

Fourth Sunday in Lent
Baptism Sunday
March 10, 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.
The Nursery and Toddler Room are open for children ages 0-5, from 10 to 11 a.m.*

PRELUDE

Lord Don't Move the Mountain
St. Arbucks Quartet

Doris Akers
arr. Brendan Henry

Now Lord don't move my mountain
But give me the strength to climb
And Lord, don't take away my stumbling blocks
But lead me all around

Lord I don't bother nobody
I try to treat everybody the same
But everytime, I turn my back
They scandalize my name

But oh Jesus
You don't have to move my mountain ...

CHIMES

INTROIT

Jesu, Jesu, Fill Us With Your Love
Chancel Choir

Ghanaian Folk Song

WELCOME

Matt Fitzgerald

* WELCOMING EACH OTHER

* CALL TO WORSHIP *(From Isaiah 61)*

One: The spirit of the Lord God is upon us, because God has anointed us.

**All: God sends us to bring good news to the poor,
to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives.**

One: To proclaim the year of the Lord's favor; to comfort all who mourn.

**All: To give to those who mourn a crown of beauty instead of ashes,
the oil of joy instead of mourning.**

One: A garment of praise instead of a spirit of despair.

All: May the Spirit of the Lord God be upon us.

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

* HYMN

God of Grace and God of Glory



1. God of grace and God of glo - ry, on your peo - ple
2. From the e - vils that sur - round us and as - sail the
3. Cure your chil - dren's war - ring mad - ness; bend our pride to
4. Set our feet on loft - y plac - es; gird our lives that
5. Save us from weak res - ig - na - tion to the e - vils



pour your power; crown your an - cient church - 's sto - ry;
Sav - ior's ways, from the fears that long have bound us—
your con - trol. Shame our reck - less, self - ish glad - ness,
they may be ar - mored with all Christ - like grac - es,
we de - plore; let the search for your sal - va - tion



bring its bud to glo - rious flower. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age,
free our hearts for faith and praise. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age,
rich in things and poor in soul. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age,
in the fight to set us free. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age,
be our glo - ry ev - er - more. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age,



for the fac - ing of this hour, for the fac - ing of this hour.
for the liv - ing of these days, for the liv - ing of these days.
make our bro - ken spir - its whole, make our bro - ken spir - its whole.
in the quest for lib - er - ty, in the quest for lib - er - ty.
serv - ing you whom we a - dore, serv - ing you whom we a - dore.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Liz Nickerson

**Most merciful God,
we confess that we have sinned against you
in thought, word, and deed,
by what we have done, and by what we have left undone.
We have not loved you with our whole heart;
we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.
We are truly sorry and we humbly repent.
For the sake of your Son Jesus,
have mercy on us and forgive us;
that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways,
to the glory of your Name. Amen.**

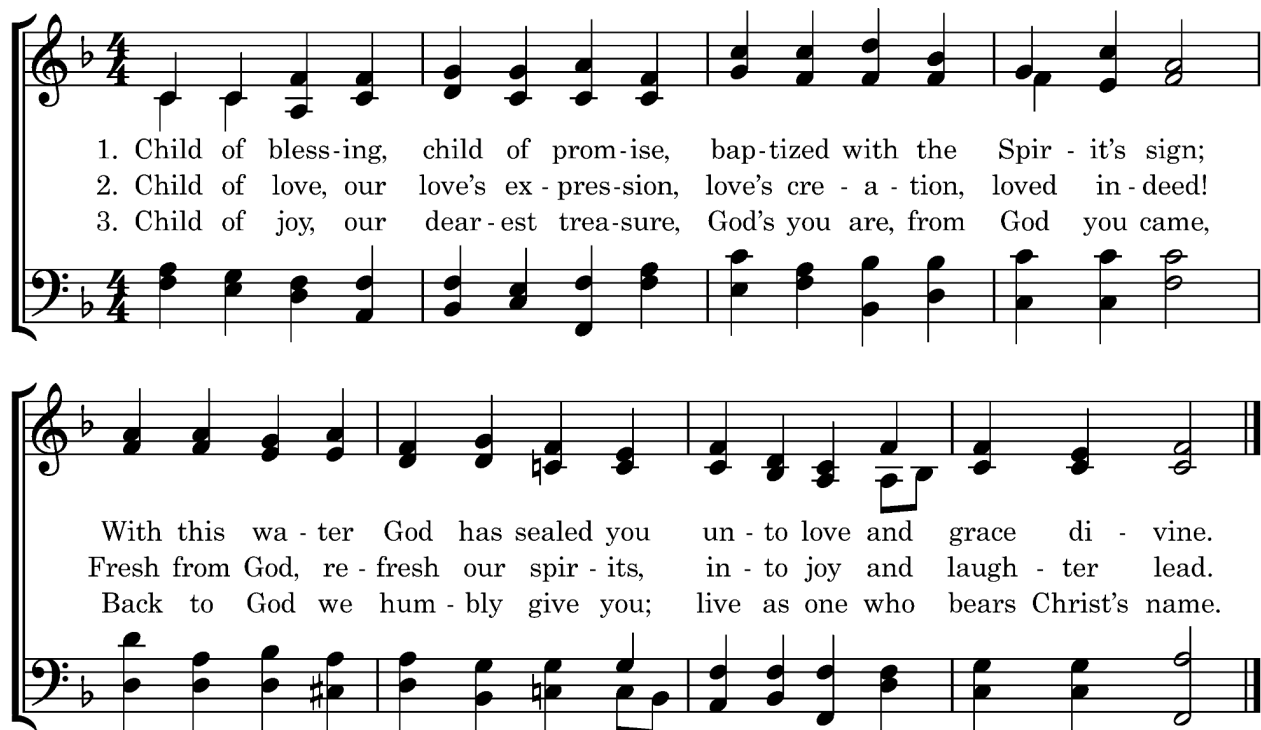
MOMENT OF SILENT PRAYER

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

HYMN

Child of Blessing, Child of Promise

v. 1



1. Child of bless-ing, child of prom-ise, bap-tized with the Spir - it's sign;
2. Child of love, our love's ex - pres-sion, love's cre - a - tion, loved in - deed!
3. Child of joy, our dear-est trea-sure, God's you are, from God you came,

With this wa - ter God has sealed you un - to love and grace di - vine.
Fresh from God, re - fresh our spir - its, in - to joy and laugh - ter lead.
Back to God we hum - bly give you; live as one who bears Christ's name.

ANTHEM

I'll Fly Away

Albert Brumley

Pauls People

Leslie Chamberlain, guitar

Kecia Waldschmidt, director

Some glad morning when this life is over

I'll fly away

To a home on God's celestial shore

I'll fly away

I'll fly away, oh, Glory

I'll fly away

When I die, Hallelujah, by and by

I'll fly away

Just a few more weary days and then

I'll fly away

To a land where joy shall never end

I'll fly away

I'll fly away, oh, Glory ...

Duet 1: Sylvia Pine & Winnie Castle

Duet 2: Deirdre McGrath & CeCe Chamberlain

Duet 3: Brooke McGuire & Aniston Hartanov

Duet 4: Lee Waldschmidt & Thomas Mix

THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM OF

Austin Luciano Mirabal Hernández

Pastor: Austin, receive now the Light of Christ. May you walk always as a child of light. May your light so shine before others that they may see your good works and give glory to God. Austin is now received into the love and care of the church. See what love God has given us that we should be called children of God.

All: Almighty God, giver of life, you have called us by name and pledged to each of us your faithful love. We pray for your child, Austin. Inspire his life. May he sing many songs, know many joys, heal many wounds, and embrace many people in your name. We pray for his parents, that they may be guided by your love so that they may know your presence. May we walk together with this family as witnesses to your gospel, as those for whom you have lived and died and live again. Amen.

Pastor: Austin, may the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit, be with you always.

All: Amen

HYMN

Child of Blessing, Child of Promise
See previous hymn

vv. 2 & 3

ANTHEM

Jesus Loves Me
Children's Choir
Breanna Coe, director & Karen Johnson, pianist

Anna B. Warner

*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.*

Mark 8:27-37

Jesus went on with his disciples to the villages of Caesarea Philippi; and on the way he asked his disciples, "Who do people say that I am?" And they answered him, "John the Baptist; and others, Elijah; and still others, one of the prophets." He asked them, "But who do you say that I am?" Peter answered him, "You are the Messiah." And he sternly ordered them not to tell anyone about him.

Then he began to teach them that the Son of Man must undergo great suffering, and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again. He said all this quite openly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. But turning and looking at his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, "Get behind me, Satan! For you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things."

He called the crowd with his disciples, and said to them, "If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it. For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life?"

* 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

Santo, Santo, Santo

¡San - to, san - to, san - to, — mi cor - a - zón te a - do - ra! — Mi
Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, — my heart, my heart a - dores you! — My

cor - a - zón te sa - be de - cir: san - to e - res Dios.
heart is glad to say the words: you are ho - ly God.

SERMON

“Lost and Found”

Jeff Carlson

* HYMN

I Heard the Voice of Jesus



1. I heard the voice of Je - sus say, "Come un - to me and rest;
2. I heard the voice of Je - sus say, "Be - hold, I free - ly give
3. I heard the voice of Je - sus say, "I am this lost world's Light,

Lay down, O wea - ry one, lay down your head up - on my breast."
The liv - ing wa - ter; thirst - y one, draw near, and drink, and live."
Look un - to me; your morn shall rise, and all your day be bright."

I came to Je - sus as I was, so wea - ry, worn, and sad,
I came to Je - sus, and I drank of that life - giv - ing stream;
I looked to Je - sus, and I found my guid - ing Star, my Sun;

And there I found a rest - ing place, where Je - sus made me glad!
My thirst was quenched, my soul re - vived, and now I am re - deemed.
And in that light of life I'll go till trav - eling days are done.

GIVING MOMENT

Rick Peterson

OFFERTORY

Pie Jesu
from *Requiem*
(Sung in Latin)
Katie Alrutz and Jen Kew, soloists
Chancel Choir

Andrew Lloyd Webber

Merciful Jesus, O Lord, grant them rest.
Merciful Jesus, O Lord, grant them eternal rest.

Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world,
Grant them rest.

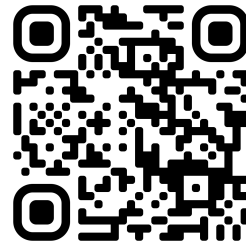
Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world,
Grant them eternal rest.

You can give to St. Pauls electronically by:

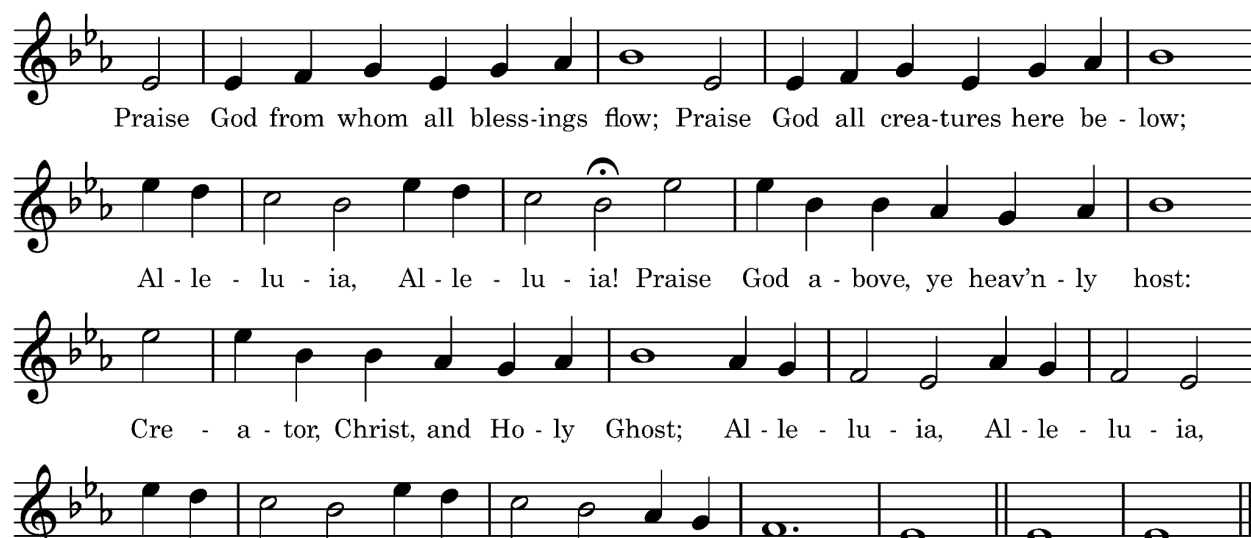
Scanning this code with your cell phone camera,

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 G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The melody is simple and hymn-like, with lyrics written below each staff. The first staff contains the first line of the doxology, the second and third staves contain the second line, and the fourth staff contains the third line. The notation includes various note values (quarter, eighth, and half notes) and rests, with a final double bar line at the end of the fourth staff.

Praise God from whom all bless-ings flow; Praise God all crea-tures here be - low;
Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia! Praise God a - bove, ye heav'n - ly host:
Cre - a - tor, Christ, and Ho - ly Ghost; Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia,
Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia! A - men.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

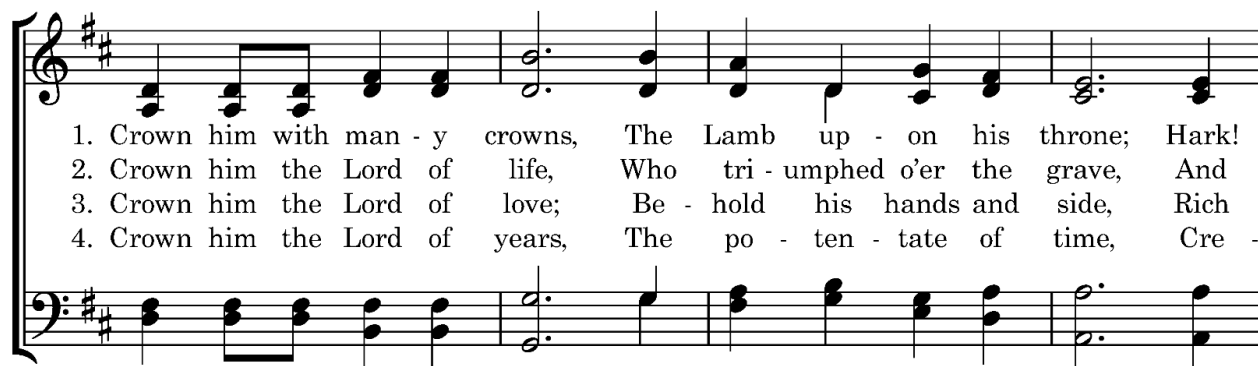
Liz Nickerson

THE LORD'S PRAYER

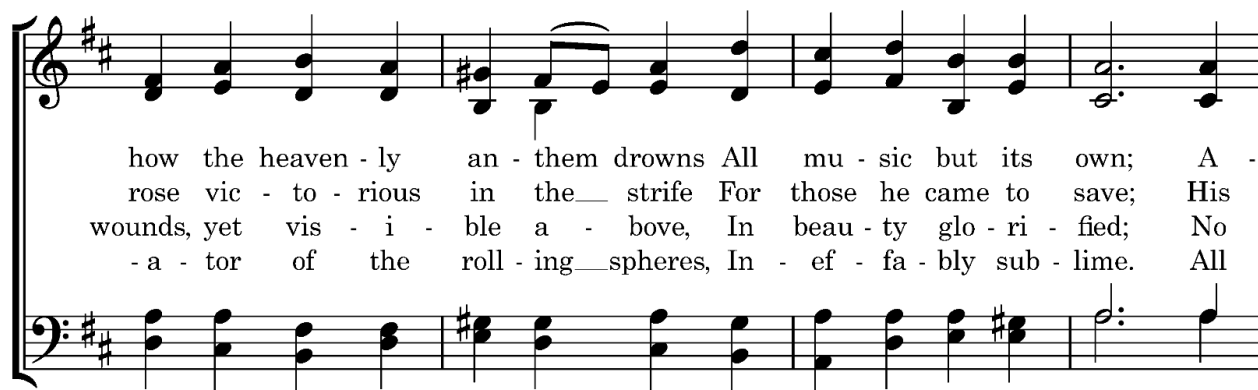
**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.
Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread,
and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, and the power,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

* HYMN

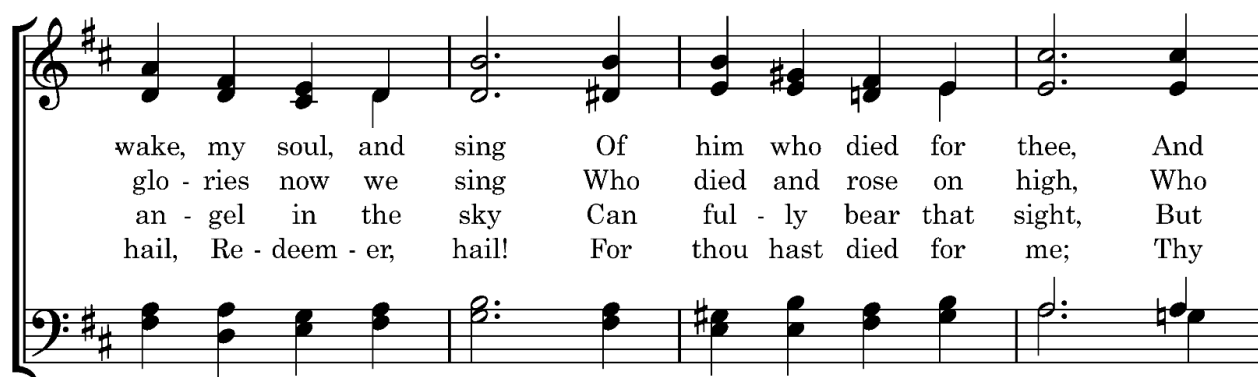
Crown Him With Many Crowns



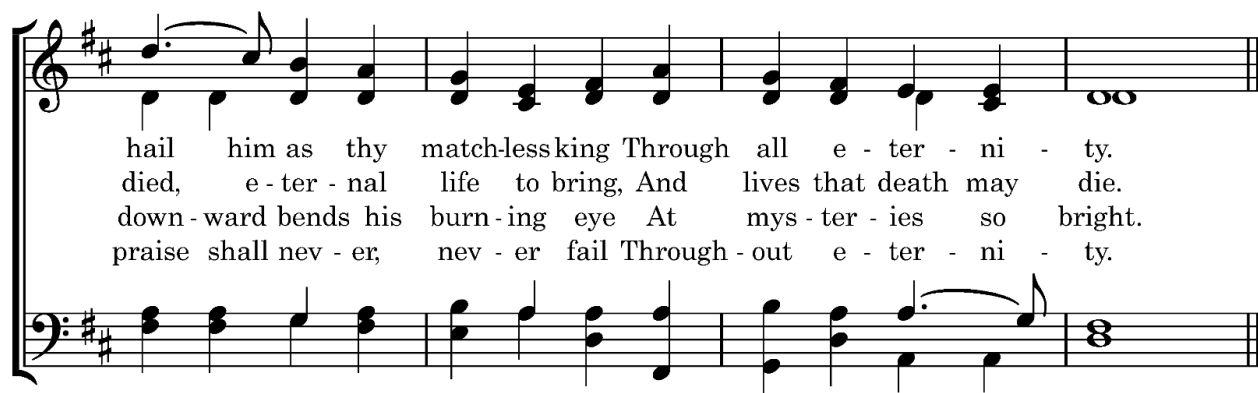
1. Crown him with man - y crowns, The Lamb up - on his throne; Hark!
 2. Crown him the Lord of life, Who tri - umphed o'er the grave, And
 3. Crown him the Lord of love; Be - hold his hands and side, Rich
 4. Crown him the Lord of years, The po - ten - tate of time, Cre -



how the heaven - ly an - them drowns All mu - sic but its own; A -
 rose vic - to - rious in the__ strife For those he came to save; His
 wounds, yet vis - i - ble a - bove, In beau - ty glo - ri - fied; No
 - a - tor of the roll - ing__spheres, In - ef - fa - bly sub - lime. All



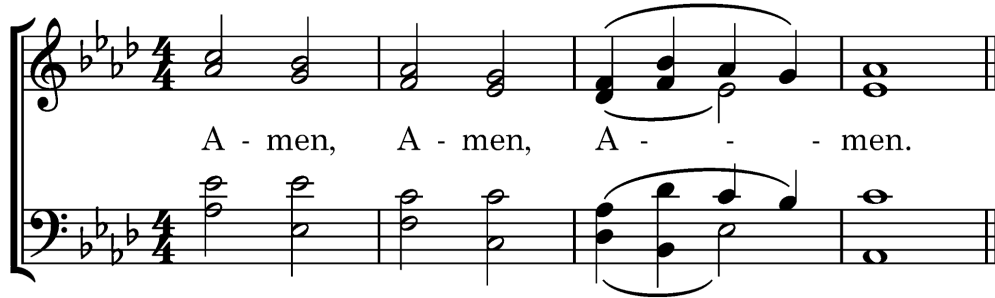
wake, my soul, and sing Of him who died for thee, And
 glo - ries now we sing Who died and rose on high, Who
 an - gel in the sky Can ful - ly bear that sight, But
 hail, Re - deem - er, hail! For thou hast died for me; Thy



hail him as thy match-less king Through all e - ter - ni - ty.
 died, e - ter - nal life to bring, And lives that death may die.
 down - ward bends his burn - ing eye At mys - ter - ies so bright.
 praise shall nev - er, nev - er fail Through - out e - ter - ni - ty.

* BENEDICTION

* BENEDICTION RESPONSE



POSTLUDE

Toccata in d minor ('Dorian') BWV 538
Kevin Dzierzawski, organ

J. S. Bach

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 downstairs in the Social Hall, directly below 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.

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

TODAY'S WORSHIP LEADERS

Clergy: Matt Fitzgerald, Liz Nickerson, Jeff Carlson

Music Director: Kurt R. Hansen

Organist: Kevin Dzierzawski

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

Scripture Reader: Mark Huddle

Lay Liturgical Administrator: Kevin O'Brien

Head Usher: Beatrice Jaji

Ushers: David Baker, Gloria Joseph

Gatekeeper: Dodd Brown

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

Custodian: Ramiro Gonzalez

This week's altar flowers are in memory and celebration of Mr. Lueder's birthday on March 12.

The second set of flowers are given by Lynn Dykstra in celebration of Austin's baptism.

BORN THIS WEEK IN MARCH

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.

MARCH 10 Tiffany Jozwiak

MARCH 11 Lennon Fangman, Nancy Pifer

MARCH 12 Penny Trowbridge

MARCH 13 Ron Banks

MARCH 14 Emily Mitchell, Juanita Barlow

MARCH 15 Breanna Coe, Lee Ballard, Mila Mussatt

MARCH 16 Kesner Bienvenu, Muzette Morgan

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
When the first disciples told the story of Jesus, they went to town squares and explained the entire Gospel story from start to finish. Come and watch the Gospel of Mark as it was meant to be heard, in its entirety! St. Pauls member Mark Huddle will bring the Gospel to life. You will be moved, inspired, and will gain new insight by hearing the Gospel from beginning to end. Let us know you're coming: <https://tinyurl.com/2p92a2ud>
- 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

*Scan here
for Lent Info:*



UPCOMING EVENTS

TODAY - WHAT'S HAPPENING AT UCAN? - 11:15, Oscar Mayer Room
Stephanie Franklin, Senior Vice President of Family and Transition Services at UCAN will be with us to tell us about the great work UCAN is doing. She'll present an overview of UCAN and its programs, highlighting foster care, transitional teen services, violence intervention and prevention and workforce development. St. Pauls founded UCAN more than 150 years ago, and they are still going strong. If you're new to St. Pauls or would simply like to get reacquainted with UCAN, please join us for an hour after worship!

TODAY - 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.

MARCH. 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>.

MARCH 12 and 19 - TUESDAY NIGHT PICKLEBALL – 5:30-8 p.m., Gym

Have you tried the growing sport of Pickleball yet? We hold regular adult pick-up games in the St. Pauls gym every Tuesday night (separate from the Young Adult group games on Monday nights.) Sign up at the Church Center link below or just show up at the Church gym! All ages and skill levels are invited.

Game Time: Tuesdays: 5:30-8 p.m. (Come anytime during that window.) If you have questions, call or text Steve Garrett at (312) 208-0636. To join us, visit: tinyurl.com/Tuesday-Pickleball.

MARCH 17 - BLOOD DRIVE - 8 a.m., Oscar Mayer Room and Gym

See Green on St. Patrick's Day, give Red at St. Pauls' Blood Drive on Sunday, March 17. Scan the QR code with your cell phone or go to

tinyurl.com/SPUCC-blood-drive to sign up. Drive will be in the St.

Pauls gym from 8 a.m. - 2 p.m. Tell your friends and neighbors!

Must be 110 pounds and 16 years old. Call (866) 236-3276

(option 3) with your eligibility questions. If you are unable to donate, contact Sally to volunteer to help. Phone or email Sally Fletcher at sfletcher1443@gmail.com or (312) 848-5400.



MARCH 17 - PRESENTATION ON BRING HOME CHICAGO - 11:15 a.m., Sanctuary

Representatives from One Northside will be hosting a meeting after church to explain the Bring Home Chicago transfer tax referendum to address homelessness.

Contact St. Pauls hosts Peg Wander at peg_wander@yahoo.com or Carrie Bruggers at crbruggs@gmail.com for more information. Let them know you're coming by registering here: <http://tinyurl.com/36sj5hn2>.

MARCH 18 - 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.

MARCH 19 - C.S. LEWIS IN A YEAR: THE MAGICIAN'S NEPHEW - 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. Read them all or join for some. This month we're starting the Narnia series with *The Magician's Nephew*. A complete reading list will be shared upon registration. Join this exciting adventure by registering here: <http://tinyurl.com/bdzda6u7>.

MARCH 19 - MAKE YOUR VOTE COUNT IN THIS IMPORTANT PRIMARY!

Voters will select nominees for their party (Democrat or Republican) for President, delegates to the national nominating conventions, and nominees for public offices. Additionally, there are important local races. For example, Chicago and Cook County voters who choose a Democratic ballot will select a nominee in the Cook County State's Attorney and the Cook County Clerk of the Circuit Court races. You can find all the information you need to plan your vote in Chicago at www.Chicagoelections.gov and suburban primary races on your jurisdiction's website.

MARCH 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.

MARCH 24 - CLEAN-SLATE TEACH-IN - 11:15, Oscar Mayer Room

Members from Live-Free Illinois will be with us to explain the Clean Slate Initiative, which is looking to create automatic record relief in Illinois. There are an estimated 3.3 million people currently living in Illinois with an arrest or conviction record. With expungements and automatic sealing of records, these individuals can get a second chance at life without their records posing a barrier to basic human needs such as housing, education or employment. Join us to learn how our congregation can be supportive of ending permanent punishments in Illinois. Let us know you're coming: <http://tinyurl.com/yj7sssk5>.

APRIL 27 - REBUILDING TOGETHER DAY - 8:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.

Join us for Rebuilding Together Day on April 27 from 8:30 a.m. to about 2:30 p.m. We will be working on a home in Englewood near 66th and Damen. We'll be painting a back porch (4-6 people) and a couple of bedroom ceilings (4-6 people). In addition, we will be removing lots of garbage bags from the basement (6-10 people), and there is also some minor handyman stuff like installing smoke detectors and some knobs on the kitchen cabinets (2-3 people). Anyone 10 and older can participate. House Captain Gerald Wilk could also use the help of a volunteer co-coordinator. Contact Gerald for more information: gcyjwilk@sbcglobal.net. Sign up to volunteer here: <http://tinyurl.com/49dpkm38>.

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. They 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

We will be discussing the introduction and chapter one of Rashid Khalidi's *The Hundred Years' War on Palestine*, which covers the historical period 1917-1947. All are welcome! Meeting time TBD. To join us, visit:

tinyurl.com/Palestine-Study-Group or contact burnett.db@gmail.com for updates.

An in-person Palestine Teach-In featuring Palestinian American physician Dr. Yasser Said on the public health crisis in Gaza, and retired Presbyterian minister Donald Wagner on the wages of Christian Zionism, will follow worship on Sunday, April 7.

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.

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 lawrencedamron@gmail.com.

CREATION CORNER - provided by Green Team

Giving Up Styrofoam Forever!

Styrofoam is a non-biodegradable plastic that is particularly hazardous and toxic to wildlife. As styrofoam breaks down, it becomes smaller and animals will often eat it mistaking it for food, yet it provides no nutrition.

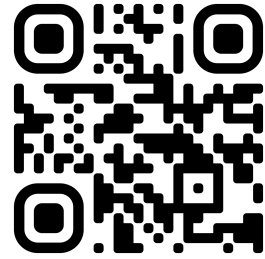
There are, however, readily available alternatives. Polystyrene is light and floats via air and sea currents and can now be found in remote beaches and caves.

Restaurants are likely to use styrofoam cups and containers. If you cannot carry your own container, then please request that management switch to containers that are biodegradable.

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.

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 child care 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 child care will be provided as needed (please let us know in your registration). See upcoming dates here: spucc.org/new_member_classes.

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 information, 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 cindyzinn11@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 page, St. Pauls Together. **Please limit announcements to 100 words.** Thank you!

TODAY'S MUSIC

The postlude, ***Toccata in D Minor "Dorian" BWV 538***, is another testament to the brilliance of Bach's composition for the organ. "Toccata" is an Italian term meaning "touched." A toccata is supposed to highlight the technique of the organist with improvisatory sounding flourishes, while also demonstrating the number of varying colors within a pipe organ. It creates a layered soundscape that is comparable to the many small pieces of stained glass in our windows creating a larger picture or design.

Music and Lyrics for ***Lord, Don't Move the Mountain*** were written by Doris Mae Akers (1923-1995), a famous African American gospel composer, arranger and singer. This is another gospel song that Mahalia Jackson sang, and this arrangement is by Brendan Henry.

Jesu, Jesu, Fill Us With Your Love - CHEREPONI is a folk song from Ghana adapted in 1969 by Tom Colvin (1925-2000). The tune name is taken from the church in Ghana where UCC missionaries Alfred (1963-2010) and Susan Krass served. Tom Colvin was a Scottish missionary at the same time in nearby Tamale. He wrote the English text.

God of Grace and God of Glory has, for us, the unusual Welsh tune name CWM RHONDDA. The text we know is by the famous American author and Baptist clergy, Harry Emerson Fosdick (1878-1969). He wrote this text in 1930. The well-known tune was composed in 1905 by John Hughes (1873-1932). He had very little formal education and became a deacon and precentor, both lay minister positions, in his Baptist church. He wrote this tune for a Welsh Baptist choral festival.

Jesus Loves Me This I Know is one of the first hymns many children learn. The words are both simple and profound. They were written in 1859 by Anna Bartlett Warner (1824-1915). She was born in New York City, wrote many hymn texts and collaborated with her sister, Sarah, on novels. The composer of the tune, JESUS LOVES ME, is William Bradbury (1816-1868). He penned this sweet melody in 1861. He also composed the famous hymn *Just as I Am*.

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

The text for ***Child of Blessing, Child of Promise*** was written in 1981 by a UCC pastor and teacher of theology, Ronald Cole-Turner (b. 1948). The tune, STUTTGART, was composed in 1715 by Christian Friederich Witt (1660-1716). Witt completed a huge hymnal, *Psalmodia Sacra*, the year before his death. Of the 774 hymns (!!!), he composed nearly 100. He was Kapellmeister of the Gotha court in Stuttgart at the same time that Bach was in Leipzig, just 300 miles north. An interesting side note is that Nathan Laube, world renowned organist and friend of St. Pauls, was until recently on the organ faculty at the Hochschule für Musik in Stuttgart. He has returned to the faculty at the Eastman School of Music.

Santo, Santo, Santo (Holy, Holy Holy) is originally in Spanish and is an unattributed Argentine folk melody. It is so simple and popular that it has been translated into at least five languages and published in 45 hymnals... so far!

I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say, tune KINGSFOLD, first appeared in a 19th century collection of English folk melodies, but may date to the Middle Ages. The text was composed by Scottish clergyman, Horatius Bonar (1808-1889). He came from a long line of ministers and composed many hymn texts and religious poems.

Pie Jesu (Merciful Jesus) is the penultimate movement of *Requiem* composed in 1984 by Andrew Lloyd Webber (b. 1948) in memory of his father, William Lloyd Webber, who died in 1982. Andrew Lloyd Webber is best known for his many musical theater productions, including *Jesus Christ Superstar*, *Evita*, *Cats*, and *Phantom of the Opera*, to name just a few. His *Requiem* is performed often and won a Grammy in 1986 for Best Classical Performance. This movement has become popular due to the many artists who have recorded and performed it.

Crown Him With Many Crowns was a text composed in 1851 by Matthew Bridges (1800-1894). He was born in England, lived in Quebec, and wrote many hymn texts in both English and German. This hymn also has an "alterer," Godfrey Thring (1823-1903), who altered Bridges original text slightly in 1871 to the familiar text we know. The tune, DIADEMATA, was composed in 1868 by George P. Elvey (1816-1893) specifically for this text. He became the organist for St. George's Chapel at Windsor Castle.

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 the family and friends of Ron McCowan at his death.
- Prayers for peace - in our city, nation and world.
- Prayers for Donn Schimp and his family as Donn begins cancer treatment.
- Betty Voice being treated for sepsis.
- Alex Doty and her mother who has been hospitalized and is now in rehab.
- Deborah's friend Anita Smith recovering at Paul House and Health Care Center following a lengthy hospitalization.
- 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: <https://spucc.churchcenter.com/registrations/events/2155978>.

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 St., 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.