

Third Sunday of Advent
Service of Readings and Carols
December 17, 2023

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.

THOUGHT FOR PREPARATION

"Remembrance is sufficient of the beauty we have seen."

Caroline Sergeant

PRELUDE

The Shepherd's Farewell
from L'Enfance du Christ
St Pauls Brass

Hector Berlioz
arr. Erik Leidzen

CHIMES

CHORAL INTROIT

Break Forth, O Beauteous Heavenly Light
Chancel Choir

German Carol

LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLE - The Candle of Joy

Sylvia Pine, Greg Pine and Rachel Barton Pine

WELCOME

Matt Fitzgerald

* WELCOMING EACH OTHER

* CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Rejoice!

**All: Behold, I bring you good news of great joy
which shall be for all people.**

One: Good will visit us! Day will dawn upon us!

All: A child shall be born unto us!

One: Christ the Lord, the light of the world!

All: It is almost Christmas! The candle of joy has been lit!

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

* HYMN

Once in Royal David's City
Lee Waldschmidt, soloist

Solo 1. Once in roy - al Da - vid's cit - y stood a
Choir 2. He came down to earth from heav - en, who is
All 3. Je - sus is our child - hood's pat - tern, dai - ly
All 4. And our eyes at last shall see him, through his
low - ly cat - tle shed, Where a moth - er laid her
God and Lord of all, And his shel - ter was a
like us lived and grew, Je - sus, lit - tle, weak and
own re - deem - ing love; And that child so dear and
ba - by, in a man - ger for his bed: Mar - y
sta - ble, and his cra - dle was a stall; With the
help - less, tears and smiles and com - fort knew. Je - sus
gen - tle is our Lord in heav - en a - bove; And he
was that moth - er mild, Je - sus Christ her lit - tle child.
poor and mean and low - ly, lived on earth this Sav - ior low - ly.
feels our pain and sad - ness, and the joy - ous lift of glad - ness.
leads his chil - dren on to the place where he has gone.

SCRIPTURE

Valerie Shimp

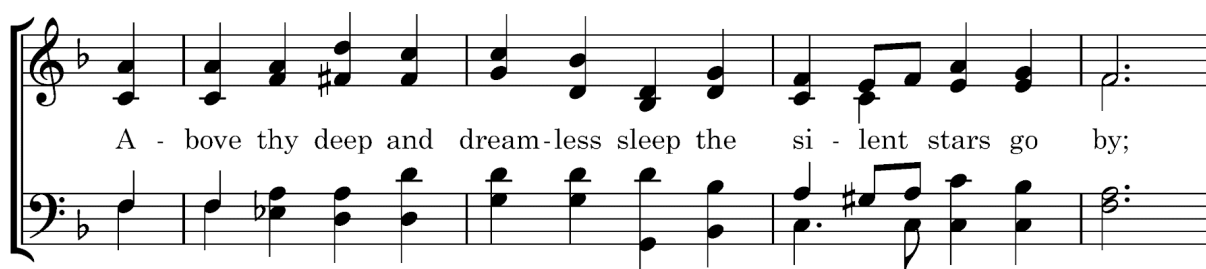
Luke 2:1-7

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

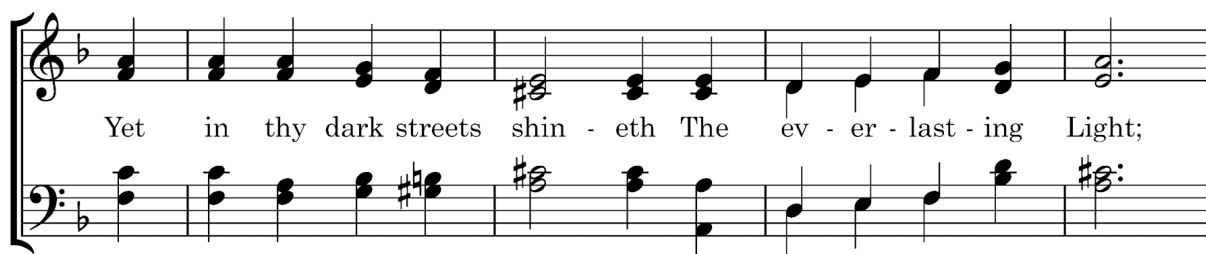
CAROL

O Little Town of Bethlehem

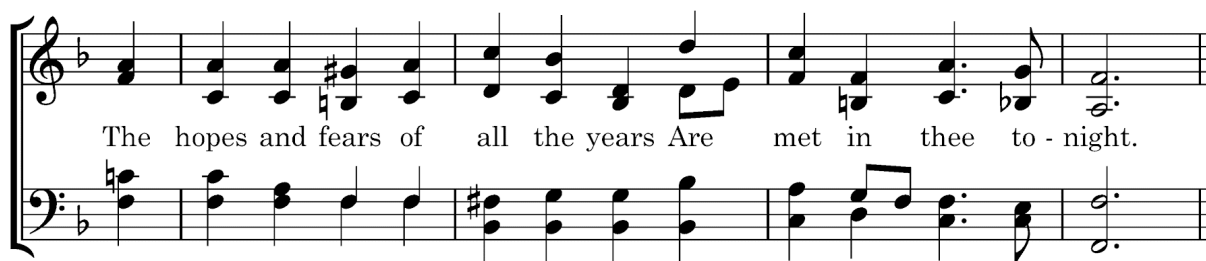
O lit - tle town of Beth - le - hem, How still we see thee lie!



A - bove thy deep and dream-less sleep the si - lent stars go by;



Yet in thy dark streets shin - eth The ev - er - last - ing Light;



The hopes and fears of all the years Are met in thee to - night.

ANTHEM

The Virgin Mary Had a Baby Boy
Children's Choir
Breanna Coe, director; Karen Johnson, piano

Traditional
arr. John Leavitt

The Virgin Mary had a baby boy,
And they say that His name was Jesus.

The angels sang when the baby born,
And proclaimed Him the Saviour Jesus.

He come from the glory,
He come from the glorious kingdom.
Allelu! Allelu!

The Wise Men saw where the baby born,
And they knew that His name was Jesus.

He come from the glory,
He come from the glorious kingdom.

The Virgin Mary had a baby boy,
And they say that His name was Jesus.

Children's Choir

Sean Banjavcic
Charlie Coe
Holland Emmrich
Winnie Emmrich
Juniper Fletcher

Mabel Fletcher
Grady Hartanov
Eve Lyta
Theo Lytal
Sullivan McGrath

James Mix
Nora Penniman
Catalina Smedley
Josiah Smedley
Toby Smedley

STORY

"O Tannenbaum"

Matt Fitzgerald

CAROL

O Christmas Tree



ANTHEM

In the First Light

Bob Kauflin
arr. Phil Kadidlo

Pauls People

Colette Schimp, Aniston Hartanov,
Cecilia Chamberlain, and Brooke McGuire; soloists
Kecia Waldschmidt, director

In the first light of the new day,
No one saw that He had arrived.
Things continued as they had been,
While a newborn softly cried.

But the heavens wrapped in wonder
Knew the meaning of His birth.
In the weakness of a baby,
They knew that God had come to Earth.

As His Mother held Him closely,
It was hard to understand,
That her baby, not yet speaking,
Was the Word of God to man.

He would tell them of His kingdom,
But their hearts would not believe.
They would hate him, and in anger,
They would nail him to a tree.

But the sadness would be broken,
As the Song of Life arose;
And the firstborn of creation,
Would ascend and take His throne.

He had left it to redeem us,
But before His life began,
He knew he'd come back, but not as a baby,
But as the Lord of every man.

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

Pauls People

Winnie Castle

Cecilia Chamberlain

Aniston Hartanov

Deirdre McGrath

Brooke McGuire

Thomas Mix

Bren Odom

Sylvia Pine

Colette Schimp

Lee Waldschmidt

Eva Mack

Thea Mack

SCRIPTURE

Henry Winking

Luke 2:8-14

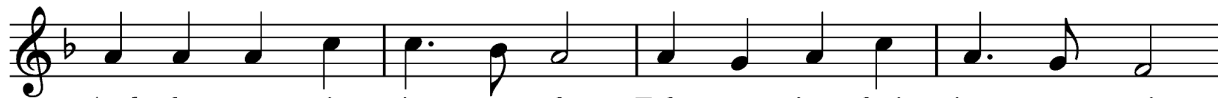
In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!"

* CAROL

Angels We Have Heard on High



1. An - gels we have heard on high Sweet - ly sing - ing o'er the plains,
2. Shep - herds, why this ju - bi - lee? Why your joy - ous strains pro - long?
3. Come to Beth - le - hem and see Him whose birth the an - gels sing;



And the moun - tains in re - ply Echo - o - ing their joy - ous strains.
What the glad - some ti - dings be Which in - spire your heav'n - ly song?
Come, a - dore on bend - ed knee Christ, the Lord, the new - born King.



Glo - - - - - ri - a



in ex - cel - sis De - o, Glo - - - - -



- - - - - ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - - - o.

CAROL

It Came Upon the Midnight Clear

1. It came up - on — a mid - night clear, that glo - rious song of old, —

2. And you, be - neath life's crush - ing load, whose forms are bend - ing low, —



from an - gels bend - ing near the earth to touch their harps of gold; —

who toil a - long the climb - ing way, with pain - ful steps and slow, —



"Peace on the earth, good will to all, great news of joy — we bring."

Look now, for glad and gold - en hours come swift - ly on — the wing; —



The world in sol - emn still - ness lay to hear the an - gels sing. —

O rest be - side the wea - ry road, and hear the an - gels sing! —

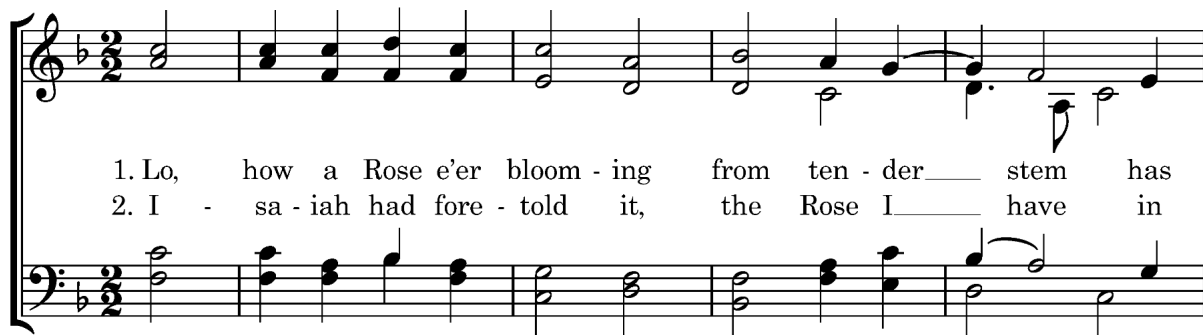
SCRIPTURE

Valerie Schimp

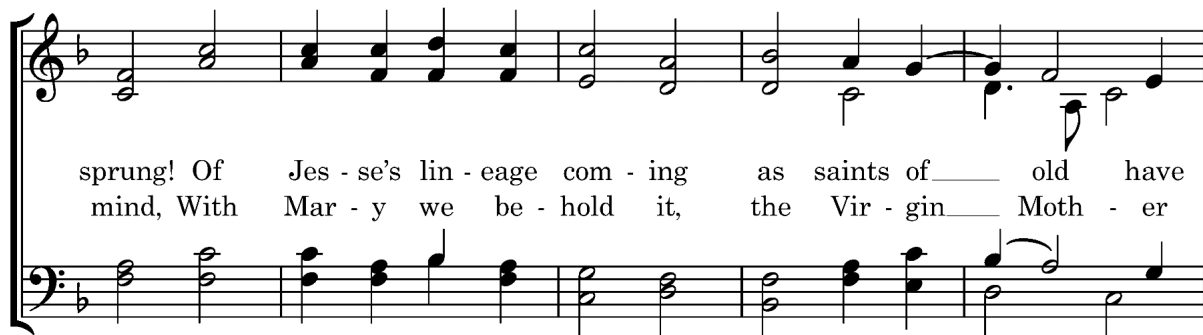
Luke 2:15-20

When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us." So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

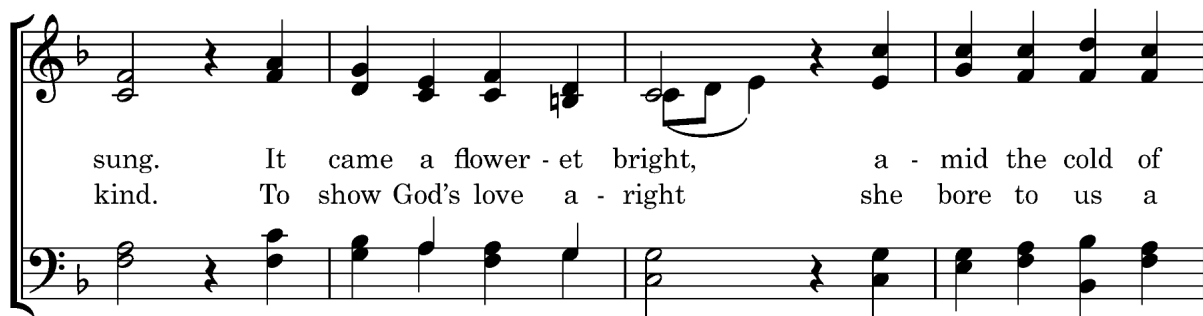
CAROL

Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming

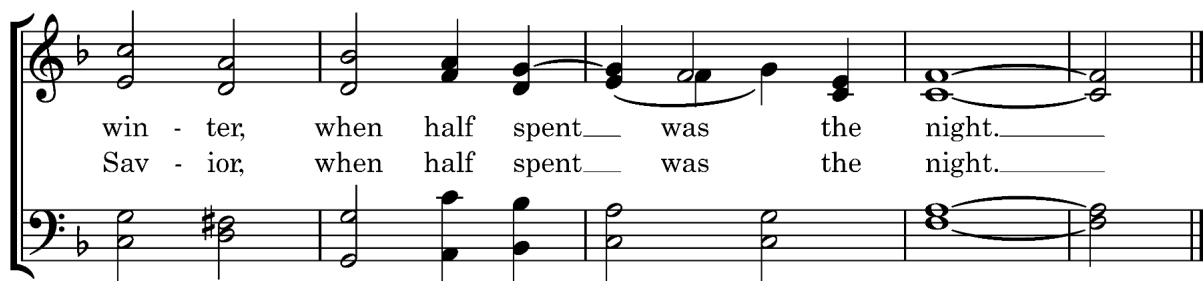
1. Lo, how a Rose e'er bloom - ing from ten - der stem has
2. I - sa - iah had fore - told it, the Rose I have in



sprung! Of Jes - se's lin - eage com - ing as saints of old have
mind, With Mar - y we be - hold it, the Vir - gin Moth - er



sung. It came a flower - et bright, a - mid the cold of
kind. To show God's love a - right she bore to us a



win - ter, when half spent was the night.
Sav - ior, when half spent was the night.

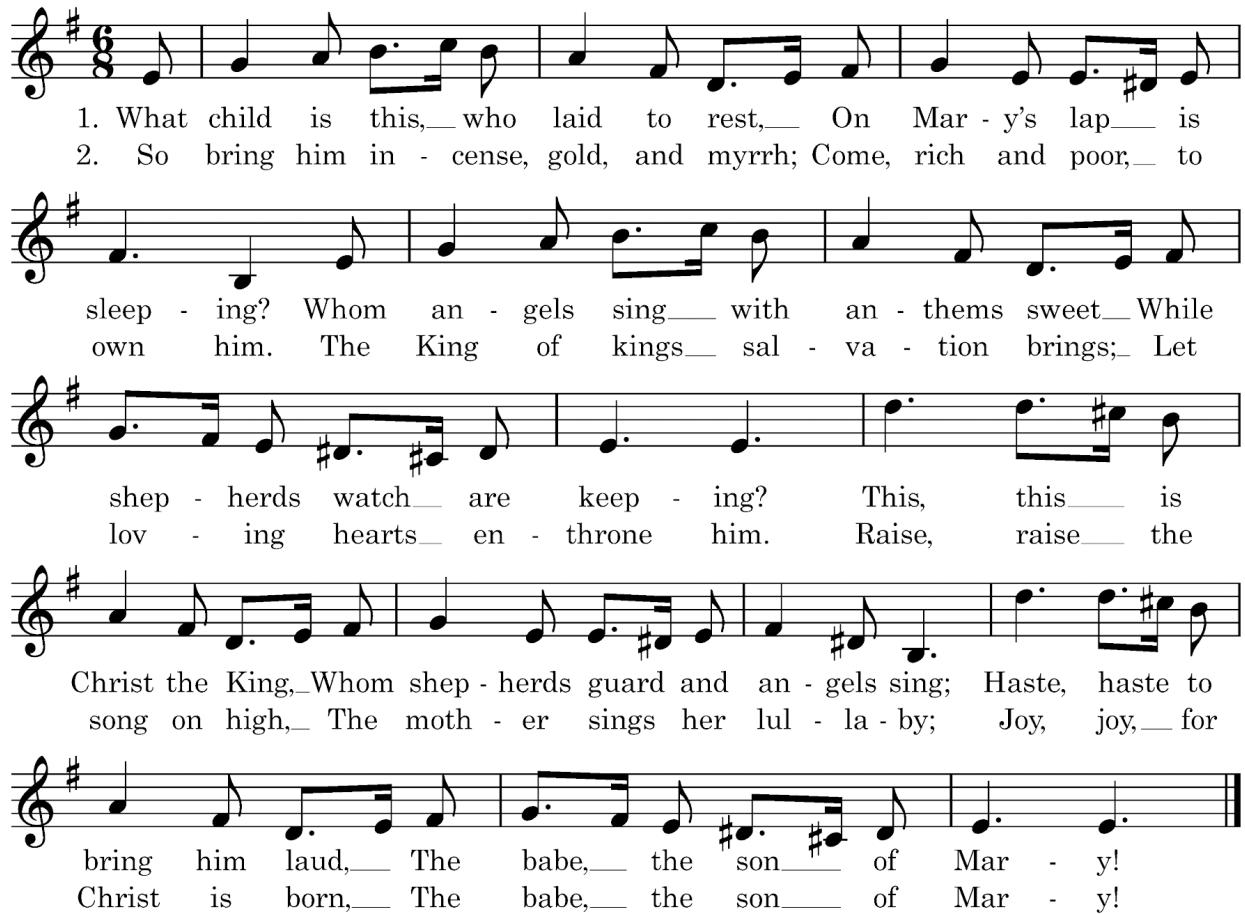
Matthew 2:1–12

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, asking, “Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage.” When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. They told him, “In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet: ‘And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who is to shepherd my people Israel.’” Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, “Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage.”

When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

CAROL

What Child Is This?



1. What child is this, who laid to rest, On Mar - y's lap is
2. So bring him in - cense, gold, and myrrh; Come, rich and poor, to
sleep - ing? Whom an - gels sing with an - thems sweet While
own him. The King of kings sal - va - tion brings; Let
shep - herds watch are keep - ing? This, this is
lov - ing hearts en - throne him. Raise, raise the
Christ the King, Whom shep - herds guard and an - gels sing; Haste, haste to
song on high, The moth - er sings her lul - la - by; Joy, joy, for
bring him laud, The babe, the son of Mar - y!
Christ is born, The babe, the son of Mar - y!

POEM

"Searching for the Gift"

Liz Nickerson

* CAROL

O Little Town of Bethlehem

v.4



O ho - ly Child of Beth - le - hem! De - scend to us, we pray;

The first system of the musical score is in 4/4 time, key of B-flat major. It features a treble and bass staff. The melody is in the treble staff, and the accompaniment is in the bass staff. The lyrics are written below the notes.



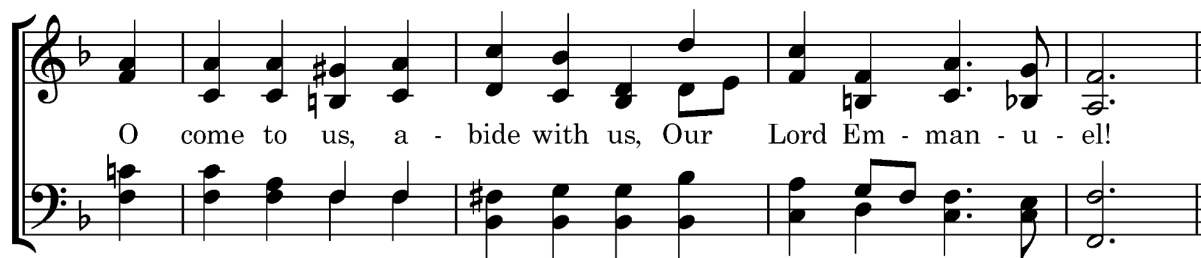
Cast out our sin and en - ter in; Be born in us to - day.

The second system continues the melody and accompaniment. The lyrics are written below the notes.



We hear the Christ - mas an - gels The great glad tid - ings tell;

The third system continues the melody and accompaniment. The lyrics are written below the notes.



O come to us, a - bide with us, Our Lord Em - man - u - el!

The fourth system concludes the melody and accompaniment. The lyrics are written below the notes.

OFFERTORY

O magnum mysterium
(Sung in Latin)
Chancel Choir and St. Pauls Brass

Morton Lauridsen

O great mystery, and wondrous sacrament,
that animals should see the newborn Lord lying in the manger!
Blessed is the Virgin whose womb was worthy to bear the Lord Jesus Christ.
Alleluia!

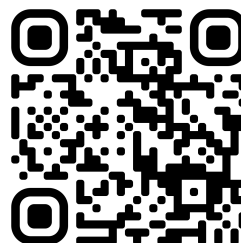
O Lord, I heard your prophecy and I was afraid;
I considered your works, and
I trembled in the midst of the animals.

You can give to St. Pauls electronically by:

Scanning this code with your cell phone camera,

At spucc.churchcenter.com/giving,

Or through Zelle to giving@spucc.org.



PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Liz Nickerson

THE LORD'S PRAYER

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

* HYMN

Good Christian Friends, Rejoice



1. Good Chris - tian friends, re - joice____ with heart and soul and voice;____
2. Good Chris - tian friends, re - joice____ with heart and soul and voice;____
3. Good Chris - tian friends, re - joice____ with heart and soul and voice;____



now give heed to what we say: Je - sus Christ is born to - day;
now you know of end - less bliss: Je - sus Christ was born for this!
now you need not fear the grave: Je - sus Christ was born to save!



Ox and ass be - fore him bow, a - sleep with - in the
God has o - pened heav - en's door, and you are blessed for -
Calls you one and calls you all to gain the ev - er -



man - ger now. Christ is born to - day,____ Christ is born to - day!
- ev - er - more. Christ was born for this,____ Christ was born for this!
- last - ing hall. Christ was born to save,____ Christ was born to save!

* BENEDICTION

Matt Fitzgerald

* CHORAL BENEDICTION

Go Now in Peace
Combined Youth Choirs

Natalie Sleeth

POSTLUDE

Christmas Is Coming
St. Arbucks Quartet

Vince Guaraldi

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

Following Worship, all are invited for coffee and snacks in the social hall on the lower level.

ADVENT WREATH - Each week during Advent we light another candle in our Advent wreath to anticipate the coming of Christ, the light of the world. These candles symbolize the gifts of hope, love, joy and peace that Christ's coming brings. Today, we light the candle of Joy.

PINK CANDLE, WHY? - This is *Gaudete* (Rejoice) Sunday. Both Advent and Lent are considered penitential seasons, but the early church leaders decided that each of those seasons need an uplifting break. That is why on Gaudete Sunday, the third Sunday of Advent, the liturgical color changes from purple to pink or rose.

PEACE CANDLE - We have added a peace candle to the Chancel. Jesus said blessed are the peacemakers for they will be called children of God. Please pray for peace daily for all the current wars raging in the world and in our hearts.

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.
- 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: Matt Fitzgerald, Jeff Carlson, Liz Nickerson

Music Director: Kurt R. Hansen

Organist: Kevin Dzierzawski

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

Lay Liturgical Administrator: Kevin O'Brien

Scripture Readers: Valerie Schimp, Henry Winking

Head Usher: Beatrice Jaji

Ushers: David Baker, Doug Clark

Gatekeeper: Dodd Brown

Greeter: Linda Loving, Blair De Haan

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

Custodian: Ramiro Gonzalez

A gift to the Sam Hill Music Fund was given by Juanita Barlow in memory of Karen Rieck.

BORN THIS WEEK IN DECEMBER

We give thanks for your life at St. Pauls. A perfect way to celebrate is by giving one dollar for each year of your life to our Birthday Fund, which supports A Just Harvest.

Dec. 17 David Mussatt, Tiscia Eicher

Dec. 18 Brooke McGuire, Clark Tavas, Irene Beck, Michelle Jarzebowski, Susanne Baker

Dec. 19 Steven Reid, Warren Bettler

Dec. 20 Kristen Simonton, Lydia Miller

Dec. 22 Lexi Patton

Dec. 23 Jim Alrutz

ADVENT & CHRISTMAS AT ST. PAULS

TUES, DEC. 19 **FOOD FOR THE SOUL**
12 p.m. - Bring your lunch for a time of fellowship & Christmas caroling

THURS, DEC. 21 **WINTER SOLSTICE SERVICE** ♦
7 p.m. - Service, Labyrinth walk, Gym

SUN, DEC. 24 **FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT, *LIGHTING THE CANDLE OF PEACE***
10 a.m. - Worship

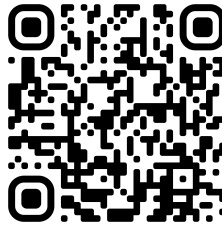
CHRISTMAS EVE

5 p.m. - Family Service, Sanctuary

9 p.m. - Candlelight Service, Sanctuary

Christmas story, carols, candles, and choir

*Scan here for more
information about
Advent events*



♦ ***RSVP for childcare***

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.

DEC. 18 - First and third Mondays - YOUNG ADULTS PICKLEBALL - 7 p.m., Gym
Come meet new people and have some fun. This is a group for folks in their twenties and thirties. Email us at youngadults@spucc.org.

DEC. 19 – CAROLING WITH FOOD FOR THE SOUL LUNCH GROUP - 12-1:30 p.m.,
Oscar Mayer Room
Sponsored by St. Pauls Social. Adults of all ages are invited. Pastor Jeff will lead a sing-along of Christmas carols and songs of the season. 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! Join the monthly Food for the Soul group here: <https://tinyurl.com/522vwjkn>

DEC. 20 – WEDNESDAY BIBLE STUDY CHRISTMAS SPECIAL -12-12:45 p.m. Zoom.
The Wednesday Bible Study will meet only once in December with a special holiday edition: Christmas in the Gospel of Matthew. If you're not already a part of the group and would like to attend, RSVP to Jeff Carlson for the Zoom link, jcarlson@spucc.org. Ecclesiastes, part 2, will return in January.

TODAY'S MUSIC

We are happy to welcome the **St. Pauls Brass** to worship: Kris Hansen, Jim Brandt, trumpets; Jeanine Woodman, trumpet and flügelhorn; Tom Clancy, Rick Peterson, horns; Nancy Pifer, tenor horn; Lorne Frank, Mark Swanson, trombones

A Shepherds Farewell is a choral movement from the oratorio *L'Enfance du Christ* (The Infancy of Christ) by Hector Berlioz (1803-1869). Berlioz could rightly be called a hyper-romantic. His most famous work, *Symphonie fantastique*, was the first programmatic work that broke the traditional form of a four-movement orchestral work of "pure music," meaning without a clear program. Berlioz composed both the music and libretto for *L'Enfance du Christ*, Op. 25 between 1853 and 1854. It tells the story of the holy family fleeing to Egypt to avoid the wrath of Herod.

The original German text for ***Break Forth, O Beauteous Heavenly Light*** was written in 1641 by Johann von Rist (1607-1667) and translated in 1873 by John Troutbeck (1832-1899). Rist was the son of a pastor of a church near Hamburg. He also became a pastor. Troutbeck was a Chaplain to the Queen at Westminster Abbey, and also compiled the *Westminster Abbey Hymnbook* in 1883. Johann Schop (1590-1667) composed ERMUNTRE DICH in about 1641, originally in a meter of three, like modern waltz time. Schop was a Lutheran composer and very accomplished violinist.

Once in Royal David's City became popular as the traditional opening carol of the *Festival of Lessons and Carols* broadcast each year from King's College Chapel at Cambridge in England. The text was composed in 1848, not long after the founding of our St. Pauls UCC, by Cecil Frances Alexander (1818-1895), the wife of the bishop of Ireland. She wrote many hymn texts specifically for children. The tune, IRBY, was composed in 1849 by Henry J. Gauntlett (1805-1876). Gauntlett became the organist at his father's church, and after beginning a career in law, gave it up to become a full-time church musician. He even held patents on organ mechanical parts

The poetry for ***O Little Town of Bethlehem*** has a wonderful story. Phillips Brooks (1835-1893), an American, took a trip to Israel in 1865 at the close of the Civil War. Reverend Brooks spent Christmas 1866 in Bethlehem and, as a result of that visit, this poem poured forth in 1868. ST. LOUIS, which is the tune most Americans know, was also composed in 1868 by Louis Redner (1831-1908), a Sunday School superintendent in Philadelphia. It was composed the night before it was sung at his church and it is the only one for which he is remembered.

The tune and text for ***The Virgin Mary Had a Baby Boy*** is likely to have its origin in Spanish from the West Indies and was brought to this country by those who were enslaved. The tune and text were transcribed by Edric Connor (1913-1968) in 1942 and was sung to him by James Bryce (1850-?) when he was 92. Connor was from Trinidad and Tobago. He became a singer, Caribbean folklorist and actor. He migrated to England after World War II. No further information on the life of James Bryce is available.

O Christmas Tree is also known by its original German title, *O Tannenbaum*. It was translated into English in 1926 by H. Breuckner (1866-1942). Breuckner was born in Iowa and died in rural Nebraska. He was a pastor and also on the faculty of Hebron College in Nebraska. The text models the evergreen pine to never fading faith. The tune, EVERGREEN, is a German folk song of unknown origin.

In the First Light was composed and published in 1988 by Bob Kauflin (b. 1955) and this arrangement was made in 2008 by Phil Kadidlo (b. 1976). Mr Kauflin is the Director of Sovereign Grace Music and holds a piano performance degree from Temple University. Mr. Kadidlo is the co-Founder of Mindlai Creative Group and past Director of Worship and Music at Trinity Lutheran Church in Stillwater, Minnesota.

Angels We Have Heard on High is originally an 18th century French Noël (carol) freely translated by James Chadwick (1813-1882), an Irish Catholic priest. GLORIA is from the text of the joyfully cascading Latin refrain, which we sing as a Benediction Response after Christmas and during Epiphany.

The words for ***It Came Upon a Midnight Clear*** were written in 1849 by Edmund H. Sears (1810-1876). He was born in this country and moved to England in 1838. Ill health forced him to retire to a quiet life of literature. The well known music, CAROL, was composed in 1850 by Richard Storrs Willis (1819-1900). He was an American composer particularly drawn to creating hymn tunes.

Theodore Baker (1851-1934) translated the original German into the English we love, ***Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming***. He was born in New York City and immigrated to Germany, where he spent the rest of his life. He famously created Baker's *Biographical Dictionary of Musicians*, first published in 1900. ES IST EIN' ROS was first published in 1599 in the Köln Gesangbuch.

The poetry for ***What Child Is This?*** was written by W. Chatterton Dix (1837-1898). He composed many hymn texts, but unlike most hymnodists, Dix was a businessman, not clergy. GREENSLEEVES is an English ballad of unknown origin from the 16th century.

O magnum mysterium was composed in 1994 by Morton Lauridsen (b. 1943). The text is taken from the liturgy for Christmas Day from the Liber Usualis, the pre-Vatican II compilation of the propers for all services during a year. Lauridsen is the Chair of the Composition Department at the University of Southern California. He has also been composer-in-residence for the Los Angeles Master Chorale. His music has been recorded by many other ensembles, including Chanticleer. His music is harmonically related to a neo-Romantic tradition and influenced by Palestrina, the Italian Renaissance master of liturgical music. Lauridsen makes great use of the suspension, a chord with notes that are close to each other and “pull” the structure to either resolution or greater tonal tension. His music seems to “glow” and suspends the listener in timelessness between mystery and simple awe.

Good Christian Friends, Rejoice is a translation of the original Latin by John Mason Neale (1818-1886). He was born into an evangelical home, became an Anglican clergy, but had real sympathies for Catholicism. IN DULCI JUBILO, which means “in sweet rejoicing,” is an early undated folk dance.

Go Now In Peace was composed in 1976 by Natalie Sleeth (1930-1992). Natalie Sleeth became one of the most performed and popular composers of church anthems especially for children’s voices. One of her hymns, *In the Bulb There Is a Flower*, was chosen for our New Century Hymnal. She was born in Evanston, received her musical training at Wellesley College, and her husband was a professor of homiletics.

Christmas Is Coming was composed by Vince Guaraldi (1928-1976) and is a musical part of the made-for-TV movie, *A Charlie Brown Christmas* (1965). He also created music for other animated features, including *Linus and Lucy*. He won a Grammy in 1963 for Best Original Jazz Composition.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

A MUSICAL GIFT FOR YOU!

Our own St. Arbucks Quartet recorded an album, *Mid-Winter Gifts*, in February 2021 featuring music they have played during our worship services. It is available FREE to you and everyone online. Here is a link to the album on Spotify:

open.spotify.com/album/ÅFEGÁgRZPMTNBvaBJNborm.

And here is a link to the same album on Apple Music:

music.apple.com/us/album/mid-winter-gifts-ep/611741689.

It is exactly the same music on both sites, simply choose your preferred platform. Please feel free to share these links with your friends. You do not need a Spotify or Apple Music account to listen.

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.

USE OF CHURCH REVENUE TASK FORCE -

We are looking to increase the funds the church receives from building rentals and use fees for events. We need your talent and creative ideas and are looking for people to serve on this task force to devise a plan. Interested? Contact Larry Damron at lawerencedamron@gmail.com

JOIN THE MOVEMENT - provided by SPARC

The Third Annual National Symposium for State and Local Reparations, held in Evanston earlier this month, featured a panel on the vital role faith communities play in community reparations work. Panel participants from Evanston generously shared recordings of presentations from a three-part workshop on reparations that the city's interfaith community organized, as well as other resources. The sessions feature faith leaders, historians and elected officials discussing local and national reparations efforts and the responsibility faith communities have to undertake this work to "**achieve repair and reconciliation.**" **Visit this website to learn more:** <https://b-nielsen.wixsite.com/website/home-1>.

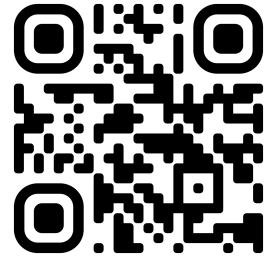
CREATION CORNER - provided by Green Team

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

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 7 p.m. pickup game! All skill levels welcome. Email Pastor Matt to get on the updates list, mfitzgerald@spucc.org.

BIBLE STUDY – Weekly on Wednesdays, noon-1 p.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.

MOMS GROUP – Being a mom is the hardest job in the world! So come to the Youth Lounge after worship on the second Sunday of each 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.

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! All skill levels are invited. If you have questions, call or text Steve Garrett at (312) 208-0636. Game Time: Tuesdays: 5:30-8:30 p.m. spucc.churchcenter.com/groups/saint-pauls-groups/pickleball.

RETIREMENT GROUP – The Retirement Group meets at 10 a.m. in the Parlor 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.

ST. PAULS SOCIAL – Get better acquainted with other adults at St. Pauls. If you are interested in hosting, please contact Jen Luerksen at jenluerksen@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. Sign up here: 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 here: spucc.churchcenter.com/registrations/events/1967800

BULLETIN ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please send announcements for St. Pauls-sponsored events to info@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!

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 remaining 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, 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.

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.

- Prayers for peace - in our city, nation and world.
- Loved ones of Eleanore Breunig Barth, at her death.
- Family and friends of Karen Rieck, at her death.
- David Sr., father of David Faulkner, who is dealing with cardiac and dehydration health concerns.
- Pastor Liz and family at the death of her Uncle Tim.
- Bill Mooney and family at the death of his father Bill.
- Pat Kirby, battling drug-resistant pneumonia.
- Liz Kurman, recovering from elbow surgery
- Sister-in-law of Gloria Joseph, dealing with a cancer diagnosis.
- Leslie, sister of Mary Stainton, diagnosed with a brain tumor.
- 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, 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, during 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 LGBTQ+ people.

Welcome to each and to everyone.

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