

Christmas Day December 25, 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. There is no Sunday School or childcare staff today. The Nursery is available for parents and their children to use during worship, if needed.

PREL	IDE Concerto Grosso in G Minor, Op. 6 No. 8	Arcangelo Corelli
	Fatto per la note di Natale	(1653-1713)
	I. Vivace-Grave & II. Allegro	
	Pine and Barton Family Trio	
	Rachel Barton Pine, violin 1; Sylvia Pine, violin 2; and Hannah Barton, viola	

CHIMES

WELCOME

Matt Fitzgerald

* WELCOMING EACH OTHER

* CHORAL INTROIT

Nova, Nova!

15th Century Latin Hymn

Kurt R. Hansen and Congregation

d Congregation

Nova, Nova! Ave fit ex Eva. News, News! Hail (Mary) is made from Eve

*CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Joy to the world! The Lord is Come!

All: The Glory of God has risen upon us!

One: Behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy!

All: Unto us a Child is born! Unto us a Son is given!

One: Come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord!

All: Glory to God in the highest! And on earth, peace and good will to all!

* Please stand if you are able to do so.



PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Jeff Carlson

God of love, thank you for the gift of this Christmas morning and for coming to us in Jesus, the light of the world.
We confess that we stumble in the darkness of our ignorance and fear.
We have not lived in your spirit of love and peace.
Heal us of the pain of our past,
Deliver us from the worry of tomorrow,
And help us to live each day in the gift of your grace.
Amen.

MOMENT OF SILENT PRAYER

WORDS OF ASSURANCE



ANTHEM

Concerto Grosso in G Minor, Op. 6 No. 8 Corelli III. Adagio-Allegro-Adagio & IV. Vivace Pine and Barton Family Trio

SCRIPTURE

John 1:1-18

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people.

The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it. There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God. And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. No one has ever seen God. It is God the only Son, who is close to the Father's heart, who has made him known.

* 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)

* CAROL

In the Bleak Midwinter





OFFERTORY

A Carol Offering

William J. KirkPatrick arr. Mark Swanson

Jake Nitzschke, trumpet and Mark Swanson, trombone

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

Matt Fitzgerald

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.



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

TODAY'S MUSIC

We are so pleased to welcome the Pine and Barton Family Trio – Rachel Barton Pine, Sylvia Pine and Hannah Barton – to share their beautiful music with us today. The *Concerto Grosso in G Minor, Op. 6 No. 8*, often referred to as the "Christmas Concerto," was composed by Arcangelo Corelli (1653-1713). It was commissioned by Cardinal Pietro Ottoboni and published posthumously in 1714 as part of Corelli's *Twelve concerti grossi, Op. 6*. The date of its composition is uncertain, but there is a performance noted in 1690 for Corelli's patron. The concerto bears the inscription "Fatto per la notte di Natale" (Made for Christmas Eve). Corelli had an international reputation as both a composer and violinist.

Both the text and music to *Nova, Nova* are unattributed and date from the 15th century. It is part of a long tradition of telling stories to a largely unschooled public by singing the Gospel news with a simple refrain that could be learned and repeated by those listening. Each country had its own traveling poet-composers specializing in this kind of storytelling through music: in England they were the troubadours, in France they were the Trouvères, and in Germany they were the Meistersingers.

The carol, *I Saw Three Ships* could hardly be more English! Both the tune and the words are unattributed and date to sometime in the mid 19th century. It imagines Jesus, Mary and Joseph not in a manger, but arriving on three ships on Christmas Day. Then the ships sail to Bethlehem. That's fairly English specific! It would be like our Music Director from Omaha, Nebraska composing a carol about Jesus arriving on a barge in the Missouri River, BUT the point is that the Savior comes to all of us where we are.

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 this poem poured forth in 1868 as a result of that visit. 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.

In the Bleak Midwinter text was composed by Christina Georgina Rossetti (1830–1894) in 1872. She was a prolific English poet. The tune, CRANHAM, is by Gustav Holst (1874–1934), who is best known as the composer of *The Planets*.

On This Day Earth Shall Ring is a Latin hymn that was translated by Jane M. Joseph (1894-1929). She was an English composer and poet and student of Gustav Holst, as noted above, the composer of *The Planets*. Holst encouraged what he saw as her great talents. Joseph retained the original Latin Refrain "Ideo, o, o, gloria in excelsis Deo." (Therefore, glory to God in the highest!) The tune, PERSONENT HODIE, is also Latin from the 15th century and unattributed.

God Rest You Merry, Gentlemen is an English carol from the 18th century with an unattributed text and source for the tune. The tune, GOD REST YOU, obviously takes its name from the first words of the first stanza.

TODAY'S WORSHIP LEADERS

Clergy: Matt Fitzgerald, Jeff Carlson Music Director: Kurt R. Hansen Organist: Kevin Dzierzawski Lay Liturgical Administrator: Kevin O'Brien Scripture Reader: Joseph JaQuay 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 25 Kevin Tavas, Chuck Mize
- Dec 26 Sarah Zelonis, Susan Holt
- Dec 27 Debbie Ballard
- Dec 28 Devlin Jozwiak, Max Fenstermacher
- Dec 29 Jennifer Kohler
- Dec 30 Sally Fletcher, Aniston Hartanov, Deirdre McGrath
- Dec 31 Justin Hartanov, Claire Nitzsche

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

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

JAN 1 - NEW YEAR'S DAY WORSHIP - 10 a.m., Sanctuary

Join us in person or online at spucc.org/streaming on New Year's Day for worship with a guest youth choir from St. Luke's United Methodist Church, Houston, TX.

JAN 1- SHARE THE TABLE OF JESUS - Narthex

We're collecting food for the Common Pantry every communion Sunday - which is next week. Unexpired food and personal items most needed are listed below. Modest-sized products are best for distribution (e.g., a few 24 oz. containers of cooking oil are preferable to a 64 oz. container). Leave items in the Narthex bin.

Needed Items: cereal (whole grain, less sugar varieties), nuts, brown rice, jelly/jam (low sugar), peanut butter (natural, no hydrogenated oils), cooking oil, pasta sauce (low sodium), soup (low sodium), easy prep meals (e.g., Hamburger Helper, low sodium or whole grain varieties if possible), ground coffee, toothpaste, deodorant, disposable razors, shampoo, conditioner, mouthwash.

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: <u>tinyurl.com/mrfshf8s</u>

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, <u>spucc.churchcenter.com/registrations/events/1557307</u>, or contact Pastor Matt for more information at mfitzgerald@spucc.org.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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, <u>bookkeeper@spucc.org</u>.

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: <u>https://tinyurl.com/bdfmz3jt</u> Questions? Contact Pastor Jeff at <u>jcarlson@spucc.org</u>.

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: <u>spucc.churchcenter.com/registrations/events/1508128</u>

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: <u>open.spotify.com/album/5FEG6gRZPMTNBvaBJNborm</u>, and Apple Music: <u>music.apple.com/us/album/mid-winter-gifts-ep/1611741689</u>. 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.

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: <u>spucc.churchcenter.com/registrations/events/1517246</u> Sign up for reading here: <u>spucc.churchcenter.com/registrations/events/1508612</u>

CREATION CORNER - provided by the Green Team

REFLECT ON CREATION JUSTICE

Look back at the past year. What actions did you take for the environment? Celebrate what has been done. Challenge yourself to add new actions in the coming year. What have you heard about or seen that you can incorporate into your faith commitment for creation justice? The challenge is great, but God's Holy Spirit guides and sustains us. New Year's resolutions notoriously end up broken, but we are in covenant with God. Yes, we fail, but God is faithful and extends us the grace of beginning again. The New Year signals grace-filled beginnings.

JOIN THE MOVEMENT - provided by SPARC

How can we better understand the concepts and issues involved in addressing racism? What role can we play, individually and as a church, in facing historic harms and in transforming society to free us all? Consult the following lists and links for resources to join in the work of dismantling racism and white supremacy in our society, systems, institutions, and ourselves as we strive for a more just world, <u>spucc.org/racial_justice_resources</u>. You can also borrow some of these from our Justice library, the black bookshelf in coffee hour.

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.



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, <u>JenniferLKew@gmail.com</u>, or Pastor Jeff, <u>icarlson@spucc.org</u>.

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. Contact Linda Nitzsche lindanitz@yahoo.com.

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 <u>marcia@volkonline.com</u>.

EMERGENCY CONTACT FORM & CARDS – Follow this link for more information: <u>spucc.churchcenter.com/people/forms/178271</u>.

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 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 <u>www.littlelightslp.org</u>. If you would like to schedule a tour or have additional questions, contact Little Lights Director Erin Fitzgerald at <u>littlelights@spucc.org</u>.

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! 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 <u>stpaulssocial@spucc.org</u>. Subscribe to the distribution list below, or look out for future events in the bulletin calendar. <u>spucc.churchcenter.com/groups/saint-pauls-groups/st-pauls-social</u>

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: <u>spucc.churchcenter.com/registrations/events/1508612</u>

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 (<u>icarlson@spucc.org</u>), Marti Pechnyo (<u>mpechnyo@gmail.com</u>), or Barb Kaiser (<u>bkaiser2213@gmail.com</u>).

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 <u>danielle.mayfield@spucc.org</u>. Register here: <u>spucc.churchcenter.com/registrations/events/1306755</u>

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 <u>youngadults@spucc.org</u>.

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 <u>chiggins@spucc.org</u> no later than 10 a.m. on Wednesday. **Please limit announcements to** <u>100 words</u>. Thank you!

SAINT PAULS PRAYS

Please clip this page and pray for those who are named below. To have your prayer request included, simply ask a pastor in person, on the phone or by email.
Our practice is to run each prayer request for four weeks and then remove it.
If you would like to continue a prayer request after four weeks, let a pastor know.

- 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 Cerkan 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, <u>mfitzgerald@spucc.org</u> Associate Pastor Jeff Carlson, <u>icarlson@spucc.org</u> Associate Pastor Liz Nickerson, <u>lnickerson@spucc.org</u>

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

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.