

October 15, 2023

Baptism Sunday

Giving Sunday

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.
The Nursery and Toddler Room are open for children ages 0-5, from 10 to 11 a.m.*

THOUGHT FOR PREPARATION

"See how the true gift never leaves the giver:
returned and redelivered, it rolled on
until the smile poured through us like a river."

Don Paterson

PRELUDE

Liebster Jesu, wir sind hier, BWV 731
Kevin Dzierzawski, organ

J. S. Bach

INTROIT

We Have Gathered, Jesus Dear
Chancel Choir

CHIMES

WELCOME

Liz Nickerson

* WELCOMING EACH OTHER

* CALL TO WORSHIP

One: God of power, we thank you for making us alive in your creation!

All: Thank you for golden leaves, blue water, white waves.

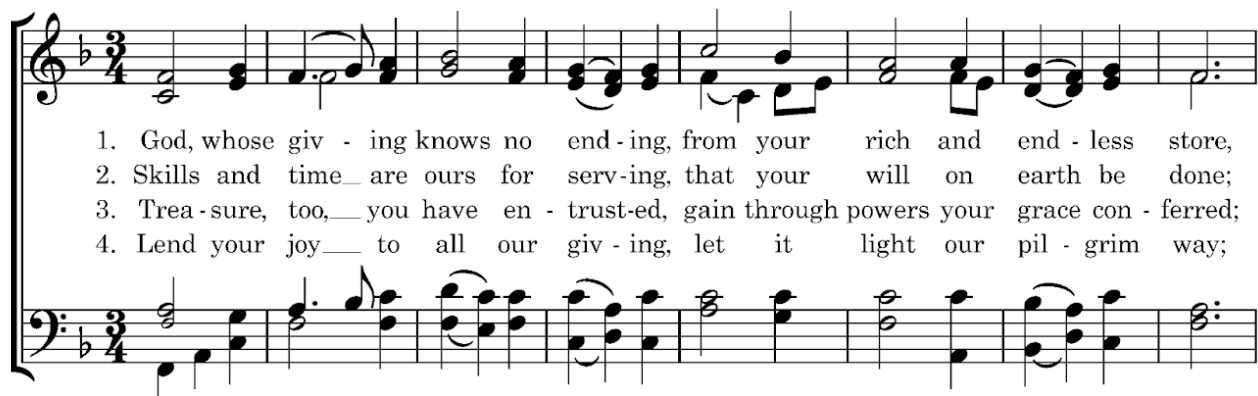
One: Thank you for the blood in our veins and the hope in our hearts!

All: You are the source of every wonder! Amen.

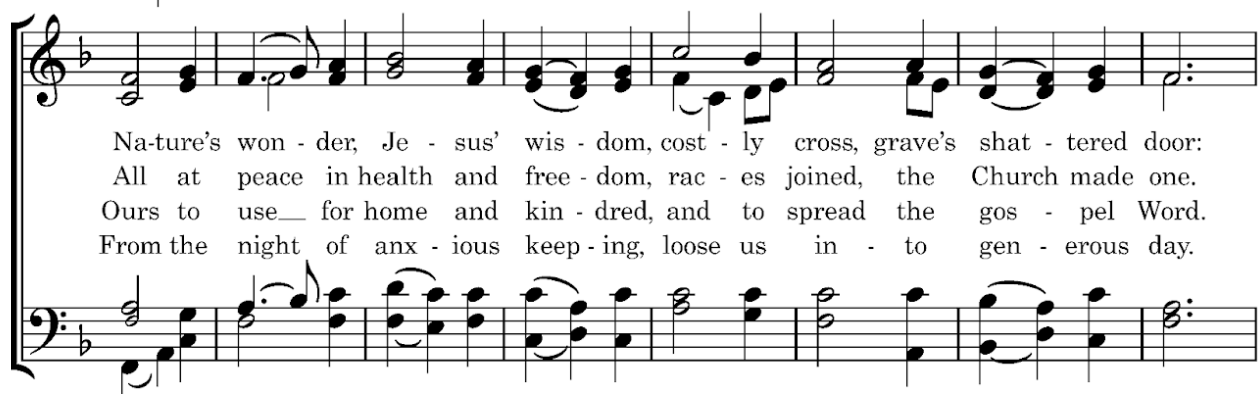
** Please stand if you are able to do so.*

* HYMN

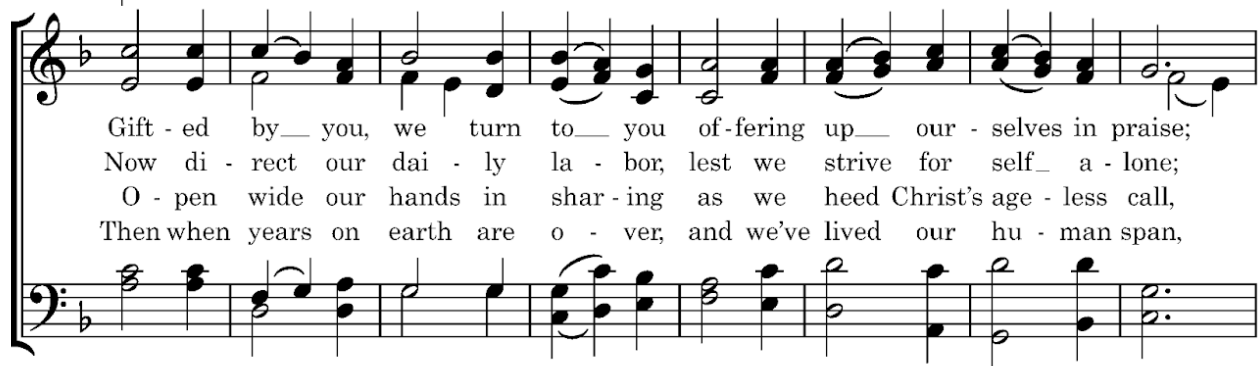
God Whose Giving Knows No Ending



1. God, whose giv - ing knows no end - ing, from your rich and end - less store,
 2. Skills and time are ours for serv - ing, that your will on earth be done;
 3. Trea - sure, too, you have en - trust - ed, gain through powers your grace con - ferred;
 4. Lend your joy to all our giv - ing, let it light our pil - grim way;



Na - ture's won - der, Je - sus' wis - dom, cost - ly cross, grave's shat - tered door:
 All at peace in health and free - dom, rac - es joined, the Church made one.
 Ours to use for home and kin - dred, and to spread the gos - pel Word.
 From the night of anx - ious keep - ing, loose us in - to gen - erous day.



Gift - ed by you, we turn to you of - fer - ing up our - selves in praise;
 Now di - rect our dai - ly la - bor, lest we strive for self - a - lone;
 O - pen wide our hands in shar - ing as we heed Christ's age - less call,
 Then when years on earth are o - ver, and we've lived our hu - man span,



Thank - ful song shall rise for - ev - er, gra - cious do - nor of our days.
 born with tal - ents, make us ser - vants fit to an - swer at your throne.
 Heal - ing, teach - ing, and re - claim - ing, hon - oring you by lov - ing all.
 God, ful - fill be - yond our dream - ing, all our stew - ard - ship be - gan.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**O God, thank you for creating a world so full
of color, difference, and beauty.**

**The wonder of it all saves us
from the mistaken belief
that life depends on us.**

Forgive our presumption.

**Keep us mindful of our
dramatic, essential,
dependence**

on you.

Amen.

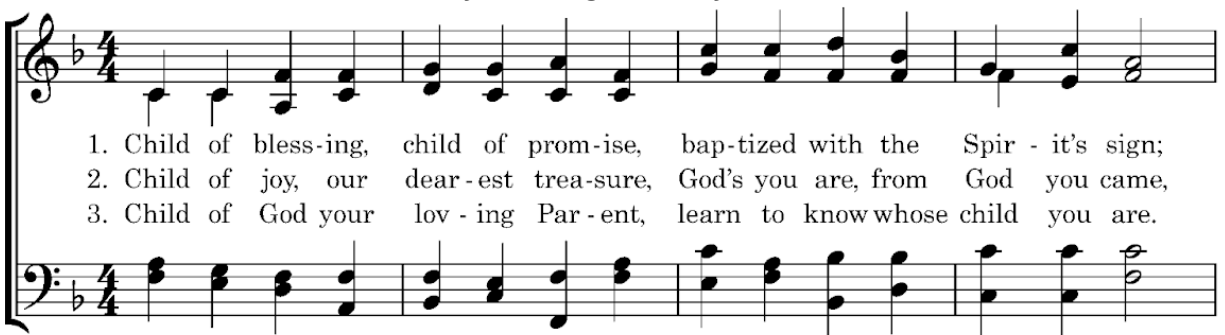
MOMENT OF SILENT PRAYER

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

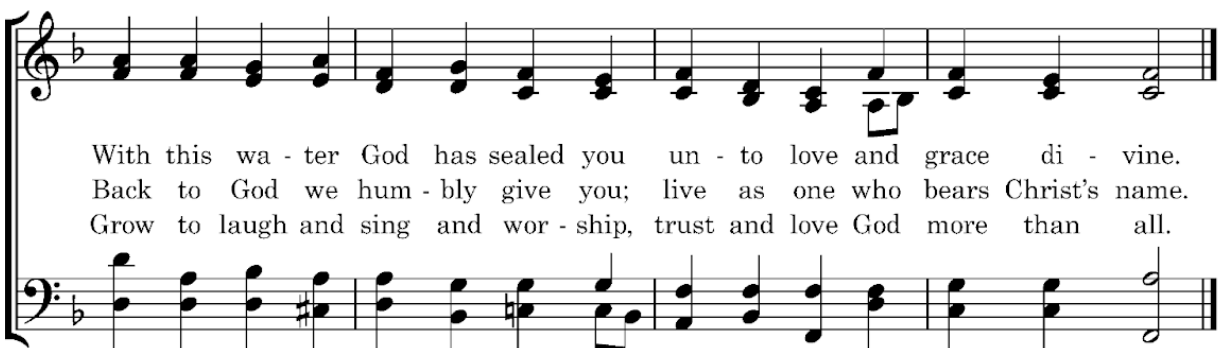
RESPONSE

Child of Blessing, Child of Promise

v. 1



1. Child of bless-ing, child of prom-ise, bap-tized with the Spir - it's sign;
2. Child of joy, our dear-est trea-sure, God's you are, from God you came,
3. Child of God your lov - ing Par - ent, learn to know whose child you are.



With this wa - ter God has sealed you un - to love and grace di - vine.
Back to God we hum - bly give you; live as one who bears Christ's name.
Grow to laugh and sing and wor - ship, trust and love God more than all.

THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM OF

Hattie DeForest Ward, Spencer DeForest Ward

Pastor: Hattie and Spencer, receive now the Light of Christ. May you walk always as children of light. May your light so shine before others that they may see your good works and give glory to God. Hattie and Spencer are now received into the love and care of the church. See what love God has given us that we should be called children of God.

All: Almighty God, giver of life, you have called us by name and pledged to each of us your faithful love. We pray for your children, Hattie and Spencer. Inspire their lives. May they sing many songs, know many joys, heal many wounds, and embrace many people in your name. We pray for their parents, that they may be guided by your love so that they may know your presence. May we walk together with this family as witnesses to your gospel, as those for whom you have lived and died and live again. Amen.

Pastor: Hattie and Spencer, may the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit, be with you always.

All: Amen

*Sunday School students are invited to go to their classrooms.
If you would like to accompany your child(ren),
you are welcome to drop them off and return to worship.*

RESPONSE

Child of Blessing, Child of Promise
See previous hymn

vv. 2 & 3

SCRIPTURE

Clark Baurer

2 Corinthians 9:5-11

I want you to have all the time you need to make this offering in your own way. I don't want anything forced or hurried at the last minute. Remember: A stingy planter gets a stingy crop; a lavish planter gets a lavish crop. I want each of you to take plenty of time to think it over, and make up your own mind about what you will give, not reluctantly and not under compulsion. For God loves it when the giver delights in the giving.

God can pour on the blessings in astonishing ways so that you're ready for anything and everything, more than just ready to do what needs to be done. As the psalmist puts it,

He throws caution to the winds,
giving to the needy in reckless abandon.
His right-living, right-giving ways
never run out, never wear out.

This most generous God who gives seed to the farmer that becomes bread for your meals is more than extravagant with you. He gives you something you can then give away, which grows into full-formed lives, robust in God, wealthy in every way, so that you can be generous in every way, producing with us great praise to God.

* 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)

RESPONSE

God Who Stretched the Spangled Heavens

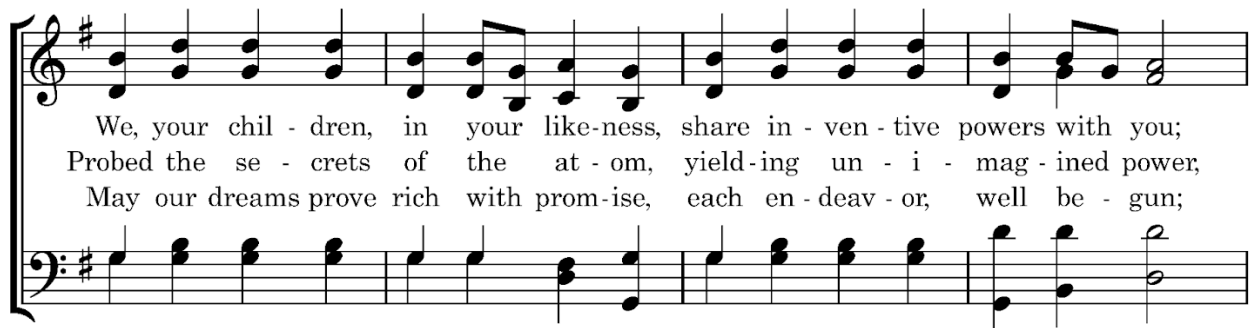
vv. 1 & 3



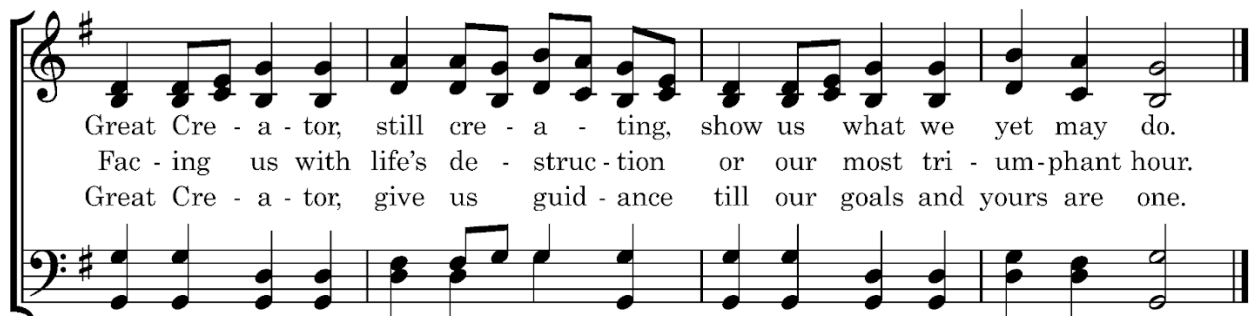
1. God, who stretched the span - gled heav - ens in - fi - nite in time and place,
 2. We have ven - tured worlds un - dreamed of since the child-hood of our race;
 3. As each far hor - i - zon beck - ons, may it chal-lenge us a - new,



Flung the suns in burn - ing ra - diance through the si - lent fields of space;
 Known the ec - sta - sy of wing - ing through un - trav - eled realms of space;
 Chil - dren of cre - a - tive pur - pose, serv - ing oth - ers, hon - oring you.



We, your chil - dren, in your like - ness, share in - ven - tive powers with you;
 Probed the se - crets of the at - om, yield - ing un - i - mag - ined power,
 May our dreams prove rich with prom - ise, each en - deav - or, well be - gun;



Great Cre - a - tor, still cre - a - ting, show us what we yet may do.
 Fac - ing us with life's de - struc - tion or our most tri - um - phant hour.
 Great Cre - a - tor, give us guid - ance till our goals and yours are one.

SERMON

“Through Us”

Matt Fitzgerald

* HYMN

Take My Gifts



1. Take my gifts and let me love— you, God who first of all loved me,
2. Take the fruit that I have gath - ered from the tree your Spir - it sowed,
3. Take what - ev - er I can of - fer— gifts that I have yet_ to find,



gave me light and food and shel - ter, gave me life and set me free,
har - vest of your own com - pas - sion, juice that makes the wine of God,
skills that I am slow to sharp - en,— tal - ents of the hand and mind,



now be - cause your love has touched me, I have love to give a - way,
spiced with hu - mor, laced with laugh - ter— fla - vor of the Je - sus life,
things made beau - ti - ful for oth - ers in the place where I must be:



now the bread of love is ris - ing, loaves of love to mul - ti - ply!
tang of risk and new ad - ven - ture, taste and zest be - yond be - lief.
take my gifts and let me love you, God who first of all loved me.

GIVING MOMENT

“Bold Gratitude”

Jack Lyons

OFFERTORY

Psalm 150
Chancel Choir

Louis Lewandowski

O praise ye the Lord,
In His sanctuary;
Praise ye the Lord
In the firmament of His power.
Praise ye Him for His mighty acts,
Praise Him for His mighty acts.
Praise ye Him, according to His majesty.

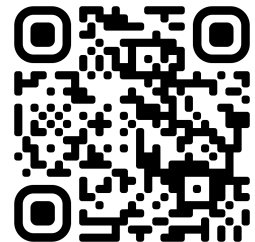
Praise ye Him with the sound of the trumpet
Praise ye Him with the psaltery and harp.
Praise Him with the timbrel.
Praise ye Him with the dance,
Praise Him with the organ and stringed instruments.
Praise ye Him upon the loud cymbals.
Praise ye Him upon the high sounding cymbals.
Let everything that hath breath,
Praise the Lord,
O praise ye the Lord,
In His sanctuary;
O praise ye the Lord
In the firmament of His power.
Praise ye Him for His mighty acts.
Praise ye Him according to His Majesty.
Hallelujah!

You can give to St. Pauls electronically:

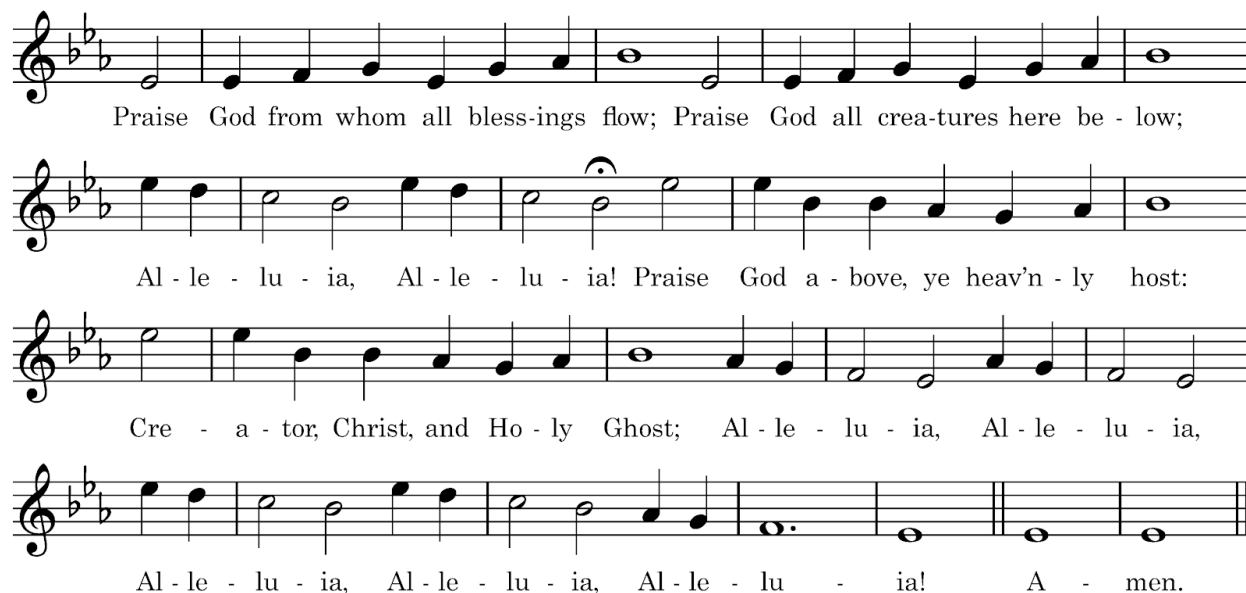
Scan this code with your cell phone camera,

Church Center at spucc.churchcenter.com/giving,

PayPal at spucc.org/paypal, or Zelle to 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

Kurt R. Hansen

RESPONSE

Oseh Shalom

Nurit Hirsch

(Sung in Hebrew)

Chancel Choir & Congregation



Ya - a - seh sha - lom, ya - a - seh sha - lom, sha - lom a -

1. -lei - nu v' - al kol Yis - ra - eil. 2. al kol Yis - ra - eil.

May the One who causes peace to reign
In the high heavens,
Let peace descend on us and all Israel,
And let us say: Amen.

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

Lord, When You Called St. Pauls



1. Lord, when you called Saint Pauls by grace, Chi -
2. Dear Je - sus Christ, our cor - ner - stone, each
3. In Eight - een Hun - dred For - ty Three, you
4. Christ let us sing, make voic - es roar, for



- ca - go was a dif - ferent place. Yet what you spoke re -
week we say: "We're not a - lone!" Through growth and fires, in
called new liv - ing stones to be a church that makes a
man - y gen - er - a - tions more! In joy - ful days and



- mains the same: "I'll be with you! Go in my name!"
change and joy, Your pres - ence moves us to re - jice.
joy - ful sound, a cit - y church where Christ re - sounds.
dark - est nights, let Saint Pauls shine, with your great light.



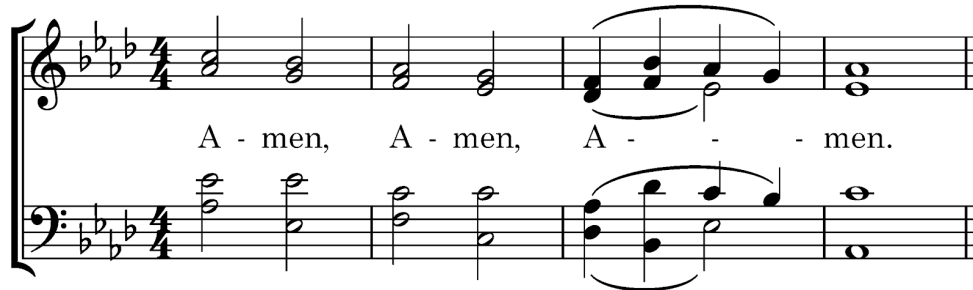
For man - y gen - er - a - tions you have loved Saint Pauls, your



word is true! You love your church, your word is true!

* BENEDICTION

* BENEDICTION RESPONSE



POSTLUDE

It Is Well With My Soul
St. Arbucks Quartet

Horatio Spafford
arr.. Colleen Henry

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 to coffee hour in the Social Hall, directly below the Sanctuary.

INFORMATION FOR FAMILIES

- Childcare is available for babies and toddlers up to age 5 during worship from 10 to 11 a.m. in the Nursery and Toddler Room, downstairs. Activity “busy bags” are available in the Narthex for children to use during the service.
- SUNDAY SCHOOL & CONFIRMATION classes are in session. Students are dismissed with their teachers during the worship service and parents pick up children after the service in their classrooms.
- Confirmation class fall dates are: October 1, 15, 29; November 19; and December 3.
- High School Sunday School class meets on the first and third Sundays of the month. Fall dates are: October 1, 15; November 5, 19; December 3 and 17. High schoolers meet immediately following the service in the Youth Lounge, downstairs. Parents and teens should join the High School GroupMe for up to date information.

TODAY'S WORSHIP LEADERS

Clergy: Liz Nickerson, 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

Lay Liturgical Administrator: Kevin O'Brien

Scripture Reader: Clark Baurer

Head Usher: Beatrice Jaji

Ushers: David Baker, David Faulkner

Gatekeeper: Dodd Brown

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

Custodian: Ramiro Gonzalez

FLOWERS ON THE ALTAR are in memory of Betty Pellegrino

BORN THIS WEEK IN OCTOBER

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.

Oct 15 Alicia Braun, Maggie Stepf, Andrew Malley, Bennett Roark, Elizabeth

Raterman, Sarah Moulton, Thea Mack, Wynne Emmrich

Oct 16 Lydia Richardson, Hannah Barton, Lucille Miller

Oct 17 Tilly Wilhoite

Oct 18 Deirdre Young, John Due

Oct 19 Bob Ball

Oct 20 Jeff Carlson, Evan Schmitt

Oct 21 Arthur Spietz, Elizabeth Beck, Gloria Joseph, Linda Patton, Mike Lohnes,

Elsie Bartels

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

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

** Events marked with an asterisk are in a non-wheelchair accessible location.*

Contact the church office or group leader for more information.

TODAY - YOUNG ADULTS BRUNCH - 11:15 a.m., Courtyard

Come meet new people and have some meaningful conversations. We will walk to a nearby brunch spot. This is a group for folks in their twenties and thirties. Join our GroupMe group with the QR code or email us at youngadults@spucc.org.



TODAY - PLEDGING & GIVING Q&A - 11:15 a.m., Oscar Mayer Room

Following today's service, the Giving Committee will be available for questions about pledging and giving.

OCT. 17 - RETIREMENT GROUP - 10 a.m., Parlor*

The Retirement Group meets on the third Tuesday of the month. Please join us to discuss our transition paths, ways we found ourselves here, what's meaningful, and what's next with or without planned health, funds or companionship. For more info, contact Marcia Knudson at marciaknudson@gmail.com.

OCT. 20 - HISTORIC UCC GENERAL MINISTER AND PRESIDENT INSTALLATION - 4 p.m., Live streamed (registration required). The Rev. Dr. Karen Georgia Thompson will be installed as the General Minister and President of the United Church of Christ (UCC) on October 20 at Lakewood Congregational Church in Lakewood, OH. She is the UCC's 10th and first female elected General Minister. Previously, Rev. Thompson served the national setting of the UCC for 14 years: two years as minister for racial justice, eight years as minister for ecumenical and interfaith relations, four years as Associate General Minister for Wider Church Ministries and Co-Executive for Global Ministries, beginning in 2019. Register for livestream at tinyurl.com/2wfips2e.

OCT. 21 - HALLOWEEN PARTY - 10-11:30 a.m., Gym

Join us for a Halloween party with crafts and activities for kids. Baked goods will be sold. Pre-purchase raffle tickets for goodies such as a sweet treat sampler, toys, and gift certificates toward Little Lights extended programs. Please register below. Raffle tickets may also be purchased at the event. Show off your costume and join in the fun! Registration closes Monday, October 16th.

spucc.churchcenter.com/registrations/events/1960064

OCT. 22 - MOMS GROUP - 11:15 a.m., Youth Lounge (east end of the Social Hall)

Being a mom is the hardest job in the world! So come once a month to gather with other moms with newborns through ten years and support each other! Each month will have a helpful theme for us to explore so we can become the best moms possible and form a tight-knit community. Free childcare is available in the church nursery on the south wall of the Social Hall, from trained professionals. RSVP at spucc.churchcenter.com/groups/saint-pauls-groups/mom-s-group or contact Liz at lnickerson@spucc.org.

OCT. 22 - "RADICAL RESISTANCE" LGBTQ-RAN GALA - 5-6:30 p.m., Virtual

Please join us at the "Radical Resistance" Gala of the LGBTQ-Religious Archives (LGBTQ-RAN). This virtual event will inform attendees of the activities of this robust organization and spotlight and honor six LGBTQ religious history makers, including two emerging scholars. Those being honored include Bishop Yvette Flunder, Barbara Satin, and Rev. Dr. Mel White. LGBTQ-RAN, an international organization formed in 2001, is an innovative venture preserving the history, and encouraging the scholarly study, of LGBTQ religious movements – Christian, Jewish, Islamic and others – around the world. Rick Peterson is Treasurer of the LGBTQ-RAN Board of Directors. St. Pauls is a Sponsor of this Gala. Attendance at the Gala is free, but registration is required. For more information, see LGBTQreligiousarchives.org.

NOV 3-4 - UCC ILLINOIS CONFERENCE ANNUAL CELEBRATION - Yorkville, IL

The Annual Celebration of the Illinois Conference of the United Church of Christ (UCC) will be held in Yorkville, IL. The 2023 theme is "Repentance, Rekindling and Renewal." In addition to the annual business meeting, timely workshops and the celebratory banquet, the Celebration will introduce the new UCC General Minister Rev. Dr. Karen Georgia Thompson to the Illinois Conference. A new, streamlined governance structure also will be proposed. Illinois Conference Minister Rev. Molly Carlson will lead closing worship. The Illinois Conference, with approximately 70,000 members and 241 congregations in the upper two-thirds of Illinois, is the third largest conference in the UCC. See ilucc.org.

OCT. 24 – LUNCH GROUP: FOOD FOR THE SOUL - 12-1:30 p.m., Oscar Mayer Room

Sponsored by St. Pauls Social. Adults of all ages are invited. Make new friends and connect with old ones with lunch (please bring your own), fellowship, fun, and faith. David Faulkner will be hosting October's Food for the Soul. During this event, we will delve deeper into Ecclesiastes 3, including the musical connection to the '60s! Don't miss it! Just come if it is your first time. Those who have previously attended should please RSVP via the group email reminder. Coming at the last minute is fine, as well as needing to leave early!

NOV. 1 – WEDNESDAY BIBLE STUDY RETURNS - 12-12:45 p.m., Zoom

Ecclesiastes: A Solitary Book for Solitary People. Ecclesiastes is full of contradictions, because human life is full of contradictions. After years of reflection on life, its writer attempts to hold that reality in balance - all is vanity and yet everything is a gift from God to be enjoyed. Join Pastor Jeff for a deep dive into this enigmatic book. RSVP to Jeff Carlson, jcarlson@spucc.org.

NOV. 18 – WINDY CITY WINDS FALL CONCERT - 7:30 p.m., Sanctuary

Windy City Winds, "Chicago's Community Band," invites you to our Fall Concert. Internationally acclaimed composer Johan De Meij will guest conduct his *Symphony #1 "The Lord of the Rings"* celebrating the 35th anniversary of this epic and enormously popular work inspired by the books of J.R.R. Tolkien. De Meij will also conduct two of his shorter works, including the *Windy City Overture*. Admission is free and the concert will be live streamed. Audience members can meet the composer and celebrate his 70th birthday at a reception following the concert.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

WINTER COAT AND BOOT DRIVE

RefugeeOne is gearing up for its annual winter coat and boot drive. During the last three months, RefugeeOne has resettled more people than they did the previous year, so the need is greater this year than ever. The drive runs **until October 21**. There are two ways to donate: online via an Amazon wish list or in person on October 20 and 21. For complete information on the drive, including the link to the Amazon wish list, go to refugeeone.org/donatestuff, or scan the code for the wish list.



PECAN PIES FOR THE YOUTH MISSION TRIP

Pecan pie sales are back! Our pecan pie sales will support the Youth Mission Trip. Pies are wonderful fresh but can be frozen (still wonderful)! Order and pay by credit card online **by November 19**. \$20/pie, limit two pies per person. You can also order a pie to be donated to UCAN's residential home kitchen. Pickup: November 20, 2-6 p.m.; or November 21, 9 a.m.-12 p.m. Questions/concerns, please contact Mary Brown, doddbrown@sbcglobal.net, or 847-989-5966.

Purchase your pies here: spucc.churchcenter.com/registrations/events/1975896

CALLING ALL KNITTERS AND CROCHETERS!

We are looking to have 17 scarves and/or hats handmade by members and friends to share with our Venezuelan guests for their first Chicago winter. The St. Pauls Handwork Group is gathering these and will provide yarn to anyone who needs it. Contact Lynn Dykstra Davis at Lrdykstra@aol.com if you would like to contribute a scarf or hat. You can drop off completed items at the office.

CALL FOR STREAMING VOLUNTEERS

Love all things digital, especially fancy devices? Got a knack for capturing special moments on camera? Love to chat with family, friends and others? Want to contribute to a key outreach effort of St Pauls? If you answered yes to any of the above questions, the St. Pauls Streaming Team needs you. Our team is expanding its mission and can use your help. If interested, come see us in the balcony after the service or reach out to Brian Hafner (bhafner2@att.net) or Bob Ball (Robert.f.ball@outlook.com).

UCC DAILY DEVOTIONAL PRAYER GUIDE

Every day there is a Scripture passage and reflection that you can sign up to receive in your inbox! This is a great way to make time to reflect on God each day and grow in your faith. To sign-up visit ucc.org/daily-devotional.

JOIN THE MOVEMENT - provided by SPARC

Good news from our partner organizations for racial justice! On this final day of Hispanic Heritage Month, read Hispanic Heritage Month Spotlight Profiles, tinyurl.com/3ckph8ck, shared by Community Renewal Society, to learn about and celebrate the contributions of these Hispanic figures. Learn about the latest Community Healing Resource Center founded by LiveFree Chicago in Garfield Park to holistically treat those impacted by gun violence, tinyurl.com/y6ydsb7j.

CREATION CORNER - provided by Green Team

REUSE IN YOUR YARD

The key to successfully saving seeds from annual flowers/plants is to let the blooms completely mature and dry, while still on the mother plant. The longer old flower heads wither and dry, the better. To harvest:

- Cut off the flower head
- Spread collected seeds and flower heads in an airy container for a few days to thoroughly dry
- Transfer the seeds into small packages – paper bags work well
- Label bags with the type of plant. Seeds look very similar when dry!
- Store away from direct light
- Seeds saved from annual flowers are best used the following year

PASTORS' SABBATICAL SCHEDULE

St. Pauls provides a three-month sabbatical to each of our pastors every seven years. This year, Pastor Jeff is on sabbatical through October 23. Pastor Matt will be on sabbatical October 16 to December 16.

SPECIAL MUSIC 2023-2024 "MASS APPEAL"

Once again, there is a theme for special music during the 2023-2024 season offered by our Chancel Choir during our 10 a.m. Sunday morning worship services. Please add these dates to your calendar and please invite your friends to join us in person or online at spucc.org/streaming.

Mass Appeal is a way to look at one of the oldest forms of Christian liturgical worship in three very different ways. The goal is to share how the words of the liturgical Mass can be expressed in varied musical styles but always with the same goal: expressing the spiritual joy, longing, majesty, and supplication.

Sunday, December 3, 2023 - *St. Francis in the Americas - A Caribbean Mass* composed in 1997 by Glenn McClure. This joyfully rhythmic Mass setting is a perfect expression of the journey from the anticipation of Advent to the birth of Jesus on Christmas. It is accompanied by a steel drum band.

Sunday, March 17, 2024 - *Messe solennelle* by Louis Vierne. This French Romantic setting in Latin was composed for choir and organ in 1899. It showcases beautiful and majestic writing for both choir and a pipe organ with the breadth of colors available on our Phoenix and the talents of Kevin Dzierzawski.

Sunday, May 19, 2024 - *A Gospel Mass* was composed in 1982 by Robert Ray. This wonderful setting, largely in English, marries the spiritual energy and uplift of Gospel music with the timeless words of the Mass ordinary. This gives us a chance to showcase not only the Chancel Choir, but also our incredible St. Arbucks Quartet.

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.

BASKETBALL – Now on Wednesdays. Join us for a weekly pickup game! All skill levels welcome. Email Pastor Matt to get on the updates list, mfitzgerald@spucc.org.

BIBLE STUDY – Starting again November 1. Weekly on Wednesdays, noon to 1p.m. All are welcome! Contact Pastor Jeff for the Zoom link, jcarlson@spucc.org.

THE BOOK NOOK – Find your next good read or drop off books to share in the Social Hall. 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, contact Linda Nitzsche, lindanitz@yahoo.com.

CAREGIVERS’ GROUP – A caregiving role can be a source of love, joy and considerable stress, but it’s easier when it doesn’t feel like you’re the only one. The St. Pauls Caregivers’ Group is an informal support group of people who are responsible for the care of parents, partners, friends, or children with illnesses or disabilities. We gather via Zoom the first and third Wednesdays of each month from 10 to 11 a.m. to listen, share, empathize, and encourage. Contact Pam Woll pamelawoll@sbcglobal.net with questions, or Claire Higgins at chiggins@spucc.org to be added to the email list.

CHURCH CENTER – spucc.churchcenter.com is our portal for St. Pauls members and friends. See our calendar, register for events, update your information, join our photo directory, manage your online donations, see your giving history, and more!

CHURCH SCHOOL

God created us to be creative and to create! This is our theme for Church School this year. Each child will learn that they were created in God's own image. They will learn to love and value all people and to love themselves. Please fill out the one-time registration for the '23-'24 school year below. We have a nursery for children under 2, Preschool Child Care for children 2-5, and Sunday School/Confirmation I & II for 5-year-olds to high school. Email questions to Children's Program Coordinator Danielle Mayfield at danielle.mayfield@spucc.org.

Register here: spucc.churchcenter.com/registrations/events/1850397

COMMON PANTRY COMMUNION SUNDAYS – We're collecting food for the Common Pantry every communion Sunday - usually the first Sunday of the month. See their wishlist for most-needed items here, commonpantry.org/donations. 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.

CONSIDER THE LILIES - Are you looking for a way to get involved with the life of St. Pauls? Join the team that delivers our Sunday altar flowers to members and friends who need to know St. Pauls is thinking of them. The flower ministry is flexible and meant to be an easy and rewarding experience. Team members sign up for approximately 1 Sunday every 3 months. It is amazing how this simple gesture brings such joy and feelings of love to the recipient – not to mention the joy and love experienced by the deliverer. If you would like to be part of this ministry, please email lilies@spucc.org.

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.

GREETING TEAM – Would you consider being one of our Sunday morning greeters? The ushers and greeters meet in the Narthex at 9:30 a.m. for quick announcements and a prayer. Then, the greeters stand at the church doors to say “Hello!” to folks — greeting attendees with a smile and cheerfulness, while the ushers are inside continuing to welcome attendees and hand out worship bulletins. It’s a great jumping off point to see other ministries and expand your involvement. Contact Madelyn Jansma to learn more: madelynj@live.com.

HANDWORK MEET-UP – If you enjoy handwork, you’re invited to sit together and stitch in community on the first Sunday of the month at our drop-in handwork group. We gather in a corner of the Social Hall for one hour after the worship service. New to handwork? We have expert knitters, crocheters, embroiderers, and sewers to help you get started with a project. We also welcome admirers of handwork should you wish to pull up a chair and join the conversation!

LITTLE LIGHTS is a St. Pauls early childhood program with classes for 2, 3, and 4-year-olds. We have limited spots remaining for the 2023/24 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.

LPCS VOLUNTEERING – Lincoln Park Community Services has a new volunteer opportunity on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 11:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., or 2:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. You will prepare LPCS-provided lunches for their street outreach program and welcome folks coming for drop-in services. To learn more about this program, contact volunteer coordinator Lynne Brenan at lynnebrenan@yahoo.com or (630) 542-7012. Learn more here: tinyurl.com/4sfbcmpx.

NEW MEMBER CLASSES – Join pastors, members, and others curious about St. Pauls for an upcoming New Member Class. Together we'll talk about faith and our community, and we'd love for you to be part of the conversation! We'll meet after worship, and childcare will be provided as needed (please let us know in your registration). See upcoming dates here: spucc.org/new_member_classes

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 Church Center 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: 2-3:45 p.m.
spucc.churchcenter.com/groups/saint-pauls-groups/pickleball

POP TAB PROGRAM: RONALD McDONALD HOUSE CHARITY – Help support the Ronald McDonald Charities by saving aluminum tabs from all kinds of cans: soda, canned foods, pet food, etc. Find a container and start collecting. Bring your pop tab donations to the Social Hall and add them to our collection bin. This is a wonderful opportunity to introduce young children to helping others and recycling. Little things like pop tabs can make a big difference!

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.

ST. PAULS SOCIAL – Get better acquainted with other adults at St. Pauls. If you are interested in hosting, please contact Jen Luerssen at jenluerssen@yahoo.com. 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.

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).

YOUNG ADULTS – A group for fun and fellowship for folks in their twenties and thirties. Join our GroupMe group with the QR code or email us at youngadults@spucc.org.



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. Please contact Erin Fitzgerald at erin.fitzgerald@spucc.org to be added to the list.

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 9:30 on Sunday mornings during the school year.

BULLETIN ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please send announcements for St. Pauls-sponsored events to chiggins@spucc.org no later than 10 a.m. on Wednesdays, for publication in the Friday email and next Sunday bulletin. You are welcome to share personal announcements and other event invitations in our Facebook Group, St. Pauls Together.

Please limit announcements to 100 words. Thank you!

TODAY'S MUSIC

Liebster Jesu, wir sind hier, *Dearest Jesus, We Are Here*, is a chorale prelude, which is a compositional genre where the composer creates an "arrangement" using a well-known melody as a theme. The chorale, hymn and melody was composed by Benjamin Schmolck (1672-1737). Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750) thought so highly of this chorale that he set it for organ four times.

Tobias Clausnitzer (c. 1619-1684) wrote the original German text in 1663 for ***We Have Gathered Jesus Dear***. He became a chaplain to a Swedish regiment and later became Kapellmeister at St. Thomaskirche in Leipzig, the church that Bach would eventually serve. The English translation was made by Madeleine Forell Marshall (b. 1946). A respected academic who began her studies at St. Olaf College, she is now on the faculty at Claremont School of Theology in California. The tune, LIEBSTER JESU, was composed in 1664 by Johann Rodolf Ahle (1625-1673). He was educated at Erfurt University and was a well known organist, but beyond that, little is known about his life.

The text for ***God Whose Giving Knows No Ending*** was written in 1961 by Robert L. Edwards (1915-2006). He was a Congregational minister who focused on prison ministry, low income senior housing, and other ministries of social justice. 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* and *Love Divine All Loves Excelling*.

The text for ***Child of Blessing, Child of Promise*** was written in 1981 by a UCC pastor and teacher of theology, Ronald Cole-Turner (b. 1948). The tune, STUTTGART, was composed in 1715 by Christian Friederich Witt (1660-1716). Witt completed a huge hymnal, *Psalmodia Sacra*, the year before his death. Of the 774 hymns (!!!), he composed nearly 100 of them. He was Kapellmeister of the Gotha court in Stuttgart at the same time that Bach was in Leipzig, just 300 miles north. As an interesting

side note, Nathan Laube, world renowned organist and friend of St. Pauls, was until recently on the organ faculty at the Hochschule für Musik in Stuttgart. He has returned to the faculty at the Eastman School of Music.

The text for ***God Who Stretched the Spangled Heavens*** was written in 1967 by Catherine Cameron (1827-2019). She became a professor of psychology in California. HOLY MANNA is an unattributed melody from the great American series of shaped-note hymnals from the early 19th century, including *The Sacred Harp*.

Take My Gifts is a relatively new text (1998) that was penned by Shirley Erena Murray (1931- 2020). She lived her entire life in New Zealand, wrote numerous hymn texts, married a Presbyterian minister, and was committed to both inclusive language and the use of Maori language in some texts. TALAVERA TERRACE was composed by another New Zealander, Colin Gibson (b. 1933). He wrote many hymns, both texts and music, collaborated often with Murray, and was a professor in a theater department at a university in his homeland.

Psalm 150 was set by Louis Lewandowski (1821-1894). Originally, the text was in Hebrew. He was born in Poland, but after his mother's death, and because of the family's extreme poverty, he moved to Berlin. He was aided by Alexander Mendelssohn, cousin of Felix. He was the first Jew admitted to the Berlin Academy of the Arts. After recovering from serious health problems, he decided to devote his life to composing music for the synagogue and was in the forefront of the growth of Reform Judaism. In 1882, he wrote the first complete setting of the Jewish Sabbath liturgy for cantor, four-part choir and organ.

Oseh Shalom is a song from the regular Shabbat (Sabbath) liturgy. This folk-like music was composed in 1969 by Nurit Hirsch (b. 1942). She is an Israeli composer, arranger and conductor who has written more than 1,000 Hebrew songs. She lives in Tel Aviv. In 1978, her composition won the Eurovision Song Contest and has become a favorite song of congregations and meetings internationally. The text expresses a simple longing for peace that is particularly appropriate at this time.

Lord, When You Called St. Pauls is a text created in 2018 by Pastor Matt Fitzgerald for our 175th celebration as a church. SOLID ROCK was composed in 1863 by the prolific hymn writer, William Bradbury (1816-1868). Raised on his father's farm in Maine, he developed a love for music as a child and began playing the organ in church by age 15. Among the best known of his hymns is the children's hymn, *Jesus Loves Me, This I Know*.

Our Postlude, ***It Is Well With My Soul***, was composed by Philip L. Bliss (1836-1878) in 1876. He was a largely self-taught itinerant music teacher. He was converted at age 12 at a revival, and it was Dwight L. Moody (1837-1899), famous evangelist and founder of the Moody Bible Institute here in Chicago, who encouraged Bliss to become a singing evangelist. The text was written by Horatio G. Spafford (1828-1888) in 1873. He also gave the Bliss tune its name, VILLE DU HAVRE. The tune is the name of the ship carrying his wife and four daughters from Chicago to vacation in France. The ship sank in the Atlantic after a collision with another vessel and only his wife survived. He wrote this text ***after*** this loss. This arrangement was made by Colleen Henry (1946-2014), mother of Brendan Henry.

ST. 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.

- Karin Magnuson at the loss of her father.
- Sister-in-law of Gloria Joseph, dealing with a cancer diagnosis.
- Leslie, sister of Mary Stainton, diagnosed with a brain tumor.
- Cheryl Kennedy, recovering from a heart attack.
- Family and friends at the death of Bob Knuti.
- Thomas Wikman, beloved conductor and founder of Music of the Baroque, who passed away October 9.
- Students and staff of the GCE school in Chicago, which recently closed.
- LeeAnne Tongue.
- Friends and family of Bo at his death.
- Leroy Johnson, husband of Karen L. Johnson, in the hospital diagnosed with acute leukemia.
- New member Irem Metin, who is recovering from surgery. Please keep Irem, her husband William, and sons Aidan and Benjamin in your prayers.
- Sarah and her children, Emma and Jack, at the loss of their husband/father in an accident.
- 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!

St. 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 the Lincoln Common Parking Garage, 2316 N. 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 LGPTQ+ people.

Welcome to each and to everyone.

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

