

How Sweet the Sound
November 12, 2023

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

There is no Sunday School this week.

Children are invited to stay in worship. The Nursery is open for children ages 0 to 4.

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.

Please silence cell phones.

THOUGHT FOR PREPARATION

"You're blessed if you have the strength to work. Gospel music is nothing but singing of good tidings—spreading the good news."

Mahalia Jackson

PRELUDE

Just A Closer Walk With Thee
St. Arbucks

Traditional
arr. Brendan Henry

INTROIT

Amazing Grace
Mark Mosley, alto saxophone

Black American Hymn

* ANTHEM

Glory, Glory
Kris Hansen, soloist
Combined Choirs and St. Arbucks

African American Gospel
arr. Harriet Ziegenhals

Glory, glory, Hallelujah,
Since I laid my burden down.

I feel better, so much better,
Since I laid my burden down.

Glory, glory . . .

I'm going home to live with Jesus,
Since I laid my burden down.

Glory, glory . . .

WELCOME

Kurt R. Hansen

* WELCOMING EACH OTHER

* CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Fear not if language has failed you.

All: Amazing Grace is a sweet, sweet sound.

One: God calls us together as a family of faith to lift and blend our voices.

All: 'Twas grace that taught our hearts to SING

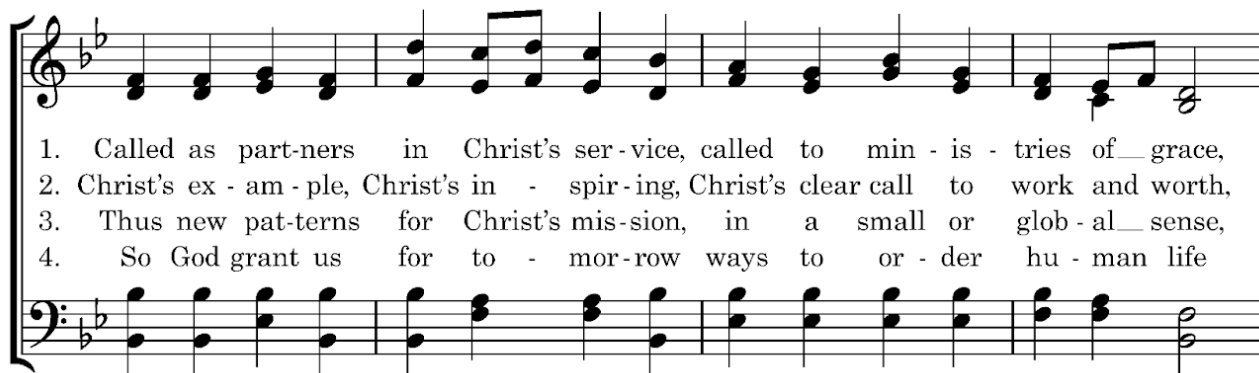
One: Lift up your voice. God is your shield and portion,

All: As long as life endures. AMEN!

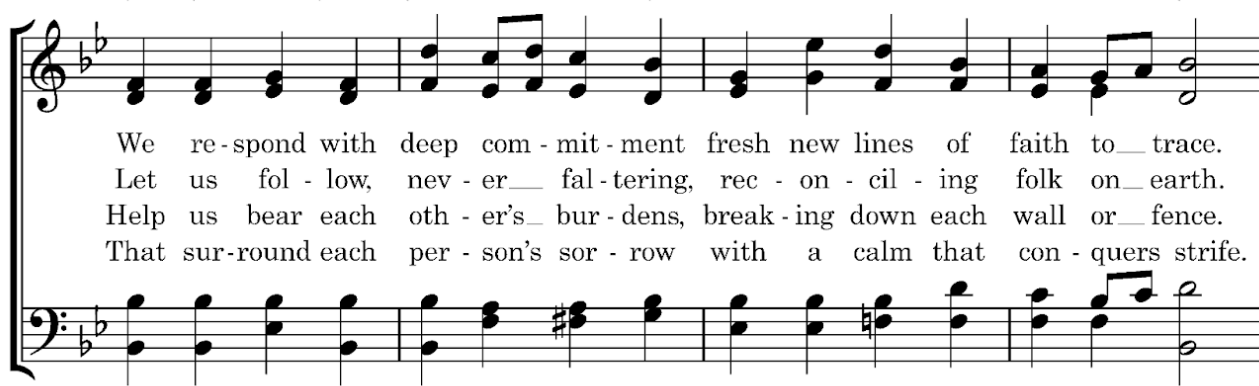
** Please stand if you are able to do so.*

* HYMN

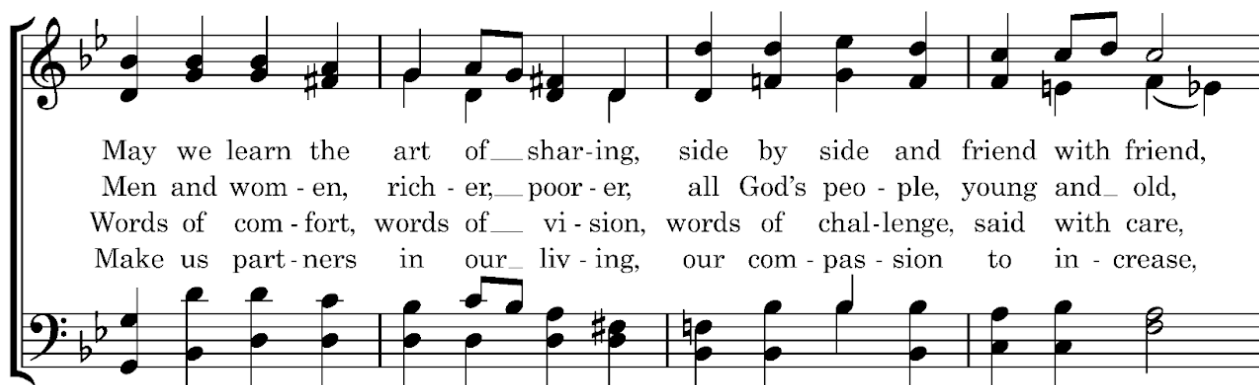
Called as Partners in Christ's Service



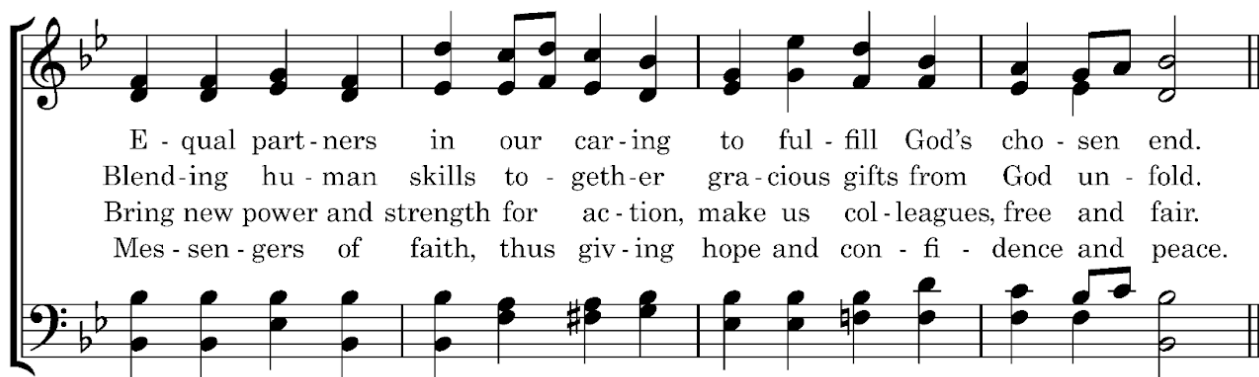
1. Called as part-ners in Christ's ser-vice, called to min - is - tries of grace,
 2. Christ's ex - am - ple, Christ's in - spir-ing, Christ's clear call to work and worth,
 3. Thus new pat-terns for Christ's mis-sion, in a small or glob - al sense,
 4. So God grant us for to - mor-row ways to or - der hu - man life



We re-pond with deep com - mit - ment fresh new lines of faith to trace.
 Let us fol - low, nev - er fal - tering, rec - on - cil - ing folk on earth.
 Help us bear each oth - er's bur - dens, break - ing down each wall or fence.
 That sur-round each per - son's sor - row with a calm that con - quers strife.



May we learn the art of shar-ing, side by side and friend with friend,
 Men and wom - en, rich - er, poor - er, all God's peo - ple, young and old,
 Words of com - fort, words of vi - sion, words of chal-lenge, said with care,
 Make us part-ners in our liv - ing, our com - pas - sion to in - crease,



E - qual part-ners in our car-ing to ful - fill God's cho - sen end.
 Blend-ing hu - man skills to - geth-er gra - cious gifts from God un - fold.
 Bring new power and strength for ac - tion, make us col-leagues, free and fair.
 Mes - sen - gers of faith, thus giv-ing hope and con - fi - dence and peace.

ANTHEM

We'll All Shout Together African American Spiritual
Children's Choir arr. Jaqueline Hanna McNair
Breanna Coe, director; and Karen Johnson, pianist

That happy day will soon appear,
And we'll all shout together in the morning;

When Gabriel's trumpet you shall hear,
And we'll all shout together . . .

Sweet morning, sweet morning, sweet morning,
Sweet morning, we'll all shout together in the morning.

Behold the righteous marching home,
And we'll all shout together . . .

And all the angels bid them come,
And we'll all shout together . . .

Sweet morning, . . .

We will shout together,
We will all shout together in the morning!

Solo 1 - Mabel Fletcher

Nora Penniman

Solo 2 - Charlie Coe

Sean Banjavcic

Solo 3 - Eve Lytal

Myers Emmrich

Solo 4 - James Mix

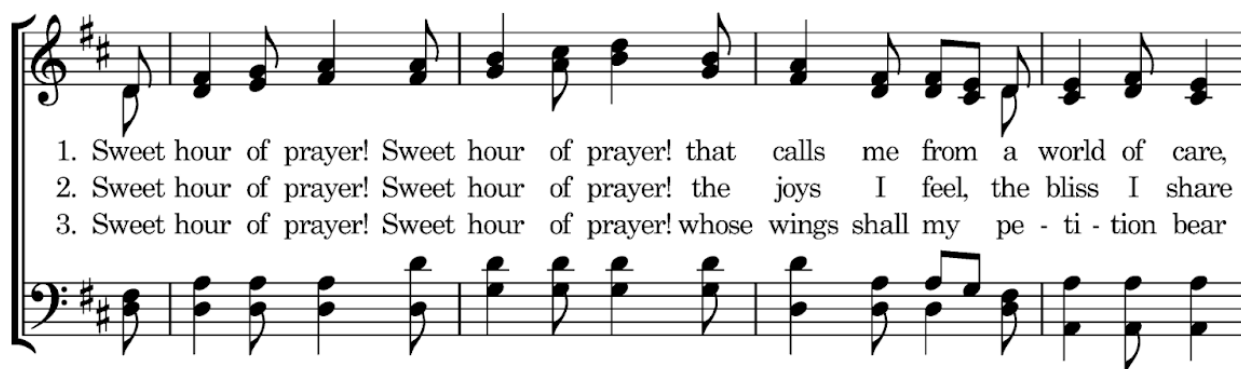
Holland Emmrich

Solo 5 - Juniper Fletcher

Grady Hartanov

Solo 6 - Theo Lytal

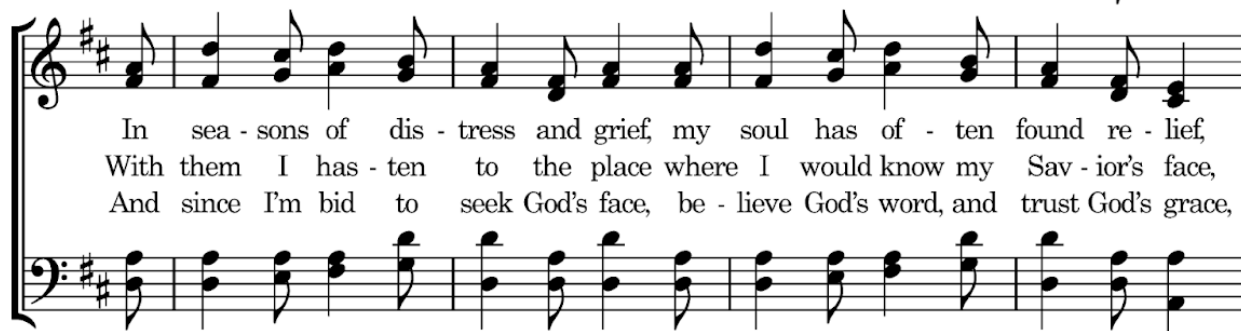
Sullivan McGrath



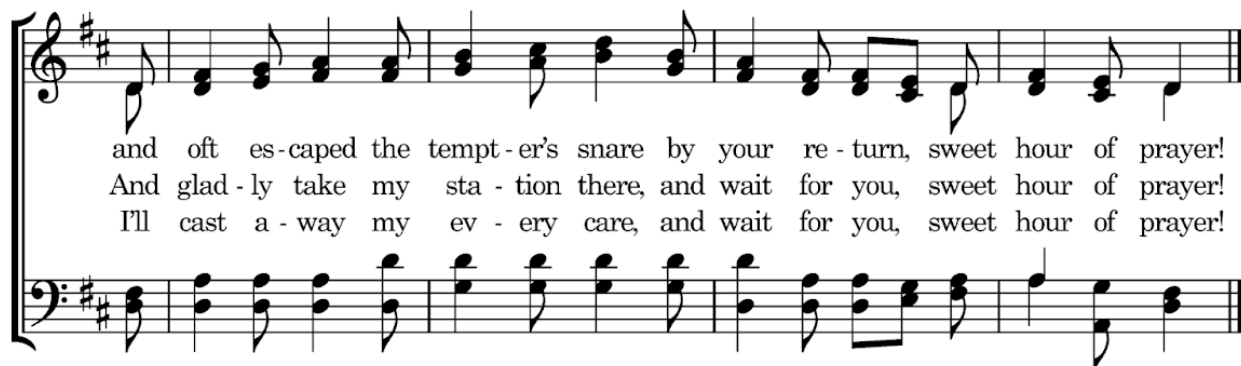
1. Sweet hour of prayer! Sweet hour of prayer! that calls me from a world of care,
2. Sweet hour of prayer! Sweet hour of prayer! the joys I feel, the bliss I share
3. Sweet hour of prayer! Sweet hour of prayer! whose wings shall my pe - ti - tion bear



and bids me at my Ma - ker's throne let all my needs and wants be known.
of those whose anx - ious spir - its burn with strong de - sires for your re - turn!
to One whose truth and faith - ful - ness en - gage the wait - ing soul to bless.



In sea - sons of dis - tress and grief, my soul has of - ten found re - lief,
With them I has - ten to the place where I would know my Sav - ior's face,
And since I'm bid to seek God's face, be - lieve God's word, and trust God's grace,



and oft es - caped the tempt - er's snare by your re - turn, sweet hour of prayer!
And glad - ly take my sta - tion there, and wait for you, sweet hour of prayer!
I'll cast a - way my ev - ery care, and wait for you, sweet hour of prayer!

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Kurt R. Hansen

**God of infinite love and mercy,
We come before you with hope and rejoicing.
We lift our voices in song and prayer . . .
Songs that speak of yearning to be close to you,
 Even though we too often push you away.
Prayers that speak the truth of our failings,
 Even though we have trouble owning up to them.
We ask for peace in our homes,
 in our city,
 in our country,
 And, please Lord, in our world.
We ask humbly to be made instruments of your peace.
We ask that our songs reach beyond ourselves to our neighbors in this
room and beyond.
We ask that our “Joyful Sound in the City” reach your ears and melt the
hearts of those who live in fear and violence.
Open our souls through singing today and crack open our hearts.
Open us so we can let our little lights shine to your GLORY.**

MOMENT OF SILENT PRAYER

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

Sweet Hour of Prayer
See previous hymn

v. 3

SCRIPTURE

Ella Vincent

Psalm 98, The Message

Sing to God a new song.

He's made a world of wonders!

He rolled up his sleeves,

He set things right.

God made history with salvation,

He showed the world what he could do.

He remembered to love us, a bonus

To his dear family, Israel,- indefatigable love.

The whole earth comes to attention.

Look God's work of salvation!

Shout your praises to God, everybody!

Let loose and sing! Strike up the band!

Round up an orchestra to play for God,

Add on a hundred-voice choir.

Feature trumpets and big trombones,

Fill the air with praises to King God.

Let the sea and its fish give a round of applause,

With everything living on earth joining in.

Let ocean breakers call out, "Encore!"

And mountains harmonize the finale

* HYMN

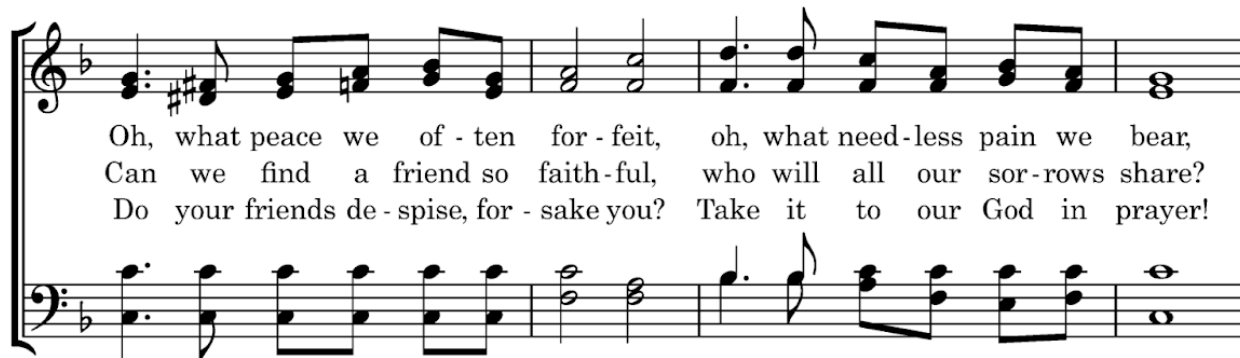
What a Friend We Have in Jesus



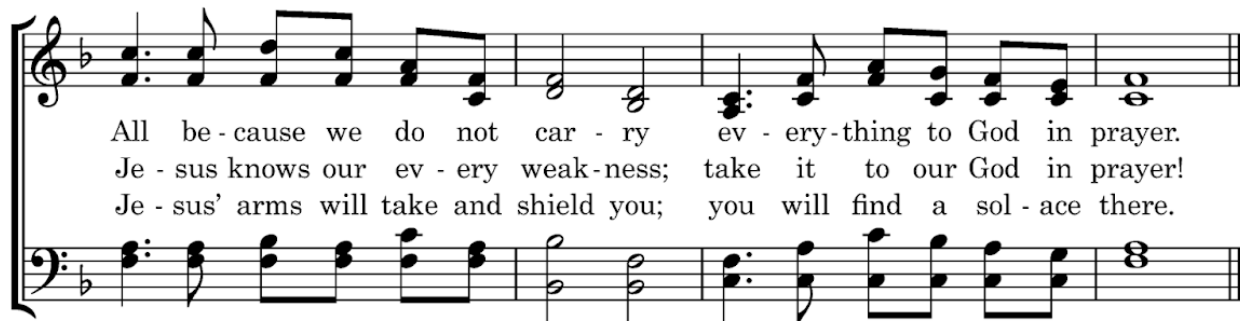
1. What a friend we have in Je - sus, all our sins and griefs to bear!
2. Have we tri - als and temp - ta - tions? Is there trou - ble an - y - where?
3. Are we weak and heav - y lad - en, bur - dened with a load of care?



What a priv - i - lege to car - ry ev - ery - thing to God in prayer!
We should nev - er be dis - cour - aged; take it to our God in prayer!
Pre - cious Sav - ior, still our ref - uge, take it to our God in prayer!



Oh, what peace we of - ten for - feit, oh, what need - less pain we bear,
Can we find a friend so faith - ful, who will all our sor - rows share?
Do your friends de - spise, for - sake you? Take it to our God in prayer!



All be - cause we do not car - ry ev - ery - thing to God in prayer.
Je - sus knows our ev - ery weak - ness; take it to our God in prayer!
Je - sus' arms will take and shield you; you will find a sol - ace there.

ANTHEM

Shine on Me
Pauls People
Kecia Waldschmidt, director

Traditional Spiritual
arr. Rollo A. Dilworth

Shine on me.
I wonder if the Lighthouse will shine on me.
Shine on me.

Is a light shining above?
Is it shining above in the heavens for me?
I'm wonderin' if there's a light shining above in the heavens for me?

Oh! Shine on me....
I'm wonderin' if there's a light

Winnie Castle
Cecilia Chamberlain
Aniston Hartanov
Anais Jarzebowski
Eva Mack
Thea Mack
Deirdre McGrath

Brooke McGuire
Thomas Mix
Bren Odom
Sylvia Pine
Colette Schimp
Bella Vitale
Lee Waldschmidt

SERMON

"Sing a New Song"

Liz Nickerson

MEDITATION

I'll Fly Away

Septimus Winner
aka Alice Hawthorn

Nancy Pifer, soprano and Kevin Dzierzawski, piano

Some glad morning when this life is over

I'll fly away

To a home on God's celestial shore

I'll fly away

I'll fly away, oh, Glory

I'll fly away

When I die, Hallelujah, by and by

I'll fly away

Just a few more weary days and then

I'll fly away

To a land where joy shall never end

I'll fly away

I'll fly away, oh, Glory

I'll fly away

When I die, Hallelujah, by and by

I'll fly away

Yeah, when I die, Hallelujah, by and by

I'll fly away

* HYMN

God, You Have Set Us

1. God, you have set us in this time and place,
2. Let doors and hearts pro - vide a wel - come here.
3. So may the world, be - come our neigh - bor - hood,

Called us as stew - ards of your love and grace.
Let walls and voic - es ring with songs of cheer.
Each wish - ing each the right, the true, the good,

O keep us faith - ful, set our souls a - fire,
Let win - dows speak of beau - ty and of light.
Word, font, and ta - ble call - ing us to be

And by your Spir - it all our work in - spire.
Let smile and ges - ture show your love a - right.
Bound up in Christ, in Christ set bold - ly free.

GIVING MOMENT

Brian Hafner

OFFERTORY

I Don't Feel No Ways Tired

Rev. James Cleveland

Kris Hansen, soloist

Chancel Choir

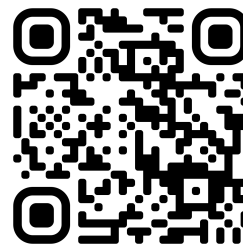
I don't feel no ways tired,
I've come too far from where I started from
Nobody told me that the road would be easy
I don't believe he brought me this far to leave me
I don't feel noways tired
I don't believe He brought me this far
I don't believe He brought me this far
I don't believe He brought me this far
To leave me

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

Jeff Carlson

THE LORD'S PRAYER

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.
Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread,
and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever.
Amen.**

* HYMN

All Are Welcome

Marty Haugen



1. Let us build a house where love can dwell and all can safe - ly__

2. Let us build a house where all are named, their songs and vis - ions



live, a__ place where saints and chil - dren tell how hearts learn
heard and loved and treas - ured, taught and claimed as__ words with -



to for - give. Built of hopes and dreams and vi - sions, rock of
-in the Word. Built of tears and cries and laugh - ter, prayers of



faith and vault of grace: here the love of Christ shall end di - vi - sions:
faith and songs of grace, let this house pro - claim from floor to raf - ter:



All are wel-come, all are wel-come, all are wel-come in this place.__

* BENEDICTION

Kurt R. Hansen

BENEDICTION RESPONSE *This Little Light of Mine* Black American Spiritual
Kris Hansen, soloist arr. Sam Hill
St. Arbucks Quartet
Combined Choir and Congregation
Please join on the refrain

Refrain - This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine. (3 times)
Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.

Hide it under a bushel, No! I'm gonna let it shine. (3 times)
Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.

All around the neighborhood. I'm gonna let it shine. (3 times)
Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.

Verse - On Monday he gave me the gift of love,
On Tuesday peace came from above,
On Wednesday he told me to have a little more faith,
On Thursday gave me a little more grace,
On Friday he told me to watch and pray,
On Saturday told me just what to say,
On Sunday he gave power divine,
Just to let my little light shine.

Let it shine 'til Jesus comes, I'm gonna let it shine. (3 times)
Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.

Verse - Some say the time's too late,
This old world's in a sorry state,
We've got another story;
We say the world is bound for glory.
There's a little whitedove, a-flying in the blue,
Gonna show what power of love can do.
Where there's a dark corner in this world,
I'm gonna let my little light shine.

Refrain . . .

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

Following Worship, all are invited for coffee and snacks in the Social Hall.

TODAY'S MUSIC

Both the text and tune of ***Just a Closer Walk With Thee*** are of unknown origin. It appears in 99 hymnals and was first published in the mid-1940s. On a train trip to Chicago from Kansas City, Kenneth Morris (1917-1989), an African American gospel music composer, heard a porter singing this song. He asked the porter to sing it again so he could write down the melody and words. When it was published, Morris also added some of his own words. It likely dates back to as early as post-Civil War days in African American churches. The arrangement we hear today was made by Brendan Henry.

The text for ***Amazing Grace*** is by John Newton (1725-1807), who was a slave ship captain, but became an Anglican clergy and fervent abolitionist. He once said that writing this text saved his soul. The tune, NEW BRITAIN, is most likely an African American spiritual and was first published in 1829.

Glory, Glory! Hallelujah! is a truly exuberant African American spiritual. Longtime members of St. Pauls will recognize it as one of our touchstone songs sung over the years on "How Sweet the Sound," our Gospel music Sunday. The arrangement we sing is by Harriet Ziegenhals (1925-2016). Ziegenhals was the Director of the Community Renewal Chorus in Chicago for many years and often collaborated with Sam Hill, beloved Music Director and remarkable gospel pianist at St. Pauls from 1971 until his death in 1991.

We'll All Shout Together is another song from the great wealth of spirituals. There is no record of either a composer of the music or text. Like other spirituals, it was passed on by people hearing and then sharing it. This arrangement was composed in 1968 by Jacqueline Hanna McNair (b. 1931). She has published many choral works and hymns.

Shine on Me is an African American spiritual arranged by Rollo Dilworth (b. 1970). Dr. Dilworth has a deep connection to Chicago and was also the director of our Children's Choir. Dr. Dilworth earned his Doctorate of Musical Arts (DMA) in choral conducting and literature at Northwestern University while Kurt R. Hansen was on

the Voice and Opera Faculty. He was also the Director of Choral Activities at North Park University and Breanna Coe, the Director of our Children's Choir, sang in his choirs. He is now the Chair of the Music Education and Music Therapy Department at Temple University in Philadelphia. He is much sought after as a choral clinician and composer.

Joseph Medicott Scriven (1819-1886) wrote the famous text for ***What a Friend We Have in Jesus*** in 1855. An Irish immigrant to Canada, his life was full of ill health and grief, which he worked out in Christian poetry. The tune, ERIE, is also known as CONVERSE, and was composed in 1868 by John C. Converse (1832-1918) who grew up in Erie, PA, which explains both tune names. He was an attorney who also composed "church songs." He studied both law and music in Leipzig before returning to this country.

I'll Fly Away is the refrain of the hymn *Some Glad Morning*. The tune name is the same as the beginning text of the refrain. Both the text and tune were composed by Alfred E. Brumley (1905-1977), whose music was deeply influenced by growing up in the Ozarks, and he wrote this hymn while working in a cotton field. He wrote more than 800 gospel songs and taught at a number of singing schools in Missouri and Arkansas.

I Don't Feel No Ways Tired was composed in 1980 by the Reverend James Cleveland (1931-1991). He was inspired by the exclamation of an elderly woman in his congregation. She'd had a hard life with pain, disappointment, and mistreatment "just because of who she was." She found strength in her faith, redemption in Christ, and liberation in the Holy Spirit. Her words and fortitude inspired Reverend Cleveland. He also carried on the tradition started by Thomas A. Dorsey fusing the spirit-filled music of gospel with the energy and drive of jazz. Muzette Morgan, our longtime alto section leader and member of St. Pauls, introduced this song to us.

All Are Welcome is a recently composed hymn and one of our favorites from a past hymnfest. The tune is TWO OAKS. It dates from 1994 and the words and music were both created by Marty Haugen (b. 1950), an American composer of numerous hymns and liturgical music. This hymn was shared with Kurt R. Hansen by a college friend, Alisa Kasmir, and has quickly become an anthem of St. Pauls' Open and Affirming ministry.

This Little Light of Mine has been a St. Pauls favorite for more than 40 years. It has an uplifting and spiritually powerful message that celebrates the sharing of faith. It is also another example from the deep well of spirituals from the African American tradition. The arrangement that we sing was created by Dr. Sammie "Sam" Hill, who

was Director of Music and Organist at St. Pauls from 1971-1991. Sam, and our current Director of Music, Kurt R. Hansen, both studied with the same teacher at Northwestern University, Grigg Fountain.

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.

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, Jeff Carlson

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: Ella Vincent

Head Usher: Beatrice Jaji

Ushers: David Baker, Doug Clark

Gatekeeper: Dodd Brown

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

Custodian: Ramiro Gonzalez

FLOWERS ON THE ALTAR are in honor of Megan and David Faulkner's 7th wedding anniversary.

BORN THIS WEEK IN NOVEMBER

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.

Nov. 12 Eileen Felson, Robert Manrique

Nov. 13 Terry Brancaccio-Hansen, Tatum Hunter

Nov. 14 Jenna Beeson, Pauline Taylor, John Nickerson

Nov. 15 Tom Murray, Ann Christophersen, Jon Ekdahl

Nov. 16 Brent Mix, Matt Nickerson

Nov. 17 Matt Leimann, Sarah Fenstermacher

Nov. 18 Maria Kooistra

UPCOMING EVENTS

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 - 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 10 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 by trained professionals is available in the church nursery on the south wall of the Social Hall. RSVP at spucc.churchcenter.com/groups/saint-pauls-groups/mom-s-group or contact Pastor Liz at lnickerson@spucc.org.

NOV. 15 – WEDNESDAY BIBLE STUDY - 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.

NOV. 19 – NEW MEMBER CLASS - 11:15 a.m., Oscar Mayer Room

Join pastors, members and others curious about St. Pauls for our fall 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). Please RSVP here: spucc.churchcenter.com/registrations/events/1754569.

NOV. 21 - 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.

NOV. 28 – 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. 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. 28 – GIVING TUESDAY: SUPPORT UCC EFFORTS TO CARE FOR CREATION & ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE INITIATIVES

The UCC cares deeply about environmental and climate justice. In 2022, the denomination made a five-year commitment to focus our Giving Tuesday campaigns on environmental issues, and through these contributions, we will gather resources for our work to help address climate issues that impact our world. Projects include an “all church” Earth Day Summit in 2024 and continuation of the successful Climate Hope Summer, an environmental justice fellowship program for youth and young adult leaders. Give generously!

NOV. 29 - COOKIES FOR A CAUSE - 5:30 p.m., Kitchen

Join the St. Pauls cookie bakers for dinner, socializing and cookie making. Meet us in the kitchen at 5:30 p.m. or whenever works for you. We eat around 6:30 p.m. Cookies (about 1,000) go to A Just Harvest and the Lincoln Park Community Shelter. If you can't join us but would like to participate, you may drop off any homemade cookies at the church by November 29, labeled MARCIA. Please get in touch with Marcia Volk, marciavolk@volkonline.com, (773) 307-6866, to reserve a spot and she will let you know what dinner/baking supplies are still needed. And if you know of someone who needs some support or friends from the baking crew, please bring them along. Marcia will be away November 16-21, but will respond to your phone calls or email when she returns.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

TOTENFEST MEMORIALS

Totenfest will be Sunday, November 26. During worship, we will give thanks for the lives of the members and friends of our congregation who died during the past year. Totenfest is a German word meaning “Festival of the Dead.” You can make a memorial gift honoring a loved one online at the link below, or by any of our other giving methods. Please make your gift and email your memorial dedication for the bulletin to the office at info@spucc.org **by Monday, November 20.**
spucc.churchcenter.com/giving/to/totenfest

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.

UCAN GIFT TRAIN

This holiday season, the Outreach & Benevolence Committee is preparing to help St. Pauls participate in UCAN's gift train for another year! Stop by their table during Social Hour and sign up to shop a wish list. This year, we have requests for gift cards as well as specific toys and clothes. Gifts are due back at church **by November 26**.

ADVENT MARKET ITEMS NEEDED

The Advent Market is on Sunday, December 10, and will help fund The Resurrection Project, a non-profit group in Chicago that is dedicated to advancing racial and social equity by empowering historically marginalized communities in areas of wealth building, healthcare, affordable housing, and education. Most recently, they have helped St. Pauls support our Venezuelan families. We need new or gently used items such as jewelry, candles, frames, handmade items, Christmas decorations, toys, etc. (Please, no clothing unless it is holiday specific.)

The **drop-off dates are:**

December 2: 9 a.m.-12 p.m.,

December 3: 9 a.m.-12 p.m.,

December 8: 10 a.m.-3 p.m., and

December 9: 10 a.m.-1 p.m.

Questions, please text or email Carrie Bruggers at (773) 294-4446 or crbruggs@gmail.com.

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.

JOIN THE MOVEMENT - provided by SPARC

This year's Native American Heritage Month theme is **Celebrating Tribal Sovereignty and Identity**. The federal trust responsibility is a legal obligation under which the United States "has charged itself with moral obligations of the highest responsibility and trust" toward Indian tribes. The Department of the Interior, under Secretary Deb Haaland's (Pueblo of Laguna) leadership, states that it "centers on acknowledging the impact that relocation, forced assimilation, and lack of critical funding has on Indigenous communities across the country" and is "committed to elevating those issues while empowering Tribal governments and Indigenous peoples." Seek Indigenous voices for a fuller perspective on these issues.

CREATION CORNER - provided by Green Team

Benefits to Composting. Composting is all about separating organic matter from the rest of the garbage and sending it to a composting service or doing it yourself. About one-third of garbage in Chicago dumps is organic material. This material does not decompose well when mixed with other garbage. Composting allows organic material to be transformed into nutrient-rich soil, thereby decreasing the amount of fertilizer use and improving the soil quality. Its ability to absorb water and recover from a degraded form makes one more conscious of wasteful buying. Information on composting and local services will be posted on the Green Team bulletin board.

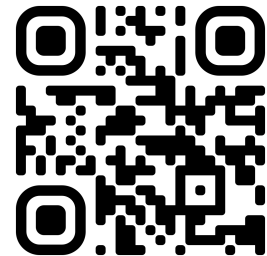
PASTORS' SABBATICAL SCHEDULE

St. Pauls provides three months of sabbatical to each of our pastors every seven years. Pastor Matt is on sabbatical until December 16.

PLEDGING & GIVING INFORMATION

PLEDGE WITH BOLD GRATITUDE FOR 2024

Thank you to everyone who has already made a pledge for 2024! Your generous support of St. Pauls is greatly needed and much appreciated. If you have yet to pledge your time, talents or treasures for 2024, you can fill out a paper pledge form and put it in the offering tray or return it to the office. Or, you can pledge online at spucc.org/pledge or by scanning this QR code.



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

Important Note: If your pledged financial support for 2024 is changing from this year, and you have a current recurring donation set up through one of our donation options, please adjust your recurring donation accordingly. Pledge forms do not authorize St. Pauls to create or update recurring donations. Email bookkeeper@spucc.org with questions or for help.

IRA QUALIFIED CHARITABLE DISTRIBUTIONS

If you have an IRA and are required, or will be required, to take a minimum annual distribution (RMD) from your account, you may be interested to know that there are tax advantages to taking your distribution as a direct contribution to a charitable organization such as St. Pauls.

If the distribution is made directly from your IRA to St. Pauls, then you enjoy two tax benefits: 1) the distribution does not count as taxable income and 2) the distribution does count towards satisfying your RMD if over age 73. The gift, called a Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD), must go directly from your IRA to the organization, and your total gifts cannot exceed \$100,000 per year. You can make QCDs after you reach age 70 ½, which is earlier than the current RMD age of 73. You cannot make QCDs from your 401K; it has to be rolled into an IRA first.

With the 2017 changes in the tax law, some have lost the ability to itemize their deductions, including charitable contributions, and are now taking the higher standard deduction. Making a Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD) is a great way to still get a tax benefit for charitable giving. If you have questions about QCDs, consult your tax or financial advisor. Members of the Finance Committee are able to provide more information as well. Reach out to Committee chair Sally Fletcher at Treasurer@SPUCC.org.

GROUPS & ACTIVITIES

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.

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

BIBLE STUDY – 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. Contact Pam Woll pamelawoll@sbcglobal.net with questions, or info@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

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.

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.

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

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).

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.

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.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

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.

Sign up for 2024 flowers at spucc.churchcenter.com/registrations/events/1967767.

COMMON PANTRY COMMUNION SUNDAYS – We're collecting food for the Common Pantry every communion Sunday - usually the first Sunday of the month. See their wish list 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.

CALL FOR LIVE STREAM 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).

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 one Sunday every three 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.

DRIVERS/TRANSPORTATION AIDS NEEDED FOR OLDER ADULTS – We are looking for volunteers to drive some older adults to church and accompany one of our congregants to church on Sunday mornings on the Pace bus round trip from their nursing facility. This is a great way for you to make a real difference for a fellow member. For questions or more information, please contact Pastor Liz at lnickerson@spucc.org.

GREETING TEAM – Would you consider being one of our Sunday morning greeters? Arrive at 9:30 a.m. and meet with ushers in the Narthex for quick announcements and a prayer. Then stand at the church doors and say “Hello” to attendees, greeting them with a smile, warm welcome and cheerfulness. The ushers are inside continuing to welcome attendees and distribute worship bulletins. Sign up here: spucc.churchcenter.com/registrations/events/2003199

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 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.

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 for 2023: spucc.churchcenter.com/registrations/events/1508612 Sign up for 2024 reading: spucc.churchcenter.com/registrations/events/1967800

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!

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.

- David Sr., father of David Faulkner, who is dealing with cardiac and dehydration health concerns.
- Pastor Liz and family at the death of her cousin Tim.
- Bill Mooney and family at the death of his father Bill.
- Karin Magnuson at the loss of her father.
- Family and friends of Carl, father of Ryan Braun, at his death.
- Pat Kirby, battling drug-resistant pneumonia.
- 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 180 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.

