

April 28, 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.*

THOUGHT FOR PREPARATION

The last white slabs of snow/Melted off seven weeks ago
And the geese are headed north again/Through the tightening sky
And I can feel my heart in my throat again/New onions growing in the ground

Mountain Goats

PRELUDE

Morning Has Broken
Kevin Dzierzawski, organ

arr. Keith Chapman

INTROIT

Morning Has Broken
Chancel Choir

CHIMES

WELCOME

Matt Fitzgerald

* WELCOMING EACH OTHER

* CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Wind was once the voice of God!

**All: Wheat fields and spring winds
carried God's presence.**

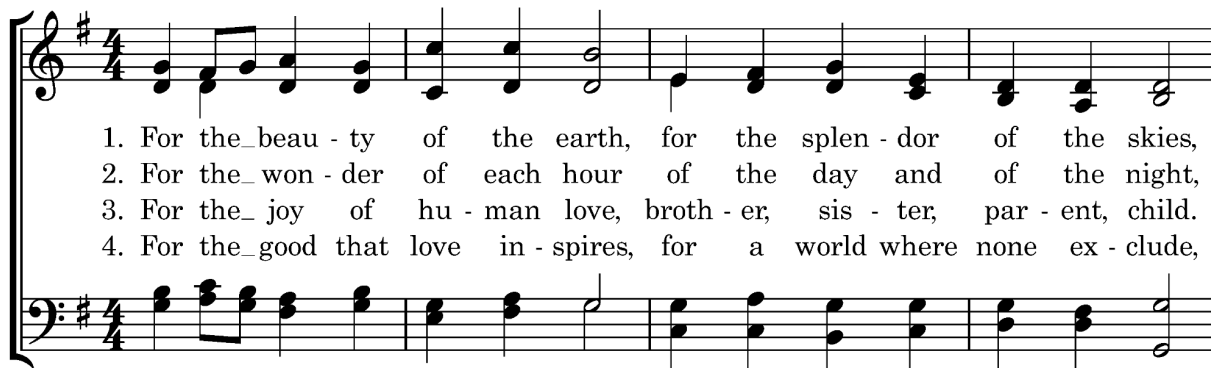
One: Eve and Adam were creatures in God's creation then.

All: We are creatures in God's creation now!

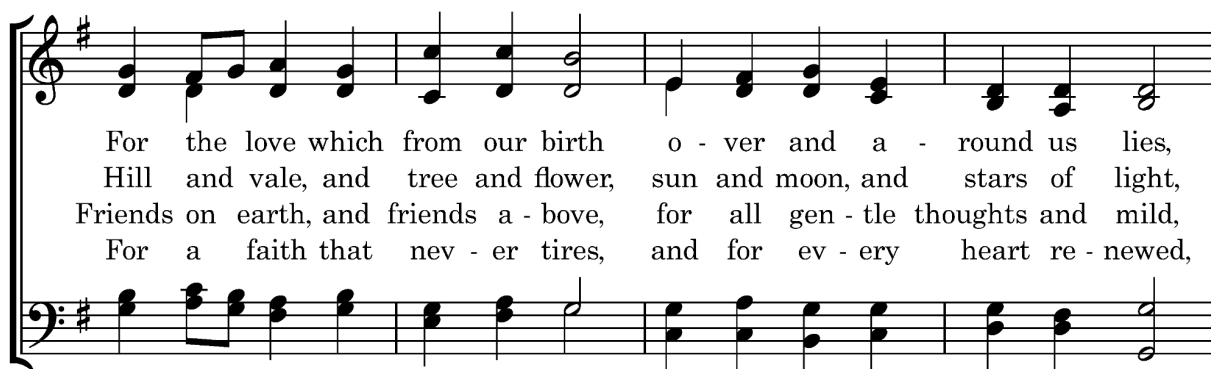
** Please stand if you are able to do so.*

* HYMN

For the Beauty of the Earth



1. For the beau - ty of the earth, for the splen - dor of the skies,
2. For the won - der of each hour of the day and of the night,
3. For the joy of hu - man love, broth - er, sis - ter, par - ent, child.
4. For the good that love in - spires, for a world where none ex - clude,



For the love which from our birth o - ver and a - round us lies,
Hill and vale, and tree and flower, sun and moon, and stars of light,
Friends on earth, and friends a - bove, for all gen - tle thoughts and mild,
For a faith that nev - er tires, and for ev - ery heart re - newed,



God of all, to you we raise this our hymn of grate - ful praise.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Liz Nickerson

**Almighty God,
Creator of lakes, earth,
and the ozone layer,
we have sinned against
your good creation
through negligence, weakness,
and deliberate decisions.
We are truly sorry
and repent of all our sins.
For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,
who died to redeem all that is,
Forgive our refusal to care for creation.
Grant that we may honor the earth
to the glory of your name.
Amen.**

MOMENT OF SILENT PRAYER

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

*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.*

1. God reigns o'er all the earth! Green hills and val - leys low, the
 2. God reigns o'er hu - man life! Through youth and ag - ing years, in
 3. God reigns o'er time and space! In his - tory's by - gone days, Christ's
 4. God reigns! Em - man - u - el! God with us ev - ery day, in

farms and towns in golds and browns God's grace and beau - ty show.
 death, in birth, in grief, in mirth, in all our hopes and fears.
 faith - ful folk in rev - erence spoke to bring God earn - est praise.
 all our past and to the last, our com - fort and our stay.

God reigns o'er all the earth! Stone banks and spread - ing plains,
 God reigns o'er hu - man life! Our in - spi - ra - tion still.
 God reigns o'er time and space! O'er gal - ax - y and sun,
 God reigns! Em - man - u - el! Let praise to Christ be sung!

in rain - bow hues— reds, yel - lows, blues— of streams and coun - try lanes.
 Through all our schemes, in all our dreams, we see God's reign - ing will.
 through time - less years the cos - mos hears the heaven - ly mus - ic run.
 God's pres - ence here makes all things dear. Let joy - ful bells be rung!

SCRIPTURE

Psalm 65

Silence is praise to you,
Zion-dwelling God,
And also obedience.
You hear the prayer in it all.
We all arrive at your doorstep sooner
or later, loaded with guilt,
Our sins too much for us—
but you get rid of them once and for all.
Blessed are the chosen! Blessed the guest
at home in your place!
We expect our fill of good things
in your house, your heavenly manse.
All your salvation wonders
are on display in your trophy room.
Earth-Tamer, Ocean-Pourer,
Mountain-Maker, Hill-Dresser,
Muzzler of sea storm and wave crash,
of mobs in noisy riot—
Far and wide they'll come to a stop,
they'll stare in awe, in wonder.
Dawn and dusk take turns
calling, "Come and worship."
Oh, visit the earth,
ask her to join the dance!
Deck her out in spring showers,
fill the God-River with living water.
Paint the wheat fields golden.
Creation was made for this!
Drench the plowed fields,
soak the dirt clods
With rainfall as harrow and rake
bring her to blossom and fruit.
Snow-crown the peaks with splendor,
scatter rose petals down your paths,
All through the wild meadows, rose petals.
Set the hills to dancing,
Dress the canyon walls with live sheep,
a drape of flax across the valleys.
Let them shout, and shout, and shout!
Oh let them shout and sing!

* 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

God Reigns O'er All the Earth!

vv. 3 & 4

SERMON

"The Hills Are Alive With Alleluia"

Matt Fitzgerald

* HYMN

Won't You Let Me Be Your Servant

1. & 6. Won't you let me be your ser - vant, let me
2. We are pil - grims on a jour - ney, we are
3. I will hold the Christ - light for you in the
4. I will weep when you are weep - ing; when you
5. When we sing to God in heav - en we shall

be as Christ to you? Pray that I may
trav - elers on the road; We are here to
shad - ow of your fear; I will hold my
laugh, I'll laugh with you. I will share your
find such har - mo - ny, Born of all we've

have the grace to let you be my ser - vant, too.
help each oth - er go the mile and bear the load.
hand out to you, speak the peace you long to hear.
joy and sor - row till we've seen this jour - ney through.
known to - geth - er of Christ's love and ag - o - ny.

MISSION MOMENT

Marty Pechnyo

OFFERTORY

Heal Your World
Chancel Choir
St. Arbucks Quartet
Kris Hansen, soloist

Pamela Woll

Please, Lord
For the hearts of the innocent
Please, Lord
For the souls of the innocent
Please, Lord, please, Lord
Heal Your world

Please, Lord
For the love of the children
Please, Lord
For the lives of the children
Please, Lord,

I know we don't deserve it
I know we did not earn it
We have all but broken
The beauty that you gave us
But if you help us change our ways
Surely that might save us
Please, Lord
For the hearts of the innocent ...

Please, Lord
For the love of the children

I know the woods are burning
I know we should be learning
I know the seas are storming
We better heed your warning.

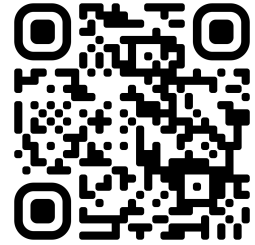
You can move the mountains
You can part the waters
You can help us change our ways
Save our sons and daughters
Please Lord ...
For the love of the children

You can give to St. Pauls electronically:

Scan this code with your cell phone camera,

Church Center at spucc.churchcenter.com/giving,

PayPal at spucc.org/paypal, or Zelle to giving@spucc.org.



*** FESTIVAL DOXOLOGY**

Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise God all creatures here below;

Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia! Praise God above, ye heav'n - ly host:

Cre - a - tor, Christ, and Ho - ly Ghost; Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia,

Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia! A - men.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

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

To You, O God, All Creatures Sing



1. To you O God, all crea - tures sing, and all cre - a - tion, ev - ery -
2. Your wind that blows the tem - pest by, your clouds that sail a - cross the
3. Your flow - ing wa - ters, crys - tal clear, make mel - o - dies for you to
4. To you, O God, day af - ter day, your plan - et earth in ev - ery
5. Now we who are of ten - der heart, for - giv - ing oth - ers, take our



- thing sings your prais - es, al - le - lu - ia! Your burn - ing sun with gold - en
 sky sing your prais - es, al - le - lu - ia! Your morn - ing ris - es with a
 hear, sing your prais - es, al - le - lu - ia! Your fire, — boun - ti - ful and
 way, sings your prais - es, al - le - lu - ia, As sa - vory fruit and fra - grant
 part, sing your prais - es, al - le - lu - ia! To you we lift our pain and



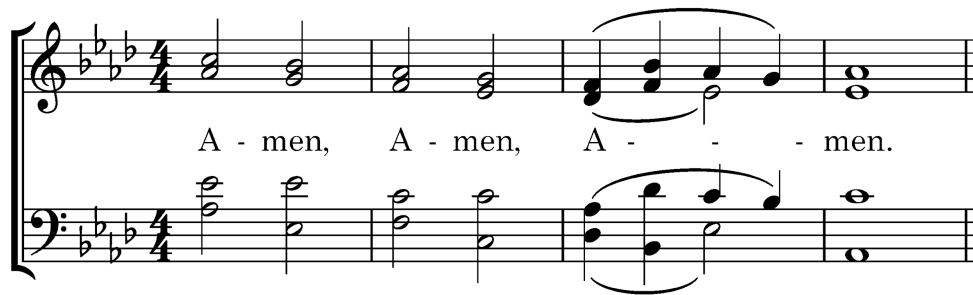
beam, your sil - ver moon with soft - er gleam sing your prais - es,
 song, and lights of eve - ning sing a - long, sing your prais - es,
 bright, re - mem - bering your warmth and light, sings your prais - es,
 flower show forth your glo - ry and your power, sing - ing prais - es,
 care, re - ceive the bur - dens that we bear, sing - ing prais - es,



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le lu - ia!

* BENEDICTION

* BENEDICTION RESPONSE



POSTLUDE

O Happy Day!
St. Arbucks Quartet

Edwin Hawkins

Oh happy day
When Jesus washed
He washed my sins away!

Oh happy day ...

The rose in the Chancel this morning signifies the birth of Gustav Xavier Quintos, born January 15, 2024 to Caroline Hedberg and Christopher Quintos.

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. Ple

TODAY'S WORSHIP LEADERS

Clergy: Matt Fitzgerald, Liz Nickerson

Music Director: Kurt R. Hansen

Organist: Kevin Dzierzawski

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

Lay Liturgical Administrator: Kevin O'Brien

Head Ushers: Beatrice Jaji

Ushers: David Baker, David Faulkner

Gatekeeper: Dodd Brown

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

Custodian: David Mosley

BORN THIS WEEK IN APRIL/MAY

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.

April 28 Charlie Johnson, Nancy Barnett, Sullivan McGrath

April 29 Branden Van Zeyl

April 30 Ethan Fitzgerald, Kelly Sesenbrenner, Maggie Arden, Tommy Schmitz,

May 1 Karen Fisher, Kris Hansen, Sherrie Kobak, Tom Clancy

May 2 John Schloerb

May 4 Alexandra Young

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 spring dates are: May 5, 19; June 2, 16. 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.

UPCOMING EVENTS

MAY 3 - SILENT MOVIE WITH ORGAN ACCOMPANIMENT - FREE - 7:30 p.m.

In our Sanctuary, the Chicago Chapter of the American Guild of Organists presents a silent film: Buster Keaton's *The Navigator*, accompanied by nationally known recitalist Jason Roberts on our Phoenix Aeolian-Skinner Organ.

MAY 4 - WORLD LABYRINTH DAY - 12-2 p.m., Gym

(Come any time to allow completion by 2 p.m.)

World Labyrinth Day takes place every first Saturday in May, when thousands of people participate in meditation for world peace and a celebration of the labyrinth experience. Founded by The Labyrinth Society (TLS) in 2009, participants "Walk as One at 1" in their time zone, creating a rolling wave of peaceful energy passing from one time zone to the next. You can join the event at St. Pauls, where finger and floor labyrinths will be available. If you would like a short introduction to the labyrinth, join Pastor Liz Nickerson at noon in the Oscar Mayer Room. Invite someone to join you!

MAY 19 - HOSPICE PRESENTATION - 11:15 a.m., Sanctuary

There will be a presentation on "Hospice" in the Sanctuary after church service. It is the warmest thing you can do for a family member or a friend when they are at the end of their life. Join Lynn Dykstra Davis, John Balevic and Mary Anne Brown as they discuss the beauty of hospice and answer any questions. Presented by Stephen Ministry.

MAY 28 - FOOD FOR THE SOUL LUNCH GROUP - 12-1:30 p.m., Social Hall

Program facilitated by Senior Pastor Matt Fitzgerald. Adults of all ages are invited. Make new friends and connect with old ones with lunch (please bring your own), fellowship, fun and faith. You may register here if you wish: tinyurl.com/2p3w8jnf.

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

CALLING ALL GRADUATES!

Do you have a high school, college, or graduate school graduate? Please email their name and school to Erin Fitzgerald at erin.fitzgerald@spucc.org. They will be recognized in worship on June 2 during the youth mission trip commissioning on Baccalaureat Sunday!

WINDY CITY WINDS CONCERT – FRIDAY MAY 17 – “THE GREAT OUTDOORS”

Windy City Winds, “Chicago’s Community Band,” invites you to our spring concert, “The Great Outdoors,” in the Sanctuary at 7:30 p.m. on Friday evening, May 17. The music will include Aaron Copland’s *An Outdoor Overture*, Ron Nelson’s *Rocky Point Holiday*, other works by Michael Daugherty and Cait Nishimura, and the world premiere of a new work written for Windy City Winds by Douglas Brandt (son of Jim and Nancy Brandt). Admission is free, and the concert will be livestreamed.

LITTLE LIGHTS SUMMER CAMP - REGISTRATION IS OPEN

For ages 3-5, Monday-Thursday from 9 a.m.-12 p.m., June-August. Camp includes themed and structured fun inside our classrooms, in the gym and outside in the sun. There will be water games, arts & crafts, music, sports, and more! Register here: tinyurl.com/Little-Lights-Summer-Camp.

STEPHEN MINISTERS CARE

When was the last time someone really listened to you, paying full attention to your needs? We need more Stephen Ministers at St. Pauls to provide that kind of care for those journeying through a life crisis. A training course is being planned for July and August in which Stephen Ministers are given all the tools they need for compassionate listening and knowing what - and what not - to say or do. Stephen Ministers provide care for care receivers, i.e., people in the congregation or community who are experiencing difficulties in life, such as grief, job loss, divorce, major illness, spiritual struggles, and so on. In the midst of challenging times, receiving care from a Stephen Minister can make a significant difference. Pray about whether God might be calling you into this powerful ministry and if you’re interested in learning more, contact Stephen Ministry Leader Marti Pechnyo, mpechnyo@gmail.com.

PALESTINE STUDY GROUP

We will be discussing chapter two of Rashid Khalidi's *The Hundred Years' War on Palestine*, which covers the founding of the state of Israel and the Palestinian Nakba. All are welcome! Next meeting is Tuesday, April 23 at 7 p.m. via Zoom. To join us, visit: tinyurl.com/Palestine-Study-Group or contact David Burnett at burnett.db@gmail.com.

“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!

Listen to our St. Arbucks Quartet's album, *Mid-Winter Gifts*, featuring the music played during our worship services. It's free on both Spotify [tinyurl.com/bdcpvedv](https://open.spotify.com/album/1bdcpvvedv) and Apple Music [tinyurl.com/39skfy9k](https://music.apple.com/album/39skfy9k). Share the links with your friends; no account needed to listen.

USE OF CHURCH REVENUE TASK FORCE

We are looking to increase the revenue the church receives from building rentals and user 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.

JOIN THE MOVEMENT - provided by SPARC

Please join Jim Brandt in discussing Robert P. Jones' book, *The Hidden Roots of White Supremacy: and the Path to a Shared American Future*. Jones' reframing of American origins explains how the founders of the United States built the philosophical framework for a democratic society on a foundation of mass racial violence—and why this paradox survives today in the form of White Christian nationalism. How might we move beyond this to finally fulfill the promise of a pluralistic democracy? This presentation is in two parts, April 14 and April 28. Register for either or both at <https://tinyurl.com/yt7z4rwe>.

CREATION CORNER - provided by Green Team

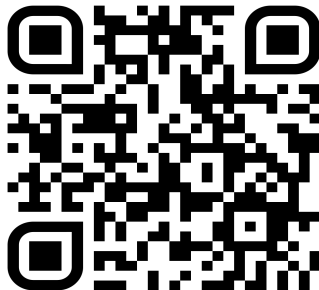
Earth Day is Every Day!

Earth Day was April 22, yet Earth Day is really every day as our conservation practices require changes in behaviors, attitudes and consumer psychology. Change requires everyday consciousness. Celebrating Earth Day elevates this consciousness for a day, as it does through today's choral piece *Heal Your World*, composed and written by Pam Woll.



PLEDGE TO EXPAND AND ELEVATE OUR OPENNESS!

Please remember to submit your three-year Capital Campaign pledge to help fund the six-stop elevator and open-air courtyard at our church. Submit your special pledge via the Letter of Intent available in the church office or via the church website's homepage link or the QR code here. We need every household to help us reach our bold campaign goal! And watch for the short weekly video messages about the campaign from our pastors and members.



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

TODAY'S MUSIC

This setting of ***Morning Has Broken*** for our Prelude was composed by Keith Chapman (1945-1989). He was an American concert organist, as well as composer and principal organist of the famous Wanamaker Organ in Philadelphia. The tune we know so well, BUNESSAN, is a Gaelic melody.

The text for ***Morning Has Broken***, which is also our Introit this morning, was written by Elinor Farjeon (1881-1965), who also wrote children's books.

The text for ***For the Beauty of the Earth*** was written by Folliott S. Pierpoint (1835-1917). In the spring of 1863, Pierpont sat on a hill above his home in Bath, England, and this text flowed from his gratitude for the wonders of nature. The tune DIX was composed by German composer Konrad Kocher (1786-1872). He trained as a teacher and eventually founded the School for Sacred Song in Stuttgart.

God Reigns O'er All the Earth is sung to the tune: TERRA BEATA. The source of the music is an English folk melody, which first appeared as a hymn in 1906. The text was written in 1981 by Jane Parker Huber (1926-2008), one of the most prolific contemporary authors of hymn texts. Born to missionary parents in China, she was a lifelong Presbyterian who focused her hymn texts and ministry on peace-making, justice and inclusiveness.

Won't You Let Me Be Your Servant, tune title THE SERVANT SONG, is a relatively new hymn composed in 1977 by Richard Gillard (b. 1953). Gillard was born in England, but moved to New Zealand when he was only three years old. He is a self-trained musician.

Today is the premier performance of ***Heal Your World***, with both the text and music composed by Pamela Woll, a member of St. Pauls and a loyal member of our Chancel Choir for 40 years. When asked about her song, Pam wrote that "In *Heal Your World*, we're pleading with God to help us change our ways, but our more daunting challenge is to motivate **us—all** of us—to change our **own** ways. Facts don't break through climate paralysis, and fear just drives it in deeper. In Katharine Hayhoe's book, *Saving Us: A Climate Scientist's Case for Hope and Healing in a Divided World*, she recommends learning about what really matters to the people we disagree with, and connecting with them on what the effects of warming are doing to the people and things **they** value. How do we motivate without scaring? How do we forgive ourselves and still make amends to our children's children?"

To You, O God, All Creatures Sing is a text that was adapted by Sister Miriam Therese Winter (b. 1938). She is a Catholic theologian and Medical Mission Sister who has worked in a number war-torn areas, including Ethiopia and Cambodia. The German hymn tune LASST UNS ERFREUEN, dates from 1623 and was first found in a hymnal published in Cologne, Germany. This is, of course, also the tune for our *Festival Doxology*.

O Happy Day was composed by Edwin Hawkins (1943-2018). He was an artist of wide ranging talents: gospel musician, singer, pianist, composer, arranger, and choir master. Born in Oakland, California, he was already playing keyboards at age seven for his family's gospel group. *O Happy Day* is his most performed and remembered work.

SPECIAL MUSIC 2023-2024 "MASS APPEAL"

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.

Our final offering of MASS APPEAL will be Sunday, May 19, 2024 - *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. *Gospel Mass* will be offered in memory of Ron McCowan, our beloved Chancel Choir bass section leader for more than 25 years, who entered that eternal "home in that Rock" on March 4, 2024.

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 an enriching sabbatical for Pastor Jeff, away until May 19.
- Prayers for Nathan Chamberlain's parents Larry and Mary Lou Chamberlain as Larry recovers from surgery complications.
- Leroy Johnson, husband of Karen L. Johnson, diagnosed with acute leukemia.
- 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.

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.