

Fourth Sunday of Advent  
December 18, 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

"Easy utterance travesties the majesty of God's revelation."

Avivah Zornberg

PRELUDE	<i>Of the Father's Love Begotten</i>	Wilbur Held
	Kevin Dzierzawski, organ	

CHIMES

INTROIT	<i>Comfort, Comfort O My People</i>
	Chancel Choir

LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLE - The Candle of Peace	Jack Crater
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WELCOME	Jeff Carlson
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\* WELCOMING EACH OTHER

\* CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Day will dawn upon us!

**All: A child shall be born unto us!**

One: The Son of God, full of truth and light.

**All: His name shall be Wonderful, Counselor,  
Mighty God, Prince of Peace!**

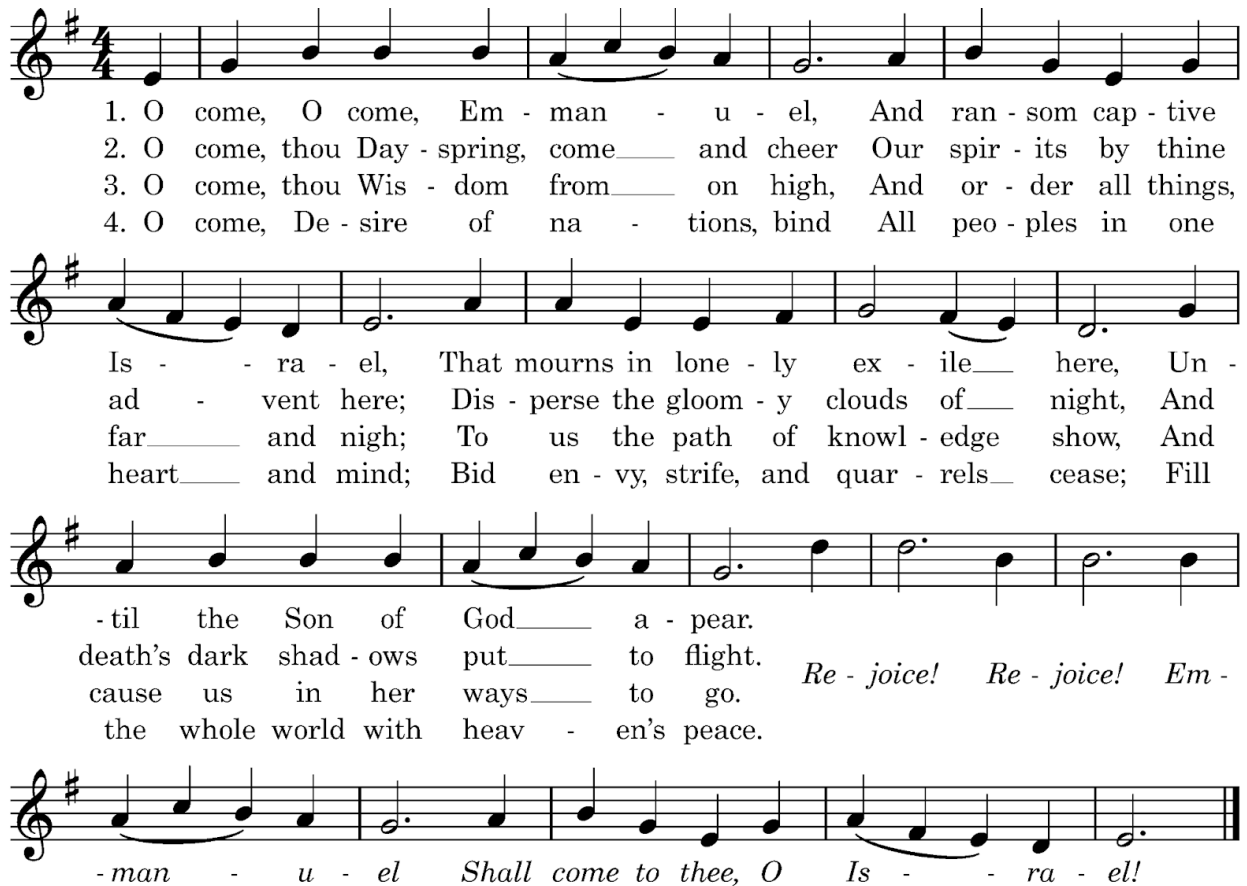
One: Prepare the way of the Lord in the wilderness!

**All: Come quickly, Emmanuel!**

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

\* HYMN

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel



1. O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, And ran - som cap - tive  
2. O come, thou Day - spring, come and cheer Our spir - its by thine  
3. O come, thou Wis - dom from on high, And or - der all things,  
4. O come, De - sire of na - tions, bind All peo - ples in one

Is - - ra - el, That mourns in lone - ly ex - ile here, Un -  
ad - vent here; Dis - perse the gloom - y clouds of night, And  
far and nigh; To us the path of knowl - edge show, And  
heart and mind; Bid en - vy, strife, and quar - rels cease; Fill  
- til the Son of God a - pear.  
death's dark shad - ows put to flight.  
cause us in her ways to go. *Re - joice! Re - joice! Em -*  
the whole world with heav - en's peace.

- man - u - el Shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el!

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**It was cold.**

**Mary and Joseph were afraid,  
poor, and uncertain.**

***None of this stopped the birth.***

**Oh God, we confess that  
we are still cold and still afraid,  
poor in many ways  
and often uncertain.**

**Give us faith to believe that  
*none of this will stop Christ's birth.***

**It is not up to us!**

**For you do not stand still  
when we come to a standstill.**

**Thank God! Amen!**

MOMENT OF SILENT PRAYER

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

ANTHEM

*In the First Light*

Bob Kauflin

Chloe Combs and Claire Nitzsche, soloists

Kecia Waldschmidt, piano

In the first light of a new day  
No one knew He had arrived  
Things continued as they had been  
While a newborn softly cried.  
But the heavens wrapped in wonder  
Knew the meaning of His birth  
In the weakness of a baby  
They knew God had come to earth.

As His mother held him closely,  
It was hard to understand  
That this baby not yet speaking  
Was the Word of God to man.  
He would tell them of His kingdom,  
But their hearts would not believe  
They would hate Him and in anger  
They would nail Him to a tree.

But the sadness would be broken  
As the song of life arose  
And the First born of creation  
Would ascend and take his throne.  
He had left it to redeem us,  
But before His life began  
He knew He'd come back not as a baby  
But as The Lord of ev'ry man.

Hear the angels as they're singing  
On the morning of His birth  
But how much greater will our song be  
When He comes again to earth  
When He comes again  
Hear the angels as they're singing  
On the morning of His birth  
But how much greater will our song be  
When He comes again to Earth  
When He comes to rule the Earth!  
When He comes back, When He comes  
back  
To rule the Earth!

## SCRIPTURE

*Matthew 1:18-25*

The birth of Jesus Christ happened like this. When Mary was engaged to Joseph, just before their marriage, she was discovered to be pregnant—by the Holy Spirit. Chagrined and noble, Joseph did not want to see her disgraced. He planned to break off the engagement quietly. But while he was turning the matter over in his mind an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, “Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife! What she has conceived is conceived through the Holy Spirit, and she will give birth to a son, whom you will call Jesus (‘the Saviour’) for it is he who will save his people from their sins.”

All this happened to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet—‘Behold, a virgin shall be with child, and bear a son, and they shall call his name Emmanuel’. (“Emmanuel” means “God with us.”)

When Joseph woke up he did what the angel had told him. He married Mary, but they did not enjoy their wedding night until she had given birth to a son.

## \* A 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)*

# HYMN

## *Of the Father's Love Begotten*



1. Of the Fa - ther's love be - got - ten, Ere the worlds be - gan to be,
2. O ye heights of heav'n, a - dore him; An - gel hosts, his prais - es sing;
3. Christ, to thee with God the Fa - ther, And, O Ho - ly Ghost, to thee,



He is Al - pha and O - me - ga, He the source, the end - ing he;  
 Powers, do - min - ions, bow be - fore him, And ex - tol our God and King;  
 Hymn and chant and high thanks-giv - ing, And un - wea - ried prais - es be;



Of the things that are, that have been, And that  
 Let no tongue on earth be si - - - lent, Ev - ery  
 Hon - or, glo - ry, and do - min - - - ion, And e -



fu - ture years shall see, Ev - er - more and ev - er - more!  
 voice in con - cert ring, Ev - er - more and ev - er - more!  
 - ter - nal vic - to - ry, Ev - er - more and ev - er - more! A - men.

SERMON

"TMI!"

Matt Fitzgerald

\* RESPONSE

*Gentle Joseph, Joseph Dear*



1. "Gen - tle Jo - seph, Jo - seph dear, stay with me, for the  
2. "Glad - ly Mar - y, Mar - y mine. I will cra - dle the  
3. "Peace to all and God's good - will," heav'n and earth with this

ba - by's near; God will sure - ly your good - ness hear, as  
child di - vine; Here will heav - en and earth com - bine, for  
song will fill; Soon will God, in the eve - ning still, be

you will love this new - born child," says Mar - y.  
you will bear God's child, O dear - est Mar - y."  
born in Beth - le - hem, the child of Mar - y.

OFFERTORY

*Jubilate Deo*  
Chancel Choir

Benjamin Britten

Oh be joyful unto God, all ye lands;  
serve the Lord with gladness,  
and enter into His presence with a song.  
Be ye sure that the Lord, He is God:  
it is He that has made us and not we ourselves;  
we are His people, and the sheep of His pasture.  
Oh go your ways, into His gates with thanksgiving,  
and into His courts with praise; be thankful unto Him.  
And speak good of His name: for the Lord is gracious;  
His mercy is everlasting,  
and His truth endureth from generation to generation  
*Psalms 100*

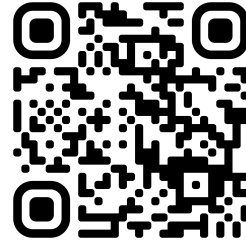
Glory be to the Father and to the son,  
and to the Holy Ghost.  
As it was in the beginning,  
Is now and evermore shall be;  
world without end. Amen.

*You can give to St. Pauls electronically by:*

*Scanning this code with your cell phone camera,*

*At [spucc.churchcenter.com/giving](http://spucc.churchcenter.com/giving),*

*Or through Zelle or PayPal to [giving@spucc.org](mailto:giving@spucc.org).*



**\* FESTIVAL DOXOLOGY**

Praise God from whom all bless-ings flow; Praise God all crea-tures 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**

**Liz Nickerson**

**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

*Hark! The Herald Angels Sing*



1. Hark! the her - ald an - gels sing, — “Glo - ry to the new-born King;
2. Christ, by high - est heav’n a - dored; Christ, the ev - er - last - ing Lord!
3. Hail the heav’n born Prince of peace! Hail the Sun of righ-teous-ness!



Peace on earth, and mer - cy mild — God and sin - ners rec - on-ciled!”  
 Late in time be - hold him come, Off-spring of the Virgin’s womb.  
 Light and life to all he brings, Risen with heal - ing in his wings,



Joy - ful, all ye na - tions, rise, — Join the tri-umph of the skies;  
 Veiled in flesh the God-head see; — Hail the in-car-nate De - i - ty, —  
 Mild he lays his glo - ry by, — Born that we no more may die, —



With the an - gel - ic host pro-claim, “Christ is — born in Beth - le - hem!”  
 Pleased as man with us to dwell, Je - sus, our Em - man - u - el.  
 Born to raise us from the earth, Born to — give us sec-ond birth.



Hark! the her - ald an - gels sing, “Glo - ry — to the new-born King!”

\* BENEDICTION

\* BENEDICTION RESPONSE



Re - joice! Re - joice! Em - man - - u - el



Shall come to thee, O Is - - - ra - el!

POSTLUDE

*Christmas Is Coming*  
St. Arbucks Quartet

Vince Guaraldi

***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, downstairs, directly beneath the Sanctuary.***

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 Peace.

## TODAY'S MUSIC

***Of the Father's Love Begotten*** is a chant melody from the 13th century and is the melody for this organ prelude by Wilbur Held (1915-2015). Held was born in Des Plaines, IL, and rose to be the assistant to Leo Sowerby at St. James Episcopal Cathedral. The tune, DIVINUM MISTERIUM, translates as “divine mystery,” which certainly describes how God chose to come to be with us. The author of the Latin was Aurelius Clemens Prudentius (348-410), a Spanish poet, devout believer, and lawyer. The translations were made by John M. Neale (1818-1866), who was born into an English evangelical home, but developed great sympathies with Catholicism and Sir Henry William Baker (1821-1877), an Anglican priest who wrote a number of hymn texts, among them is *The King of Love My Shepherd Is*.

The original German text for ***Comfort, Comfort O My People*** was written in 1671 by Johann Olearius (1611-1684). He was born into a family of Lutheran theologians and became a Lutheran pastor. The translation was by Katherine Winkworth (1828-1878), who translated many famous German hymns. She was born in England but moved with her mother to Dresden in 1845. The tune, GENEVA 42, also known as the first line of the hymn, FREU DICH SEHR, takes its name from the *Genevan Psalter of 1551* and also Psalm 42 upon which the text is based.

***O Come, O Come Emmanuel*** is thought of as a Christmas carol, but its text definitely references the anticipation of Advent. The original Latin, VENI EMMANUEL, was translated in 1851 by J. M. Neale (1818-1866). He was a member of the British clergy, and struggled with ill health his entire life. Neale also composed the texts for many other hymns including *All Glory Laud and Honor*, and translated many other Latin texts like *Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence*.

The composer of both the music and the text of ***In the First Light*** is Bob Kauflin. He was first the pastor of Sovereign Grace Ministries and is now the Director of Sovereign Grace Music. He received his musical education from Temple University with a Bachelor's in Music in 1976. He also has a popular blog, *Worship Matters*.

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The text for ***Gentle Joseph, Joseph Dear*** is relatively new, 1993. It is a paraphrase by Carol Birkland (b. 1945) of an older translation of the German. It was written specifically for our New Century Hymnal. JOSEPH LIEBER, JOSEPH MEIN, the tune title, takes its name from the first words of the 15th century German carol. There is also an alternate Latin tune name, RESONET IN LAUDIBUS, which means “ring in praise.”

The setting of ***Jubilate Deo***, Psalm 100, was composed in 1961 by Benjamin Britten (1913-1976). It was composed at the request of Prince Phillip, H.R.H. The Duke of Edinburgh, for St. George's Chapel, Windsor Castle. It was requested to be sung at his 80th and 90th birthdays, and also at his funeral in 2021. The organ part seeks to imitate the harmonics of bells and the choral parts are a dialogue between sections that urge each other to praise God. These outbursts of joy are contrasted with hushed portions describing the qualities of graciousness and mercy. The exuberance has a Christmas-like joy.

***Hark! The Herald Angels Sing*** is easily among the most well known Christmas carols. The text was written by famous Methodist clergy Charles Wesley (1749-1788) in 1739 and was altered to its present version in the same year by George Whitefield (1714-1770). The tune name, MENDELSSOHN, takes its name from its famous German composer, Felix Mendelssohn (1809-1847), who was much beloved in England. The melody is borrowed from a larger work, *Festgesang, Op. 68* composed in 1840.

***Christmas Is Coming*** was composed by Vince Guaraldi (1928-1976) and is a musical theme from the made-for-TV movie, *A Charlie Brown Christmas* (1965), which also includes his jazz instrumental standard *Linus and Lucy*. He also created music for other animated features and won a Grammy in 1963 for Best Original Jazz Composition for *Cast Your Fate to the Wind*.

## **TODAY'S WORSHIP LEADERS**

**Clergy:** Jeff Carlson, Matt Fitzgerald, Liz Nickerson

**Music Director:** Kurt R. Hansen

**Organist:** Kevin Dzierzawski

**St. Arbucks Quartet:** Brendan Henry, piano; Alex Austin, bass; Matt Plaskota, drums; Kris Hansen, trumpet & vocals

**Lay Liturgical Administrator:** Kevin O'Brien

**Head Usher:** Beatrice Jaji

**Ushers:** David Baker, Doug Clark, 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 18 Irene Beck, Michelle Jarzebowski, Susanne Baker, Brooke McGuire,  
Clark Tavas

Dec 19 Warren Bettler, Steven Reid

Dec 20 Kirsten Simonton, Lydia Miller

Dec 21 Sara Nagy

Dec 22 Lexi Patton

Dec 23 Jim Alrutz, John Cochran, Kristy Combs, Megan Behnke, Sally Etz,  
Heather Cerkon, Valerie Schimp

Dec 24 Steve Garrett

## ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS AT ST. PAULS

- TODAY           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.
- SUN, JAN 1       NEW YEAR'S DAY WORSHIP  
10 a.m. - Worship  
Guest youth choir from St. Luke's United Methodist Church, Houston, TX.

*Scan here for more  
information about  
Advent events*



## **MARK YOUR CALENDAR**

*See our full event calendar online at [spucc.churchcenter.com/calendar](https://spucc.churchcenter.com/calendar).*

### **DEC 20 - RETIREMENT GROUP - 10 a.m., Parlor**

The Retirement Group is up and running. Please join us to discuss various ways to spend our retirement meaningfully. Please call Marcia Knudson, (773) 480-4189, or email her at [marciaknudson@gmail.com](mailto:marciaknudson@gmail.com) with any questions.

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

"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, quite possibly an early Christian hymn. RSVP to Pastor Jeff: [jcarlson@spucc.org](mailto:jcarlson@spucc.org).

### **JAN 8 - OFFICE OF GUN VIOLENCE PREVENTION "TEACH-IN" -**

11:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. Oscar Mayer Room.

Staff from Live Free Chicago will be with us to talk about an opportunity for the City of Chicago to create a long-term plan to address and reduce gun violence through a proposed Office of Gun Violence. Join us as we learn how to advocate for a policy that brings investment and healing to communities. Some of the topics we will cover include: what violence looks like across the country and in Chicago; current cost of violence in the city of Chicago; gun violence as a public health issue; the Office of Gun Violence Prevention as a solution. Please sign up here: [tinyurl.com/mrfshf8s](https://tinyurl.com/mrfshf8s)

### **JAN 22 - NEW MEMBER CLASS - 11 a.m., Oscar Mayer Room**

Join pastors, members, and others curious about Saint Pauls for our Winter 2023 New Member Class. Together we'll talk about faith and our community, and we'd love you to be part of the conversation! We'll meet in the Oscar Mayer Room after worship, and childcare will be provided as needed (please let us know in the signup). Register here, [spucc.churchcenter.com/registrations/events/1557307](https://spucc.churchcenter.com/registrations/events/1557307), or contact Pastor Matt for more information at [mfitzgerald@spucc.org](mailto:mfitzgerald@spucc.org).

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **THANK YOU!**

Thanks to everyone who contributed to last Sunday's Advent Market. We raised \$2,000 for the good work of UCAN! And thank you to Carrie Bruggers, who organized the market, along with her team of volunteers.

### **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](mailto: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](https://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](https://spucc.churchcenter.com/registrations/events/1517246)  
Sign up for reading here: [spucc.churchcenter.com/registrations/events/1508612](https://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/5FEG6gRZPMTNBvaBINborm](https://open.spotify.com/album/5FEG6gRZPMTNBvaBINborm), and Apple Music: [music.apple.com/us/album/mid-winter-gifts-ep/1611741689](https://music.apple.com/us/album/mid-winter-gifts-ep/1611741689). It is the same music on both sites, simply choose your preferred platform. You do not need a Spotify or Apple Music account to listen. Please feel free to share these links with your friends.

## **CREATION CORNER - provided by Green Team**

### **REDUCE HOLIDAY WASTE**

Stuff that stocking sustainably. Add a shampoo bar, reusable stretch lid or beeswax wrap for leftovers, bracelet made of plastic recovered from an ocean, bamboo toothbrush, pen that's not made of plastic, metal straws, set of cloth napkins, or packet of seeds for native plants or wildflowers. Little gifts like these come with big benefits for the Earth and an opportunity to introduce someone else to creation care.

## **END OF YEAR DONATION TAX INFORMATION**

Thank you to everyone who has supported Saint Pauls with your pledges and donations in 2022! If you have donations you would like to count towards your 2022 taxes, make sure they are postmarked, listed on your bank/credit card statement, or dropped off at the church by December 31, 2022. Email questions to our bookkeeper Melissa Miller Furgeson, [bookkeeper@spucc.org](mailto:bookkeeper@spucc.org).

## **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](https://spucc.org/pledge) or by scanning this QR code.



Note: 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. Your pledge does not enable St. Pauls to change a recurring donation you have set up through any of our giving methods.

## 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](mailto:JenniferLKew@gmail.com), or Pastor Jeff, [jcarlson@spucc.org](mailto: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](https://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](mailto:lindanitz@yahoo.com).

**CHURCH CENTER** – [spucc.churchcenter.com](https://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](mailto: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](https://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](mailto:nlanda05@yahoo.com) or Rick Peterson at [rnpeterson2017@gmail.com](mailto: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](http://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](mailto: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](http://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](mailto: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](http://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](http://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 [cindyzinn11@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto:jcarlson@spucc.org)), Marti Pechnyo ([mpechnyo@gmail.com](mailto:mpechnyo@gmail.com)), or Barb Kaiser ([bkaiser2213@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto:danielle.mayfield@spucc.org). Register here: [spucc.churchcenter.com/registrations/events/1306755](http://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](mailto: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](mailto: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 17-year-old patient who is critically ill.
- 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](mailto:mfitzgerald@spucc.org)  
Associate Pastor Jeff Carlson, [jcarlson@spucc.org](mailto:jcarlson@spucc.org)  
Associate Pastor Liz Nickerson, [lnickerson@spucc.org](mailto:lnickerson@spucc.org)

For a complete list of St. Pauls Staff, Governance, and Lay Leadership  
Please visit [www.spucc.org/contact](http://www.spucc.org/contact)

**St. Pauls United Church of Christ**  
**2335 N Orchard St. | Chicago, IL 60614**  
**(773) 348-3829    [www.spucc.org](http://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.