

First Sunday in Lent
February 18, 2024

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.*

PRELUDE	<i>Intrada</i>	John Ireland
	Kevin Dzierzawski, organ	
CHIMES		
INTROIT	<i>Lenten Call to Worship</i>	Plainchant
	Chancel Choir	
WELCOME		Liz Nickerson

* WELCOMING EACH OTHER

* CALL TO WORSHIP

One: This is the day that our God has made!

All: Let us rejoice and be glad in it!

One: It is good to give thanks to God.

All: Let's sing praises to God Most High!

One: Let's declare God's steadfast love in the morning!

All: Sing with the organ, piano, bass, trumpet and drums!

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

* HYMN

Holy, Holy, Holy

1. Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly! Lord God Al - might - y!
2. Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly! all the saints a - dore thee,
3. Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly! though the dark - ness hide thee,
4. Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly! Lord God Al - might - y!

Ear - ly in the morn - ing our song shall rise to thee;
Cast - ing down their gold - en crowns a - round the glass - y sea;
Though the eye of sin - ful man thy glo - ry may not see;
All thy works shall praise thy name in earth and sky and sea;

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly! mer - ci - ful and might - y;
Cher - u - bim and ser - a - phim fall - ing down be - fore thee,
On - ly thou art ho - ly; there is none be - side thee,
Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly! mer - ci - ful and might - y;

God in three per - sons, bless - ed Trin - i - ty!
Which wert and art and ev - er - more shalt be.
Per - fect in power, in love, and pur - i - ty.
God in three per - sons, bless - ed Trin - i - ty!

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**God of love and light, we confess that we are fascinated by our shadows,
fooled into thinking that our sins are interesting.**

**But they are so deadly ordinary: pride, envy, anger, sloth, lust,
greed, gluttony.**

Forgive us.

**So capture our attention with your love, that we might live as we truly are –
your beloved children.**

Amen.

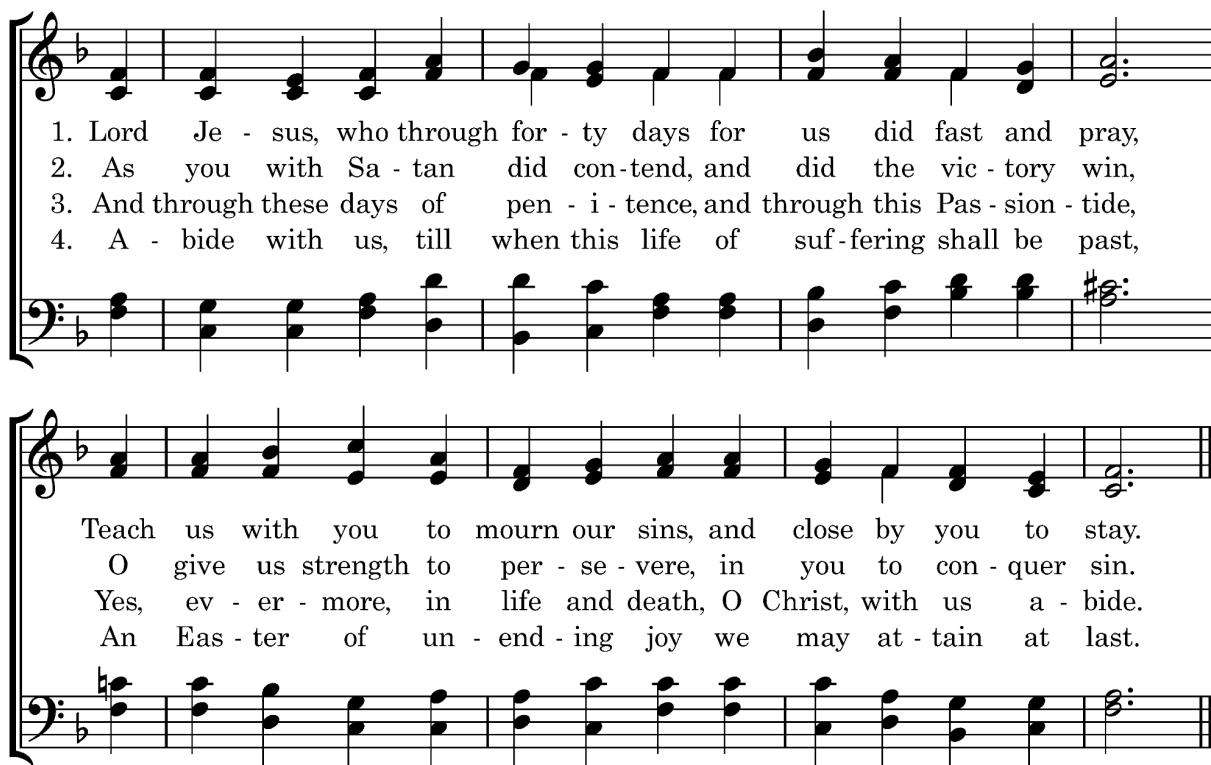
MOMENT OF SILENT PRAYER

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

RESPONSE

Lord Jesus, Who Through Forty Days

vv. 1-2



1. Lord Je - sus, who through for - ty days for us did fast and pray,
2. As you with Sa - tan did con - tend, and did the vic - tory win,
3. And through these days of pen - i - tence, and through this Pas - sion - tide,
4. A - bid with us, till when this life of suf - fer - ing shall be past,

Teach us with you to mourn our sins, and close by you to stay.
O give us strength to per - se - vere, in you to con - quer sin.
Yes, ev - er - more, in life and death, O Christ, with us a - bid.
An Eas - ter of un - end - ing joy we may at - tain at last.

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

SCRIPTURE

Greg Clemons

Mark 1:1-13

The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

As it is written in the prophet Isaiah,

“See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you,
who will prepare your way;
the voice of one crying out in the wilderness:
‘Prepare the way of the Lord,
make his paths straight,’”

John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. Now John was clothed with camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. He proclaimed, “The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.”

In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him. And a voice came from heaven, “You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased.” And the Spirit immediately drove him out into the wilderness. He was in the wilderness forty days, tempted by Satan; and he was with the wild beasts; and the angels waited on him.

* 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

Lord Jesus, Who Through Forty Days
See previous hymn

vv. 3-4

SERMON

"Into the Wilderness"

Jeff Carlson

* HYMN

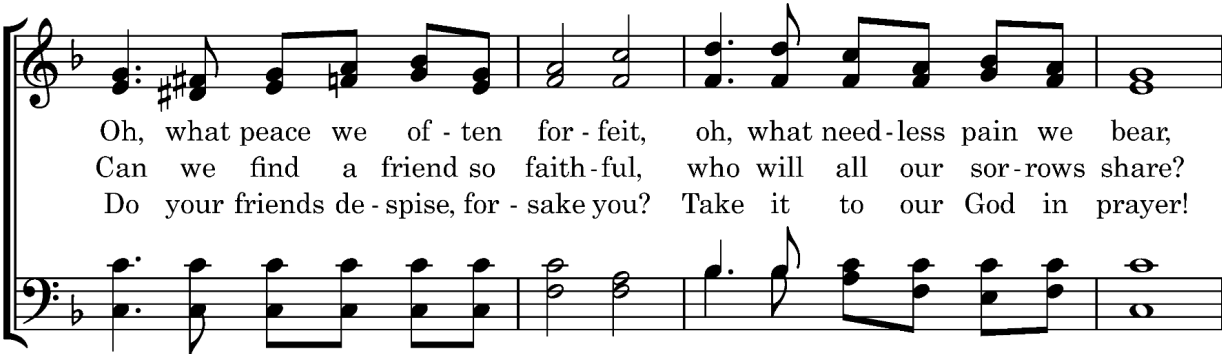
What a Friend We Have in Jesus




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



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



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



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

OFFERTORY

Greater Love Hath No Man

John Ireland

Chancel Choir

Many waters cannot quench love

Neither can the floods drown it.

Love is strong as death.

Greater love hath no man than this

That a man lay down his life for his friends

Who His own self bare our sins in His own Body on the tree

That we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness.

Ye are wash'd, ye are sanctified,

Ye are justified in the Name of the Lord Jesus;

Ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation,

That ye shew forth the praises of Him

Who hath called you out of darkness into His marvelous light.

I beseech you brethren, by the mercies of God,

That ye present your bodies, a living sacrifice,

Holy acceptable unto God,

Which is your reasonable service.

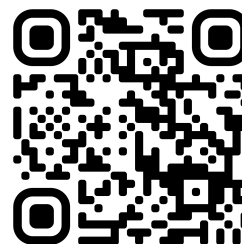
Text from the Song of Solomon, Gospels, and Epistles

You can give to St. Pauls electronically by:

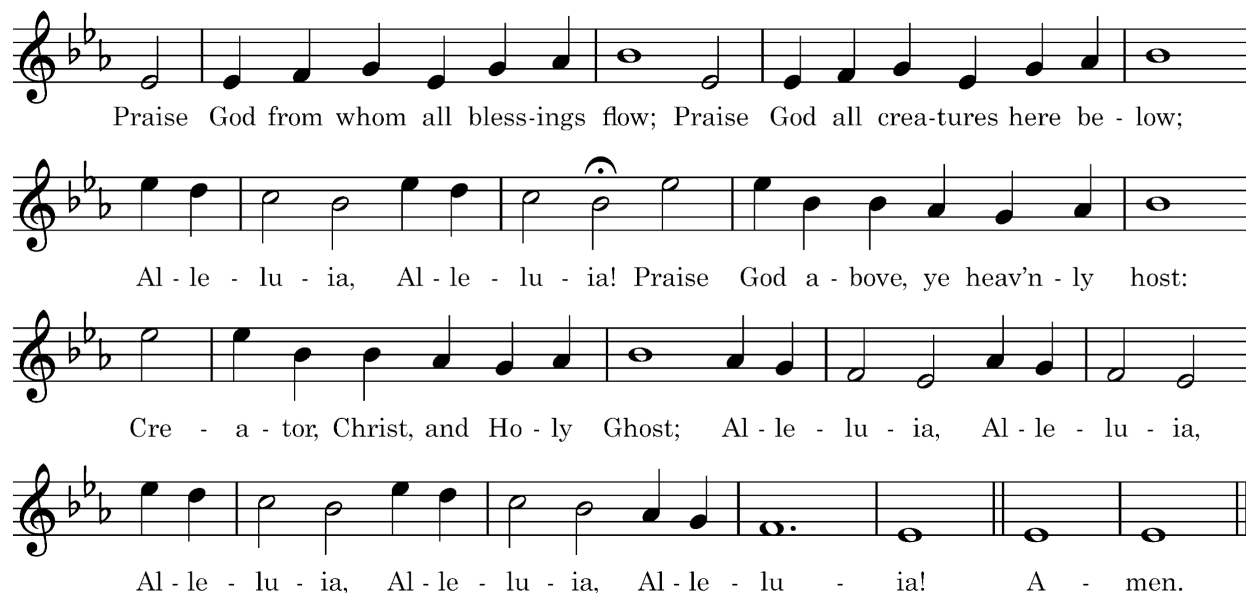
Scanning this code with your cell phone camera,

At spucc.churchcenter.com/giving,

Or through Zelle or PayPal to giving@spucc.org.



* FESTIVAL DOXOLOGY



The musical notation is written on four staves in a single system. The key signature has two flats (B-flat and E-flat), and the time signature is common time (C). The melody is written on a treble clef. The lyrics are written below the notes, with hyphens indicating syllables that span across multiple notes. The lyrics are: "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."

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.

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

Lift High the Cross

Lift high the cross, the love of Christ pro - claim; Let

The first system of the hymn is written in 4/4 time. The treble staff begins with a G4 quarter note, followed by a half note (A4-B4), a quarter note (C5), and a half note (B4-A4). The bass staff begins with a G2 half note, followed by a half note (F2-E2), a quarter note (D2), and a half note (C2-B1). The lyrics are: 'Lift high the cross, the love of Christ pro - claim; Let'.

all a - dore and praise that sa - cred name.

The second system continues the melody. The treble staff has a half note (A4-B4), a quarter note (C5), a half note (B4-A4), and a quarter note (G4). The bass staff has a half note (F2-E2), a quarter note (D2), a half note (C2-B1), and a quarter note (A1). The lyrics are: 'all a - dore and praise that sa - cred name.'

1. Come, Chris - tians, fol - low where our Sav - ior trod, the
2. Each new - born ser - vant of the Cru - ci - fied bears
3. O Christ, once lift - ed on the glo - rious tree, your
4. Set up your throne, that earth's de - spair may cease, be -
5. So shall our song of tri - umph ev - er be: praise

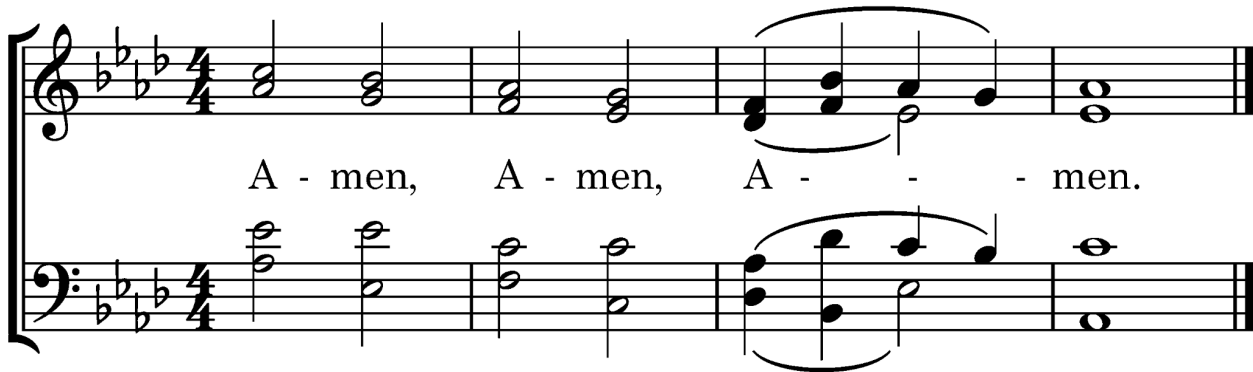
The third system contains five verses of lyrics. The treble staff begins with a G4 quarter note, followed by a half note (A4-B4), a quarter note (C5), and a half note (B4-A4). The bass staff begins with a G2 half note, followed by a half note (F2-E2), a quarter note (D2), and a half note (C2-B1). The lyrics are: '1. Come, Chris - tians, fol - low where our Sav - ior trod, the', '2. Each new - born ser - vant of the Cru - ci - fied bears', '3. O Christ, once lift - ed on the glo - rious tree, your', '4. Set up your throne, that earth's de - spair may cease, be -', '5. So shall our song of tri - umph ev - er be: praise'.

Lamb vic - to - rious, Christ the Child of God.
on the brow the seal of Christ who died.
death has brought us life e - ter - nal - ly.
-neath the shadow of its heal - ing peace.
to the Cru - ci - fied for vic - to - ry.

The fourth system continues the melody. The treble staff has a half note (A4-B4), a quarter note (C5), a half note (B4-A4), and a quarter note (G4). The bass staff has a half note (F2-E2), a quarter note (D2), a half note (C2-B1), and a quarter note (A1). The lyrics are: 'Lamb vic - to - rious, Christ the Child of God.', 'on the brow the seal of Christ who died.', 'death has brought us life e - ter - nal - ly.', '-neath the shadow of its heal - ing peace.', 'to the Cru - ci - fied for vic - to - ry.'

* BENEDICTION

* BENEDICTION RESPONSE *Threefold Amen*



POSTLUDE

Walk All Over God's Heaven

Mahalia Jackson

St. Arbucks Quartet

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 service.
- SUNDAY SCHOOL and 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. Remaining winter dates are: February 18, March 3 and 17. High schoolers meet immediately following the service downstairs in the Youth Lounge. Parents and teens should join the High School GroupMe for up-to-date information.

TODAY'S WORSHIP LEADERS

Clergy: Liz Nickerson, Jeff Carlson, 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: Greg Clemons

Head Usher: Beatrice Jaji

Ushers: Doug Clark, Fred Pearson

Gatekeeper: Dodd Brown

Livestream Team: Jim Alrutz, Marie Ankenman, Bob Ball, Jose Cruz, Brian Hafner

Custodian: Ramiro Gonzalez

LENT & EASTER AT ST. PAULS

TUES, MAR 12 LENTEN TAIZÉ - 7 p.m.
Service of meditation and prayer

SUN, MAR 24 PALM SUNDAY - 10 a.m.
Palm branches, songs, and Egg Hunt

THU, MAR 28 MAUNDY THURSDAY - 7 p.m.
Dramatic Presentation of Mark's Gospel

FRI, MARCH 29 GOOD FRIDAY - 7:30 p.m.
Communion, Tenebrae with choir

SUN, MARCH 31 EASTER SUNDAY - 9 a.m. & 11 a.m.
Communion, choir, brass

BORN THIS WEEK IN FEBRUARY

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.

FEB. 18 Ryan Holzricher, Wayne Parman

FEB. 19 Simon Baurer

FEB. 20 Sami Due, Sonya Brizzolara, Sophia Riportella

FEB. 21 Albert Ettinger, Andrew Dickson, Jen Luerssen, Richard Koldyke

FEB. 22 Jeff Braun, Nathan Cata

FEB. 23 Andrew Razeghi, Colleen Scrivner, Kevin Clarke

FEB. 24 Annie Jaussi, Char Damron, Dan Charlton, Hannah Hafner

UPCOMING EVENTS

TODAY - MOMS' GROUP - 11:15 a.m.-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 child care provided. Contact Pastor Liz at lnickerson@spucc.org.

FEB. 19 - 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.

FEB. 20 - C.S. LEWIS IN A YEAR BEGINS - 7 p.m., Zoom

In 2024, St. Pauls is going to read "C.S. Lewis in a Year." Led by Pastor Jeff and Pastor Matt, alternating between the seven novels in *The Chronicles of Narnia* and Lewis's five most acclaimed works of theology. Beginning February 20, we will meet over Zoom on the third Tuesday of each month. Reading C.S. Lewis with church friends will impact your life and your faith profoundly. His work is imaginative and exciting. He explains Christian concepts and God's goodness as clearly as any writer ever has. Start reading now for our first discussion: *Mere Christianity*; a complete reading list will be shared upon registration. Join this exciting adventure by registering here: <http://tinyurl.com/bdzda6u7>.

FEB. 21 - NEW WEDNESDAY BIBLE STUDY HAS BEGUN - 12 p.m., Zoom

We're studying the Gospel of Mark through the season of Lent. This fast-paced Gospel is thought to be the first one written. Join our often lively discussion as we explore the meaning of the good news of Jesus from Mark. Meets weekly at noon through March 27. To sign up, email Pastor Jeff, jcarlson@spucc.org.

FEB. 25 – PRE-ANNUAL MEETING BUDGET REVIEW -11 a.m., Comet Room

The pre-annual meeting budget review will be Sunday, February 25, in the Comet Room (across from Social Hall entrance) after worship. It is a deeper dive into St. Pauls finances. Treasurer Sally Fletcher and the Finance Committee will be on hand to present and answer your questions.

FEB. 27 - FOOD FOR THE SOUL LUNCH GROUP -12-1:30 p.m., Gym

Prayer Labyrinth (walking or finger labyrinth) facilitated by Pastor Liz Nickerson. Join us for this special spiritual event sponsored by St. Pauls Social. Adults of all ages are invited. Make new friends and connect with old ones at lunch (bring your own lunch). You may register here: tinyurl.com/2p3w8jnf.

FEB. 28 - COOKIES FOR A CAUSE - 5:30 p.m., Kitchen

Join St. Pauls cookie bakers for dinner, socializing and cookie making on Wednesday, February 28. Meet us in the kitchen at 5:30 p.m., or whenever works for you. We eat around 6:30 p.m. Our cookies (more than 1,000) go to A Just Harvest and their various shelters, as well as the Lincoln Park Community Shelter (LPCS). If you can't join us but would like to participate, you may drop off any homemade cookies labeled MARCIA at the church by February 28. Please contact Marcia Volk at marcia@volkonline.com or (773) 307-6866 to reserve a spot or to inquire about dinner/baking supplies that might be needed. Friends and family are welcome. We're a friendly group and have a good time making "cookies for a cause."

MAR. 11 - PIE BAKING CLASS - 5:45 p.m., Kitchen

In preparation for π (pi)Day, adults of all ages are invited to join St. Pauls Social and professional chef Molly McGrath on Monday, March 11 at 5:45 p.m. for an in-person pie baking class in our own St. Pauls kitchen. We will learn and practice baking a few different pies. Cost is \$15/person and space is limited to 10 participants. Register by March 7 at: <http://tinyurl.com/3x7brdzt>

MAR. 15-16 - SUPERSTART YOUTH RETREAT

We are so excited to take our 4th-6th graders on an overnight retreat, SuperStart 2024! It starts Friday, March 15 at 6 p.m. in Naperville Community Christian Church and we will be back at the church by 4 p.m. on Saturday, March 16. They will join about 200 kids from all over the state. SuperStart is a high-energy event for preteens to hear the gospel and be called to help build God's kingdom. On Saturday, we will have lunch and fun at Main Event (bowling, laser tag, arcade games, and food, etc). The \$100 cost includes transportation, accommodations at a local church, retreat fee, breakfast, lunch, and all activities. The price goes up after February 14, so we need an RSVP by February 12. Pastor Liz is chaperoning and parent volunteers are welcome to come. Please contact danielle.mayfield@spucc.org with questions.

MAR. 21 - ARGUMENTS OVER GENOCIDE - 7 p.m., Parlor

What would justice for the peoples of the Native nations look like? What stands in the way? Does it help to think in terms of "Arguments Over Genocide" that have been going on for centuries? Lighthouse and St. Pauls member Steve Schwartzberg has sought to answer these questions in a recently published book. He will share his thoughts and welcome the opportunity to listen to yours. RSVP (not necessary, but appreciated) to steven.schwartzberg@gmail.com.

JUNE 8-15 - YOUTH MISSION TRIP

Learn to "Be the Neighbor" From Leaders on Race and Reconciliation

We are excited to invite our youth on the summer 2024 trip - a Tulsa Race and Reconciliation Week, June 8-15. This will be our second experience with youth service and learning between the UCC and the Disciples of Christ in a nationwide program called "Be the Neighbor."

Tulsa Race and Reconciliation weeks are centered around a justice-focused biblical curriculum based on Luke and Matthew. Youth will have opportunities to serve with local ministries and social service organizations. Drawing from Tulsa's history of racial violence in the Trail of Tears and the burning of "Black Wall Street," youth will learn from activists and church leaders who are determined to find hope and seek reconciliation and growth rather than simply lamenting the past. Youth will look back at the history of racism to understand why and how to address racism today and into the future. Youth will learn about types of racism, differences between equity and equality, and the racial wealth gap. Lessons learned will be brought home and put to work at St. Pauls and in Chicago. Register here: tinyurl.com/2024-youth-mission-trip.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

NEW GROUP FORMING - PALESTINE STUDY GROUP

Let's learn together through literature, film and guest speakers. We begin with the book, *The Hundred Years' War on Palestine: A History of Settler Colonialism and Resistance, 1917-2017* by Rashid Khalidi. The book is available at tinyurl.com/4e6dacz7. Khalidi, a Palestinian American professor at Columbia University, is one of the foremost historians on the Middle East. This book offers a necessary reframing of the current crisis in Gaza, and illuminates paths not taken to a just peace. First discussion via Zoom Tuesday, February 27 at 7 p.m. All are welcome! To sign up, visit: tinyurl.com/Palestine-Study-Group. Contact David Burnett at burnett.db@gmail.com with questions.

NEW GROUP FORMING -“HEALING HEARTS” PET SUPPORT GROUP: ST. PAULS PET LOSS COMMUNITY

Are you struggling with losing a beloved furry friend/companion/animal assistant? Losing a pet can be one of the most heart-wrenching experiences in life. At St. Pauls, we understand the deep bond you shared with your beloved pet/family member and we're here to offer support, understanding and a virtual shoulder to lean on. To join, visit tinyurl.com/healing-hearts-support. We meet on the fourth Tuesday of every month from 7-8 p.m. Age 18+ only, 15 participants maximum.

WINDY CITY WINDS CONCERT – FRIDAY MARCH 8 – A EUROPEAN TOUR

Windy City Winds, “Chicago’s Community Band,” invites you to our winter concert, *A European Tour*, in our Sanctuary at 7:30 p.m. on Friday evening, March 8. Our guest soloist will be world-famous Chicago Symphony Orchestra Assistant Principal Clarinetist John Bruce Yeh performing works by Weber and Debussy. The concert will feature music from Spain, Greece, Germany, France, Ireland, and Italy. Admission is free and the concert will be live streamed. Audience members can participate in WCW’s annual raffle for valuable prizes.

JOIN OUR INTERGENERATIONAL ORCHESTRA

Do you play an orchestral string, woodwind, brass, or percussion instrument? If so, please join the St. Pauls UCC Intergenerational Orchestra as we prepare to perform in worship on Sunday, March 3. Orchestra members include pre-teens, teenagers and adults of all ages and abilities! Rehearsals are immediately after worship for about an hour in the Oscar Mayer Room on February 11, 18 and 25. If you are interested, please contact our conductor Mark Mosley at (773) 732-0625 or mwmosley@gmail.com. Please join us as together we *Make a Joyful Sound in the City!*

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 revenue St. Pauls 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

Chicago's Museum of Contemporary Art (MCA) has a wonderful opportunity for visitors to commemorate Black History Month and learn more about the work of Faith Ringgold, one of the most respected multidisciplinary artists of the contemporary period. A foundational figure in both the Black Power and feminist art movements, Ringgold broke down traditional hierarchies in the art world. Her work invites viewers to consider how white supremacist ideas have historically defined what good art is, who counts as an artist and how artists of all races and backgrounds can challenge these standards. Explore her accomplishments in the retrospective exhibit *Faith Ringgold, American People*, at the MCA through February 25. Learn more here: tinyurl.com/vun89haw.

CREATION CORNER - provided by Green Team

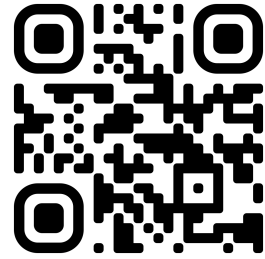
REASSESS FOOD CHOICES/USE

Avoid highly processed foods. If a food product has been through many steps in manufacturing, with lots of ingredients coming from various places, the carbon footprint is higher for that product due to traveling, manufacturing and distribution. Think about a nutrition bar with a long list of ingredients vs. a handful of plain nuts, which came from one source with minimal processing. Shop and eat smartly.

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. To join us, visit: tinyurl.com/Tuesday-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 Luerssen at jenluerssen@yahoo.com. Subscribe to the distribution list below, or look out for future events in the bulletin calendar: spucc.churchcenter.com/groups/saint-pauls-groups/st-pauls-social.

SPARC (St. Pauls Anti-Racism Cluster) meets monthly to discern how we as a congregation can answer the call to live our faith in an age of injustice. We invite you to join us in identifying the educational opportunities, resources and actions to take on our journey toward racial justice. To participate or share your ideas, contact Cindy Ball at cindyball11@gmail.com.

STEPHEN MINISTRY AT ST. PAULS – If you're in need of support through a tough time and would like to be matched with someone who would support you with companionship and prayer, or you're feeling called to offer support, speak to Pastor Jeff Carlson (jcarlson@spucc.org), Marti Pechnyo (mpechnyo@gmail.com), or Barb Kaiser (bkaiser2213@gmail.com).

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



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

YOUTH & FAMILY NEWSLETTER – Make sure you stay in the know with youth events! A weekly email is sent to parents to share activities, including Sunday School lessons and other useful news. Please contact Erin Fitzgerald at erin.fitzgerald@spucc.org to be added to the list.

YOUTH CHOIRS – If your child has any interest in music, please join us! Kecia Waldschmidt is leading Paul's People for 4th-8th graders. Breanna Coe and Karen Johnson are leading the Children's Choir for kids K-3rd grade. Rehearsals are 9:30 on Sunday mornings during the school year.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

ALTAR FLOWERS – Providing flowers for the altar is an excellent way to celebrate a special event in your life: an anniversary, a birthday, a holiday, or just because you like flowers. Sign up here: tinyurl.com/alter-flowers-2024.

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 or register here: <http://tinyurl.com/team-lilies>.

DRIVERS/TRANSPORTATION AIDES 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

John Ireland (1879-1962) composed our Prelude, ***Intrada***, the first movement of his *Miniature Suite*, in 1904. He is among the Victorian composers from England that included Stainer, Parry and Stanford. He is probably best known for his many songs; Benjamin Britten was one of his students. Although his training was nearly exclusively English, Ireland was also influenced by French impressionist composers.

Our Introit, a ***Lenten Call to Worship***, is based on a 12th century chant. It contains three short stanzas with the final one being a doxology, praise of the Holy Trinity. It closes with the original Latin, *Benedicamus Domino* (We bless God), repeated twice.

Holy, Holy, Holy - It is interesting to note that the text for this hymn draws from both Jewish and Catholic liturgy. The Jewish prayer for every Shabbat service is *Kadosh, kadosh, kadosh*, and the Catholic prayer is *Sanctus, sanctus, sanctus*. Reginald Heber (1783-1826) penned this text in 1826 just before his death. He won poetry contests at Oxford in his student days and became a member of the clergy, taking over his father's parish. The tune, NICAEA, was named after the Council of Nicaea (325 CE) when the Church formulated the concept of the Trinity. It was composed by John Dykes (1823-1876), who created many famous English hymn tunes.

Lord Jesus, Who Through Forty Days is a text written in 1873 by Claudia Frances Hernaman (1838-1898). Born in England, her father was an Anglican priest. She composed more than 150 hymns and devoted her life to the religious education of children. The tune, ST. FLAVIAN, is of unknown origin and dates from a hymnal published in the 16th century.

What a Friend We Have in Jesus uses the tune CONVERSE. The text was written in 1855 by Joseph Mendicott Scriven (1819-1886), an Irish immigrant to Canada. He often wrote hymn texts to find solace in his faith. His life, however, was not altogether a happy one. Charles C. Converse (1832-1918) composed the hymn tune that bears his name in 1868. An American who studied in Leipzig, Germany, he also had two other pseudonyms. He returned to America, became a lawyer and remained an active musician throughout his life.

John Ireland also composed our Offertory, ***Greater Love Hath No Man***, in 1912. This anthem is among his most often performed works.

Lift High the Cross - George William Kichen (1827-1912) was the original author of the text, but there is a second "contributor," Michael R. Newbolt (1874-1956), referred to as an "alterer," who added to and improved the Kichen text. The tune,

CRUCIFER, was composed in 1916 at the height of The Great War by Sydney H. Nicholson (1875-1947). He was organist/choirmaster at Westminster Abbey in the 1920s and had a deep influence on English hymnody.

Walk All Over God's Heaven is much more a new creation by Mahalia Jackson (1911-1972) than a mere arrangement. She took inspiration from the old hymn *I Got a Robe, You Got a Robe*. She also has a direct connection to St. Pauls. Brendan Henry grew up so loving her music and her deep spiritual commitment that he named his daughter after her. She had a long commitment to the civil rights movement and was standing behind the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. as he spoke at the Lincoln Memorial during the 1963 March on Washington. In recordings of that event, you can hear her shouting, "Tell them about the dream, Martin!". Born in Mississippi, her connection to Chicago was long and deep. Studs Terkel was among her biggest fans and champions, and although she toured the world, she called Chicago her home and returned here during her final illness. She is now memorialized, along with her equally famous colleague, Thomas A. Dorsey, in our stained glass music windows in the south aisle.

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.

- Jill Minetz and family at the death of her brother, Arthur Scott Aronson.
- Prayers for peace - in our city, nation and world.
- Prayers for the Song Shu family, for the best surgical outcome and a speedy recovery.
- Betty Voice being treated for sepsis.
- Alex Doty and her mother who has been hospitalized and is now in rehab.
- Family and friends of Karen Rieck at her death.
- David Sr., father of David Faulkner, who is dealing with cardiac and dehydration health concerns.
- Deborah's friend Anita Smith recovering at Paul House and Health Care Center following a lengthy hospitalization.
- Pat Kirby, hospitalized for tests.
- Family and friends of Mike Perricone at his death, especially for his wife Joan Vanderbeck and daughter Jenny.
- 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.
- Debra and Robin at the death of their son Sean.
- For Laura at the recent death of her mother and the paralysis of her son Ryan in an accident. Pray for Ryan too as he struggles to regain some function and mobility.
- 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.
- 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.

EASTER ALTAR FLOWERS ORDER FORM

Celebrate or remember a loved one by ordering a flowering plant for the Easter Festival Altar. Flowers may be picked up after the 11 a.m. Easter Sunday service. Remaining flowers will be donated to our senior members and neighbors. Please enclose \$30 or more per plant with this order form, or order and pay online here: spucc.churchcenter.com/registrations/events/1648145.

Please print legibly.

In Celebration of *(print name(s) as you wish to appear):*

In Memory of *(print name(s) as you wish to appear):*

From *(your name(s) as you wish to appear):*

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Tear out this form and drop it in the offering plate or mail it to:

St. Pauls UCC

Attn: Easter Flowers

2335 N. Orchard Street

Chicago, IL 60614

Completed orders must arrive **by March 25** to appear in the Easter Bulletin.

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.