

January 7, 2024
Epiphany
Communion Sunday

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

Please silence cell phones.

*Bibles for use during worship are available at each entrance to the Sanctuary.
Assisted listening devices and Bluetooth hearing aid guides are in the Narthex.
The Nursery and Toddler Room are open for children ages 0-5, from 10 to 11 a.m.*

THOUGHT FOR PREPARATION

"I didn't ask my mother to buy me a trumpet or a violin, I started right on the
water hose." Rahsaan Roland Kirk

PRELUDE	<i>Prélude sur l'Introït de l'Épiphanie</i>	Maurice Duruflé
	Kevin Dzierzawski, organ	

CHIMES

INTROIT	<i>Ding Dong! Merrily on High</i>	French Carol
	Chancel Choir	

WELCOME	Jeff Carlson
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* WELCOMING EACH OTHER

* CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Rise and shine, our light has come!

All: The glory of God has risen upon us!

One: Darkness had covered the earth.

All: God's glory has risen upon us!

One: God will be our everlasting light.

All: Rise and shine, our light has come!

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

* HYMN

We Three Kings



1. We three kings of O - ri - ent are; bear - ing gifts we
2. Born a King on Beth - le - hem's plain, gold I bring to
3. Frank - in - cense to of - fer have I; in - cense owns a
4. Myrrh is mine; its bit - ter per - fume breathes a life of
5. Glo - rious now be - hold him a - rise; King and God and



tra - verse a - far, field and foun - tain, moor and moun - tain,
crown him a - gain, King for - e - ver, ceas - ing ne - ver,
De - i - ty nigh; prayer and prais - ing, voi - ces rais - ing,
gath - er - ing gloom; sor - rowing, sigh - ing, bleed - ing, dy - ing,
sac - ri - fice: Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia,



fol - low - ing yon - der star.
o - ver us all to reign.
wor - ship - ing God on high. O _____ star of won - der, star of light,
sealed in the stone - cold tomb.
sounds through the earth and skies.



star with roy - al beau - ty bright, west - ward lead - ing,



still pro - ceed - ing, guide us to thy per - fect light.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Liz Nickerson

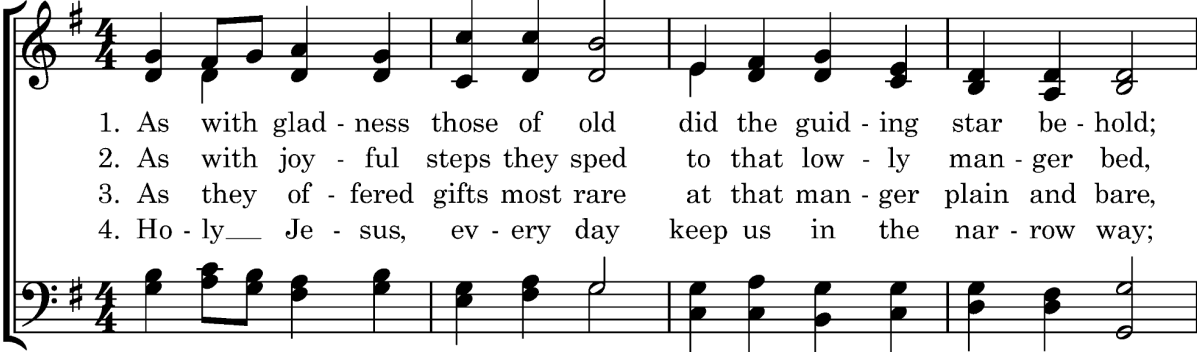
**O God,
you are true light from true light.
You spoke the sun into being.
Your star is brilliant,
promising a lifetime of little epiphanies.
Yet, we would rather
stumble in the dark
than walk in your light.
Forgive us.
Shine upon us.
Amen.**

MOMENT OF SILENT PRAYER

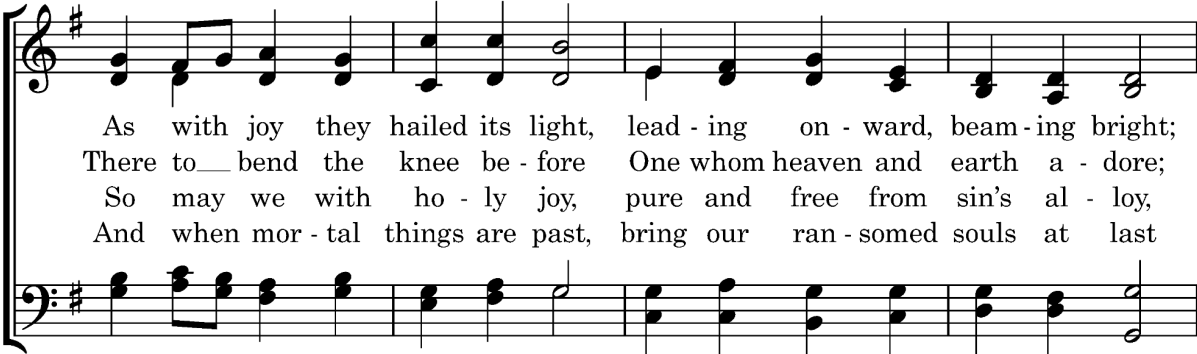
WORDS OF ASSURANCE

* HYMN

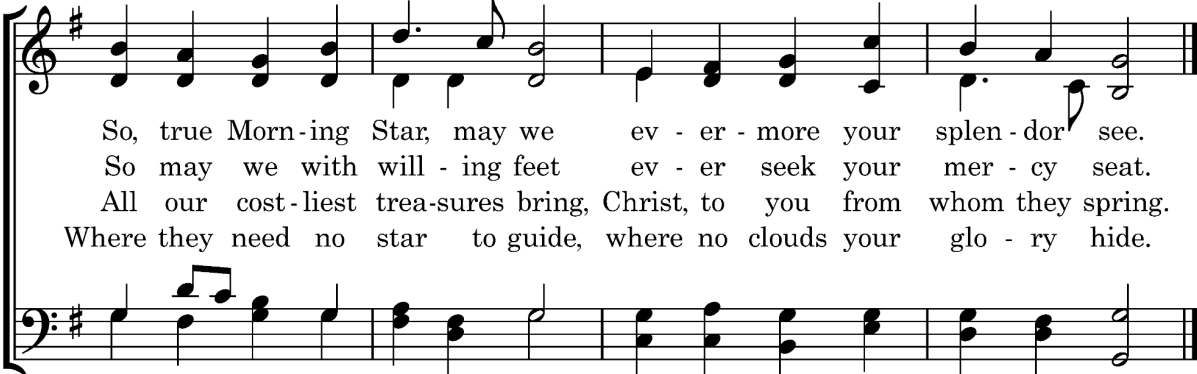
As With Gladness Those of Old



1. As with glad - ness those of old did the guid - ing star be - hold;
2. As with joy - ful steps they sped to that low - ly man - ger bed,
3. As they of - fered gifts most rare at that man - ger plain and bare,
4. Ho - ly Je - sus, ev - ery day keep us in the nar - row way;



As with joy they hailed its light, lead - ing on - ward, beam - ing bright;
There to bend the knee be - fore One whom heaven and earth a - dore;
So may we with ho - ly joy, pure and free from sin's al - loy,
And when mor - tal things are past, bring our ran - somed souls at last



So, true Morn - ing Star, may we ev - er - more your splen - dor see.
So may we with will - ing feet ev - er seek your mer - cy seat.
All our cost - liest trea - sures bring, Christ, to you from whom they spring.
Where they need no star to guide, where no clouds your glo - ry hide.

* PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

**O God, we give you our gratitude, our reverence, and our thanksgiving
as we delight in the gift you give us in this season and at this table;
the birth of your child, nothing less than your very self. Amen.**

SCRIPTURE

Monty Kehl

Matthew 2:1-12

After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, Magi from the east came to Jerusalem and asked, "Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him."

When King Herod heard this he was disturbed, and he asked them where the Messiah was to be born. "In Bethlehem in Judea," they replied, "for this is what the prophet has written."

Then Herod called the Magi secretly and found out from them the exact time the star had appeared. He sent them to Bethlehem and said, "Go and search carefully for the child. As soon as you find him, report to me, so that I too may go and worship him."

After they had heard the king, they went on their way, and the star they had seen when it rose went ahead of them until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw the star, they were overjoyed. On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to go back to Herod, they returned to their country by another route.

* STATEMENT OF FAITH

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

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

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

We are not alone. Thanks be to God!

(adapted from the United Church of Canada)

* RESPONSE

In the Bleak Midwinter

vv. 1 & 2

1. In the bleak mid - win - ter, frost - y wind made moan,
2. Our God tran - scends all heav - en, earth, and its do - main;
3. An - gels and arch - an - gels may have gath - ered there,
4. What can I of - fer, poor as I am?

earth stood hard as i - ron, wa - ter like a stone;
heaven and earth shall flee a - way when Christ comes to reign;
cher - u - bim and ser - a - phim thronged the mid - night air;
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
But his moth - er on - ly, in her maid - en bliss,
If I were a wise one, I would do my part; but

in the bleak mid - win - ter, long a - go.
sov - ereign God al - might - y, Je - sus Christ.
wor - shiped the be - lov - ed with a kiss.
what I can I of - fer: all my heart.

SERMON

“We Free Kings”

Matt Fitzgerald

*RESPONSE

In the Bleak Midwinter
See previous hymn

vv. 3 & 4

OFFERTORY

The Three Kings
Chancel Choir

Healey Willan

Who knocks tonight so late?
The weary porter said.
Three Kings stood at the gate,
Each with a crown on head.

The serving man bowed down;
The inn was full, he knew.
Said he, In all this town
Is no fit place for you!

A light the manger lit:
There lay the Mother meek.
Said they, This place is fit:
Here is the rest we seek!

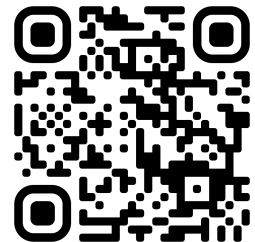
They loosed their latchet strings;
So stood they all unshod.
Come in, come in, ye Kings!
And kiss the Feet of God.

You can give to St. Pauls electronically:

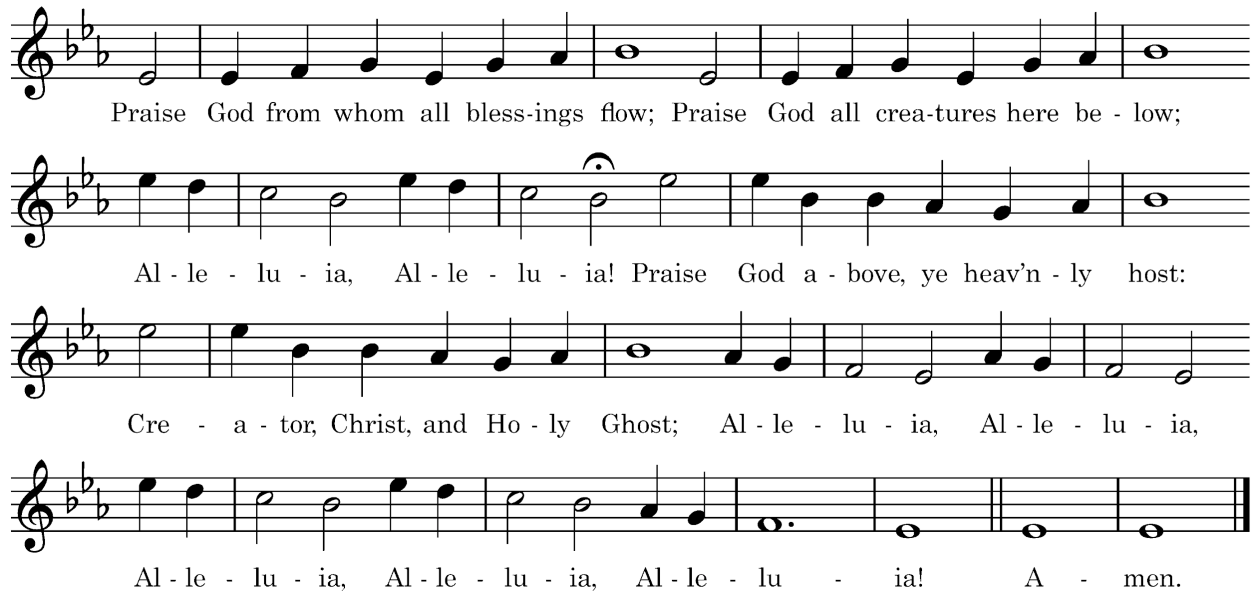
Scan this code with your cell phone camera,

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 blessings flow; Praise God all creatures 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.

CELEBRATION OF THE SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

WORDS OF INSTITUTION & PRAYER OF CONSECRATION

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.**

SERVING OF THE BREAD AND CUP

*Please come forward for communion.
Take the bread and eat it. Then take the cup and drink.
Deposit the cups in the baskets on the way back to your seat.
The outer ring of cups contains grape juice. The inner rings contain wine.
A gluten-free bread option is wrapped and available on a separate tray.
Return to your seat by the side aisles.
All are welcome to participate in communion.*

COMMUNION MUSIC

Kevin Dzierzawski, organ

* HYMN

On This Day Earth Shall Ring



1. On this day earth shall ring With the song
2. His the doom, ours the mirth; When he came
3. God's bright star, o'er his head, Wise men three
4. On this day an - gels sing; With their song



chil - dren sing To the Lord, Christ our King, Born on earth to
down to earth, Beth - le - hem saw his birth; Ox and ass be -
to him led, Kneel - ing low by his bed, Lay their gifts be -
earth shall ring, Prais - ing Christ, heav - en's King, Born on earth to



save us; Him the Fa - ther gave us.
- side him From the cold would hide him. *Id - e - o - o - o,*
- fore him, Praise him and a - dore him.
save us. Peace and love he gave us.



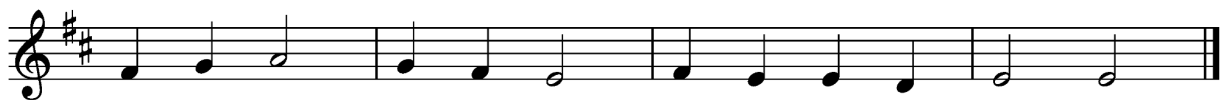
Id - e - o - o - o, Id - e - o glo - ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o!

* BENEDICTION

* BENEDICTION RESPONSE



Id - e - o - o - o, Id - e - o - o - o,



Id - e - o glo - ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o!

POSTLUDE

Why We Sing!
St. Arbucks Quartet

Kirk Franklin

Someone asked a question
Why do we sing?
When we lift our hands to Jesus
What do we really mean?

Someone may be wondering
When we sing our song
At times we may be crying
And nothing's even wrong

I sing because I'm happy
I sing because I'm free
His eye's on the sparrow
That's the reason why I sing

Glory, hallelujah
You're the reason why I sing
Glory, hallelujah
You're the reason why I sing

***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.***

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. downstairs in the Nursery and Toddler Room. Activity “busy bags” are available in the Narthex for children to use during the worship service.
- During January, there is no Sunday School. Students rehearse every Sunday morning from 9:30-11 in the Social Hall immediately below the Sanctuary for the Bible Off-Broadway February 4 performance. All children 4-18 are welcome and there are a variety of ways to participate! For more information email janaobrien1@gmail.com
- CONFIRMATION classes are in session. Contact sue@suefinkle.com for the schedule
- High School Sunday School class meets twice a month immediately following the service in the Youth Lounge, downstairs. Parents and teens should join the High School GroupMe for up-to-date information. Contact: mfitzgerald@spucc.org

TODAY'S WORSHIP LEADERS

Clergy: Matt Fitzgerald

Music Director: Kurt R. Hansen

Organist: Kevin Dzierzawski

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

Lay Liturgical Administrator: Kevin O'Brien

Scripture Reader: Monty Kehl

Communion Coordinator: Jana O'Brien

Head Usher: Beatrice Jaji

Ushers: Doug Clark, David Faulkner, Fred Pearson

Gatekeeper: Dodd Brown

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

Custodian: Ramiro Gonzalez

Communion bread baked by Marcia Knudson.

BORN THIS WEEK IN JANUARY

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

Jan. 7 Jeff Wagner, Peter Kaiser

Jan. 8 Caleb Patton, Don Curtis, Oscar Schrimpf

Jan. 9 Gisele Jozwiak, Grayson Colosi-McCann

Jan. 10 Bethany Grachan, Colleen Wood, Matt Crowley

Jan. 11 Julianne Prangle

Jan. 12 Charlie Coe, Lauren Fangman, Susie Rodriguez

Jan. 13 Ginger Hecht, Max Waldschmidt, Molly McGrath, Phil Canfield, Sune Millard

UPCOMING EVENTS

TODAY - 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 service. For details contact: janaobrien1@gmail.com.

JAN. 8 and 22 - 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.

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.

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 with UCAN at:

ucanchicago.org/mlk-day.

To carpool from St. Pauls, or to just let us know you plan to attend, please RSVP here: <http://tinyurl.com/4akzhxt4>.

JAN. 23 - FOOD FOR THE SOUL LUNCH GROUP - 12 - 1:30 p.m., Social Hall.

Sponsored by St. Pauls Social. Adults of all ages are invited. Make new friends and connect with old ones with lunch (bring your own lunch), fellowship, fun and faith.

FEB. 9 - ST PAULS SOCIAL WHISKEY TASTING - 7 p.m., Parlor

Join St. Pauls Social and host Todd Coe for a whiskey tasting. Todd will walk us through the sights, smells and tastes of several different whiskies and discuss what to look for when shopping for a bottle of your own. Please bring a snack to share. A donation of \$10 is requested to cover the costs of the samples. Please RSVP by Friday, February 2 at <http://tinyurl.com/4d3pvdvy>.

The event is limited to the first 20 attendees.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

FAITH IN ACTION MESSAGING GROUP

Some people call it showing up for a protest or marching against a government policy. Others call it public witnessing for the values inherent in our faith. Most of us appreciate being able to do both with like-minded members of our congregation.

Members and friends of St. Pauls can join this group. If you'd like to receive advance email notice of such protests, gatherings or advocacy opportunities – frequently on short notice due to swift governmental action - or to invite others in the group to join you in an advocacy opportunity, join Faith in Action. Register here:

<http://tinyurl.com/wuphf495>.

A MUSICAL GIFT FOR YOU!

Our own St. Arbucks Quartet recorded an album, *Mid-Winter Gifts*, in February 2022 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:

<http://tinyurl.com/bdcpvedv>.

And here is a link to the same album on Apple Music: <http://tinyurl.com/39skfy9k>.

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.

JOIN THE MOVEMENT - provided by SPARC

Racial Justice Starts With Love.

Martin Luther King, Jr.: "Power at its best is love implementing the demands of justice. Justice at its best is love correcting everything that stands against love."

Jemar Tisby: "Love is the fiery heart beating at the center of the urgent call for justice in our world. Love is the energizing force of justice that insists on fairness and equity for all. Love is the motivating factor that demolishes any paternalistic attitudes and builds a posture of humble service. Without love there can be no justice and you cannot pursue justice without love."

CREATION CORNER - provided by Green Team

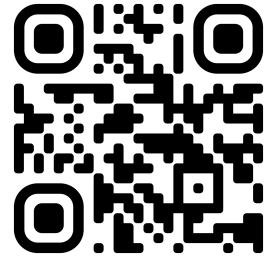
REFLECT ON CREATION JUSTICE

Start the New Year with a new mindset. How you think of yourself matters. Many of us see ourselves as consumers, those who use things up and toss them out. You can make a significant change in yourself and for the good of the Earth by changing the way you think. Explore being a minimalist as a practical and faithful way of being. Seeing ourselves as citizens who care for the welfare of the community makes a difference in our actions. Which aligns with your faith? Which do you want to be?

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.

FOOD FOR THE SOUL LUNCH GROUP (bring your own lunch). Tuesday, January 23 12:00 - 1:30 pm, Social Hall. Sponsored by St. Pauls Social. Adults of all ages are invited. Make new friends and connect with old ones with lunch, fellowship, fun and faith.

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:

<https://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: <https://spucc.churchcenter.com/registrations/events/2003286>

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

For St. Pauls-sponsored events send to info@spucc.org by 10 a.m. on Wednesdays, for publication in the Friday email and next Sunday bulletin. Share personal announcements/ events on our Facebook Group, St. Pauls Together. **Please limit announcements to 100 words.** Thank you!

TODAY'S MUSIC

Prélude sur l'Introït de l'Épiphanie (*Prelude on the Introit for the Epiphany*) Op13 was composed in 1961 by Maurice Duruflé (1902-1986). Duruflé took the chant melody *Ecce advenit dominator Dominus* (Behold! The Lord is coming!), which is from the Mass for the Epiphany. Duruflé uses chant as an inspiration for many of his works, especially his setting of *Requiem*.

Ding, Dong, Merrily on High employs a text by George Radcliff Woodward (1848-1934). He was an ordained Anglican clergy who served six parishes in his lifetime. He also translated many Greek, Latin and German hymn texts. The joyful tune, BRANLE DE L'OFFICIAL, was composed in 1588 by Thoinot Arbeau (1520-1595). His given name was Jehan Tabourot, with Arbeau being his better known pen name. He wrote a famous book about 16th century French dance styles.

We Three Kings is a truly American hymn. It was composed in 1857 by an Episcopalian priest, John H. Hopkins (1820–1891). His father was the Bishop of Vermont. Hopkins was also an ecclesiologist, which means he was interested in church art. He designed stained glass and other church ornaments.

As With Gladness Those of Old is set to the tune DIX, which was composed by W. Chatterton Dix (1837–1898). Mr. Dix also composed the original lyrics. He was a Scottish insurance company manager who also published several volumes of hymns.

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 Three Kings was composed in 1928 by Healey Willan (1880-1968). He was a prolific composer, especially of church music. He was born in England, but spent most of his career after 1914 teaching at the University of Toronto. Laurence Housman (1865-1959) was the brother of the more famous poet, A.E. Housman. Laurence was an artist and music critic in addition to being a writer and dramatist. He also produced a memoir about his brother.

On This Day Earth Shall Ring is a Latin hymn translated by Jane M. Joseph (1894-1929). She was an English composer and poet and a student of Gustav Holst, the composer of *The Planets*. Holst encouraged her to develop her great talents. Joseph retained the original Latin refrain, *Ideo, o, o, gloria in excelsis Deo*. Therefore, glory to God in the highest! The tune, PERSONENT HODIE, is also Latin and unattributed.

Our Postlude, *Someone Asked a Question-Why We Sing* was written in 1993 and features both text and music by Kirk Franklin (b. 1970). Mr. Franklin also pays homage in this song to the historic hymn text, *His Eye Is on the Sparrow*. In addition, he has brought a new and contemporary edge to gospel music by adding the energy of hip-hop.

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.
- 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

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 each and to everyone.

We are an Open and Affirming church.

We welcome all.

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