

January 22, 2023

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

Please silence cell phones.

There is no Sunday School this week. The Nursery is open for children ages 0 to 4. Kids can join us in the Social Hall downstairs for B.O.B. practice!

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.

PRELUDE Sonata No. 4—Andante, BWV 528 J. S. Bach

Kevin Dzierzawski, organ

INTROIT Star in the East

Chancel Choir

CHIMES

WELCOME Matt Fitzgerald

* WELCOMING EACH OTHER

* CALL TO WORSHIP

One: What amazing love God gives to us –

We are called children of God!

All: This is the message God gave from the beginning:

"Love one another."

One: Let us love one another, because love comes from God.

All: Everyone who loves is a child of God and knows God,

For God is love.

One: This is how we know God loves us:

God sent Christ into the world.

All: What amazing love God gives to us -

We are called children of God!

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



PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Loving God, we have erred
and strayed from your ways like lost sheep.

We have followed too much the devices of our own hearts.

We have left undone those things
which we ought to have done;

And we have done those things
which we ought not to have done.

O God, have mercy upon us.

Finish the good work that you have begun within us,
And lead us in your way everlasting.

Amen.

MOMENT OF SILENT PRAYER

WORDS OF ASSURANCE



SCRIPTURE Karen Lyons

Matthew 4:12-24

Now when Jesus heard that John had been arrested, he withdrew to Galilee. He left Nazareth and made his home in Capernaum by the sea, in the territory of Zebulun and Naphtali, so that what had been spoken through the prophet Isaiah might be fulfilled: "Land of Zebulun, land of Naphtali, on the road by the sea, across the Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles— the people who sat in darkness have seen a great light, and for those who sat in the region and shadow of death light has dawned." From that time Jesus began to proclaim, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near."

As he walked by the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon, who is called Peter, and Andrew, his brother, casting a net into the sea—for they were fishermen. And he said to them, "Follow me, and I will make you fish for people." Immediately they left their nets and followed him. As he went from there, he saw two other brothers, James son of Zebedee and his brother John, in the boat with their father Zebedee, mending their nets, and he called them. Immediately they left the boat and their father, and followed him.

Jesus went throughout Galilee, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the good news of the kingdom and curing every disease and every sickness among the people. So his fame spread throughout all Syria, and they brought to him all the sick, those who were afflicted with various diseases and pains, demoniacs, epileptics, and paralytics, and he cured them.

* 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)

Lord, I Want to Be a Christian See previous hymn

v. 2

SERMON "Following" Jeff Carlson



OFFERTORY

Spaseniye sodelal (Sung in Old Church Slovonic) Chancel Choir

Pavel Chesnokov

Salvation is created, In midst of the earth, O our God. Alleluia. Psalm 74: 12

You can give to St. Pauls electronically by:

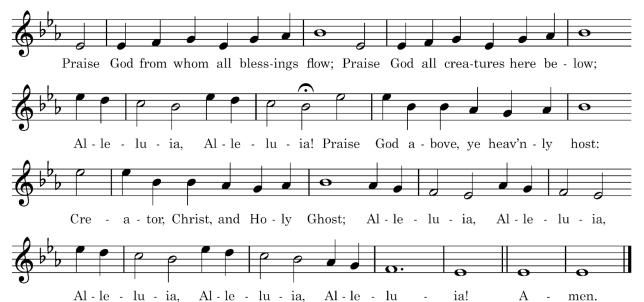
Scanning this code with your cell phone camera,

At spucc.churchcenter.com/giving,

Or through Zelle or PayPal to giving@spucc.org.



* FESTIVAL DOXOLOGY



THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.

Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread,

and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.

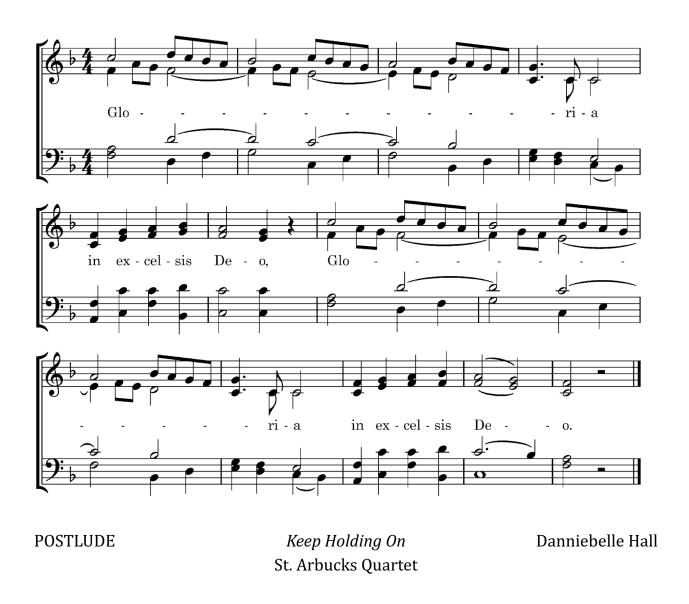
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

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



* BENEDICTION

* BENEDICTION RESPONSE



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.

TODAY'S MUSIC

Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750) composed six trio sonatas for organ. The term *trio* refers to one voice for each hand and one voice for the feet on the pedals. The sonatas were études, studies for technique. They can sound easy, but they are NOT! Bach composed this work, *Sonata No. 4 in E Minor, BWV 528*, sometime between 1727 and 1730. *Andante* is an Italian musical term that means a walking tempo.

The text for *Love Divine, All Loves Excelling* was written by Charles Wesley (1707-1788). His brother, John, was the founder of the Methodist faith. The words were set to the famous Welsh tune HYFRYDOL by Rowan Hugh Prichard (1811-1887) when he was only 19. We also sing this tune to the text *Alleluia! Hearts to Heaven*. This text is one of the few that is the source of a "hymn battle" over which tune to sing. The other well known tune for this text is BEECHER.

Star in the East is an unattributed tune that was first found published in the 1826 early American hymnal, The Temple Harmony. The music has become part of the rich American hymn tradition associated with the Sacred Harp (1832) movement and singing conventions. Reginald Heber (1783-1826) wrote this text and also the well known hymn text Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God Almighty. He was born into a wealthy English family, became an Anglican priest, and translated many Latin texts into English.

Lord, I Want to Be a Christian is another in a long line of great African American spirituals. Neither the tune nor text are attributed. The origin may go as far back as 1750. The first publication to include it was *Folk Songs of the American Negro* (1907) compiled by brothers Frederick (no dates) and John (1871-1925) Work. John Work was also the music director of the famous Fisk Jubilee Singers.

You Walk Along Our Shoreline, tune SALLEY GARDENS, uses a text written by Sylvia G. Dunstan (1955-1993). She served the United Church of Canada, our Canadian UCC sister denomination, as a parish minister and prison chaplain. In her all too brief life, she composed numerous hymn texts. SALLEY GARDENS is a well known anonymous English ballad that has been arranged for other hymns and also classical solo songs by composers like Benjamin Britten (1913-1976).

Spaseniye sodelal, Op. 25, No. 5 was composed by Pavel Chesnokov (1877-1944). He was one of the most prolific composers of the Moscow Synodal School. These "hymns" were based on Russian Orthodox chant melodies. Old Church Slavonic is the language of the Russian Orthodox Church and liturgy. It has the same relationship to modern Russian as Latin, the traditional language of the Catholic Church and liturgy, does to Italian. A note for this time - The Russian Orthodox Church was said to be founded by St. Andrew, one of the 12 disciples, when he journeyed from Greece to what became Kyiv, Ukraine, but was then known as Kiyvan Rus' (land of the Rus'), literally the motherland.

Guide My Feet is another uplifting spiritual from the African American tradition. It is one of the many songs that was sung during marches in the civil rights movement in the 1960s. The believer asks God to guide them on the path of life.

Danniebelle Hall (1938-2000) was a deeply committed Gospel artist who sought to evangelize through her singing and composing. She formed her own group, Danniebelles, and was also a member of Andraé Crouch's Disciples. She recorded several solo albums and toured around the world. *Keep Holding On* was composed and recorded in the 1980s.

TODAY'S WORSHIP LEADERS

Clergy: Matt Fitzgerald, Jeff Carlson, Liz Nickerson

Music Director: Kurt R. Hansen

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

drums; Kris Hansen, trumpet & vocals

Organist: Kevin Dzierzawski

Lay Liturgical Administrator: Kevin O'Brien

Scripture Reader: Karen Lyons

Head Usher: Beatrice Jaji

Ushers: David Baker, Doug Clark

Gatekeeper: Dodd Brown

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

Custodian: Ramiro Gonzalez

BORN THIS WEEK IN JANUARY

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.

Jan 23 Dan Abercrombie

Jan 24 Kelly Martin

Jan 25 Michael Sanders

Jan 26 Dan Martin, Harrison Rogers

Jan 28 Candi Huber, David Duvall, Ryan DuPont

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

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

TODAY - 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.

JAN 25 - WEDNESDAY BIBLE STUDY PHILIPPIANS - 12 p.m., Zoom

The Apostle Paul wrote this letter while chained in a foul Roman prison, yet it is surprisingly full of joy. Written to a church that was founded and led mostly by women, Philippians gives us a glimpse of how the early Christians were forming a counter-cultural community grounded in the compassion and justice of Jesus in the heart of the Roman Empire. Meets weekly. RSVP to Jeff, jcarlson@spucc.org.

JAN 29 - CHICAGO MAYORAL CANDIDATES FORUM - 1 p.m., Trinity UCC

Trinity United Church of Christ (TUCC), 400 W. 95th Street, and Community Renewal Society (CRS) are hosting a Chicago Mayoral Candidates Forum. The candidates for the office of Mayor of Chicago are invited to participate. CRS and TUCC, both respectively steeped in an enduring history of social justice and service, also share a longstanding tradition of hosting candidate forums for those seeking public office. Please register to receive event reminders including a direct link to the livestream. For those attending in person, masks are required. Register here: https://tinyurl.com/5ekhyy4e.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BIBLE OFF BROADWAY IS BACK!

Rehearsals have begun for this 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. Join us in the Social Hall for rehearsals at 9:30 on Sunday mornings. The production will be in worship on February 5. Questions? Contact Pastor Jeff at jcarlson@spucc.org.

PROVIDE FLOWERS FOR THE ALTAR

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. Sign up here, spucc.churchcenter.com/registrations/events/1517246, or call the office at (773) 348-3829. Most 2023 dates are still available!

IOIN OUR ORCHESTRA

For the first time since 2020, the St. Pauls Intergenerational Orchestra will again perform in worship on Sunday, March 12, with an all-Brahms program. Orchestra members include pre-teens, teenagers and adults of all ages and abilities! Rehearsals are immediately after church for about an hour in the Oscar Mayer Room on 2/19, 2/26 and 3/5. If you are interested, please contact our conductor Mark Mosley at (773) 732-0625 or mwmosley@gmail.com. If you play an orchestral string, woodwind, brass, or percussion instrument, please join us as together we "Make a Joyful Sound in the City!"

YOUTH & FAMILY NEWSLETTER

Make sure you stay in the know with youth events! A weekly email is sent to parents to share activities, including Sunday School lessons and other useful news. If you do not receive this email and would like to be added to the email list, please contact Erin Fitzgerald at erin.fitzgerald@spucc.org. If you would like to share information regarding youth-related events in an upcoming newsletter, please submit the paragraph or flier to Erin by Wednesday at noon.

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 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 and sign up here: spucc.churchcenter.com/registrations/events/1508128

JOIN THE MOVEMENT - provided by SPARC

Urge your alderman to sign on and vote for the ordinance to create an Office of Gun Violence Prevention **before the February 28 election.** This office will convene an advisory board with a broad spectrum of stakeholders to create a comprehensive, community centered, long term plan to address gun violence. It will have procurement power to provide necessary resources. See if your alderman has already voted at tinyurl.com/5n874m43. Send them a letter and link to the ordinance here, engage.newmode.net/nm-facebook/41885.

CREATION CORNER - provided by the Green Team REASSESS FOOD CHOICES/USE

Food waste is the number three cause of greenhouse gasses. Nearly half of what is in landfills is organic. Landfills are anaerobic, causing organic waste to create methane, an extremely potent greenhouse gas. Nearly 25% of current atmospheric warming is due to methane. This organic matter could be composted, filling the soil with nutrients. Explore your options for composting: industrial services, shared locations, backyard bins of several types, bokashi methods, vermicomposting, and in-home devices. You can compost no matter where you live.

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, JenniferLKew@gmail.com, or Pastor Jeff, jearlson@spucc.org.

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

Sign up for 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 – Follow this link for additional information: 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 cindyzinn11@gmail.com.

STEPHEN MINISTRY AT ST. PAULS – If you're in need of support through a tough time and would like to be matched with someone who would support you with companionship and prayer, or you're feeling called to offer support, speak to Pastor Jeff Carlson (jcarlson@spucc.org), Marti Pechnyo (mpechnyo@gmail.com), or Barb Kaiser (bkaiser2213@gmail.com).

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.

- Diane Massie's niece, Tara, recovering from surgery.
- Family and friends of Darlene Braun at her death.
- Friends of the Van Zeyls, Sarah, Timmy, and their daughter Grace, as their older daughter Hannah recovers from open heart surgery.
- Winnie Kearn's mother, Patti, for healing of a wound.
- Justin Hartanov and family at the death of his mother, Betsy.
- For the safety of Steve Schwartzberg's friend, Anthony.
- David, a 28-year-old recovering from an emergency operation.
- Gary and Petrine Ashley for improved strength.
- 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 www.spucc.org/contact

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

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



WELCOME TO SAINT PAULS UCC!

Welcome to those whose hearts are on fire with faith, and to those who bring their doubt inside our doors.

Welcome to our first time guests and our longtime members.

Welcome to single people, tiny children, grandparents and families of all configurations.

Welcome to those who rejoice and to those who grieve.

Welcome to each and to everyone.

We are an Open and Affirming church.

We welcome all.

We are blessed by your presence and we are glad you are here.