

Third Sunday of Advent
Service of Readings and Carols
December 11, 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.

THOUGHT FOR PREPARATION

"Remembrance is sufficient of the beauty we have seen."

Caroline Sergeant

PRELUDE

O Little Town of Bethlehem
St. Arbucks Quartet

arr. Carl Strommen

CHIMES

CHORAL INTROIT

Break Forth, O Beauteous Heavenly Light
Chancel Choir

German Carol

LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLE - The Candle of Joy

Barb and Maegan Kaiser

WELCOME

Liz Nickerson

* WELCOMING EACH OTHER

* CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Rejoice!

**All: Behold, I bring you good news of great joy
which shall be for all people.**

One: Good will visit us! Day will dawn upon us!

All: A child shall be born unto us!

One: Christ the Lord, the light of the world!

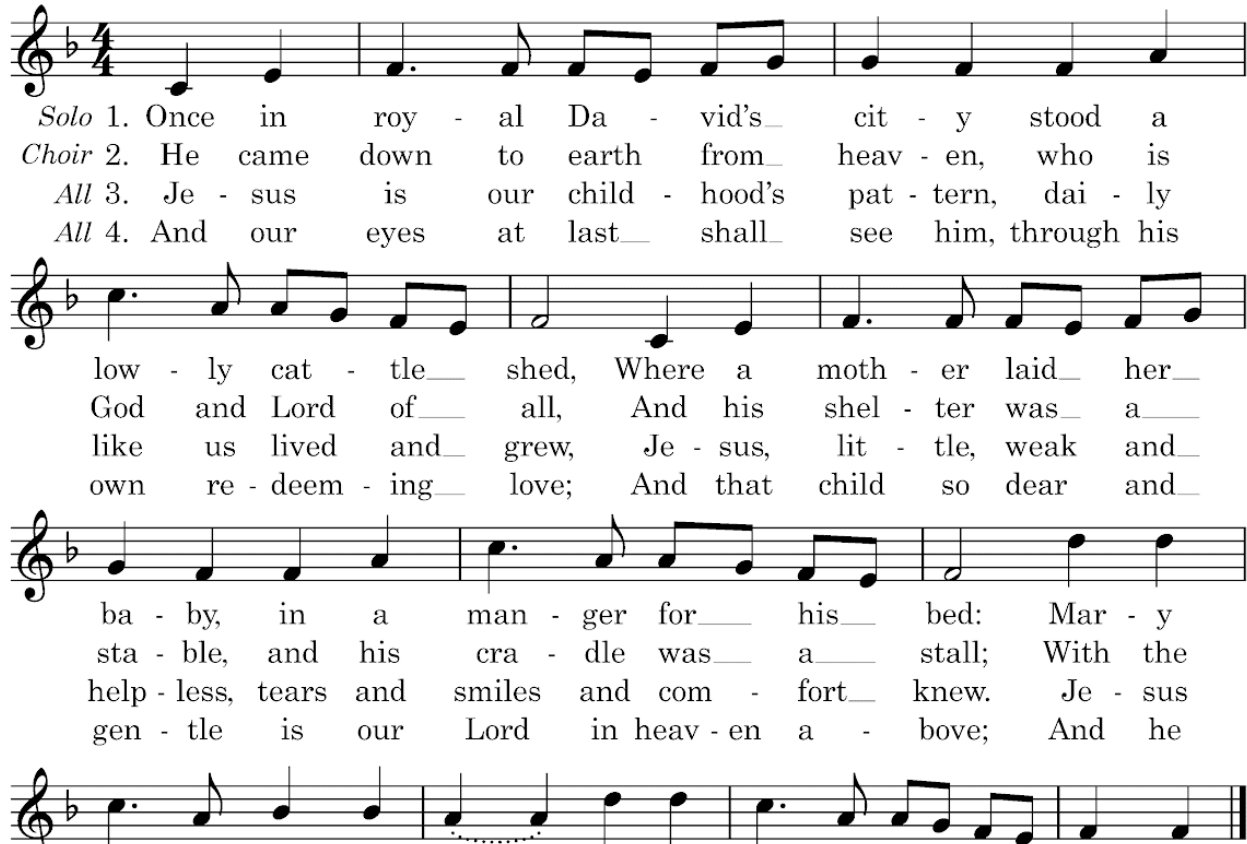
All: It is almost Christmas! The candle of joy has been lit!

** Please stand if you are able to do so.*

* HYMN

Once in Royal David's City

Solo: Lee Waldschmidt



The musical score is written on four staves in 4/4 time with a key signature of one flat (Bb). The first staff is for the Soloist, and the subsequent three staves are for the Choir in four parts (Soprano, Alto, Tenor, and Bass). The lyrics are written below the staves, with some words underlined to indicate phrasing. The piece concludes with a double bar line.

Solo 1. Once in roy - al Da - vid's cit - y stood a
Choir 2. He came down to earth from heav - en, who is
All 3. Je - sus is our child - hood's pat - tern, dai - ly
All 4. And our eyes at last shall see him, through his
low - ly cat - tle shed, Where a moth - er laid her
God and Lord of all, And his shel - ter was a
like us lived and grew, Je - sus, lit - tle, weak and
own re - deem - ing love; And that child so dear and
ba - by, in a man - ger for his bed: Mar - y
sta - ble, and his cra - dle was a stall; With the
help - less, tears and smiles and com - fort knew. Je - sus
gen - tle is our Lord in heav - en a - bove; And he
was that moth - er mild, Je - sus Christ her lit - tle child.
poor and mean and low - ly, lived on earth this Sav - ior low - ly.
feels our pain and sad - ness, and the joy - ous lift of glad - ness.
leads his chil - dren on to the place where he has gone.

ANTHEM

Away in a Manger

Traditional Carol

Kinderchapel Singers

Margot Frank, director

Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,
The little Lord Jesus lay down his sweet head.
The stars in the sky looked down where he lay,
The little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.

The cattle are lowing, the poor Baby wakes
But little Lord Jesus no crying He makes
I love Thee, Lord Jesus, look down from the sky
And stay by my side 'til morning is nigh.

SCRIPTURE

Hannah Fitzgerald

Luke 2:1-7

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

CAROL

O Little Town of Bethlehem



O lit - tle town of Beth - le - hem, How still we see thee lie!

A - bove thy deep and dream-less sleep the si - lent stars go by;

Yet in thy dark streets shin - eth The ev - er - last - ing Light;

The hopes and fears of all the years Are met in thee to - night.

ANTHEM

Go Tell It on the Mountain African American Spiritual

Children's Choir

arr. Masa Fukuda

Aniston Hartanov, Winnie Castle, and Cece Chamberlain; soloists

Breanna Coe, director; Karen Johnson, piano

Go, tell over the hills, Huh uh, Tell it on the mountain.

When I was a seeker, I sought both night and day.
I asked the Lord to help me, and he showed me the way,
And he told me to....

Go, tell it on the mountain, over the hills and ev'rywhere.

Go, tell it on the mountain, that Jesus Christ is born.

Go, tell over the hills, Huh uh, ...

Shepherds kept their watching o'er silent flock by night.
Behold throughout the heavens, there shone a holy light.

Go, tell it on the mountain, over the hills and ev'rywhere...

Down in a lowly manger, our humble Christ was born,
And God sent us salvation that blessed Christmas morn!

Go, tell it on the mountain, over the hills and ev'rywhere...

Go, tell over the hills, Huh uh, ...

STORY

"The Chubby Tree Chase"

Jeff Carlson

CAROL

O Christmas Tree



ANTHEM

Who Would Send a Baby?

Mary Kay Beall

Pauls People

Kecia Waldschmidt, director

Who would send a baby to heal a world in pain?

Who would send a baby, a tiny child?

When the world is crying for the promised one

Who would send his only son.

Who would send a baby to light a world with love?

Who would send a baby, a tiny child?

When the world is hoping for the promised one

Who would send his only son.

Who would choose a manger to cradle a King?

Who would send angels to sing?

Who would hang a star in the sky above

to shine on the gift of His infinite love?

Who would send a baby to bless a world with peace?

Who would send a baby, a tiny child?

When the world is yearning for the Promised One,

who would send a baby?

Who would send a baby?

Who would send His only begotten Son?

SCRIPTURE

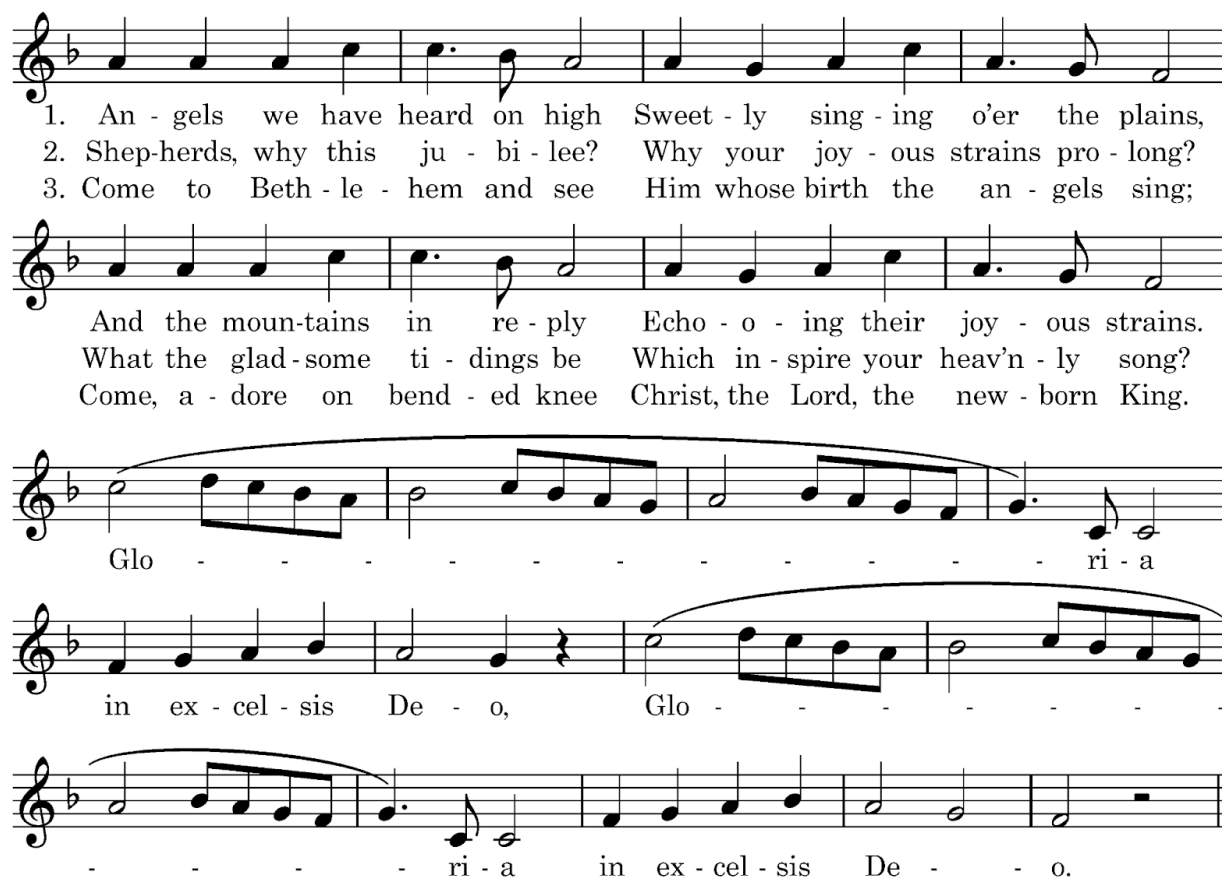
Jareth Renfrow

Luke 2:8-14

In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!"

* CAROL

Angels We Have Heard on High



1. An - gels we have heard on high Sweet - ly sing - ing o'er the plains,
 2. Shep-herds, why this ju - bi - lee? Why your joy - ous strains pro - long?
 3. Come to Beth - le - hem and see Him whose birth the an - gels sing;

And the moun-tains in re - ply Echo - o - ing their joy - ous strains.
 What the glad-some ti - dings be Which in - spire your heav'n - ly song?
 Come, a - dore on bend - ed knee Christ, the Lord, the new - born King.

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

STORY

"Christmas Gifts"

Matt Fitzgerald

CAROL

It Came Upon the Midnight Clear

1. It came up - on a mid - night clear, that glo - rious song of old,
 2. And you, be - neath life's crush - ing load, whose forms are bend - ing low,
 from an - gels bend - ing near the earth to touch their harps of gold;
 who toil a - long the climb - ing way, with pain - ful steps and slow,
 "Peace on the earth, good will to all, great news of joy we bring."
 Look now, for glad and gold - en hours come swift - ly on the wing;
 The world in sol - emn still - ness lay to hear the an - gels sing.
 O rest be - side the wea - ry road, and hear the an - gels sing!

SCRIPTURE

Hannah Fitzgerald

Luke 2:15-20

When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us." So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

CAROL

Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming

1. Lo, how a Rose e'er bloom - ing from ten - der stem has
2. I - sa - iah had fore - told it, the Rose I have in

sprung! Of Jes - se's lin - eage com - ing as saints of old have
mind, With Mar - y we be - hold it, the Vir - gin Moth - er

sung. It came a flower - et bright, a - mid the cold of
kind. To show God's love a - right she bore to us a

win - ter, when half spent was the night.
Sav - ior, when half spent was the night.

The musical score is written for two voices (Soprano and Bass) and piano accompaniment. It is in 3/2 time and B-flat major. The score consists of four systems of music. The first system contains the first two lines of the carol. The second system contains the next two lines. The third system contains the next two lines. The fourth system contains the final two lines. The piano accompaniment is written in the bass clef and provides a harmonic foundation for the vocal parts. The vocal parts are written in the soprano and bass clefs. The lyrics are written below the vocal staves.

SCRIPTURE

Jareth Renfrow

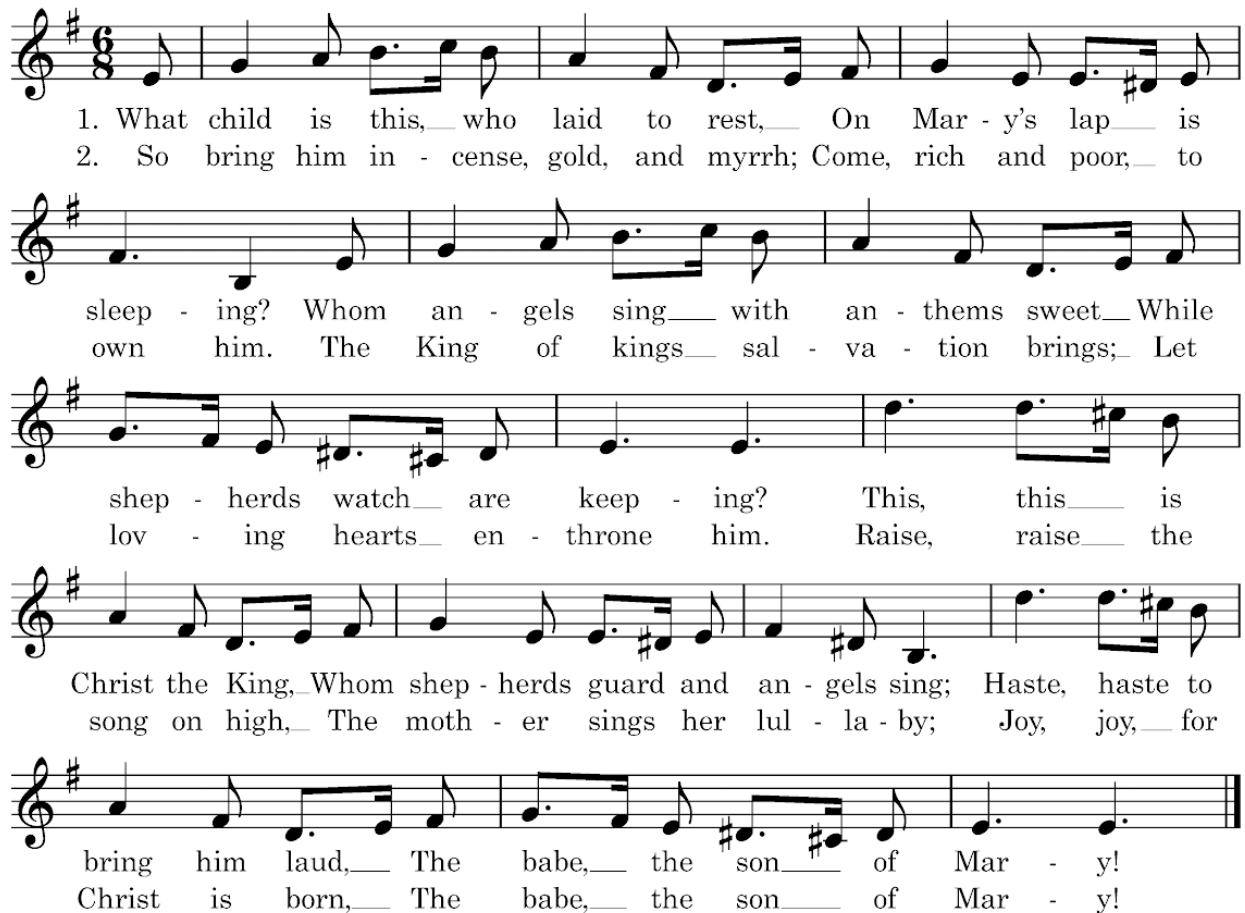
Matthew 2:1–12

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, asking, “Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage.” When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. They told him, “In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet: ‘And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who is to shepherd my people Israel.’” Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, “Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage.”

When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

CAROL

What Child Is This?



1. What child is this, who laid to rest, On Mar - y's lap is
2. So bring him in - cense, gold, and myrrh; Come, rich and poor, to
sleep - ing? Whom an - gels sing with an - thems sweet While
own him. The King of kings sal - va - tion brings; Let
shep - herds watch are keep - ing? This, this is
lov - ing hearts en - throne him. Raise, raise the
Christ the King, Whom shep - herds guard and an - gels sing; Haste, haste to
song on high, The moth - er sings her lul - la - by; Joy, joy, for
bring him laud, The babe, the son of Mar - y!
Christ is born, The babe, the son of Mar - y!

STORY

"Emmanuel: God With Us"

Liz Nickerson

* CAROL

O Little Town of Bethlehem

v.4

O ho - ly Child of Beth - le - hem! De - scend to us, we pray;

The first system of the musical score is in 4/4 time, key of B-flat major. The melody is written on a treble clef staff, and the accompaniment is on a bass clef staff. The lyrics are written below the melody.

Cast out our sin and en - ter in; Be born in us to - day.

The second system of the musical score continues the melody and accompaniment. The lyrics are written below the melody.

We hear the Christ - mas an - gels The great glad tid - ings tell;

The third system of the musical score continues the melody and accompaniment. The lyrics are written below the melody.

O come to us, a - bide with us, Our Lord Em - man - u - el!

The fourth system of the musical score concludes the piece with a double bar line. The lyrics are written below the melody.

OFFERTORY

Ave Maria

Franz Biebl

(Sung in Latin)

Chancel Choir and St. Pauls Brass

Todd Coe, Nathan Streeter, and Lee Lichamer; cantors

Chant: The Angel of the Lord announced to Mary

And she conceived by the Holy Spirit.

Choir: Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with thee, blessed art thou among women,
and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus.

Chant: Behold the handmaiden of the Lord

Do to me according to your word.

Choir: Hail Mary, full of grace....

Chant: And the Word was made flesh

And dwelt among us.

Choir: Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners,

Now and at the hour of our death. Amen.

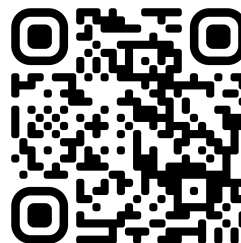
Text from Luke 1: 40 - 42 and Liber Usualis

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.



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

Good Christian Friends, Rejoice



1. Good Chris - tian friends, re - joice____ with heart and soul and voice;____
2. Good Chris - tian friends, re - joice____ with heart and soul and voice;____
3. Good Chris - tian friends, re - joice____ with heart and soul and voice;____



now give heed to what we say: Je - sus Christ is born to - day;
now you know of end - less bliss: Je - sus Christ was born for this!
now you need not fear the grave: Je - sus Christ was born to save!



Ox and ass be - fore him bow, a - sleep with - in the
God has o - pened heav - en's door, and you are blessed for -
Calls you one and calls you all to gain the ev - er -



man - ger now. Christ is born to - day,____ Christ is born to - day!
- ev - er - more. Christ was born for this,____ Christ was born for this!
- last - ing hall. Christ was born to save,____ Christ was born to save!

* BENEDICTION

* CHORAL BENEDICTION

Joy to the world! the Lord is come: Let earth re -

- ceive her king; Let ev - 'ry heart pre - pare him room, -

And heav'n and na - ture sing, And heav'n and na - ture

And heav'n and na - ture sing, And

sing, And heav'n and heav'n and na - ture sing.

heav'n and na - ture sing.

POSTLUDE

A Carol Fantasy
St. Pauls Brass

arr. John Iveson

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 Gym, and to shop our Advent Market.

ADVENT WREATH - Each week during Advent we light another candle in our Advent wreath to anticipate the coming of Christ, the light of the world. These candles symbolize the gifts of hope, love, joy and peace that Christ's coming brings. Today, we light the candle of Joy.

PINK CANDLE, WHY? - This is *Gaudete* (Rejoice) Sunday. Both Advent and Lent are considered penitential seasons, but the early church leaders decided that each of those seasons need an uplifting break. That is why on Gaudete Sunday, the third Sunday of Advent, the liturgical color changes from purple to pink or rose.

TODAY'S MUSIC

We are happy to welcome the **St. Pauls Brass** to worship: Kristofer Hansen, Jim Brandt, trumpets; Tom Clancy, Rick Peterson, French horns; Nancy Pifer, tenor horn; Lorne Frank, Mark Swanson; trombones; and Chris Bettler, tuba.

The original German text for ***Break Forth, O Beauteous Heavenly Light*** was written in 1641 by Johann von Rist (1607-1667) and translated in 1873 by John Troutbeck (1832-1899). Rist was the son of a pastor of a church near Hamburg. He also became a pastor. Troutbeck was a Chaplain to The Queen at Westminster Abbey and also compiled the *Westminster Abbey Hymnbook* in 1883. Johann Schop (1590-1667) composed ERMUNTRE DICH in about 1641, originally in a meter of 3, like a modern waltz time. Schop was a Lutheran composer and very accomplished violinist.

Once in Royal David's City became popular as the traditional opening carol of the *Festival of Lessons and Carols* broadcast each year from King's College Chapel at Cambridge in England. The text was composed in 1848, not long after the founding of our St. Pauls UCC, by Cecil Frances Alexander (1818-1895), the wife of the bishop of Ireland. She wrote many hymn texts specifically for children. The tune, IRBY, was composed in 1849 by Henry J. Gauntlett (1805-1876). Gauntlett became the organist at his father's church, and after beginning a career in law, he gave it up to become a full time church musician. He even held patents on organ mechanical parts.

The original text for ***Away in a Manger*** was written by Martin Luther (1483-1546) for his own children. The English text for the first stanza that is so familiar is unattributed. The tune, MUELLER, was composed by American James R. Murray (1841-1905). He was a friend of another great 19th century American hymnodist, William Bradbury. He also fought in the Civil War.

The poetry for ***O Little Town of Bethlehem*** has a wonderful story. Phillips Brooks (1835-1893), an American, took a trip to Israel in 1865 at the close of the Civil War. The Reverend Brooks spent Christmas in Bethlehem in 1866 and, as a result of that visit, this poem poured forth in 1868. ST. LOUIS, which is the tune most Americans know, was also composed in 1868 by Louis Redner (1831-1908), a Sunday School superintendent in Philadelphia. It was composed the night before it was sung at his church and it is the only one for which he is remembered.

Go Tell It on the Mountain is not attributed to any composer; however, John W. Work (1872-1925) “curated” this and many other Black American spirituals and folk songs. Work was a graduate of the Historically Black College, Fisk University in Nashville. He returned to his alma mater to direct the world famous Fisk Jubilee Singers. This arrangement was inspired and sung for many years by St. Pauls member and Chancel Choir alto section leader, Muzette Morgan.

The words for ***It Came Upon a Midnight Clear*** were written in 1849 by Edmund H. Sears (1810-1876). He was born in this country and moved to England in 1838. Ill health forced him to retire to a quiet life of literature. The well known music, CAROL, was composed in 1850 by Richard Storrs Willis (1819-1900). He was an American composer particularly drawn to creating hymn tunes.

Mary Kay Beall (b.1943) composed both the text and music for ***Who Would Send a Baby?*** It is by far her most popular anthem. She holds both a Bachelor of Music degree from Ohio Wesleyan University and a Master’s degree in Theological Studies from Ohio State University. She is an active composer and choral clinician.

Angels We Have Heard on High is originally an 18th century French Noël (carol) freely translated by James Chadwick (1813-1882), an Irish Catholic priest. GLORIA is from the text of the joyfully cascading Latin refrain, which we sing as a Benediction Response after Christmas and during Epiphany.

O Christmas Tree is also known by its original German title, *O Tannenbaum*. It was translated into English in 1926 by H. Breuckner (1866-1942). Breuckner was born in Iowa and died in rural Nebraska. He was a pastor and also on the faculty of Hebron College in Nebraska. The text models the evergreen pine to never fading faith. The tune, EVERGREEN, is a German folk song of unknown origin.

Theodore Baker (1851-1934) translated the original German into the English we love, ***Lo, How a Rose E’er Blooming***. He was born in New York City and immigrated to Germany, where he spent the rest of his life. He famously created Baker’s *Biographical Dictionary of Musicians* first published in 1900. ES IST EIN’ ROS was first published in 1599 in the Cöln Gesangbuch.

The poetry for ***What Child Is This?*** was written by W. Chatterton Dix (1837-1898). He composed many hymn texts, but unlike most hymnodists, Dix was a businessman, not clergy. GREENSLEEVES is an English ballad of unknown origin from the 16th century.

This setting of the ***Ave Maria***, composed in 1964, made Franz Biebl (1806-2001) almost a household name. Biebl was a German composer who was drafted into service in 1943. He was captured in 1944 and was interred in Battle Creek, Michigan until 1948. He returned to Germany and became a choral director in Fürstenburgfeld. This setting was introduced to American audiences by the Cornell University Glee Club. Jim Brandt is a proud alumnus of Cornell.

Good Christian Friends, Rejoice is a translation of the original Latin by John Mason Neale (1818-1886). He was born into an evangelical home, became an Anglican clergy, but had real sympathies for Catholicism. IN DULCI JUBILO, which means “in sweet rejoicing,” is an early undated folk dance.

The text for ***Joy to the World*** was composed in 1719 by the famous British poet and theologian, Isaac Watts (1674-1748). Watts’ great contribution was setting the entire Book of Psalms poetically. This is a paraphrase of both Psalms 98 & 96. One of his most beloved texts is *Our God, Our Help in Ages Past*. ANTIOCH was composed by George Friderick Handel (1685-1759), who also composed *Messiah*, and was adapted as a hymn by Lowell Mason (1792-1872). Mason is often referred to as the father of American church music for his contributions.

John Iveson (b. 1941), the arranger of ***A Carol Fantasy***, began his career as co-principal trombone of the BBC Symphony Orchestra in 1965. He has held principal positions in major British orchestras and the Royal Opera House. He is also the principal trombonist with the renowned Philip Jones Brass Ensemble. He was also on the faculty of the Royal College of Music for more than 25 years.

Children’s Choir

Breanna Coe, director; and Karen Johnson, piano

Sean Banjavcic

Holland Emmrich

Nora Penniman

Warren Bettler

Aniston Hartanov

Kai Renfrow

Winnie Castle

Grady Hartanov

Abby Simonton

Cece Chamberlain

Sullivan McGrath

Tobias Smedley

Charlie Coe

James Mix

Myers Emmrich

Grant Mutch

Pauls People

Kecia Waldschmidt, director

Alayna Mack
Eva Mack
Thea Mack
Brooke McGuire
Deirdre McGrath

Thomas Mix
Hannah Mutch
Sylvia Pine
Maira Simonton
Lee Waldschmidt

Aniston Hartanov
Grady Hartanov
Myers Emmrich
Holland Emmrich
Sullivan McGrath

TODAY'S WORSHIP LEADERS

Clergy: Liz Nickerson, Jeff Carlson, Matt Fitzgerald

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 Readers: Hannah Fitzgerald, Jareth Renfrow

Lay Liturgical Administrator: Kevin O'Brien

Head Usher: Beatrice Jaji

Ushers: David Baker, Fred Pearson

Gatekeeper: Dodd Brown

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

Custodian: Ramiro Gonzalez

BORN THIS WEEK IN DECEMBER

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.

Dec 11 Cindy Ball, Hugo Osorio, John Gallemore, Ed Hohlbein

Dec 12 John Crouch, Jake Gentzen

Dec 13 Julia Mercer, Tom Palkon, Holland Emmrich

Dec 14 Candy Lohnes, David Baker

Dec 16 Carrie Bruggers, Tyler Raiman

Dec 17 David Mussatt, Tiscia Eicher

ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS AT ST. PAULS

- TODAY THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT, *LIGHTING THE CANDLE OF JOY*
10 a.m. - Worship, Readings & Carols
11:30 a.m. - Advent Market, Gym
- WEDS, DEC 14 ADVENT TAIZÉ SERVICE
6 p.m. - Service of sung prayer and meditation, Chapel
- FRI, DEC 16 ST. PAULS AND LIGHTHOUSE CHRISTMAS PARTY
6 p.m. - Party with the two best churches in Chicago!
Childcare will be provided.
Please RSVP: spucc.churchcenter.com/registrations/events/1547248
- SUN, DEC 18 FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT, *LIGHTING THE CANDLE OF PEACE*
10 a.m. - Worship
- WEDS, DEC 21 WINTER SOLSTICE SERVICE
7 p.m. - Service, Labyrinth walk, Gym
- SAT, DEC 24 CHRISTMAS EVE
5 p.m. - Family Service, Sanctuary
9 p.m. - Candlelight Service, Sanctuary
Christmas story, carols, candles, and choir
- SUN, DEC 25 CHRISTMAS DAY WORSHIP
10 a.m. - Worship
The Barton family will play an Italian Christmas Concerto, brass will play with Nancy Pifer, and the congregation will have a key role musically too.

*Scan here for more
information about
Advent events*



MARK YOUR CALENDAR

See our full event calendar online at spucc.churchcenter.com/calendar.

TODAY - ADVENT MARKET - 11:30 a.m. - 1 p.m., Gym

Come shop our treasure trove of new and gently used regifiable items such as jewelry, candles, frames, handmade items, Christmas decorations, toys, and much more! Proceeds from the Advent Market will help fund our outreach and benevolence for UCAN.

DEC 21 - ADVENT WEDNESDAY BIBLE STUDY - JOHN 1- 12 p.m., Zoom

(No Bible Study on December 14)

"The light shines in the darkness and the darkness has not overcome it." We'll hear these words from John 1 before the candles are lit on Christmas Eve. Join us for a closer look at the first chapter of the Gospel of John. RSVP to Pastor Jeff: jcarlson@spucc.org.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BIBLE OFF BROADWAY IS BACK IN 2023!

Rehearsals begin on January 8 for next year's production of *Noah and the Ark*, and we need to fill the ark! We're hoping for all of our children and youth to participate and there is something for every interest - singing, dancing, acting, as well as behind the scenes. If you're a parent, please fill out the survey so we can plan for a full cast and a joyful return of B.O.B. in 2023. The production will be in worship on February 5. Please fill out the survey here before Christmas: <https://tinyurl.com/bdfmz3jt>
Questions? Contact Pastor Jeff at jcarlson@spucc.org.

2023 YOUTH MISSION TRIP - BE THE NEIGHBOR IN TUCSON!

Youth who this year are in 8-12 grades are invited to a Tucson Immigration and Welcome Week, June 10-17. We'll spend the week in education, collaboration, cultural exchange, and hands-on service. We'll learn from immigrants, asylum-seekers, faith leaders, and activists about immigration in our borderlands. We'll learn to put our faith into service through desert walks, humanitarian aid, preparing and serving meals, building projects, learning about the immigration process, activism and advocacy. Our hope is that this trip will help us apply what we learn in new ways with immigrants when we return home. Cost is \$500, plus we'll do fundraising for the extra expenses and airfare. You can find out more about the trip and sign up here: spucc.churchcenter.com/registrations/events/1508128

2023 ALTAR FLOWER & SCRIPTURE READER SIGN-UPS

Sign-ups for next year's altar flowers and scripture readers are now available!

Sign up for flowers here: spucc.churchcenter.com/registrations/events/1517246

Sign up for reading here: spucc.churchcenter.com/registrations/events/1508612

A MUSICAL GIFT FOR YOU!

Our own St. Arbucks Quartet recorded an album this past February, *Mid-Winter Gifts*, featuring music they have played during our worship services. It is available FREE to you and everyone online. Here is a link to the album on Spotify:

open.spotify.com/album/5FEG6gRZPMTNBvaBJNborm.

And here is a link to the same album on Apple Music:

music.apple.com/us/album/mid-winter-gifts-ep/1611741689.

It is exactly the same music on both sites, simply choose your preferred platform.

Please feel free to share these links with your friends. You do not need a Spotify or Apple Music account to listen.

JOIN THE MOVEMENT - provided by SPARC

Advocate Aurora Health and Nehemiah Trinity Rising invite you to learn how to navigate difficult discussions in a respectful and restorative manner.

Families, congregations, and organizations are increasingly experiencing the effects of polarizing issues in religion, politics and other matters affecting us all. As people gather for the holidays, navigating difficult discussions in a respectful and restorative manner is crucial. Our workshop provides faith-based skills, such as storytelling, elevation, and restorative questions for having such difficult conversations and fostering reconciliation where polarization has occurred. Multiple offerings. Sign up here: tinyurl.com/3zpztnc7

December 12, 6-7:30 p.m.; December 13, 10-11:30 a.m.

CREATION CORNER - provided by Green Team

REDUCE HOLIDAY WASTE

Buy children's gifts with sustainability in mind. Is it made of sustainable materials? Will it be something that can eventually be passed along to another child? Browse "sustainable toys." Consider giving children in your life one of God's creations to love. Visit the World Wildlife Fund gift center. WWF offers adoption options for more than 100 amazing creatures. Talk with your young person about your choice of gifts and loving all of God's creatures.

2023 PLEDGE & GIVING INFORMATION

Thank you to everyone who has made a pledge for 2023! Your generous support of St. Pauls is greatly needed and much appreciated. If you have yet to pledge your time, talents or treasures for 2023, you can fill out a paper pledge form and put it in the offering tray or return it to the office. You can also pledge online at spucc.org/pledge or by scanning this QR code.



Making a pledge shares with us your intention to donate your time, talents and financial support. This information helps us plan and budget for the upcoming year.

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, jcarlson@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 2023 dates at spucc.churchcenter.com/registrations/events/1517246.

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 – spucc.churchcenter.com 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 – As people of faith, members of St. Pauls are called to “Care for Creation.” To that end, the Green Team is seeking new members, particularly young adults and youth, as we become a Creation Justice church, recognized by the UCC. We would love to have you! If you are interested, please contact either of the new interim Green Team co-chairs, Ninon Freeman at nlanda05@yahoo.com or Rick Peterson at rnpeterson2017@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? We hold 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

POLO STAY & PLAY – This is a friendly group for parents and caregivers with babies and small children (ages 0-4) and expectant parents, to meet together and enjoy playtime with your children. Our group will meet in the nursery downstairs by the Social Hall on Fridays from 10-11:30 a.m. *Please note, this is not a drop-off event.* Adult supervision is required.

ST. PAULS SOCIAL – Get better acquainted with other adults at St. Pauls. If you are interested in hosting, please contact Jen Luerssen at stpaulssocial@spucc.org. Subscribe to the distribution list below, or look out for future events in the bulletin calendar: spucc.churchcenter.com/groups/saint-pauls-groups/st-pauls-social

SCRIPTURE READER VOLUNTEERS – 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/1508612

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 cindyball11@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).

SUNDAY SCHOOL REGISTRATION – Please register your kids for the 2022-23 Sunday School year at the link below. Sunday School is open to children 2-years-old to high school. Our Nursery is open for children under age 2. Email questions to Children's Program Coordinator Danielle Mayfield at danielle.mayfield@spucc.org. Register here: spucc.churchcenter.com/registrations/events/1306755

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.

YOUTH CHOIRS – If your child has any interest in music, please join us! Kecia Waldschmidt is leading Paul's People for 4th-8th graders. Breanna Coe and Karen Johnson are leading the Children's Choir for kids K-3rd grade. Rehearsals are at 9:30 on Sunday mornings. We can't wait to hear our youth choirs singing again!

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.

- Justin Hartanov and family at the death of his mother, Betsy.
- Benji Weizman, student of Kurt Hansen, at the death of his father, Gabriel.
- For the safety of Steve Schwartzberg's friend, Anthony.
- David, a 28-year-old recovering from an emergency operation.
- Gary Ashley, for improved strength.
- Susie Rodriguez at the death of her mother, Ruth.
- Family and friends of Larry Simpson's sister-in-law, Esther Simpson, at her death.
- Annie, Jeff, and Charlie Johnson after the death of Annie's father.
- Doug Coe, recovering from an illness.
- Three Angels Haiti – for the children, staff, community and all of Haiti, for big changes in the Haitian government, for the gangs to be overcome, and for the Haitian people to look to God daily.
- Al Cerkon on his continuing health journey.
- Kompare family, displaced from their home after a fire in their building.
- Michael Toomin, as he recovers from a back injury and is undergoing physical therapy.
- Carole Crowley, recovering from a stroke.

Prayer, Support, Mental Health Resources

Even when you walk through the valley of shadows, God is with you. 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 179 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, mfitzgerald@spucc.org
Associate Pastor Jeff Carlson, jcarlson@spucc.org
Associate Pastor Liz Nickerson, lnickerson@spucc.org

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 www.spucc.org

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.