

September 22, 2024

No matter who you are, No matter where you are On life's journey, You are welcome here.

Please silence cell phones.

Bibles for use during worship are available at each entrance to the Sanctuary. Assisted listening devices and Bluetooth hearing aid guides are in the Narthex. The Nursery and Toddler Room are open for children ages 0-5, from 10 to 11 a.m.

PRELUDE For the Beauty of the Earth Craig Curry

St. Arbucks Quartet

INTROIT God Is Here! As We Your People Meet

Chancel Choir

CHIMES

WELCOME Jeff Carlson

* CALL TO WORSHIP Psalm 100

One: Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth!

All: Let us worship with gladness;

And come before God's presence with a song.

One: For you, O God, have made us, and we belong to you.

All: We are your people and the sheep of your pasture.

One: Let us enter this sanctuary with thanksgiving and praise.

All: For God is good, whose mercy is everlasting,

And whose faithfulness endures from age to age.

^{*} WELCOMING EACH OTHER

^{*} Please stand if you are able to do so.



PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Avena Ward

Beautiful God, Creator of wonders, we confess that we take our lives, your world, and all of your good gifts for granted.

We live as if we were self-made,

when all that we are and have comes from you.

We are preoccupied with our own interests and desires, so that we do not love you with our whole heart, or our neighbors as ourselves.

God of all mercy, be gracious to us.

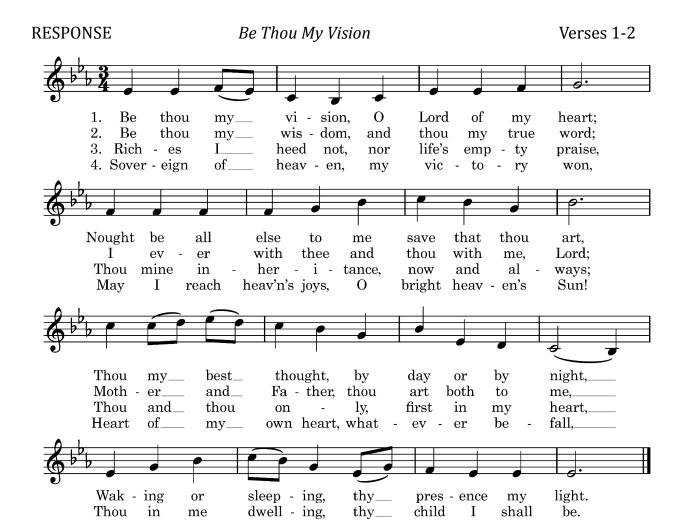
Open our eyes to see and to be transformed by the wonders of your love. We pray in Jesus' name.

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.



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ANTHEM

Lift Thine Eyes from Elijah Sopranos and Altos of the Chancel Choir

Felix Mendelssohn

Lift thine eyes to the mountains,
From whence cometh thy help.
Thy help cometh from the Lord,
The Maker of heaven and earth,
He hath said, Thy foot shall not be moved.
Thy keeper will never slumber.
based on Psalm 121

SCRIPTURE Marti Pechnyo

Mark 9:30-37

Jesus and his disciples passed through Galilee. He did not want anyone to know it; for he was teaching his disciples, saying to them, 'The Son of Man is to be betrayed into human hands, and they will kill him, and three days after being killed, he will rise again.' But they did not understand what he was saying and were afraid to ask him.

Then they came to Capernaum; and when he was in the house he asked them, 'What were you arguing about on the way?' But they were silent, for on the way they had argued with one another about who was the greatest. He sat down, called the twelve, and said to them, 'Whoever wants to be first must be last of all and servant of all.' Then he took a little child and put it among them; and taking it in his arms, he said to them, 'Whoever welcomes one such child in my name welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me welcomes not me but the one who sent me.'

* 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.

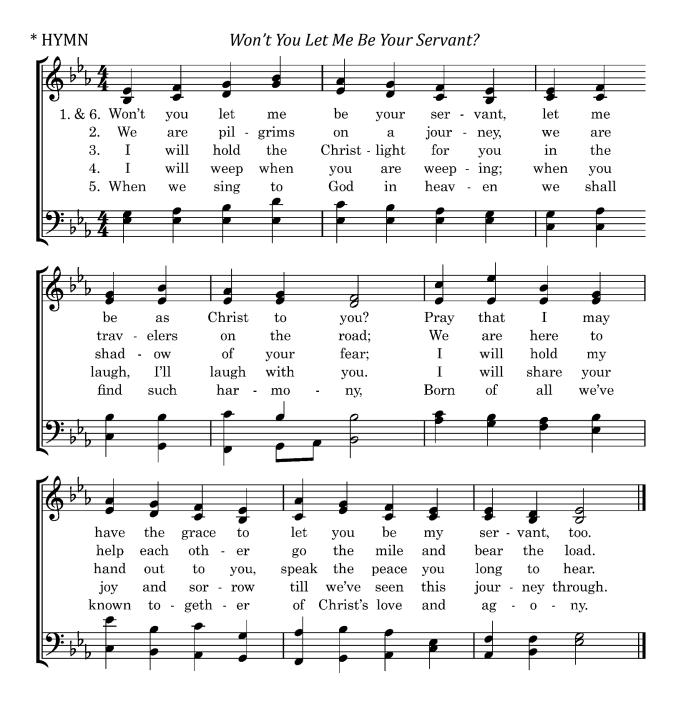
We are not alone. Thanks be to God!

(adapted from the United Church of Canada)

RESPONSE Be Thou My Vision Verses 3 & 4

See previous hymn

SERMON "The Greatest" Jeff Carlson



MISSION MOMENT: Vaccination Clinic

Barb Kaiser

OFFERTORY

He Watching Over Israel from Elijah
Chancel Choir

Felix Mendelssohn

He, watching over Israel, slumbers not, nor sleeps
Shouldst thou, walking in grief, languish;
He will quicken thee.
He, watching over Israel, slumbers not, nor sleeps.

based on Psalm 121

You can give to St. Pauls electronically:

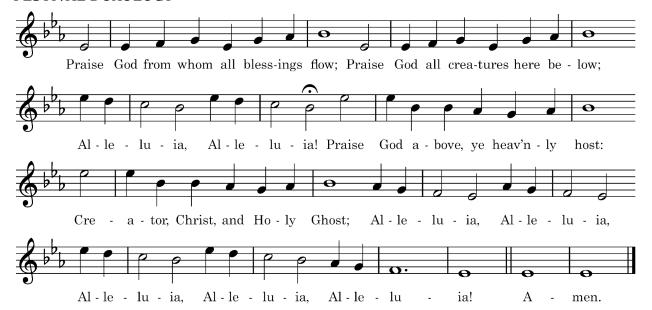
Scan this code with your cell phone camera,

Church Center at spucc.churchcenter.com/giving,

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



* FESTIVAL DOXOLOGY



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.

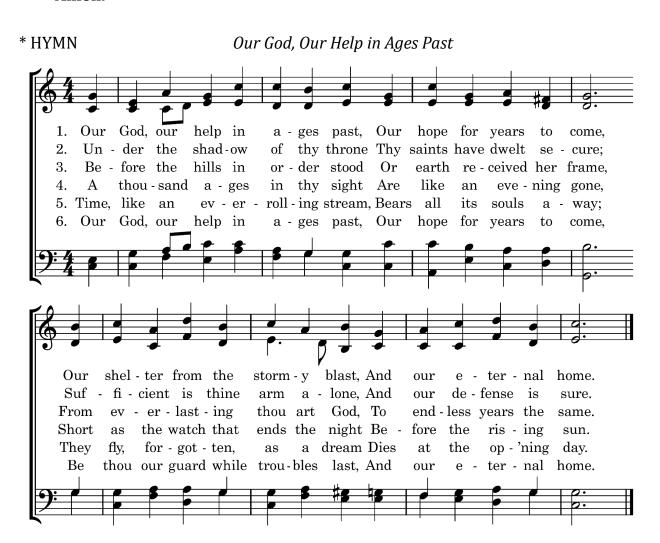
Give us this day our daily bread,

and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.

And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

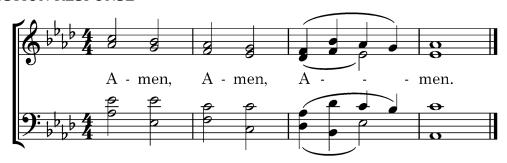
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever.

Amen.



* BENEDICTION

* BENEDICTION RESPONSE



POSTLUDE

Trumpet Tune in D Major Kevin Dzierzawski, organ

David N. Johnson

INFORMATION FOR FAMILIES

- Childcare is available for babies and toddlers up to age 5 during worship from 10-11 a.m. in the Nursery and Toddler Room downstairs. Activity "busy bags" are available in the Narthex for children to use during the service and children's Bibles are in the pews.
- REGULAR SUNDAY SCHOOL & CONFIRMATION CLASSES are in session.
 Confirmation class meets at 10 a.m. in the downstairs High School Room.
 Elementary-age students are dismissed with their teachers during the worship service and parents pick up children after the service in their classrooms.

TODAY'S WORSHIP LEADERS

Clergy: Jeff Carlson, Avena Ward Music Director: Kurt R. Hansen Organist: Kevin Dzierzawski

St. Arbucks Quartet: Brendan Henry, piano; Alex Austin, bass; Matt Plaskota,

drums; Kris Hansen, trumpet & vocals

Lay Liturgical Administrator: Kevin O'Brien

Scripture Reader: Marti Pechnyo

Head Ushers: Beatrice Jaji

Ushers: Doug Clark, David Faulkner, Fred Pearson

Gatekeeper: Dodd Brown

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

Trevor Hafner, Maurice Wallace **Custodian:** Ramiro Gonzalez

BORN THIS WEEK IN SEPTEMBER

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.

- Sept 22 Annika Hull, Brooke Roark, Charlie Rodriguez, Jonah Charlton, Nathan Bultemeier, Phillip Elkins
- Sept 23 Beatrice Jaji, Cosette Millard, Liz Nickerson, Seth Davis, Stefan Millard
- Sept 24 Colin Grosshans, Donna Braden, Glen Timmerman, Jennifer Saltarelli, Johnny Busker, Mercedes Ridao, Rob Castle
- Sept 25 Christie Crouch, Christine Schmidt, Matt Fitzgerald, Nicole Chaiken, Sarah Quinton, Tess Scrivner
- Sept 26 Jorie Hamm, Kristi Noonan, Taylor Beebe
- Sept 27 AJ Smart, Douglas Roewer, Will Carter
- Sept 28 Betsy Kalmar, Brian Gallagher, Cole Roark, Heather Kopnick, Olivia Block, Toby Rogers

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.

- Matt Fitzgerald recovering from a concussion and stitches.
- Annie Johnson's uncle Rick, diagnosed with a brain tumor.
- Bob Ball's brother, Phil, being treated for leukemia.
- Nancy Bingaman's niece struggling with anxiety.
- Dobmeyer Huber family following the sudden loss of a loved one.
- Jayla Williams, relative of Aubraea Cleveland, as she continues chemo treatment for leukemia.
- Pat Kirby, dealing with a housing crisis.
- Karen Johnson and Nancy Barnett's father, Len, recovering from a fall.
- Deon Fayhee at the death of his father, Michael Ray.
- Bill Kennedy in therapy following a series of strokes.
- Judy Johnson, friend of Bobbi Ganello, recuperating from cancer treatments.
- Diane Massie and family at the death of her brother, Ira.
- Loved ones and friends of Dave Verduin at his death.
- Mike Stensaas, dealing with 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.
- The family of Rose Stone, who passed away, a 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.
- 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.

UPCOMING EVENTS

TODAY - SEPT 25 - FALL SWAP - 9 a.m. - 12 p.m., Social Hall It's swap time! Come to the swap and "shop" for FREE gently used children's clothing and toys (no need to donate to take) September 20 through September 25.

SEPT 24 - 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.

SEPT 24 - FOOD FOR THE SOUL LUNCH GROUP - 12-1:30 p.m., Social Hall Pastor Jeff Carlson will discuss selected aspects of St. Pauls history and what it might mean for today. Adults of all ages are invited. Make new friends and connect with old ones with lunch (please bring your own), fellowship, fun and faith.

SEPT 25 - FAMILY POTLUCK - 5-6:30 p.m., Oscar Mayer Room All are welcome at this table. The Little Lights Board is hosting a family potluck on Wednesday, September 25, in the Oscar Mayer Room from 5-6:30 p.m. Please bring an appetizer, main dish or dessert to share. Mark what you plan on bringing here: tinyurl.com/Family-Potluck. If you cannot contribute with food but still would like to join us, you are free and encouraged to! We hope you can join us.

SEPT 27 - STAY & PLAY - 10 a.m. - 12 p.m., Nursery & Star Room Stay & Play drop-in playgroup is open to all children (ages 0-5) and their parents/caregivers. We aim to provide a welcoming environment for babies and toddlers, as well as friendship and community for you.

SEPT 28 - OKTOBERFEST: VOLUNTEERS NEEDED - 1-8 p.m., Courtyard

St. Pauls Oktoberfest is next Saturday and we are looking forward to tapping into the excitement of this Bavarian tradition with authentic German food, local Oktoberfest beers, live music and dancing, a jumpy-house, and other fun activities. This year's live entertainment will once again include acclaimed children's entertainer *Laura Doherty* (1:30–3 p.m.) and the Midwest's premier oompah band *Die Musikmeisters* (3:30–7:30 p.m.). It takes more than 100 volunteers to pour 700 beers, serve 500 brats and hot dogs, and run kids' activities for seven hours. Can we count on you to join our team? As a volunteer, you will work a 2-hour



shift and receive a free food/drink ticket. You will also enjoy the opportunity to meet new friends and to support St. Pauls' neighborhood outreach efforts. Please sign up at tinyurl.com/4b4j2dr6.

SEPT 29 - VACCINATION CLINIC BY MARIANO'S PHARMACY- 9 a.m.-12 p.m., Gym Vaccinations will be provided by Mariano's pharmacy, including COVID boosters, shingles, pneumonia, and flu shots. **Children under 18 must be accompanied by a parent or guardian.** Don't forget to bring your COVID vaccine card and your Medicare or insurance card! **Register now** at https://tinyurl.com/kroger-scheduler to book your appointment!

- 1. **Enter the Benefit Code**: Use **SPUCCVAC24** when prompted.
- 2. Find an Appointment:
 - Choose "Vaccines" for Appointment Type.
 - o Enter **Chicago** for the City.
 - Select **09/29/2024** for the Date.
 - For "Add travel vaccines," choose No.
- 3. **Select Your Vaccines**: Choose which vaccines you want to receive.

- Unique Scheduler: You'll be routed to a special scheduler labeled "St. Paul's UCC."
- 5. **Pick Your Time**: Choose your preferred time slot. There are 5 slots available every 15 minutes.
- Complete Consent: Finish by filling out and electronically signing the consent form.

OCT 30 - COOKIES FOR A CAUSE (BAKE YOU FAVORITE COOKIES AT HOME NOW!) - 5:30 p.m., Kitchen

Join the St. Pauls cookie bakers for dinner, socializing and cookie making on Wednesday, October 30. 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 Wednesday. 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 marcia@volkonline.com or (773) 307-6866.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

REFUGEEONE: THEIR WINTER COAT AND BOOT DRIVE IS BACK!

Winter may seem years away given our warm weather lately, but RefugeeOne is already making plans to help their clients with warm winter clothes. There is an Amazon gift registry that has the items RefugeeOne is looking for. If you're interested in participating, please use this list and have the items shipped directly to RefugeeOne by selecting the RefugeeOne (Winter Coat Drive)'s Gift Registry Address when you checkout. You can access the registry at https://tinyurl.com/3hx7crny or by scanning the QR code. Please order your items by Sunday, October 13, so that RefugeeOne will receive them in time to distribute them. Thank you!

GENERAL ELECTION FOR CHICAGO AND SUBURBS - NOVEMBER 5

Please don't ignore this very important election! On November 5, voters will elect the President, Vice President and local candidates. Early voting starts October 3 at 191 N. Clark St. and 69 W. Washington St. Early voting in all Chicago wards begins October 21. Mail-in ballots will be sent starting September 26 for those who requested them. All voting sites are ADA compliant. For more information on races, voter registration, mail-in ballots, and voting locations, scan the QR code.

WINDY CITY WINDS SEASON 10 - SAVE THE DATES!

Windy City Winds, "Chicago's Community Band," announces their Season 10 concerts:

- Friday, November 22, 2024, 7:30 p.m. "By Request: Music Suggested by Band Members"
- Friday, March 14, 2025, 7:30 p.m. "Looking Upward: Music Inspired by Stars and Planets"
 - with guest conductor Dr. Kevin Geraldi, Director of Bands, University of Illinois
- Friday, May 16, 2025, 7:30 p.m. "Looking Back: Favorite Music From Our First Three Seasons"

Each concert will be in the St. Pauls Sanctuary, admission is free and each will be livestreamed. Come help us celebrate this milestone season!

NEW MEMBER CLASS

Join pastors, members and others curious about St. Pauls for an upcoming New Member Class. Together we'll talk about faith and our community, and we'd love for you to be part of the conversation! We'll meet after worship, and childcare will be provided as needed (please let us know in your registration). See upcoming dates here: spucc.org/new member classes.

CHURCH SCHOOL REGISTRATION

Please register your K-6 th Sunday School students, 7^{th} and 8^{th} grade Confirmation students, and High School class members by scanning this QR code.



CHILDREN'S CHOIR RESUMES

Youth Choirs resumed September 15! Any musically inclined kids, please join us! Kinderchapel Singers (*Preschool*) Sundays 9:50-10 a.m. in the Social Hall with Tom Clancy; Children's Choir (*grades K-3*): Sundays 9:30-9:55 a.m. in the Chapel with Breanna Coe; Paul's People (*grades 4-8*): Sundays 9:30-9:55 a.m. in the Parlor with Kecia Waldschmidt.

PALESTINE STUDY GROUP

Broaden your understanding of the Israel-Palestine conflict in this thoughtful and supportive group. All are welcome. 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, 30 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: tinyurl.com/wuphf495.

JOIN THE MOVEMENT - provided by SPARC

SPARC "Get Out the Vote!" Postcard Party, September 22nd during Coffee Hour Do you know someone who needs encouragement to vote in the upcoming election? Someone who has recently moved or a new college student who needs a reminder to register to vote in their new location? Do you want to let a friend or relative know that you are going to vote in November? Send a "Get Out the Vote!" postcard courtesy of SPARC! We will provide cards, pens, postage, and sample messages. All you need to do is bring an address or two! Please plan to participate in this fun event!

CREATION CORNER - provided by Green Team

Do You Know Your Carbon Footprint? A carbon footprint is the total amount of greenhouse gas emissions coming from the production, use and end-of-life of a product or service. The measure includes gasses, particularly carbon dioxide. The majority of an individual's carbon footprint is related to housing, food and transportation. Do you know how you score and how you can modify your choices? Please go to this website and see <u>carbon-calculator.climatehero.me</u>. You will be surprised.

WELCOME TO SAINT PAULS!

Thank you for coming to worship with us today! Help us get to know you better by scanning the QR code below.



WANT TO GET INVOLVED?

Scan the QR codes to discover ways to connect with others.

JOIN A GROUP



VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES



TODAY'S MUSIC

Craig Curry, who arranged this great hymn tune, *For the Beauty of the Earth*, is a graduate of 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 is *Praise to the Lord the Almighty*.

The text for *God Is Here! As We Your People Meet* was written in 1971 by Fred Pratt Green (1903-2000). One of the most prominent hymnodists in Britain, he was born in Liverpool and became a Methodist minister. The tune, ABBOT'S LEIGH, was composed in 1941 by Cyril Vincent Taylor (1907-1992). Taylor was both a musician and a priest of the Church of England. He composed 20 hymns and edited a number of hymnals.

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). He was trained as a teacher and eventually founded the School for Sacred Song in Stuttgart.

Be Thou My Vision is a lovely Irish folk tune, SLANE. This translation was made in 1905 from the original Gaelic by Mary E. Bryne (1880-1931), who was born in Ireland. She was a respected university level academic in Dublin.

Felix Mendelssohn, (1809-1847), like Mozart, had a short but artistically productive life. He was born in Germany, but a great source of his popularity was outside his home country. He was especially beloved in England. Amongst his greatest accomplishments was the revival of the works of J.S. Bach, and the first "modern" performance of Bach's *St. Matthew Passion* since his death. *Elijah* is performed in England almost as often as *Messiah*, which is, of course, by another "adopted" German, George Friderik Handel. *Lift Thine Eyes* and the following chorus, *He Watching Over Israel*, are sung in the oratorio as assurance to Elijah during his sojourn in the wilderness. Both texts are based on Psalm 121.

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 3 years old. He is a self-trained musician.

Issac Watts (1674-1748) penned the text for *Our God, Our Help in Ages Past* in 1719. It is a poetic setting of Psalm 90. We sang Watts' setting of Psalm 23 before and as part of the Offertory Anthem. The tune, ST. ANNE, was likely composed in 1708 by William Croft (1677-1727) in London. He became the organist at Westminster Cathedral. As a side note, Bach's famous *Prelude and Fugue in E Flat Major* BWV 552 (1735-36) is often referred to as "St. Anne," because Bach seems to quote that tune in the final theme of the "triple fugue." There is no way Bach would have heard or known that tune, but it certainly is an interesting apocryphal story.

Trumpet Tune in D was composed by David N. Johnson (1922-1987), an American organist. He was a lecturer at Syracuse University and earlier the organ professor at St. Olaf College. He served during World War II in the U.S. Army Signal Corp in India, Burma and China. He was decorated for his service.

Special Music Theme for 2024-2025 HEAR Ye! + Bach

Enjoy another year of special music during worship services.

- H- Hebrew
- E English
- A Austrian
- R Russian

November 3, 2024 - Reformation Sunday - Lobet den Herrn - Bach

December 8, 2024 - Christmas Cantata (Hebrew & English)

Nachamu, nachamu ami - Max Janowski (*Comfort, Comfort Ye My People*) **Fantasia on Christmas Carols** - Ralph Vaughan Williams with guest artist William Buchman, from the Chicago Symphony Orchestra

February 16, 2025 - Northwestern University Chapel Choir – Guest choir in worship

March 9, 2025 - Komm, Jesu, komm - Bach

April 6, 2025 - (Austria) - Requiem - Mozart

May 18, 2025 - (Russian) - Symphony of Psalms - Stravinsky/Shostakovich

Mark these dates in your calendar!

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, over 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 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 LGPTQ+ people.

Welcome to each and to everyone.

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