

May 12, 2024

Seventh Sunday of Eastertide

Mother's Day

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

“A machine can do work; only life can bear fruit. A law can compel work; only love can spontaneously bring forth fruit. Work implies effort and labor; the essential idea of fruit is that it is the silent, natural, restful produce of our inner life.”

— Andrew Murray, *The True Vine*

PRELUDE

*Why We Sing*  
St. Arbucks Quartet

Kirk Franklin

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

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

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

INTROIT

*God Bless Our Homes*  
Chancel Choir

CHIMES

WELCOME

Matt Fitzgerald

\* WELCOMING EACH OTHER

\* CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Christ is the true vine and God is the vine grower.

**All: We are each branches on Christ's vine, called by God to bear fruit.**

One: Every branch that bears fruit is pruned to yield more fruit.

**All: Let's abide in Christ, so we can bear fruit that will last!**

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

\* HYMN

*Love Divine, All Loves Excelling*

1. Love di - vine, — all loves ex - cel - ing, Joy of heav'n, to earth come down,  
 2. Breathe, O breathe thy lov - ing spir - it, In - to ev - ery trou - bled breast;  
 3. Come, al - might - y to de - liv - er, Let us all thy life — re - ceive;  
 4. Fin - ish, then, — thy new cre - a - tion, Pure and spot - less let — us be;

Fix in us — thy hum - ble dwell - ing, All thy faith - ful mer - cies crown;  
 Let us all — in thee in - her - it, Let us find thy prom - ised rest;  
 Sud - den - ly — re - turn and nev - er, Nev - er more thy tem - ples leave.  
 Let us see — thy great sal - va - tion Per - fect - ly re - stored in thee;

Je - sus, thou art all com - pas - sion; Pure, un - bound - ed love thou art;  
 Take a - way the love of sin - ning; Al - pha and O - meg - ga be;  
 Thee we would be al - ways bless - ing, Serve thee as — thy hosts a - bove,  
 Changed from glo - ry in - to glo - ry, Till in heav'n we take our place,

Vis - it us — with thy sal - va - tion, En - ter ev - ery trem - bling heart.  
 End of faith, as its — be - gin - ning, Set our hearts at lib - er - ty.  
 Pray and praise thee with - out ceas - ing, Glo - ry in — thy pre - cious love.  
 Till we cast — our crowns be - fore — thee, Lost in won - der, love, and praise.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Liz Nickerson

**As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can we unless we abide in you, oh God. You are the vine, we are the branches. But we seem to attach ourselves to everything but you. You show us the way of life, but it is hard, and so instead of following you, we are distracted by beauty, wealth, pleasure, and praise. Forgive us, Lord, help us to orient our minds to you. Teach us how to abide in you, so that we can bear much fruit, fruit that will last. Amen.**

MOMENT OF SILENT PRAYER

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

1. Come down, O Love di - vine, Seek thou this soul\_ of  
 2. O let it free - ly burn, Till earth - ly pas - sion  
 3. And so the yearn - ing strong With which the soul\_ will

mine, And vis - it it with thine own ar - dor glow - ing;  
 turn To dust and ash - es in its heat con - sum - ing;  
 long, Shall far our - pass the power of hu - man tell - ing;

O Com - fort - er, draw near, With - in my heart ap - pear,  
 And let thy glo - rious light Shine ev - er on my sight,  
 For none can guess its grace, Till we be - come the place

And kin - dle it, thy ho - ly flame be - stow - ing.  
 And clothe me round, the while my path il - lum - ing.  
 Where - in the Ho - ly Spir - it makes its dwell - ing.

ANTHEM

*Bless God's Holy Name*

Kenneth T. Kosche

Children's Choir

Karen Johnson, piano

Breanna Coe, director

Bless the Lord, o my soul,  
Bless the Lord, o my soul, o my soul;  
Let all within me, all within me  
Bless God's holy name.  
The Lord crowns my life with love;  
God renews my strength like the eagle's.  
Bless the Lord, o my soul . . .  
*Based on Psalm 103*

**Children's Choir**

Sean Banjavcic  
Charlie Coe  
Juniper Fletcher  
Mabel Fletcher  
Grady Hartanov

Eve Lyta  
Theo Lytal  
Sullivan McGrath  
James Mix  
Nora Penniman

Catalina Smedley  
Josiah Smedley  
Toby Smedley

SCRIPTURE

James Rowley

*John 15:1-11*

“I am the true vine, and my Father is the vine grower. He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing. Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples. As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love. If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father’s commandments and abide in his love. I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be complete.”

\* 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

*Come Down, O Love Divine*  
See previous hymn.

v. 2



ANTHEM

*Just One Person*  
from *Snoopy*

Larry Grossman  
Lyrics by Hal Hackady

Deirdre McGrath & Brooke McGuire, soloists

Pauls People

Kecia Waldschmidt, director

If just one person believes in you. Deep enough, and strong enough, believes in you.  
Hard enough, and long enough before you knew it,  
Someone else would think, if he can do it, I can do it. Making it..

Two! Two whole people who believe in you. And if two whole people believe in you.  
Deep enough, and strong enough believe in you. Hard enough, and long  
Enough there's bound to be some other person who believes in making it a  
threesome.  
Making it...

Three....people you can say, believe in me. And if three whole people, why not...

Four. And if four whole people, why not more, and...  
More, and more.

And when all those people believe in you,  
Deep enough and strong enough believe in you,  
Hard enough and long enough it stands to reason you,  
Yourself will start to see what everybody sees in you.  
And maybe even you, can believe in you, too.

Don't be anything less anything than you can be!

**Pauls People**

Winnie Castle

Cecilia Chamberlain

Aniston Hartanov

Deirdre McGrath

Brooke McGuire

Thomas Mix

Sylvia Pine

Colette Schimp

Lee Waldschmidt

Eva Mack

Thea Mack

RESPONSE

*Come Down, O Love Divine*  
See previous hymn.

v. 3

SERMON

“Abide in Me”

Liz Nickerson

\* HYMN

*Blessed Be the Tie That Binds*

1. Blessed be\_\_ the tie\_\_ that binds our hearts in Chris - tian love;  
2. Be - fore\_\_ our God\_\_ we come and pour our ar - dent prayers;  
3. We share each oth - er's woes, each oth - er's bur - dens bear,  
4. When we\_\_ are called to part it gives us in - ward pain,

The shar - ing of\_\_ a com - mon life\_\_ is like to that a - bove.  
Our fears, our hopes, our aims are one,\_\_ our com - forts and our cares.  
And of - ten for\_\_ each oth - er flows a sym - pa - thiz - ing tear.  
But we\_\_ shall still\_\_ be joined in heart, and hope to meet a - gain.

GIVING MOMENT

Monty Kehl  
Craig Wilbanks

OFFERTORY

*I Can Tell the World*  
Chancel Choir

Moses Hogan

I can tell the world, yes, about this,  
I can tell the nations, yes, that I'm blessed,  
Tell 'em what my Lord has done,  
Tell 'em the conqueror has come,  
And he brought joy to my soul

My Lord done just what he said,  
Yes he did,  
He healed the sick and raised the dead  
Yes he did,  
He lifted me when I was down,  
Yes he did,  
He placed my feet on solid ground.

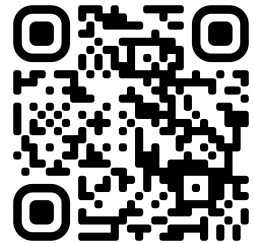
That mornin', Hallelujah!  
O Lord, he brought joy in the mornin',  
When he saved me, when he blessed me  
I'll tell it, how he brought this joy to my soul.

*You can give to St. Pauls electronically:*

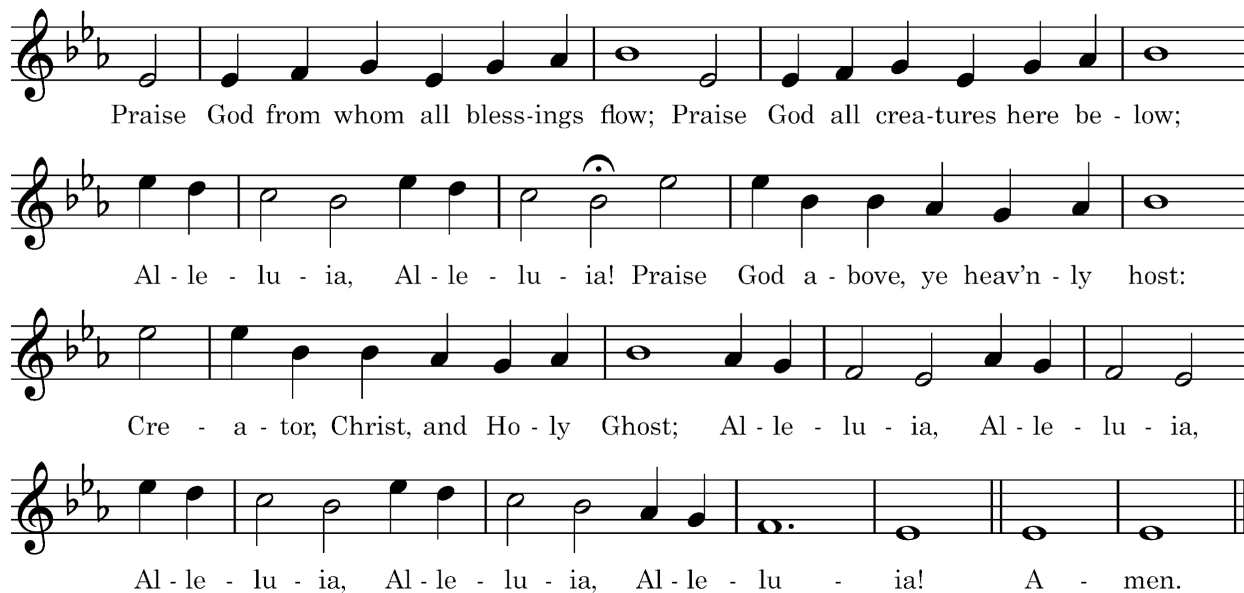
*Scan this code with your cell phone camera,*

*Church Center at [spucc.churchcenter.com/giving](http://spucc.churchcenter.com/giving),*

*PayPal at [spucc.org/paypal](http://spucc.org/paypal), or Zelle to [giving@spucc.org](mailto:giving@spucc.org).*



\* FESTIVAL DOXOLOGY



Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise God all creatures here be - low;  
Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia! Praise God 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

*God Bless Your Church With Strength*

1. God bless your Church with strength! Wher - ev - er we may be. Build  
2. God bless your Church with life! May all our bran - ches thrive. Un -  
3. God bless your Church with hope! Des - pite cha - o - tic days May

up your ser - vants as we work, In com - mon min - is - try. Urge  
blem - ished, whole - some, bear - ing fruit A - bun - dant - ly a - live. From  
we in dark - ness shine, to light A path - way through life's maze. May

us from fledg - ling faith, To ven - ture and to soar From  
you, one Ho - ly vine, In free - dom may we grow, Sus -  
jus - tice be our aim, And kind - ness ours to share, And

o - pen skies to sing the faith Of Christ for - ev - er more.  
-tain us in our mis - sion, Lord Your love and peace to show.  
let us walk in hum - ble - ness, As - sured our God is there.

\* BENEDICTION

\* BENEDICTION RESPONSE

*Go Now in Peace*  
Combined Youth Choirs

Natalie Sleeth

Go now in peace.  
May the love of God surround you  
Everywhere you go.  
Go now in peace.

POSTLUDE

*Prelude in a Classical Style*  
Kevin Dzierzawski, organ

Gordon Young

***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.

## 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:** John Balevic, David Faulkner, Mary Hoffman, Fred Pearson

**Gatekeeper:** Dodd Brown

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

**Custodian:** Ramiro Gonzalez

*This week's altar flowers are given by Mead Gifford and David Faulkner.*

## BORN THIS WEEK IN 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.*

May 12 Alec Riportella, Doug Dobmeyer

May 13 Om Bienvenu, Sarah Richmond

May 14 Polina Svetlitskaya

May 15 Evie Drew, Jeanie Bond, Mark Roschen, Nancy Heffernan, Will Miller

May 16 Grace Magliola, Helen Chang

May 17 Fred Deters, Hattie Ward, Kris Hansen, Larry Damron

## 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 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 14 and 21 - 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](https://tinyurl.com/Tuesday-Pickleball).

### **MAY 15-21 - SPRING POLO SWAP** – 9 a.m. -12 p.m., Social Hall

It’s spring cleaning season! Gather your gently used children's items, donate to community members in need and swap some clothes! Accepting clothes, toys, games, books. Drop off items in the main office during business hours now through May 15th. Visit and browse May 15-May 21 9am-12pm in the Social Hall. For questions, contact [erin.fitzgerald@spucc.org](mailto:erin.fitzgerald@spucc.org).

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

There will be a “Hospice” presentation following church service for the whole congregation. 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](https://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](https://tinyurl.com/2024-youth-mission-trip).

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **REFUGEEONE**

Our Summer Fun Drive is back! Help make this summer a blast for refugee youth. We are seeking NEW swimsuits and towels for 200+ participants in our youth program. Order items direct to our office using our Amazon wish list at <https://tinyurl.com/39mwzfv5>, and the RefugeeOne team will distribute them to refugee youth. The drive runs through June 8, 2024.

**Please note:** we can only accept items from our wish list — there are no drop off days!



### **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](mailto: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](http://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](mailto:mpechnyo@gmail.com).

### **PALESTINE STUDY GROUP**

Join us on Friday, May 14 at 7 p.m. for a discussion on "*Hundred Years' War on Palestine: A History of Settler Colonialism and Resistance, 1917-2017*" by Rashid Khalidi. All are welcome! Connect with us through [tinyurl.com/Palestine-Study-Group](http://tinyurl.com/Palestine-Study-Group) or contact David Burnett at [burnett.db@gmail.com](mailto: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](http://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](http://tinyurl.com/bdcpvedv) and Apple Music [tinyurl.com/39skfy9k](http://tinyurl.com/39skfy9k). Share the links with your friends; no account needed to listen.

### **JOIN THE MOVEMENT - provided by SPARC**

What is the historic and ongoing economic cost of racism? Historians Charisse Burden-Stelly and Andrew W. Kahrl will discuss how capitalism costs black people more than any other group at a panel held at the Harold Washington Library on May 19 at 1:30 p.m. Attendance is free, and the panelists and moderator Arionne Nettles will have their works available for purchase. Learn more about the program and participants at <https://tinyurl.com/5e7ztjza>.

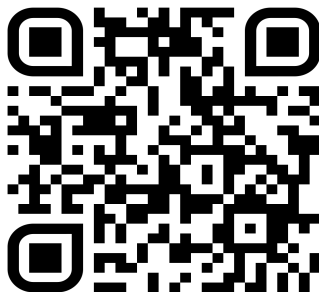
### **CREATION CORNER - provided by Green Team**

**For The Love of Trees and Social Justice.** Trees provide for the very necessities of life itself: they clean the air and host diverse animal communities. Increasingly, they will also be important in moderating severe heat waves due to global warming. Yet, the tree canopy in Chicago ranges from 10% to 23% coverage; this is less than other regions and inequitably distributed, with low-income neighborhoods having less canopy. The City of Chicago is initiating a plan called “Our Roots” to increase tree plantings in low-income neighborhoods. It calls for doubling the number of trees planted over the next five years. There is a role we can all play in this effort; more details will be provided next week.



**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](mailto:JenniferLKew@gmail.com), or Pastor Jeff, [jcarlson@spucc.org](mailto:jcarlson@spucc.org).

**BASKETBALL** – Join us for a weekly Wednesday 7 p.m. pickup game! All skill levels are welcome. Email Pastor Matt to get on the updates list, [mfitzgerald@spucc.org](mailto: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](mailto:lindanitz@yahoo.com).

**CAREGIVERS' GROUP** – A caregiving role can be a source of love, joy and considerable stress, but it's easier when it doesn't feel like you're the only one. The St. Pauls Caregivers' Group is an informal support group of people who are responsible for the care of parents, partners, friends, or children with illnesses or disabilities. We gather via Zoom the first and third Wednesdays of each month from 10 to 11 a.m. Contact Pam Woll [pamelawoll@sbcglobal.net](mailto:pamelawoll@sbcglobal.net) with questions, or [info@spucc.org](mailto:info@spucc.org) to be added to the email list.

**CHURCH CENTER** – [spucc.churchcenter.com](http://spucc.churchcenter.com) is our portal for St. Pauls members and friends. See our calendar, register for events, update your information, join our photo directory, manage your online donations, see your giving history, and more!

**CHURCH SCHOOL** – God created us to be creative and to create! This is our theme for Church School this year. Each child will learn that they were created in God's own image. They will learn to love and value all people and to love themselves. Please fill out the one-time registration for the '24-'25 school year below. We have a nursery for children under 2, Preschool Child Care for children 2-5, and Sunday School/Confirmation I & II for 5-year-olds to high school. Email questions to Children's Program Coordinator Danielle Mayfield at [danielle.mayfield@spucc.org](mailto:danielle.mayfield@spucc.org). Register here: [spucc.churchcenter.com/registrations/events/1850397](http://spucc.churchcenter.com/registrations/events/1850397).

**CONNECTORS** reach out providing networking and support for members and friends of St. Pauls. Membership is open to all who have the time and the inclination to help. Contact Marcia Volk at [marcia@volkonline.com](mailto:marcia@volkonline.com).

**EMERGENCY CONTACT FORM & CARDS** – Follow this link for additional information: [spucc.churchcenter.com/people/forms/178271](http://spucc.churchcenter.com/people/forms/178271).

**GREEN TEAM** – As people of faith, members of St. Pauls are called to “Care for Creation.” To that end, the Green Team is seeking new members, particularly young adults and youth, as we become a Creation Justice church recognized by the UCC. We would love to have you! If you are interested, please contact either of the new interim Green Team co-chairs, Ninon Freeman at [nlanda05@yahoo.com](mailto:nlanda05@yahoo.com) or Rick Peterson at [rnpeterson2017@gmail.com](mailto:rnpeterson2017@gmail.com).

**HANDWORK MEET-UP** – If you enjoy handwork, you’re invited to sit together and stitch in community on the first Sunday of the month at our drop-in handwork group. We gather in a corner of the Social Hall for one hour after the worship service. New to handwork? We have expert knitters, crocheters, embroiderers, and sewers to help you get started with a project. We also welcome admirers of handwork should you wish to pull up a chair and join the conversation!

**LITTLE LIGHTS** is a St. Pauls early childhood program with classes for 2, 3, and 4-year-olds. We have limited spots remaining for the 2023/24 school year. Check out [www.littlelightslp.org](http://www.littlelightslp.org). If you would like to schedule a tour or have additional questions, contact Little Lights Director Erin Fitzgerald at [littlelights@spucc.org](mailto:littlelights@spucc.org).

**MOMS’ GROUP** – Being a mom is the hardest job in the world! So come to the Youth Lounge after worship on the second Sunday of each month to gather with other moms with newborns through 10 years and support each other! Each month will have a helpful theme for us to explore so we can become the best moms possible and form a tight-knit community. Free 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](http://spucc.churchcenter.com/groups/saint-pauls-groups/mom-s-group) or contact Pastor Liz at [lnickerson@spucc.org](mailto:lnickerson@spucc.org).

**NEW MEMBER CLASSES** – Join pastors, members, and others curious about St. Pauls for an upcoming New Member Class. Together we'll talk about faith and our community, and we'd love for you to be part of the conversation! We'll meet after worship, and child care will be provided as needed (please let us know in your registration). See upcoming dates here: [spucc.org/new\\_member\\_classes](http://spucc.org/new_member_classes).

**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](mailto:marciaknudson@gmail.com).

**ST. PAULS SOCIAL** – Get better acquainted with other adults at St. Pauls. If you are interested in hosting, please contact Jen Luerssen at [jenluerssen@yahoo.com](mailto: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](http://spucc.churchcenter.com/groups/saint-pauls-groups/st-pauls-social).

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

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

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

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



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

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

## VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

**ALTAR FLOWERS** – Providing flowers for the altar is an excellent way to celebrate a special event in your life: an anniversary, a birthday, a holiday, or just because you like flowers. Sign up here: [tinyurl.com/alter-flowers-2024](https://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](https://commonpantry.org/donations). Modest sized products are best for distribution (e.g., a few 24 oz. containers of cooking oil are preferable to a 64 oz. container). Leave items in the Narthex bin.

**CALL FOR LIVE STREAM VOLUNTEERS** – Love all things digital, especially fancy devices? Got a knack for capturing special moments on camera? Love to chat with family, friends and others? Want to contribute to a key outreach effort of St. Pauls? If you answered yes to any of the above questions, the St. Pauls Streaming Team needs you. Our team is expanding its mission and can use your help. If interested, come see us in the balcony after the service or reach out to Brian Hafner ([bhafner2@att.net](mailto:bhafner2@att.net)) or Bob Ball ([Robert.f.ball@outlook.com](mailto:Robert.f.ball@outlook.com)).

**CONSIDER THE LILIES** – Are you looking for a way to get involved with the life of St. Pauls? Join the team that delivers our Sunday altar flowers to members and friends who need to know St. Pauls is thinking of them. The flower ministry is flexible and meant to be an easy and rewarding experience. Team members sign up for approximately one Sunday every three months. It is amazing how this simple gesture brings such joy and feelings of love to the recipient – not to mention the joy and love experienced by the deliverer. If you would like to be part of this ministry, please email [lilies@spucc.org](mailto:lilies@spucc.org) 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](mailto:lnickerson@spucc.org).

**GREETING TEAM** – Would you consider being one of our Sunday morning greeters? Arrive at 9:30 a.m. and meet with ushers in the Narthex for quick announcements and a prayer. Then stand at the church doors and say “Hello” to attendees, greeting them with a smile, warm welcome and cheerfulness. The ushers are inside continuing to welcome attendees and distribute worship bulletins. Sign up here: <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](mailto:lynnebrenan@yahoo.com) or (630) 542-7012. Learn more here: [tinyurl.com/4sfbcmpx](http://tinyurl.com/4sfbcmpx).

**POP TAB PROGRAM: RONALD McDONALD HOUSE CHARITY** – Help support the Ronald McDonald Charities by saving aluminum tabs from all kinds of cans: soda, canned foods, pet food, etc. Find a container and start collecting. Bring your pop tab donations to the Social Hall and add them to our collection bin. This is a wonderful opportunity to introduce young children to helping others and recycling. Little things like pop tabs can make a big difference!

**SCRIPTURE READER VOLUNTEERS** – Volunteers are needed for the 10 a.m. in-person worship service each week to read the scripture passage of the day. Learn more and sign up here: [spucc.churchcenter.com/registrations/events/1967800](http://spucc.churchcenter.com/registrations/events/1967800).

### **BULLETIN ANNOUNCEMENTS**

For St. Pauls-sponsored events, send to [info@spucc.org](mailto: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

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

***God Bless Our Homes*** was written by Frank van Christensen (1990-1996). He was born in Finland but was brought to the United States as a child. He became a minister in the Presbyterian Church and wrote more than 30 hymn texts. The tune, CHARTERHOUSE, was composed in 1927 by David Evans (1874-1948). He was born in Wales and became an important leader in Welsh church music.

The text for ***Love Divine, All Loves Excelling*** was written by Charles Wesley (1707-1788). His brother, John, was the founder of the Methodist faith. The words were set to the famous Welsh tune, HYFRYDOL by Rowan Hugh Prichard (1811-1887) when he was only 19. We also sing this tune to the text *Alleluia! Hearts to Heaven*. This text is one of the few that is the source of a "hymn battle" over which tune to sing. The other well-known tune for this text is BEECHER.

The text for ***Come Down, O Love Divine*** was originally composed in Italian by Bianco de Siena (c. 1350-c. 1434) and translated by Richard Frederick Littledale (1833-1890). Siena was a poet and wool worker who became a non-ordained Jesuit in 1367. Irish born Littledale became both an Anglican priest and lawyer. Due to lifelong illness, he spent much of his time writing. The tune, DOWN AMPNEY, was composed by Ralph (*British pronunciation* - Rayf) Vaughan Williams (1872-1958) in 1906. One of the greatest English composers of the 20th century, he composed nine symphonies, operas, numerous oratorios, and choral works.

***Bless God's Holy Name*** was composed in 1996 by Kenneth T. Kosche (b. 1947) with a text based on Psalm 103. Kosche is a Chicago native and earned both his bachelor and master degrees in Music Education from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, and his DMA in Choral Conducting at the University of Washington (Seattle). He is Professor of Music Emeritus at Concordia University of Wisconsin, where he was the Director of Choral Ensembles for many years. He has composed many choral works especially focused on psalm texts and also authored a book about choral conducting church choirs. Even in retirement, he remains very active in church music in his Lutheran parish in Montana.

***Just One Person*** is from the 1975 musical *Snoopy* based on the Charles M. Schulz (1922-2000) characters in the Peanuts comic strip. The music was composed by Larry Grossman (b. 1938), who was a 1960 graduate of Northwestern University, with lyrics by Hal Hackady (1922-2025), who has composed lyrics for many musicals and television programs. *Snoopy* is considered to be a very successful sequel to *You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown*.

The text for ***Blessed Be the Tie That Binds*** was penned in 1782 by John Fawcett (1740-1817). He was born in England, orphaned at age 12, and by age 16 became a self-taught preacher. He led a very prominent church in London for seven years. This text states the mutual feelings that Fawcett and his congregation had for each other at his parting for another pulpit. The tune DENNIS was composed by Hans Georg Nägeli (1773-1836). He was born in Switzerland and became a very influential music educator in both Germany and France. His early instruction was from his father and concentrated on the music of Bach.

***I Can Tell the World***, a truly uplifting Black spiritual, was arranged in 1998. In his all too brief life, Moses Hogan (1957-2003) continued and amplified the great tradition of spiritual arrangement of which William Dawson is part. He recorded a number of compact disks and created solo arrangements for singers like Kathleen Battle. He was commissioned by St. Pauls to write a piece, *I Got a Home in-a That Rock*, in honor of the late Ron McCowan's 25 years of service to this congregation.

***God Bless Your Church With Strength*** is a text authored in 1984 by John A. Dalles (b.1954). He is described as a lifelong Presbyterian and he and Pastor Liz share a similar path. Like Pastor Liz, Dalles was a trained professional architect who then felt a deep calling to ministry. He has written more than 30 hymn texts. 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.

***Go Now in Peace*** was composed in 1976 by Natalie Sleeth (1930-1992). Natalie Sleeth became one of the most performed and popular composers of church anthems especially for children's voices. One of her hymns, *In the Bulb There Is a Flower*, was chosen for our New Century Hymnal. She was born in Evanston, received her musical training at Wellesley College, and her husband was a professor of homiletics.

***Prelude in a Classical Style*** was composed in 1966 by Gordon Young (1919-1998). He composed choral work and also organ repertoire. He was born in Kansas and received his advanced training at The Curtis Institute. He became organist and choir director at First Presbyterian Church in Detroit and was also on the faculty at Wayne State University. This is his best known work and has been recorded many times.

**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.
- David Baker's brother-in-law, Roger Robert as he deals with the onset of Parkinson's disease.
- Prayers for Gloria Joseph's dear friend, Betsy, as she begins a rigorous treatment program for a new cancer diagnosis.
- Prayers for an enriching sabbatical for Pastor Jeff, away until May 19.
- Prayers for Nathan Chamberlain's family on the death of his father, Larry.
- Leroy Johnson, husband of Karen L. Johnson, in hospice care.
- Prayers for peace - in our city, nation and world.
- Prayers for Donn Schimp and his family as Donn continues 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](mailto:mfitzgerald@spucc.org)  
Associate Pastor Jeff Carlson, [jcarlson@spucc.org](mailto:jcarlson@spucc.org)  
Associate Pastor Liz Nickerson, [lnickerson@spucc.org](mailto:lnickerson@spucc.org)

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

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

Free Parking is available Sundays from 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.  
at the Lincoln Common Parking Garage, 2316 N. Lincoln Ave.  
Parking validation is available in the Narthex.



## **WELCOME TO SAINT PAULS UCC!**

Welcome to those whose hearts are on fire with faith,  
and to those who bring their doubt inside our doors.

Welcome to our first time guests and  
our longtime members.

Welcome to single people, tiny children,  
grandparents and families of all configurations.

Welcome to those who rejoice and to those who grieve.

Welcome to each and to everyone.

We are an Open and Affirming church.

We welcome all.

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