

August 21, 2022

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

Please silence cell phones.

Bibles for use during worship are available at each entrance to the Sanctuary. Assisted listening devices and Bluetooth hearing aid guides are in the Narthex.

THOUGHT FOR PREPARATION

If I could hold a fire against that latticework of shadows, standing close to flames without being singed then keep my head, then coolly draw some backbone from that dazzle.

Lisa Williams

PRELUDE Let the Church Say Amen Andrae Crouch
St. Arbucks

INTROIT Oh Happy Day Edwin Hawkins

The Sopranos from The Chancel Choir Kecia Waldschmidt, conductor

Oh happy day When Jesus washed He washed my sins away!

Oh happy day ...

Oh happy day
He taught me how to watch
And fight and pray
Yes, fight and pray.

And he'll rejoice
And He'll rejoicein' things we say
Oh happy day, ...

He washed my sins away
We'll live rejoicing
Ev'ry day, ev'ry day
Oh happy day, Oh happy day
When Jesus washed
Oh when he washed
He washed my sins away

CHIMES

WELCOME Matt Fitzgerald

* WELCOMING EACH OTHER

* CALL TO WORSHIP based on Isaiah 40:31

One: Those who wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength!

All: Lord, we wait, brave, but afraid.

One: Those who wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength!

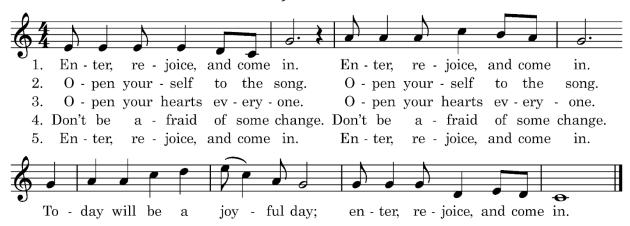
All: God gives power to the faint!

One: God gives strength to the powerless!

All: Lift us up! Amen.

* HYMN

Enter, Rejoice and Come In



PRAYER OF CONFESSION

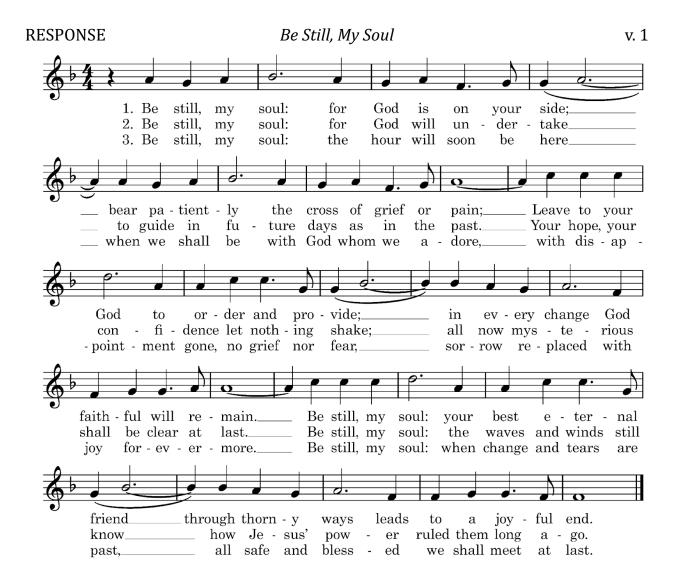
Jeff Carlson

Lord God,
there is tension in our minds
and destruction in our actions.
You can change us. You can save us.
So we give you our sin, regret and fear.
Take them away. Burn us clean.
Give us Jesus, your love and our savior;
a new hope for all people.
Amen.

^{*} Please stand if you are able to do so.

MOMENT OF SILENT PRAYER

WORDS OF ASSURANCE



SCRIPTURE Allen Heinemann

Hebrews 12:18-29

Unlike your ancestors, you didn't come to Mount Sinai to hear God speak. You have not come to something that can be touched, a blazing fire, and darkness, an ear splitting tempest and a soul-shaking message. They begged God to stop speaking. When they heard the words, "If even an animal touches the Mountain, it shall be stoned to death," they were afraid to move. Even Moses was terrified.

No, that's not *your* experience at all. You've come to Mount Zion, the city where the living God resides. The invisible Jerusalem is populated by throngs of festive angels and Christian citizens. It is the city where God is Judge, with judgments that make us just. You've come to Jesus, who presents us with a new covenant, a fresh charter from God. He is the Mediator of this covenant. The murder of Jesus, unlike Abel's—a homicide that cried out for vengeance—became a proclamation of grace.

So don't turn a deaf ear to these gracious words. If those who ignored earthly warnings didn't get away with it, what will happen to us if we reject the one who warns us from heaven? At that time his voice shook the earth to its foundations; this time—he's told us this quite plainly—he'll also rock the heavens: "One last shaking, from top to bottom, stem to stern." The phrase "one last shaking" means a removal of what is shaken - historical and religious junk - created things - so that only the unshakable essentials, what cannot be shaken, remains.

We are receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken! Do you see how thankful we must be? Not only thankful, but brimming with awe, deeply reverent. For God is not an indifferent bystander. He is active, cleaning and torching all that needs to burn. Indeed our God is a consuming fire.

* 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

"Murderous Grace"

Matt Fitzgerald



OFFERTORY

Hail Holy Queen/I Will Follow Him
The Sopranos from The Chancel Choir
Kecia Waldschmidt, Conductor

Traditional J.W Stole & Del Roma arr. by Marc Shaiman

Hail Holy Queen enthroned above
Oh Maria
Hail mother of mercy and of love
Oh Maria
Triumph all ye cherubim
Sing with us ye seraphim
Heaven and earth resound the hymn
Salve, salve, Regina

Hail holy queen enthroned above ...

Our life, our sweetness here below
Oh Maria
Our hope in sorrow and in woe
Oh Maria
Triumph all ye cherubim ...
Alleluia

Mater amater intermerata
Sanctus, sanctus, Dominus
Virgo respice mater ad spice
Sanctus, sanctus, Dominus
Alleluia

Our hope in sorrow and in woe
Oh Maria
Triumph all ye cherubim ...

I Will Follow Him
Follow him wherever he may go
And near him I always will be

For nothing can keep me away
He is my destiny

I will follow him
Ever since he touched my heart I knew
There isn't an ocean too deep
A mountain so high it can keep
Keep me away
Away from his love

I love him, ...
And where he goes I'll follow, ...
I will follow him
Follow him wherever he may go
There isn't an ocean too deep
A mountain so high it can keep
Keep me away

We will follow him
Follow him wherever he may go
There isn't an ocean too deep
A mountain so high it can keep
Keep us away
Away from his love

Oh yes I love him
I'm gonna follow
True love, he'll always be my true love
From now until forever
I love him, ...

You can give to St. Pauls electronically by:

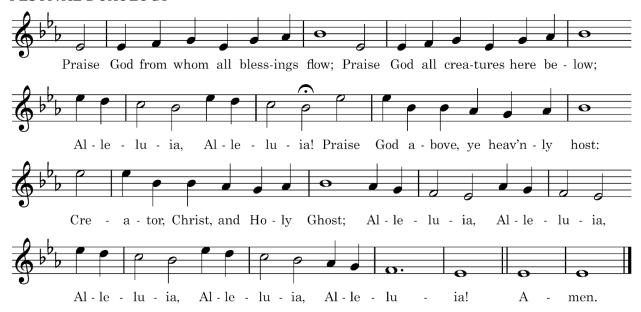
Scanning this code with your cell phone camera,

At spucc.churchcenter.com/giving,

Or through Zelle to giving@spucc.org.



* FESTIVAL DOXOLOGY



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.

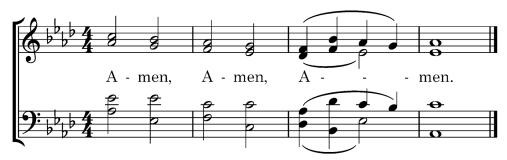
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever.

Amen.



* BENEDICTION

* BENEDICTION RESPONSE



POSTLUDE Fanfare Jacques-Nicolas Lemmens Kevin Dzierzawski, organ

If you would like someone to pray with you today, Stephen Ministers are present after the postlude at the right front of the Sanctuary.

Following Worship, all are invited for coffee and snacks in the Social Hall.

TODAY'S MUSIC

The Chancel Choir is on summer break and will return on September 11.

We welcome **The Sopranos** from our Chancel Choir to share their music with us. Their selections are from the movie *Sister Act* and are dedicated to the memory of their colleague and friend Sandra Benedict. Singing this morning are Katie Alrutz, Gay Kelly, Jen Kew, Karin Magnuson, Nancy Pifer, Ashley Saluga, Grace Stauskas, and their director is Kecia Waldschmidt.

Andraé Crouch (1942-2015) wrote both the text and tune for *Let the Church Say Amen* in 1971. Crouch is among the greatest gospel composers and performers. Both his mother and father were pastors. He first began playing service for his father's church at age 11. The song even became the title of a made-for-television movie in 2013.

Enter, Rejoice, and Come In was composed in the 1970s by Louise Ruspini (1900-2000) who also provided the text which is based on Psalm 100. The tune borrows from the first line of the refrain: ENTER, REJOICE.

Be Still, My Soul uses a tune called FINLANDIA, because the melody was composed by Jean Sibelius (1865-1957) as part of his famous tone poem of the same name that honored his homeland. The original German text is by Kathrina von Schlegel (1697–17??) and was translated into English by Scottish Jane Borthwick (1813–1897), who translated and composed many hymn texts.

To Everything a Season, tune SALLEY GARDENS, uses a text based on Ecclesiastes 3:1-8 and also the famous 1960s folk song *Turn, Turn*, *Turn* by Pete Seeger (1919-2014). SALLEY GARDENS is a well known anonymous English ballad that has been arranged for other hymns and also classical solo songs by such composers as Benjamin Britten (1913-1976).

O Happy Day was composed by Edwin Hawkins (1943-2018). He was an artist of wide ranging talents: gospel musician, singer, pianist, composer, arranger, and choir master. He was born in Oakland, CA, and was already playing keyboards at age 7 for his family's gospel group. *O Happy Day* is his most performed and remembered work.

Hail Holy Queen is the closing text of the rosary. It and the rest of the rosary prayer is directed to the Virgin Mary. The original prayer was composed in Latin by Hermannus Contractus (1013-1054). He was the son of a count and his last name was given to him because of his crippled condition. He also wrote a number of other famous hymns in Latin.

I Will Follow Him was composed by French composer, Franck Pourcel (1913-2000), and first made famous by Little Peggy March (Anne Marie Barravio [b. 1948]) in 1963 and recorded just shy of her 15th birthday. The song achieved renewed fame when it was covered in the soundtrack for the movie Sister Act (1992) starring Whoopi Goldberg. The "him" in the original song referred to a boyfriend and the "Him" in the Sister Act version refers to the nuns singing about Jesus.

I Sing the Mighty Power of God is a text by Issac Watts (1674-1848), the eminent English poet, who set the entire books of Psalms as poetry, which included Psalm 90, Our God Our Help in Ages Past. His poetry has inspired many composers. BETHLEHEM was composed by Joseph Barnaby (1838-1896). He was a renowned British choral director who introduced Bach's St. Matthew and St. John Passions in English to English audiences. He was knighted by Queen Victoria.

The composer of *Fanfare* (1862), Jacques-Nicolas Lemmens (1823-1881), was born in Belgium and trained to reinvigorate the Belgian organ tradition. He also studied the works of Bach in Germany. At only age 26, he was appointed the organ professor at the Royal Brussels Conservatoire. As a tribute to his influence and fame, a church music institute which he founded in Mechelen was named in his honor after his death.

TODAY'S WORSHIP LEADERS

Clergy: Matt Fitzgerald, Jeff Carlson Music Director: Kurt R. Hansen Organist: Kevin Dzierzawski

St. Arbucks Quartet: Brendan Henry, piano; Alex Austin, bass; Matt Plaskota,

drums; Kris Hansen, trumpet & vocals **Scripture Reader:** Allen Heinemann

Lay Liturgical Administrator: Kevin O'Brien

Head Ushers: Beatrice Jaji, Jen Luerssen

Ushers: David Baker, Mary Brown, Doug Clark, Fred Pearson

Head Greeter: Greg Mooney **Gatekeeper:** Dodd Brown

Camera Operators: Jim Alrutz, Marie Ankenman, Bob Ball, Jose Cruz, Brian Hafner

Custodian: Ramiro Gonzalez

BORN THIS WEEK IN AUGUST

We 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.

- Aug 21 Michael Van Zeyl, Ken Travers
- Aug 22 Anne Mathew, David Baukol, Karen Lyons, Maurice Wallace, Cece Chamberlain, David Poynton
- Aug 24 Cres Roewer, Christopher McGuire, Doug Heyboer, Paige Terborg
- Aug 25 Kurt Hansen, Maureen Reilly, Paul Berghoff, Ainslie Razeghi
- Aug 26 Landon Roark
- Aug 27 Lyndsay Palkon, Maureen Grunst, Todd Smith, Brooke Gentzen, Holden Lechtenberg, Matthew Razeghi

WELCOME, ASSOCIATE PASTOR LIZ NICKERSON

We are excited to announce that **Pastor Liz Nickerson** has been hired as St. Pauls next Associate Pastor! Liz has deep roots in Chicago and comes to St. Pauls from Southminster Presbyterian Church in Arlington Heights, where she served as the Associate Pastor for Family Ministry.

Liz is organized, creative, thoughtful, and full of enthusiasm for St. Pauls. She is a gifted preacher, who won the award for pulpit excellence upon graduating from McCormick Theological Seminary. She knows how to plan and follow through, skills built in her time and training as an architect. She is collegially minded, and eager to join our team. She and her husband are



raising their family in our neighborhood, and understand the challenge and promise of ministry in Lincoln Park. Her years of pastoral experience leave her with a thorough sense of what it takes to revitalize and lead our Sunday School.

Liz will join the St. Pauls staff full-time on October 1. Her collaborative leadership style will make her a wonderful addition to our staff. **On Sunday, September 11, Liz will join us for worship** as we kick off our Fall programming. Mark the date, and plan to meet your new pastor as we welcome her to St. Pauls together!

ABOUT THE PROCESS

Hiring decisions for Associate Pastors at St. Pauls are made by the Executive Committee of the Church Council and the Senior Pastor. This effort began in January with a job description written by the Youth and Children's Ministry Revitalization Task Force. This description and our Local Church Profile were posted on the UCC's national job board.

We received interest from more than twenty pastors. Applications were reviewed and applicants were screened in three phases by Pastor Matt and our Interview Team. The Interview Team members were Nancy Curotto, Sharon Collins, Ben Emmrich, Renae Bradshaw, Justin Hartanov, and Pastor Matt.

After receiving enthusiastic feedback about Pastor Liz following the first two steps in this process, the Interview Team viewed several of her sermons and met with Liz for group interviews. These concluded with the Team's unanimous agreement that she would be an excellent Associate Pastor for St. Pauls. The Executive Committee shared the Interview Team's excitement and agreed, unanimously, to extend a call, inviting Rev. Liz Nickerson to serve as an Associate Pastor as the third member of St. Pauls pastoral staff.

Pick up a hard copy of the full announcement and letter from Pastor Liz in the Narthex, or see it online here: <a href="mailto:m

ANNOUNCEMENTS

TODAY - CALLING BST ALUMS

We're getting together a chorus to sing *All Good Gifts* from *Godspell* at Sharon Phillips' memorial service on August 27. Rehearsal is today after worship, around 11:15 a.m. We'd love to have a good showing from folks young and old who have been in past Bible Story Theater productions as we celebrate Sharon's life.

JOIN THE MOVEMENT - provided by SPARC

How to Grow a Movement: Invest to End Racism – Join others from across the United Church of Christ on Sept. 15 at 6 p.m. CST as we kick off the historic Join the Movement Capital Campaign with co-chairs Otis Moss III, Naomi Washington-Leapheart, and Starsky Wilson sharing their visions of a church and a world moving toward fuller embodiments of racial justice. On the 59th anniversary of the16th Street Baptist Church bombing in Birmingham, Alabama, we come together to remember and discover how our sharing of resources can fuel and grow our racial justice work today and for generations to come. Register here, tinyurl.com/yc5r7cf4. Learn more here, tinyurl.com/873jtzry.

CREATION CORNER - provided by Green Team

REDUCE ELECTRICITY USAGE.

- Cook using the right-sized burner. Use your stove's small burners for small pots and larger burners for large pots.
- Use a toaster oven when heating small dishes. You will use less energy every time you cook.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

See our full event calendar online at <u>spucc.churchcenter.com/calendar</u> Evening meetings enter through the courtyard door

AUG 24 - WEDNESDAY BIBLE STUDY - 12 p.m., Zoom

Join our study of the Gospel of Luke. All are welcome! Get the Zoom link from Pastor Jeff at jcarlson@spucc.org.

AUG 27 - ST. PAULS SOCIAL: MOVIE IN THE PARK - 7:30 p.m., Oz Park Join St. Pauls Social and host Carrie Bruggers to watch *The Wizard of Oz* at Oz Park (2021 N. Burling St). What could be more perfect than this movie in its namesake Oz Park? Bring a blanket/chair to sit on and a snack and beverage to share. If you're driving, feel free to park in the St. Pauls lot on Kemper! Please RSVP here: spucc.churchcenter.com/registrations/events/1389350

SEPT 4 - MEMORIAL ORGAN RECITAL BY NATHAN LAUBE - 2 p.m., Sanctuary Nathan Laube, internationally renowned organist and longtime friend of St. Pauls, will present a free organ recital in memory of his friend, our beloved Larry Butcher. A free will offering will be received to benefit the Chapel Recital and Piano Maintenance Fund which was started by Larry. Please don't miss this opportunity to hear a great artist on our Phoenix organ. For more information contact Kurt R. Hansen at KurtSingsBach@gmail.com.

OPPORTUNITIES

ACTIVISM & ADVOCACY MINISTRY – Do you have a passion for reaching out to others? The St. Pauls Activism & Advocacy Ministry would love you to join us in keeping our church engaged in community outreach. For more information, contact Jennifer Kew, JenniferLKew@gmail.com, or Pastor Jeff, jearlson@spucc.org.

ALTAR FLOWERS – Providing flowers for the altar is an excellent way to celebrate a special event in your life: an anniversary, a birthday, a holiday, or just because you like flowers. There are still many dates available this year!

Sign up for 2022 dates at spucc.churchcenter.com/registrations/events/1078968.

THE BOOK NOOK – Find your next good read or drop off books to share on the north side of the Social Hal. Donations are welcome – just add them to the shelf for "New Arrivals" or leave them on the floor next to the bookcase. We appreciate all genres, including books for kids. Questions or comments, contact Linda Nitzsche at lindanitz@yahoo.com.

CHURCH CENTER – <u>spucc.churchcenter.com</u> is our portal for the Saint Pauls community. See our calendar, register for events, update your information, join 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.

EMERGENCY CONTACT FORM & CARDS – You may follow this link for additional information on this form developed by the Connectors: spucc.churchcenter.com/people/forms/178271.

GREEN TEAM – Help us as a congregation live out what we say in our Statement of Faith: "God calls us to care for creation." The Green Team welcomes your input, participation and ideas. Joe Womack and Jan Fraccaro are co-chairs. If interested or to offer suggestions, 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 the 2022/23 school year. Check out www.littlelightslp.org. If you would like to schedule a tour or have additional questions, contact Little Lights Director Erin Fitzgerald at littlelights@spucc.org.

PICKLEBALL

Have you tried the growing sport of Pickleball yet? It's like a small court version of tennis and is gaining in popularity all over the U.S. We're holding pick-up games in the St. Pauls gym every week. Sign up at the ChurchCenter link below and show up at one of the allotted times! We have spare paddles and balls. All skill levels are invited. If you have questions, call or text Steve Garrett at (312) 208-0636. Game Times: Tuesdays: 5:30-8:30 p.m; Fridays: 2-3 p.m. spucc.churchcenter.com/groups/saint-pauls-groups/pickleball

SAINT PAULS SOCIAL – Get better acquainted with other adults at St. Pauls. If you are interested in hosting, please contact Jen Luerssen at ienluerssen@yahoo.com. Subscribe to the distribution list at eepurl.com/gQ4Eg1, or look out for future events announced in the bulletin calendar.

SCRIPTURE READER VOLUNTEERS NEEDED – Volunteers are needed for the 10 a.m. in-person worship service each week to read the scripture passage of the day. Learn more and sign up here: spucc.churchcenter.com/registrations/events/1079008

SPARC (St. Pauls Anti-Racism Cluster) meets monthly to discern how we as a congregation can answer the call to live our faith in an age of injustice. We invite you to join us in identifying the educational opportunities, resources, and actions to take on our journey toward racial justice. To participate or share your ideas, contact Cindy Ball at cindyzinn11@gmail.com.

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).

SUMMER SUNDAY CHILDCARE – If you plan to have your 2-year-old and under child(ren) attend Summer Church Child Care from June to August 2022, please register at spucc.churchcenter.com/registrations/events/1306425. Email questions to Children's Program Coordinator Danielle Mayfield at danielle.mayfield@spucc.org.

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.

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 Wednesday.

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.

- A memorial service for Sharon Phillips will be held on August 27 at 2 p.m.
- Annie Johnson at the death of her mother Jean.
- Pat Ruch and Al Cernak as they navigate complicated medical care issues.
- Becky Blank, her husband, Hanns Kuttner, and their daughter Emily as Becky undergoes treatment for an aggressive form of cancer.
- Michael Toomin, as he recovers from a back injury and is undergoing physical therapy.
- Jan, friend of Gloria Joseph, suffering with pain and complications from a heart procedure.
- Sergio, grandson of Ivy Sanz, who doctors are concerned might have leukemia.
- Carole Crowley, recovering from a stroke.

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 people.

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 178 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.

Senior Pastor Matt Fitzgerald, <u>mfitzgerald@spucc.org</u> Associate Pastor Jeff Carlson, <u>icarlson@spucc.org</u> Pastor Emeritus Tom Henry, <u>emeritushenry@gmail.com</u>

For a complete list of St. Pauls Staff, Governance, and Lay Leadership Please visit www.spucc.org/contact

St. Pauls United Church of Christ 2335 N Orchard St. | Chicago, IL 60614 (773) 348-3829 <u>www.spucc.org</u>

Free Parking is available Sundays from 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. at Lincoln Common Parking Garage, 2300 block of North Lincoln Ave. Parking validation is available in the Narthex.



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.