - PARKING LOT PICNIC- 5 p.m., Church Parking Lot

Pack your own picnic and join hosts Rick Peterson and Jen Luerksen for a St. Pauls Social socially distanced picnic in the church parking lot, for adults of all ages. We'll have spaces marked out for up to 30 picnickers to keep us separated. You will need to bring your own chairs. All participants are expected to wear a mask unless seated. Please RSVP in advance at the link below so we can respect social distancing: <https://spucc.churchcenter.com/registrations/events/864813>

JUNE 6 - PLAYFUL PRAISE - 5 p.m., Courtyard

In-person kid-centered worship! If it rains, we will be in the gym. We will have live music, a craft, and interactive storytelling. Masks, social distancing and registration required: <https://spucc.churchcenter.com/registrations/events/864915>

JUNE 14 - BOOK DISCUSSION: *THE ONCE AND FUTURE KING* - 7 p.m. Zoom

The Long, Classic Novels Reading Group invites you to read and discuss this book by T.H. White. Ursula LeGuin writes, "A fierce and damaged man, T. H. White wrote about fierce and damaged people—and children, and animals—with a brilliant, painful innocence that has no equal in literature. He is so good at hurt and shame—how did he also manage to be so funny? I have laughed at his great Arthurian novel and cried over it and loved it all my life." RSVP: Jeff Carlson, jcarlson@spucc.org for Zoom link.

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!

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT PROGRAM (CEP)

We are seeking **CEP Laundry volunteers on Saturday mornings**. 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 CEPsupper@gmail.com. If you are not interested in in-person activities, we continue to have opportunities to drop off meals for LPCS.

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.

MEALS FOR LPCS - Lincoln Park Community Services is a St. Pauls founded organization that provides comprehensive social services to our neighbors experiencing homelessness. LPCS is looking for volunteers to provide meals during this time. 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.

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 (bkaiser2213@gmail.com).

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 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.

- Ivy Sanz's mother, Grace, for a quick recovery from her hospitalization with pneumonia.
- Tom Henry and family at the death of Colleen Henry's 100-year-old mother, Mary Payne.
- Diane Massie's niece, hospitalized with COVID pneumonia.
- Friends of the Ashley family who are in times of crisis - Walt and Heidi, Sven and Bitten.
- Family and friends at the death of Ruth Cuzman.
- Pauline Taylor's son, Greg, being treated for cancer.
- 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*, bemmrigh@gmail.com
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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.