

Fourth Sunday of Advent  
December 24, 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. Assisted listening devices and Bluetooth hearing aid guides are in the Narthex.*

## THOUGHT FOR PREPARATION

# PRELUDE

*O Little Town of Bethlehem*  
St. Arbucks Quartet

arr. Carl Strommen

CHIMES

# INTROIT

*Comfort, Comfort O My People*  
Kurt R. Hansen, soloist

## LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLE - The Candle of Peace

# WELCOME

Matt Fitzgerald

\* WELCOMING EACH OTHER

\* CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Today we light the candle of peace.

**All: Christ, our peace, is born tonight.**

One: The Son of God, full of grace and truth.

**All: The prince of peace.**

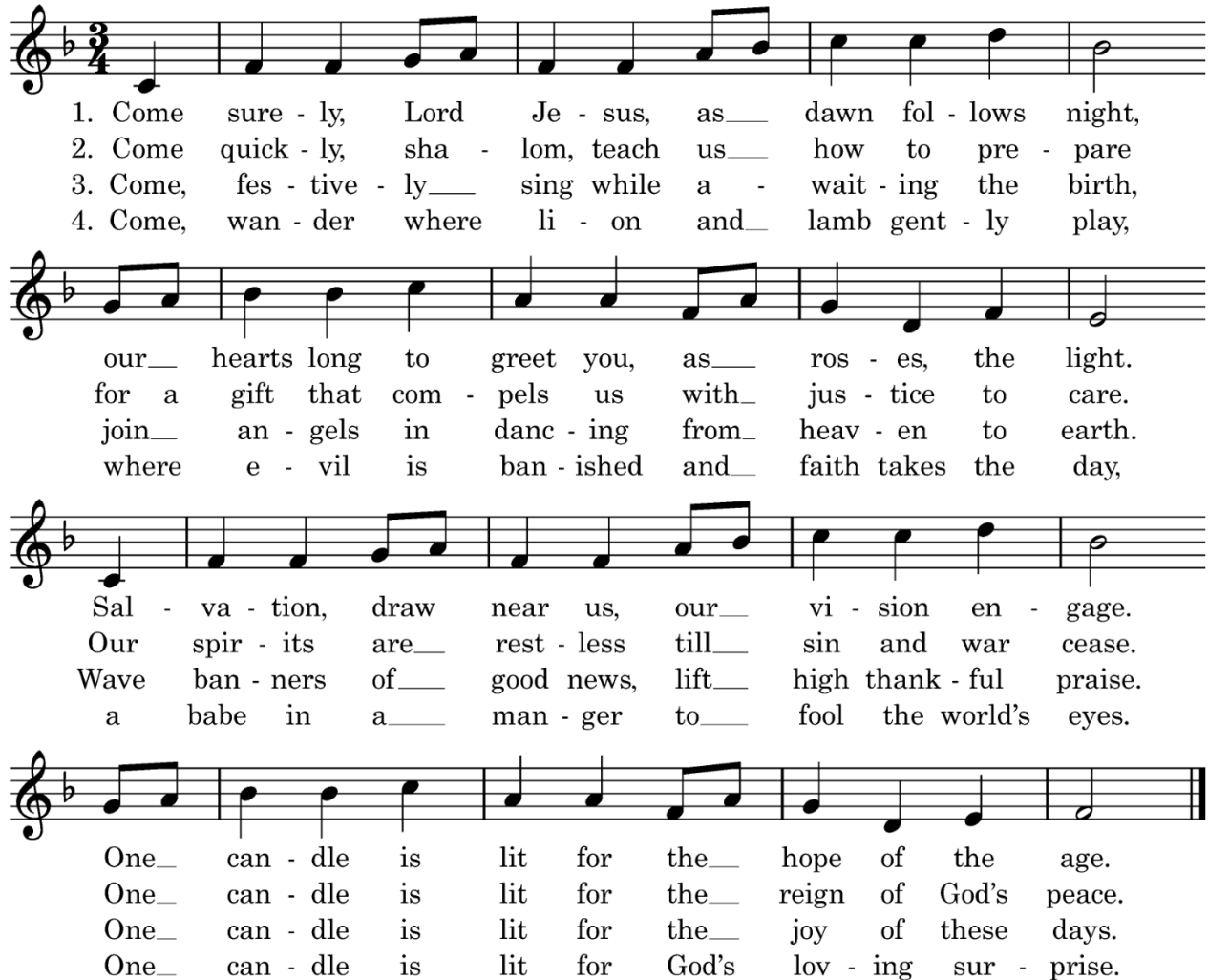
One: Let every heart make room.

**All: O come, O come, Emmanuel!**

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

\* HYMN

*One Candle Is Lit*



1. Come sure - ly, Lord Je - sus, as dawn fol - lows night,  
2. Come quick - ly, sha - lom, teach us how to pre - pare  
3. Come, fes - tive - ly sing while a - wait - ing the birth,  
4. Come, wan - der where li - on and lamb gent - ly play,

our hearts long to greet you, as ros - es, the light.  
for a gift that com - pels us with jus - tice to care.  
join an - gels in danc - ing from heav - en to earth.  
where e - vil is ban - ished and faith takes the day,

Sal - va - tion, draw near us, our vi - sion en - gage.  
Our spir - its are rest - less till sin and war cease.  
Wave ban - ners of good news, lift high thank - ful praise.  
a babe in a man - ger to fool the world's eyes.

One can - dle is lit for the hope of the age.  
One can - dle is lit for the reign of God's peace.  
One can - dle is lit for the joy of these days.  
One can - dle is lit for God's lov - ing sur - prise.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Jeff Carlson

**O God, we confess that it is not easy to wait for you.**

**In all of our attempts to predict, control, manipulate and secure our lives,  
our best efforts fall short of bringing the life for which we long.**

**We fail at creating loving relationships.**

**We take part in the injustice of the world.**

**Forgive us, O God, and release us from our fears and our sin.**

**Come to us in Emmanuel.**

**O Light of the World, be born in us today.**

## MOMENT OF SILENT PRAYER

## WORDS OF ASSURANCE

\*CAROL

*God Rest You Merry, Gentlemen.*



1. God rest you mer - ry, gen - tle - men, Let noth - ing you dis - may,
2. In Beth - le - hem, in Jew - ry, This bless - ed Babe was born.
3. And when they came to Beth - le - hem Where our dear Sa - viour lay,
4. Now to the Lord sing prais - es, All you with - in this place,



Re - mem - ber Christ our Sa - viour Was born on Christ - mas Day;  
And laid with - in a man - ger Up - on this bless - ed morn;  
They found Him in a man - ger, Where ox - en feed on hay;  
And with true love and broth - er - hood Each oth - er now em - brace;



To save us all from Sa - tan's pow'r When we were gone a - stray.  
The which His Moth - er Ma - ry, Did noth - ing take in scorn.  
His Moth - er Ma - ry kneel - ing down, Un - to the Lord did pray.  
This ho - ly tide of Christ - mas All oth - er doth de - face.



O \_\_\_\_\_ tid - ings of com - fort and joy, com - fort and



joy, O \_\_\_\_\_ tid - ings of com - fort and joy.

## SCRIPTURE

Joe JaQuay

*Matthew 1:18-25*

Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, 'Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.' All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet:

'Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel',

which means, 'God is with us.' When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife, but had no marital relations with her until she had borne a son; and he named him Jesus.

## \* A STATEMENT OF FAITH

**We believe in God who has created and is creating,  
who has come to us in Jesus Christ to reconcile and make us new,  
who works in us and others by the Holy Spirit.**

**We trust God. God calls us to be the Church,  
to celebrate God's presence,  
to love and serve others,  
to care for creation,  
to seek justice and to resist evil,  
to proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen, our judge and our hope.**

**In life and death, in life beyond death, God is with us.**

**We are not alone. Thanks be to God!**

*(adapted from the United Church of Canada)*

\*CAROL

*In the Bleak Midwinter*

1. In the bleak mid - win - ter, Frost - y wind made moan,  
2. Our God, heav'n can - not hold him, Nor earth sus - tain;  
3. What can I give him, Poor as I am?

Earth stood hard as i - ron, Wa - ter like a stone;  
Heav'n and earth shall flee a - way When he comes to reign;  
If I were a shep - herd, I would bring a lamb;

Snow had fall - en, snow on snow, Snow on snow,  
In the bleak mid - win - ter A sta - ble place suf - ficed The  
If I were a wise man, I would do my part; Yet

In the bleak mid - win - ter, Long a - - go.  
Lord God al - might - y, Je - sus Christ.  
what I can I give him— Give my heart.

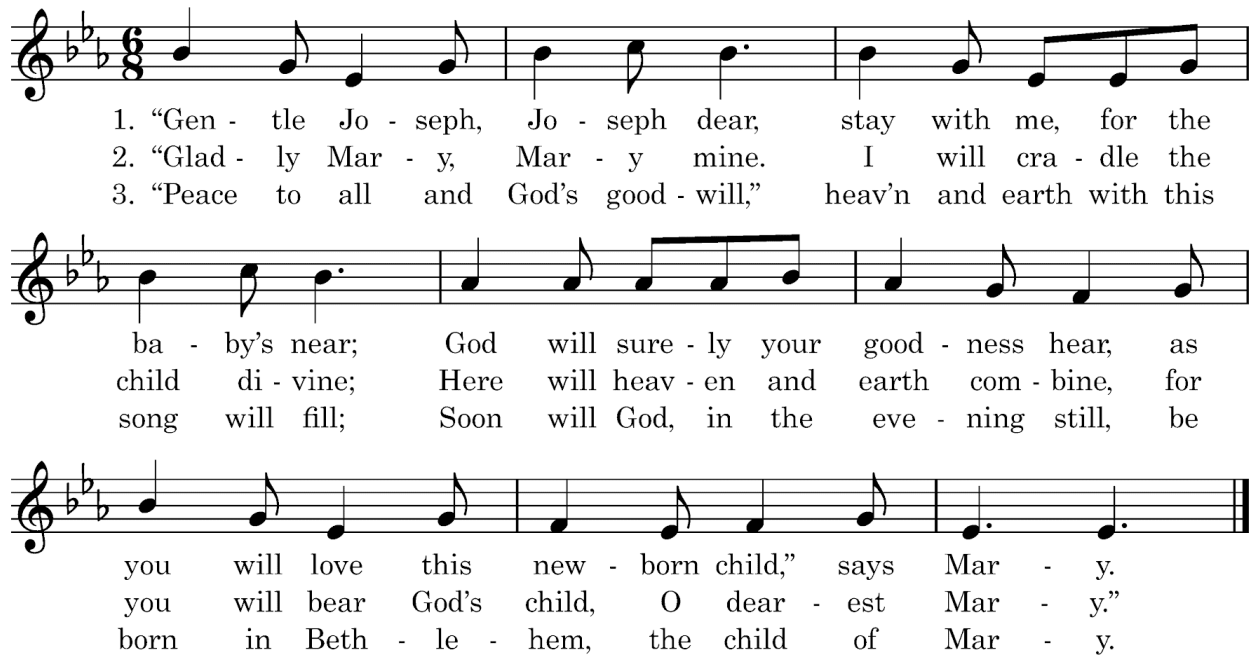
SERMON

"A Quiet Man"

Jeff Carlson

\* RESPONSE

*Gentle Joseph, Joseph Dear*



1. "Gen - tle Jo - seph, Jo - seph dear, stay with me, for the  
2. "Glad - ly Mar - y, Mar - y mine. I will cra - dle the  
3. "Peace to all and God's good - will," heav'n and earth with this

ba - by's near; God will sure - ly your good - ness hear, as  
child di - vine; Here will heav - en and earth com - bine, for  
song will fill; Soon will God, in the eve - ning still, be

you will love this new - born child," says Mar - y.  
you will bear God's child, O dear - est Mar - y."  
born in Beth - le - hem, the child of Mar - y.

OFFERTORY

*Go Tell It on the Mountain*

African American Spiritual

Kris Hansen, soloist

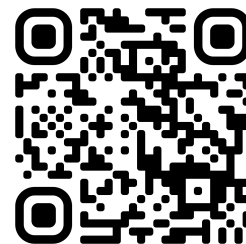
St. Arbucks Quartet

*You can give to St. Pauls electronically by:*

*Scanning this code with your cell phone camera,*

*At [spucc.churchcenter.com/giving](http://spucc.churchcenter.com/giving),*

*Or through Zelle or PayPal to [giving@spucc.org](mailto:giving@spucc.org).*



\* FESTIVAL DOXOLOGY

Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise God all creatures here be low;

Al-le-lu-ia, Al-le-lu-ia! Praise God above, 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

Matt Fitzgerald

THE LORD'S PRAYER

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



\* HYMN

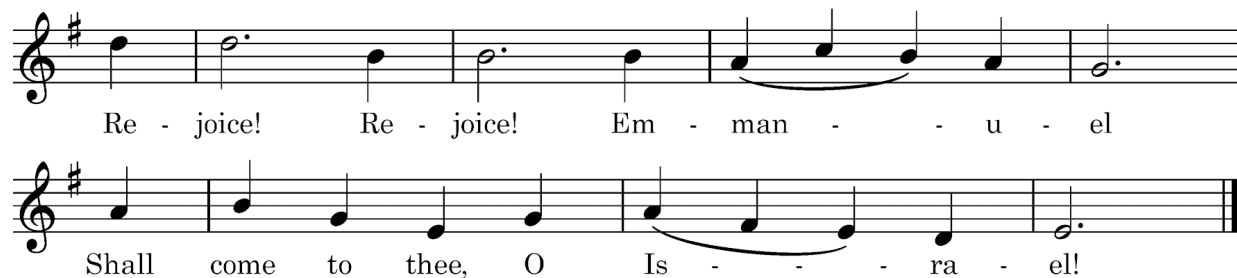
*On Christmas Night All Christians Sing*



1. On Christ - mas night all Chris - tians sing, to hear the news the  
2. Then why should we on earth be sad, since our Re - deem - er  
3. From out of mys - tery came the Light, which made the an - gels  
an - gels bring; On Christ - mas night all Chris - tians sing, to hear the  
made us glad; Then why should we on earth be sad, since our Re -  
sing this night; From out of mys - tery came the Light, which made the  
news the an - gels bring— News of great joy, news of great  
- deem - er made us glad, When from our sin Christ set us  
an - gels sing this night: “Glo - ry to God and peace to  
mirth, news of our gra - cious Rul - er’s birth.  
free, all for to gain our lib - er - ty.  
all, for - ev - er - more, Al - le - lu - ia!”

\* BENEDICTION

\* BENEDICTION RESPONSE



Re - joice! Re - joice! Em - man - u - el  
Shall come to thee, O Is - ra - el!

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, downstairs, directly beneath the Sanctuary.***

**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 peace.

**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

**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:** Joe JaQuay

**Head Usher:** Beatrice Jaji

**Ushers:** Mary Brown, David Faulkner, Ninon Freeman, Fred Pearson, Tim Reed, Glen Timmerman

**Gatekeeper:** Dodd Brown

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

**Custodian:** Ramiro Gonzalez

## **BORN THIS WEEK IN DECEMBER**

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

Dec. 24 Steve Garrett

Dec. 25 Chuck Mize, Kevin Tavas

Dec. 26 Sarah Zelonis, Sue Holt

Dec 27 Debbie Ballard

Dec. 28 Devlin Jozwiak

Dec. 29 Jennifer Kohler, Mary Beth Canfield

Dec. 30 Aniston Hartanov, Deirdre McGrath, Sally Fletcher

## ADVENT & CHRISTMAS AT ST. PAULS

TODAY

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

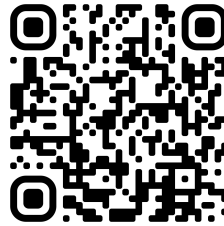
CHRISTMAS EVE

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](http://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.*

### **JAN. 3 – WEDNESDAY BIBLE STUDY** -12-12:45 p.m. Zoom.

We're exploring the book of Ecclesiastes and its call to embrace and enjoy life, even in the midst of all its absurdity. 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](mailto:jcarlson@spucc.org).

**JAN. 3 -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](mailto:mfitzgerald@spucc.org).

**JAN. 7 - CHILDREN'S BIBLE OFF BROADWAY REHEARSALS BEGIN** - All youth ages 4 through 18 are encouraged to participate in this amazing musical production in a way that works for them! This year's Sunday morning rehearsals will run from January 7-28, with the in-worship production staged during the Sunday, February 4 worship hour. For details contact: [janaobrien1@gmail.com](mailto:janaobrien1@gmail.com).

### **JAN. 8 and 15 - 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](mailto:youngadults@spucc.org).

**JAN. 14 – MOMS' GROUP** - 11:15 -12:30 p.m., Youth Lounge - gather with other moms with newborns through 10 year olds to 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 provided. Contact Pastor Liz at [lnickerson@spucc.org](mailto:lnickerson@spucc.org).

### **JAN. 15 - UCAN MLK DAY OF SERVICE AND REMEMBRANCE** - 11 a.m. - 2 p.m.

UCAN's Nichols Center - 3605 W. Fillmore Street

St. Pauls is invited to join our friends at UCAN to honor the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. by serving others, remembering those we've lost, and promoting peace in our community. Dr. King's willingness to serve and encourage solidarity inspires us. On this day, we will stand together with UCAN staff, family members, friends, and participants to remember lives lost and build a stronger foundation for peace. The program will include a prayer for the community, a service project to assemble comfort kits for anyone suffering loss, and a catered lunch. Register online at: [ucanichicago.org/mlk-day](http://ucanichicago.org/mlk-day).

## TODAY'S MUSIC

The arrangement of ***O Little Town of Bethlehem*** is by Carl Strommen (b. 1939). He began his college career as a literature major but completed his Master of Music degree at the Eastman School of Music. He has received a number of awards for his compositions from American Society of Composers, Authors and Publishers (ASCAP).

The original German text for ***Comfort, Comfort O My People*** was written in 1671 by Johann Olearius (1611-1684). He was born into a family of Lutheran theologians and became a Lutheran pastor. The translation was by Katherine Winkworth (1828-1878), who translated many famous German hymns. She was born in England but moved with her mother to Dresden in 1845. The tune, GENEVA 42, also known as the first line of the hymn, FREU DICH SEHR, takes its name from the *Genevan Psalter of 1551* and also Psalm 42 upon which the text is based.

***One Candle Is Lit*** is a contemporary text composed in 1988 by Mary Anne Parrott (b. 1943). CRADLE SONG is heard in England as the tune for Away In A Manger. It was composed in 1895 by William Kirkpatrick (1838-1921). He was an American composer. He was a carpenter by trade, but left that profession to pursue music. He composed nearly 100 religious song collections.

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

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

The text for ***Gentle Joseph, Joseph Dear*** is relatively new, 1993. It is a paraphrase by Carol Birkland (b. 1945) of an older translation of the German. It was written specifically for our New Century Hymnal. JOSEPH LIEBER, JOSEPH MEIN, the tune title, takes its name from the first words of the 15th century German carol. There is also an alternate Latin tune name, RESONET IN LAUDIBUS, which means “ring in praise.”

***Go Tell It on the Mountain*** music is unattributed; however, John W. Work (1872-1925) “curated” this and many other Black American spirituals and folk songs. Work was a graduate of the Historically Black College, Fisk University in Nashville. He returned to his alma mater to direct the world famous Fisk Jubilee Singers. This song was inspired and sung for many years by St. Pauls member and Chancel Choir alto section leader, Muzette Morgan.

The text for **On Christmas Night, All Christians Sing** was written by Luke Wadding (1628-1691). He was the Roman Catholic bishop of Ferns. The tune, SUSSEX CAROL, is a folk melody arranged by Ralph Vaughan Williams (1871-1958). He was the most prominent of the post-Victorian English composers. He composed 9 symphonies and music of all genres.

***Christmas Is Coming*** was composed by Vince Guaraldi (1928-1976) and is a musical theme from the made-for-TV movie, *A Charlie Brown Christmas* (1965), which also includes his jazz instrumental standard, *Linus and Lucy*. He also created music for other animated features and won a Grammy in 1963 for Best Original Jazz Composition for *Cast Your Fate to the Wind*.

## 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](https://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](https://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.

### 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](mailto:lawerencedamron@gmail.com)

### JOIN THE MOVEMENT - provided by SPARC

#### MESSIAH/COMPLEX

SPARC celebrates the peace and awe of this season by introducing *Messiah/Complex*, a visually stunning, open and affirming Canadian film celebrating the incredible text of *The Messiah* in a 21st century-worthy reimagining. As SPARC (St Pauls Anti-Racism Cluster) endeavors to explore ways to live our faith in an age of injustice. The vision here incorporates Indigenous spirituality and examines our relationship with God, family, and the physical world. Anti-racism is also opening ourselves to perspectives, gifts, and the Divine we can't perceive without reaching beyond our own experience. Use the link below to register for your free ticket; cast that link to your largest home screen. Link: [atgtheatre.com/upcoming/messiah-complex](https://atgtheatre.com/upcoming/messiah-complex).

### CREATION CORNER - provided by Green Team

#### How to Know Whether Wrapping Paper Is Recyclable

Regular wrapping paper (including the glossy stuff) is often recyclable as long as it does not have non-paper additions. This includes paper that has been dyed, laminated, and contains metals, plastics or glitter embedded within it or anywhere on it. If your paper is not labeled recyclable, it is safe to try the scrunch test: if you are able to scrunch up a piece of wrapping paper—that stays scrunched up—it's likely safe to recycle.

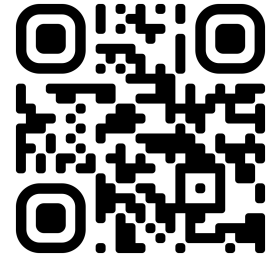
Adapted from *Popular Mechanics*, December 18, 2021, authored by Daisy Hernandez



## 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](https://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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:JenniferLKew@gmail.com), or Pastor Jeff, [jcarlson@spucc.org](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:pamelawoll@sbcglobal.net) with questions, or [info@spucc.org](mailto:info@spucc.org) to be added to the email list.

**CHURCH CENTER** – [spucc.churchcenter.com](http://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](mailto:danielle.mayfield@spucc.org). Register here: [spucc.churchcenter.com/registrations/events/1850397](http://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](mailto:marcia@volkonline.com).

**EMERGENCY CONTACT FORM & CARDS** – Follow this link for additional information: [spucc.churchcenter.com/people/forms/178271](http://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](mailto:nlanda05@yahoo.com) or Rick Peterson at [rnpeterson2017@gmail.com](mailto: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](http://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](mailto: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](http://spucc.churchcenter.com/groups/saint-pauls-groups/mom-s-group) or contact Pastor Liz at [lnickerson@spucc.org](mailto: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](http://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](http://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](mailto: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](mailto: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](http://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](mailto: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](mailto:jcarlson@spucc.org)), Marti Pechnyo ([mpechnyo@gmail.com](mailto:mpechnyo@gmail.com)), or Barb Kaiser ([bkaiser2213@gmail.com](mailto: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](http://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](mailto: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](mailto: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](http://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](http://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](mailto:bhafner2@att.net)) or Bob Ball ([Robert.f.ball@outlook.com](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](http://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](mailto:lynnebrenan@yahoo.com) or (630) 542-7012. Learn more here: [tinyurl.com/4sfbcmpx](http://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](http://spucc.churchcenter.com/registrations/events/1967800)

### **BULLETIN ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Please send announcements for St. Pauls-sponsored events to [info@spucc.org](mailto: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](https://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.
- Betty Voice being treated for sepsis.
- Family and friends of Karen Rieck at her death.
- David Sr., father of David Faulkner, who is dealing with cardiac and dehydration health concerns.
- Pat Kirby, hospitalized for tests.
- 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](mailto:mfitzgerald@spucc.org)

Associate Pastor Jeff Carlson, [jcarlson@spucc.org](mailto:jcarlson@spucc.org)

Associate Pastor Liz Nickerson, [lnickerson@spucc.org](mailto:lnickerson@spucc.org)

For a complete list of St. Pauls Staff, Governance, and Lay Leadership  
Please visit [www.spucc.org/contact](http://www.spucc.org/contact)

**St. Pauls United Church of Christ**  
**2335 N Orchard St. | Chicago, IL 60614**  
**(773) 348-3829   [www.spucc.org](http://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.