

July 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

Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it's the only thing that ever has.

Margaret Mead

**PRELUDE** 

He Has Done Great Things St. Arbucks Quartet Jessy Dixon

**CHIMES** 

WELCOME Liz Nickerson

#### \* WELCOMING EACH OTHER

#### \* CALL TO WORSHIP

One: The earth is the Lord's and all that is in it.

All: The world and those who live in it.

**One:** The Lord calls us to a new way of living in the world. All: Open our eyes to see not what is, but what should be.

<sup>\*</sup> Please stand if you are able to do so.



#### PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Jeff Carlson

God of creation, we come before you to acknowledge all the ways we have failed to be the people that you created us to be. We have not put the needs of others before our own, we have gotten lost in the pursuit of power, wealth, strength, and vanity. Our priorities are upside down, oh Lord, so forgive us and set us right side up. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

#### MOMENT OF SILENT PRAYER

#### WORDS OF ASSURANCE



SCRIPTURE Monty Kehl

Acts 17:1-9

After Paul and Silas had passed through Amphipolis and Apollonia, they came to Thessalonica, where there was a synagogue of the Jews. And Paul went in, as was his custom, and on three sabbath days argued with them from the scriptures, explaining and proving that it was necessary for the Messiah to suffer and to rise from the dead, and saying, "This is the Messiah, Jesus whom I am proclaiming to you." Some of them were persuaded and joined Paul and Silas, as did a great many of the devout Greeks and not a few of the leading women. But the Jews became jealous, and with the help of some ruffians in the marketplaces they formed a mob and set the city in an uproar. While they were searching for Paul and Silas to bring them out to the assembly, they attacked Jason's house. When they could not find them, they dragged Jason and some believers before the city authorities, shouting, "These people who have been turning the world upside down have come here also, and Jason has entertained them as guests. They are all acting contrary to the decrees of the emperor, saying that there is another king named Jesus." The people and the city officials were disturbed when they heard this, and after they had taken bail from Jason and the others, they let them go.

#### \* 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 My Way See previous hymn urns the World Upside Down"

vv. 2 & 3

**SERMON** 

"Jesus Turns the World Upside Down" Liz Nickerson



#### Bourrée 2 and 1 from Cello Suite 3 in C Major, BWV 1009 Tom Clancy, French horn

You can give to St. Pauls electronically:

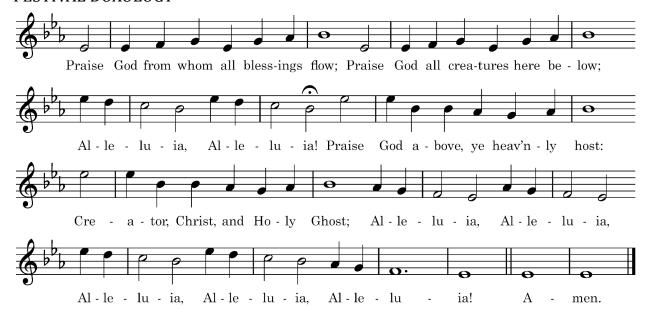
Scan this code with your cell phone camera,

Church Center at spucc.churchcenter.com/giving,

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



#### \* FESTIVAL DOXOLOGY



#### PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Jeff Carlson

#### 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.

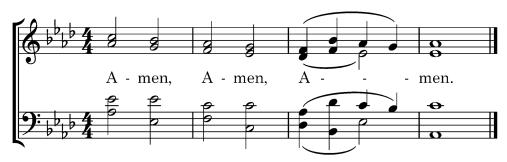
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever.

Amen.



#### \* BENEDICTION

#### \* BENEDICTION RESPONSE



**POSTLUDE** 

For the Beauty of the Earth St. Arbucks Quartet

arr. Craig Curry

**Our organist, Kevin Dzierzawski,** is on vacation for the next three Sundays. We wish him well in his well deserved time off. We are always grateful for the uplifting music of the St. Arbucks Quartet, who will lead us this morning.

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, directly below the Sanctuary.

#### **TODAY'S WORSHIP LEADERS**

Clergy: 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

Lay Liturgical Administrator: Kevin O'Brien

**Head Ushers:** Beatrice Jaji

Ushers: David Baker, John Balevic, Doug Clark

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 Barb Kaiser.

#### **BORN THIS WEEK IN JULY/AUGUST**

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.

July 28	Eliza Johnson, Philip Cedeño-Smedley, Toby Smedley
July 29	Gerald Wilk, José Flores
July 30	Diane Biegert, Emma Braband, Waylon Leaf
August 1	Becky Burton, Cheryl Kennedy, Jack Anderson
August 2	Chris Montague, Lydia Busker, Shannon Banjavcic
1	Comp. I also as

August 3 Cruz Lohnes

#### **INFORMATION FOR FAMILIES**

Childcare is available during worship for babies and toddlers up to age 5 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.

#### **UPCOMING EVENTS**

## **TODAY - REVISED BYLAWS AND PROPOSED NEW GOVERNANCE STRUCTURE FOR ST. PAULS CHURCH -** 11:15 a.m., Oscar Mayer

The St. Pauls Bylaws Review Task Force is happy to discuss the more important features of the draft Bylaws, as well as the proposed new governance structure for St. Pauls Church that the Congregation will vote on at the Special Congregational Meeting on August 11. These changes include a revised Mission Statement and clarified Core Values for the church. In addition to the Council structure that will remain, there will be seven new or revised Standing Ministries to guide the Congregation. Members and Chairs of each Standing Ministry will be nominated by the Nominating Committee and elected by the Congregation for specific terms and each Standing Ministry will have representation on the Council. A more detailed summary and the proposed Bylaws will be shared with the Congregation members in advance of the August 11 Special Congregational Meeting.

#### **JULY 30 - 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 any time during that window.) If you have questions, call or text Steve Garrett at (312) 208-0636. To join us, visit: tinyurl.com/Tuesday-Pickleball.

JULY 31 - WEDNESDAY BIBLE STUDY - REVELATION - 12-12:45 p.m., Zoom The last book of the Bible is one that many have found confusing or frightening. Some Christians completely ignore it. Others have been obsessed with it. We're looking at Revelation as a wake-up call, not a blueprint for the final apocalypse. Revelation spotlights corrupt human politics and nationalistic religion while celebrating the hopeful coming of Christ, the Lamb of God, into the world. In light of the renewed prominence of Christian Nationalism in our own time, Revelation is a timely book. Led by Pastor Jeff every Wednesday. Sign up here: <a href="https://tinyurl.com/45rv6kfm">https://tinyurl.com/45rv6kfm</a>

#### AUGUST 4 - BOUNCE HOUSE MINISTRY AT UCAN - VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

UCAN has asked us to bring one of our bounce houses to their North Lawndale campus for some fun for their younger children in residential treatment. Pastor Jeff is looking for a few volunteers to join him in setting up and monitoring the kids after church on August 4 for about an hour. If you can help, please let Jeff know this week at <u>jcarlson@spucc.org</u>.

## **AUGUST 11 - SPECIAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING -** 11:30 a.m., Sanctuary & Streaming

As was announced at the March 3, 2024, Annual Congregational Meeting, a Special Congregational Meeting is required this year, which the Council has scheduled for August 11. Only two items will be voted on at this meeting: the proposed revisions to Bylaws of St. Pauls Church and the slate of the Nominating Committee for the new or revised Standing Ministries and other positions. Due to the timing of final design, bidding and construction considerations, we will *not* be voting on the Phase II final plans or financing at this meeting, but rather at another Special Congregational Meeting which will be scheduled in the fall. Members and Friends are invited to participate in person and via streaming, but only Members may vote. Please plan to join us on this important date of St. Pauls history.

#### AUGUST 18 - ST. PAULS SOCIAL - 5 p.m., Ravinia Park

Join St. Pauls Social and Doug Clark at Ravinia to see the Chicago Symphony Orchestra and our own Rachel Barton Pine! A limited number of lawn tickets are free at your local library or purchase a lawn ticket at <a href="www.ravinia.org">www.ravinia.org</a> and RSVP to Doug using this link: <a href="tinyurl.com/bdhrrukt">tinyurl.com/bdhrrukt</a>. Metra tickets are free with a Ravinia ticket. We will meet at Ravinia. For more information about the concert, go to <a href="Ravinia.org/Online/Article/081824-CSORushPine">Ravinia.org/Online/Article/081824-CSORushPine</a>

**AUGUST 27 - FOOD FOR THE SOUL LUNCH GROUP -** 12-1:30 p.m., Social Hall 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: <a href="mailto:tinyurl.com/2p3w8inf">tinyurl.com/2p3w8inf</a>.

### **AUGUST 28 - COOKIES FOR A CAUSE (BAKE YOU FAVORITE COOKIES AT HOME NOW ALSO-** 5:30 p.m., Kitchen

Join the St. Pauls cookie bakers for dinner, socializing and cookie making on Wednesday, August 28. Meet us in the kitchen at 5:30 p.m. or whenever you can make it. We eat around 6:30. Cookies go to A Just Harvest and the Lincoln Park Community Shelter. If you can't join us, but would like to participate, you may drop off cookies, with your name on them and marked MARCIA, at the church on or before the 28th. Please get in touch with Marcia Volk to reserve a spot and she will let you know what dinner/baking supplies are still needed. Contact Marcia at <a href="marcia@volkonline.com">marcia@volkonline.com</a> or (773) 307-6866.

#### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

#### **UCAN TRUNK PARTY:**

UCAN is holding its **7th Annual Trunk Party** on **August 2 from 2-5 p.m.** at the UCAN Nichols Center, 3605 W. Fillmore Street, Chicago. Every year, youth that UCAN serves grow up and need to establish their independence. UCAN provides those aspiring to attend college or trade schools with the essential tools to make this transition from high school as smooth as possible. Your monetary or in-kind donation to this cause will provide these youth with much needed resources and dorm essentials to positively impact their journey. Visit <u>Trunk Party (ucanchicago.org)</u> to learn more and give these youth the strong start they deserve. Volunteers are also needed on the day of the event. Contact Andrea Lee to volunteer or for more information: andrea.lee@ucanchicago.com.

#### REFUGEE ONE BACK TO SCHOOL DRIVE:

One of our St. Pauls community partners, Refugee One, expects to welcome nearly 700 refugees to Chicago this coming year — and nearly half will be children. Help provide a newly-arriving school-aged youth with a brand new backpack of school supplies to help them walk into the classroom with the confidence and items they need! *Please order items to stock their Youth Program school stash by today, July 28.* You can find the Amazon Wish List here: <a href="https://tinyurl.com/4e4pszvy">https://tinyurl.com/4e4pszvy</a>. All items should be shipped to Refugee One at the address provided on the wish list.

#### LITTLE LIGHTS SUMMER CAMP

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. Join us for water games, arts & crafts, music, sports, and more! Register here: <a href="mailto:tinyurl.com/Little-Lights-Summer-Camp">tinyurl.com/Little-Lights-Summer-Camp</a>.

#### PALESTINE STUDY GROUP

Join us 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 <a href="mailto:tinyurl.com/Palestine-Study-Group">tinyurl.com/Palestine-Study-Group</a> or contact David Burnett at <a href="mailto:burnett.db@gmail.com">burnett.db@gmail.com</a>.

#### "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: <a href="mailto:tinyurl.com/wuphf495">tinyurl.com/wuphf495</a>.

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

Did You Know About Plastic Smog in Marine Habitats?

As plastic trash breaks down in smaller and smaller particles, it can eventually turn sea water cloudy—a phenomenon called plastic smog— blocking sunlight needed for photosynthesis by plankton and algae. These microplastics also resemble plankton and are eaten by invertebrates and fish larvae, some of the basic foods of marine wildlife. In addition to having zero nutritional value, the plastic bits can bind with many toxic molecules present such as BPAs and carcinogenic PCBs. From the Shedd Aquarium's *Shedding Single-Use Plastic* (2024).

**JOIN A GROUP** 



**VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES** 



#### 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 <a href="mailto:bookkeeper@spucc.org">bookkeeper@spucc.org</a> 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  $70 \, \frac{1}{2}$ , which is earlier than the current RMD age of 73. You cannot make QCDs from your  $401 \, \text{K}$ ; 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 Allen Heinemann at Treasurer@SPUCC.org.

#### **TODAY'S MUSIC**

He Has Done Great Things is by Jessy Dixon (1938-2011), another gospel artist and composer with deep roots in Chicago. His music was beloved outside his own community and he received seven Grammy nominations during his career. He toured the world with Paul Simon after Mr. Simon heard him and the Jessy Dixon Singers at a concert at New York's Radio City Music Hall. He also wrote music for artists as varied as Diana Ross and Cher.

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 of 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). Trained as a teacher, he eventually founded the School for Sacred Song in Stuttgart.

Come My Way, My Truth, My Life is a text by George Herbert (1593-1633), who bears the title "Shakespeare of the Church." A contemporary of "The Bard" (1564-1616), Herbert's poetry, like Shakespeare's, lifted common religious practice to the spiritually sublime. THE CALL, composed by Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872-1958) between 1906 and 1911 as part of Five Mystical Songs, a cycle for baritone, choir and orchestra, used Herbert's poetry. Vaughan Williams then adapted THE CALL as a congregational hymn. The words are especially appropriate for a communion Sunday.

*O For a World* is a paraphrase of the 1739 hymn text, *O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing*, by the famous Methodist hymnist and theologian Charles Wesley (1707-1788). This text was written in 1982 by Mirian Therese Winter (b. 1938) for the Presbyterian Women's Triennial Conference. She is a Medical Mission Sister, having served both in Africa and this hemisphere. The tune, AZMON, was composed in 1828 by C. G. Glaser (1781-1829) and was later adapted to the melody we know by Lowell Mason (1792-1872). Glaser was a German composer who was educated at St. Thomas Church in Leipzig. Born and educated in New York, Dr. Mason was considered the "Father of American Church Music."

Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750) composed six suites for unaccompanied gamba, the Baroque predecessor to the cello, between 1717 and 1723. The *Bourreé 1 & 2* are the second to last movements of the *Cello Suite No. 3 in C Major BWV 1009*. The bourreé is a lively dance form that was a favorite of Bach. These suites have been adapted for other instruments including the French horn, which we hear today. The list of great musicians that have included these suites in their repertoire as students and beyond is long and star-studded.

The text for *For the Healing of the Nations* was written in 1965 by Fred Kahn (1917-2010). He was the pastor at Pilgrim Church in Plymouth, England. It became very popular and has even been sung at the United Nations. The tune, CWM RHONNDA, is a great Welsh melody composed in 1905 by John Hughes (1873-1932). Hughes composed this for a Baptist song festival in Wales.

Craig Curry, who arranged this great hymn tune, *For the Beauty of the Earth*, is a graduate of the Wheaton College Conservatory of Music and the University of Miami. He is an active composer whose arrangements and compositions have been widely performed. In 1838, Contrad Kocher (1786-1872) composed the original tune, DIX. He composed 25 German hymns, among them, *Praise to the Lord the Almighty*.

#### 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.

- Diane Massie and family at the death of her brother, Ira.
- Dave Verduin, hospitalized.
- Mike Stensaas, health problems.
- Scott Hibbard at the death of his father, John.
- David Baker's brother-in-law, Roger Robert, as he deals with the onset of Parkinson's disease.
- Pastor Liz's high school friend, Joe, who has ALS.
- Rose Stone relative of Juanita Barlow
- Prayers for peace in our city, nation and world.
- Donn Schimp and his family as Donn continues cancer treatment.
- Betty Voice being treated for sepsis.
- 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, <u>mfitzgerald@spucc.org</u> Associate Pastor Jeff Carlson, <u>jcarlson@spucc.org</u> Associate Pastor Liz Nickerson, <u>lnickerson@spucc.org</u>

For a complete list of St. Pauls Staff, Governance, and Lay Leadership Please visit <a href="https://www.spucc.org/contact">www.spucc.org/contact</a>

St. Pauls United Church of Christ 2335 N Orchard St. | Chicago, IL 60614 (773) 348-3829 <u>www.spucc.org</u>

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.