

Third Sunday of Advent  
Service of Readings and Carols  
December 15, 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.*

THOUGHT FOR PREPARATION

*"Remembrance is sufficient of the beauty we have seen."*

Caroline Sergeant

PRELUDE

*O Come, O Come Emmanuel*  
St. Arbucks Quartet

LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLE - The Candle of Joy

The Millard Family  
Francois, Sune, Stefan, Cosette, and Sebastien

CHORAL INTROIT

*There Was a Little Baby*  
Kinderchapel Singers  
Tom Clancy, guitar

Raffi

There was a little baby, oh my Lord  
Way down in Bethlehem

They laid him in a manger, oh my Lord  
Way down in Bethlehem

They named the baby Jesus, oh my Lord  
Way down in Bethlehem

Ruth Bryant  
Willow Clancy  
Lucia Piazza

Joelle Ruben  
Catalina Smedley  
Spencer Ward

Mark Workman-Mandell

WELCOME

Jeff Carlson

\* WELCOMING EACH OTHER

\* CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Rejoice!

**All: Behold, I bring you good news of great joy  
which shall be for all people.**

One: Good will visit us! Day will dawn upon us!

**All: A child shall be born unto us!**

One: Christ the Lord, the light of the world!

**All: It is almost Christmas! The candle of joy has been lit!**

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

\* HYMN

*Once in Royal David's City*  
Toby Smedley, soloist

Solo 1. Once in roy - al Da - vid's cit - y stood a  
Choir 2. He came down to earth from heav - en, who is  
All 3. Je - sus is our child - hood's pat - tern, dai - ly  
All 4. And our eyes at last shall see him, through his  
low - ly cat - tle shed, Where a moth - er laid her  
God and Lord of all, And his shel - ter was a  
like us lived and grew, Je - sus, lit - tle, weak and  
own re - deem - ing love; And that child so dear and  
ba - by, in a man - ger for his bed: Mar - y  
sta - ble, and his cra - dle was a stall; With the  
help - less, tears and smiles and com - fort knew. Je - sus  
gen - tle is our Lord in heav - en a - bove; And he  
was that moth - er mild, Je - sus Christ her lit - tle child.  
poor and mean and low - ly, lived on earth this Sav - ior low - ly.  
feels our pain and sad - ness, and the joy - ous lift of glad - ness.  
leads his chil - dren on to the place where he has gone.

# SCRIPTURE

Liz Nickerson

*Luke 2:1-7*

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

# CAROL

*O Little Town of Bethlehem*

O lit - tle town of Beth - le - hem, How still we see thee lie!

A - bove thy deep and dream-less sleep the si - lent stars go by;

Yet in thy dark streets shin - eth The ev - er - last - ing Light;

The hopes and fears of all the years Are met in thee to - night.

ANTHEM

*Whatcha Gonna Call That Baby?*

Phyllis Wolfe-White

Children's Choir

Breanna Coe, director;

Shannon Banjavcic, flute; and Scott Banjavcic, piano

Whatcha gonna call,  
Whatcha gonna call that baby?

All the animals gather round.  
Whatcha gonna call that baby boy?  
In the straw a baby found.  
Whatcha gonna call that baby boy?

See the babe in swaddlin' clothes?  
Whatcha gonna call that baby boy?  
Mary smiles, 'cause Mary knows!  
Whatcha gonna call that baby boy?

Glory, glory, Hallelujah!  
Angels sing on high.

Whatcha gonna call,  
Whatcha gonna call that baby?

**Children's Choir**

Sean Banjavcic  
Charlie Coe  
Juniper Fletcher  
Mabel Fletcher  
Grady Hartanov  
Sullivan McGrath

James Mix  
Nora Penniman  
Josiah Smedley  
Alexandra Stockwell  
Maura Workman-Mandel

STORY

“Christmas in the Lobby”

Jeff Carlson

CAROL

*O Christmas Tree*

O Christ - mas Tree, O Christ - mas Tree, Your boughs can teach a les - son.

O Christ - mas Tree, O Christ - mas Tree, Your boughs can teach a les - son.

That con-stant faith and hope sub-lime Lend strength and com-fort through all time.

O Christ - mas Tree, O Christ - mas Tree, Your boughs can teach a les - son.

ANTHEM

*Carol of the Bells*

Mykola Leontovych

Pauls People

arr. Mark Dover

Deirdre McGrath, Brooke McGuire, Thea Mack,  
Clara Wahlstrom, Thomas Mix; soloists  
Kecia Waldschmidt, director

Hark how the bells, sweet silver bells  
All seem to say throw cares away  
Christmas is here, bringing good cheer  
To young and old, meek and the bold  
Ding, dong, ding, dong

That is their song, with joyful ring  
All caroling  
One seems to hear, words of good cheer  
From ev'rywhere filling the air  
Ding dong ding dong ding

Oh, how they pound, raising the sound  
O'er hill and dale, telling their tale  
Gaily they ring, while people sing  
Songs of good cheer, Christmas is here  
Merry, merry, merry, merry Christmas

Hark how the bells....

That is their song ....

On on they send, on without end  
Their joyful tone to every home  
Christmas is here, bringing good cheer  
To young and old, meek and the bold  
Ding dong ding dong ding  
That is their song, with joyful ring  
Ding dong ding dong ding

**Pauls People**

Winnie Castle  
Aniston Hartanov  
Eva Mack  
Thea Mack

Deirdre McGrath  
Brooke McGuire  
Thomas Mix  
Toby Smedley

Lee Waldschmidt  
Clara Wahlstrom

# SCRIPTURE

Matt Fitzgerald

*Luke 2:8-14*

In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!"

\* CAROL

*Angels We Have Heard on High*



1. An - gels we have heard on high Sweet - ly sing - ing o'er the plains,
2. Shep-herds, why this ju - bi - lee? Why your joy - ous strains pro - long?
3. Come to Beth - le - hem and see Him whose birth the an - gels sing;



And the moun-tains in re - ply Echo - o - ing their joy - ous strains.  
 What the glad-some ti - dings be Which in - spire your heav'n - ly song?  
 Come, a - dore on bend - ed knee Christ, the Lord, the new - born King.



Glo - - - - - ri - a



in ex - cel - sis De - o, Glo - - - - -



- - - - - ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - - - o.



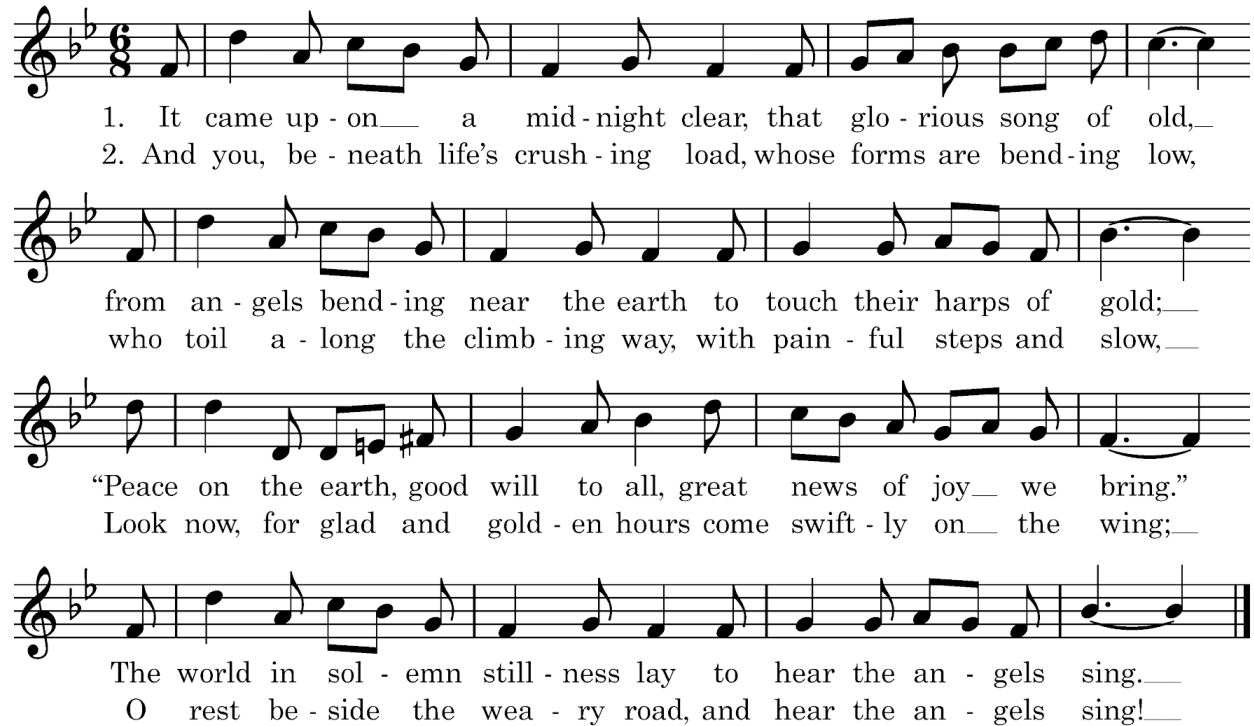
STORY

“Mismatched”

Liz Nickerson

CAROL

*It Came Upon a Midnight Clear*



1. It came up - on\_\_\_ a mid - night clear, that glo - rious song of old,\_\_\_  
2. And you, be - neath life's crush - ing load, whose forms are bend - ing low,  
from an - gels bend - ing near the earth to touch their harps of gold;\_\_\_  
who toil a - long the climb - ing way, with pain - ful steps and slow,\_\_\_  
“Peace on the earth, good will to all, great news of joy\_\_\_ we bring.”  
Look now, for glad and gold - en hours come swift - ly on\_\_\_ the wing;\_\_\_  
The world in sol - emn still - ness lay to hear the an - gels sing.\_\_\_  
O rest be - side the wea - ry road, and hear the an - gels sing!\_\_\_

SCRIPTURE

Matt Fitzgerald

*Luke 2:15–20*

When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.” So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

## CAROL

*Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming*

1. Lo, how a Rose e'er bloom - ing from ten - der stem has  
2. I - sa - iah had fore - told it, the Rose I have in

sprung! Of Jes - se's lin - eage com - ing as saints of old have  
mind, With Mar - y we be - hold it, the Vir - gin Moth - er

sung. It came a flower - et bright, a - mid the cold of  
kind. To show God's love a - right she bore to us a

win - ter, when half spent was the night.  
Sav - ior, when half spent was the night.

The musical score is written for two voices (Soprano and Bass) and piano accompaniment. It is in 3/2 time and B-flat major. The score consists of four systems of music. The first system contains the first two lines of the carol. The second system contains the next two lines. The third system contains the next two lines. The fourth system contains the final two lines. The piano accompaniment is written in the bass clef and provides a harmonic foundation for the vocal parts. The vocal parts are written in the soprano and bass clefs. The lyrics are written below the vocal staves.

## SCRIPTURE

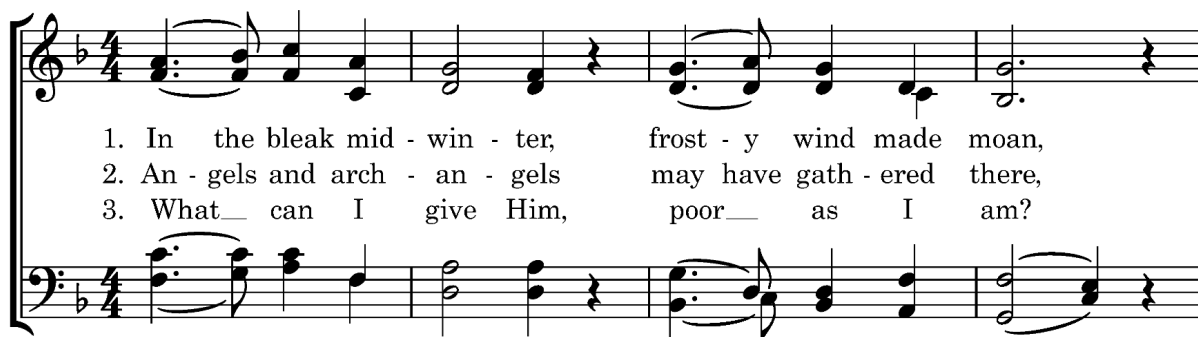
Jeff Carlson

### *Matthew 2:1–12*

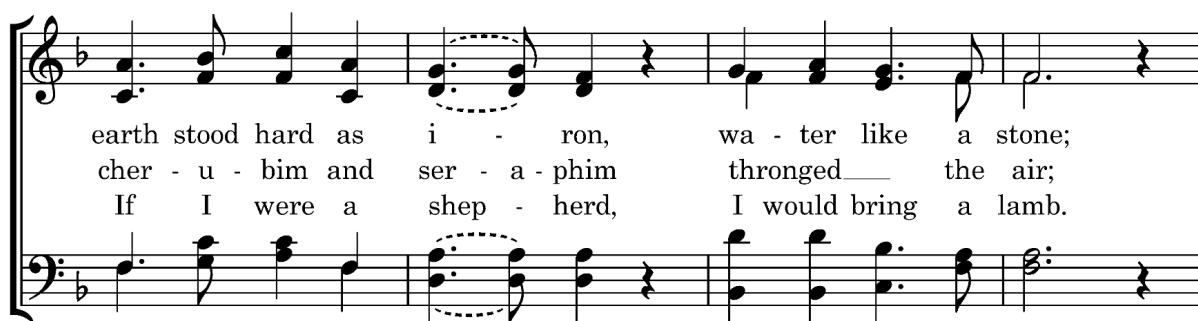
In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, asking, “Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage.” When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. They told him, “In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet: ‘And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who is to shepherd my people Israel.’” Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, “Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage.”

When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

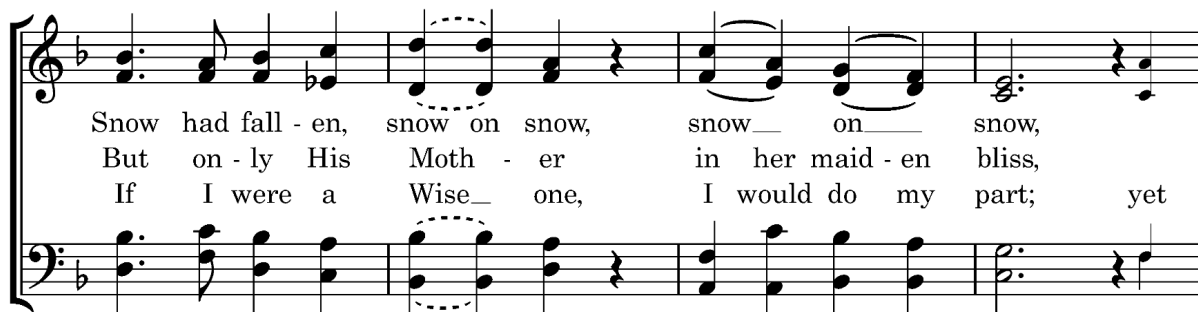
## CAROL

*In the Bleak Midwinter*

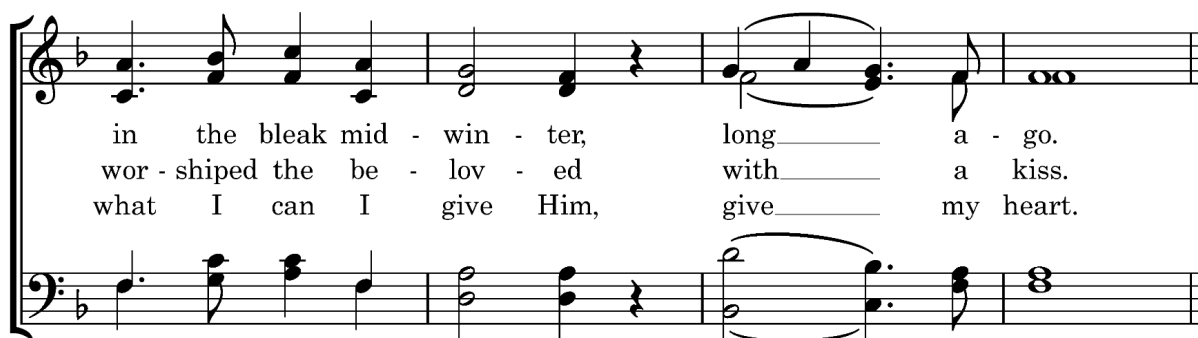
1. In the bleak mid - win - ter, frost - y wind made moan,  
2. An - gels and arch - an - gels may have gath - ered there,  
3. What can I give Him, poor as I am?



earth stood hard as i - ron, wa - ter like a stone;  
cher - u - bim and ser - a - phim thronged the air;  
If I were a shep - herd, I would bring a lamb.



Snow had fall - en, snow on snow, snow on snow,  
But on - ly His Moth - er in her maid - en bliss,  
If I were a Wise one, I would do my part; yet



in the bleak mid - win - ter, long a - go.  
wor - shiped the be - lov - ed with a kiss.  
what I can I give Him, give my heart.

POEM

"Snow on Snow on Snow"

Matt Fitzgerald

\* CAROL

*O Little Town of Bethlehem*

v.4

O ho - ly Child of Beth - le - hem! De - scend to us, we pray;

Cast out our sin and en - ter in; Be born in us to - day.

We hear the Christ - mas an - gels The great glad tid - ings tell;

O come to us, a - bide with us, Our Lord Em - man - u - el!

The musical score is written in 4/4 time with a key signature of one flat (B-flat). It consists of four systems, each with a vocal melody line (treble clef) and a piano accompaniment line (bass clef). The lyrics are written below the vocal line. The score ends with a double bar line.

GIVING MOMENT

Nathan Chamberlain

OFFERTORY

*Gospel Nativity Carol*

St. Arbucks Quartet

Chancel Choir

Edisto Island Spiritual

arr. Craig Curry

I believe this is Jesus.

Come and see.

While shepherds watched their flocks by night,

Come and see.

An angel shown with glory bright.

Come and see.

He brought good news to all the earth.

Come and see.

He told them of the Savior's birth.

Come and see.

I believe this is Jesus....

He said this shall be your sign today.

Come and see.

I believe this is Jesus....

Noel, ...

Come and see.

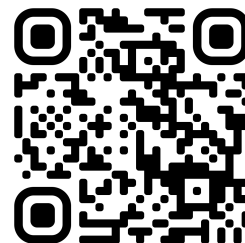
I believe this is Jesus....

*You can give to St. Pauls electronically by:*

*Scanning this code with your cell phone camera,*

*At [spucc.churchcenter.com/giving](http://spucc.churchcenter.com/giving),*

*Or through Zelle to [giving@spucc.org](mailto:giving@spucc.org).*



## 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

*Good Christian Friends, Rejoice*

1. Good Chris - tian friends, re - joice\_\_\_\_ with heart and soul and voice;\_\_\_\_
2. Good Chris - tian friends, re - joice\_\_\_\_ with heart and soul and voice;\_\_\_\_
3. Good Chris - tian friends, re - joice\_\_\_\_ with heart and soul and voice;\_\_\_\_



now give heed to what we say: Je - sus Christ is born to - day;  
 now you know of end - less bliss: Je - sus Christ was born for this!  
 now you need not fear the grave: Je - sus Christ was born to save!



Ox and ass be - fore him bow, a - sleep with - in the  
 God has o - pened heav - en's door, and you are blessed for -  
 Calls you one and calls you all to gain the ev - er -



man - ger now. Christ is born to - day,\_\_\_\_ Christ is born to - day!  
 - ev - er - more. Christ was born for this,\_\_\_\_ Christ was born for this!  
 - last - ing hall. Christ was born to save,\_\_\_\_ Christ was born to save!

\* BENEDICTION

Matt Fitzgerald

\* CHORAL BENEDICTION

*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

*A Carol Fantasy*  
St. Pauls Brass

arr. John Iveson

Kris Hansen, Jim Brandt, Jake Nitzsche, trumpets;  
Tom Clancy, Rick Peterson, French horns; Nancy Pifer, tenor horn;  
Mark Swanson, Lorne Frank, trombones; Lola Stevenson, bass trombone

***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 on the  
lower level.***

**ADVENT WREATH** - Each week during Advent we light another candle in our Advent wreath to anticipate the coming of Christ, the light of the world. These candles symbolize the gifts of hope, love, joy and peace that Christ's coming brings. Today, we light the candle of Joy.

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



## INFORMATION FOR FAMILIES

There is no Sunday School today so that children can participate in the music during today's service. Activity "busy bags" are available in the Narthex for children to use during the service and children's Bibles are in the pews.

## TODAY'S WORSHIP LEADERS

**Clergy:** Jeff Carlson, Liz Nickerson, Matt Fitzgerald

**Music Director:** Kurt R. Hansen

**Organist:** Kevin Dzierzawski

**St. Arbucks Quartet:** Brendan Henry, piano; Mike Benning, bass;

Matt Plaskota, drums; Kris Hansen, trumpet & vocals

**Lay Liturgical Administrator:** Kevin O'Brien

**Head Usher:** Beatrice Jaji

**Ushers:** Doug Clark, David Faulkner, Fred Pearson

**Gatekeeper:** Dodd Brown

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

**Custodian:** Ramiro Gonzalez

## BORN THIS WEEK IN DECEMBER

*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.*

Dec. 16 Carrie Bruggers, Fausto Velazco Matos, Tyler Raiman

Dec. 17 David Mussatt, Tiscia Eicher

Dec. 18 Brooke McGuire, Clark Tavas, Susanne Baker

Dec. 19 Steven Reid, Warren Bettler

Dec. 20 Kirsten Simonton, Lydia Miller

## 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.*

- Juanita Barlow being treated for health problems.
- David Faulkner at the death of his mother.
- Pat Ruch's niece, Kaitlyn, recovering from complicated surgery.
- Wayne Bradley, recovering from surgery.
- The family of Don Johnson, beloved uncle of Jim Waldschmidt, who passed away after a long illness.
- Bob Ball's brother, Phill, being treated for complications associated with leukemia, and Jane, who is Phill's primary caregiver.
- Theresa Herlevsen at the death of her father.
- David Folkes's daughter, Sarah Philomena, who has entered hospice.
- Cheryl Kennedy at the death of Bill Kennedy.
- Sally Acker, recovering from a fall.
- Jen Kew's father, Jim, diagnosed with a progressive lung disease.
- Jessica Ashley, recovering from breast cancer surgery.
- Diane Biegert, recovering from a hip replacement.
- Dan Von Barga, being treated for multiple myeloma.
- Kelly Jo Taylor's nephew, Stuart Ault, hospitalized for a motorcycle accident.
- Nancy Bingaman's niece struggling with anxiety.
- Pat Kirby, dealing with a housing crisis.
- Karen Johnson and Nancy Barnett's father, Len, recovering from a fall.
- Judy Johnson, friend of Bobbi Ganello, recuperating from cancer treatments.
- 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.
- Prayers for peace - in our city, nation and world.
- 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.

## ADVENT & CHRISTMAS AT ST. PAULS

- TODAY      THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT, *LIGHTING THE CANDLE OF JOY*  
10 a.m. - Worship, Readings & Carols with youth choirs and brass  
11:30 a.m. - Advent Market
- TUES, DEC 17    FOOD FOR THE SOUL  
12 p.m. - Christmas Party
- THURS, DEC 19    TAIZÉ WINTER SOLSTICE<sup>†</sup>  
7 p.m. - Service, Labyrinth walk, Gym
- SUN, DEC 22      FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT, *LIGHTING THE CANDLE OF PEACE*  
10 a.m. - Worship
- TUES, DEC 24    CHRISTMAS EVE  
5 p.m. - Family Service, Sanctuary  
9 p.m. - Candlelight Service, Sanctuary  
Christmas story, carols, candles, and choir

*Scan here for more  
information about  
Advent events*

<sup>†</sup>*RSVP for childcare*



## UPCOMING EVENTS

### **TODAY - COME SHOP THE ADVENT MARKET - 11:15 a.m., Gym**

Our Advent Market is today, and will help fund our outreach and benevolence for Three Angels in Haiti. Cash or credit cards are accepted. You set your price of what to give for our outreach (and your lovely purchases). Come browse and shop before and after church.

### **DEC 17 - RETIREMENT GROUP MEETING – 10 a.m., Parlor**

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

### **DEC 17 - FOOD FOR THE SOUL LUNCH GROUP - 12-1:30 p.m., Social Hall.**

Bring your own sack lunch. We will approach Christmas with fellowship, snacks & desserts as well as Christmas music provided by Pastor Jeff Carlson. Adults of all ages are invited to make new friends and reconnect with old ones through lunch, fun, and faith. Bring a friend or neighbor. Childcare provided. Sponsored by St. Pauls Social.

### **DEC 17 - HEALING HEARTS - ST PAULS PET LOSS SUPPORT GROUP - 7 p.m., Zoom**

Due to the holiday season, the meeting originally planned for Tuesday, December 24 has been moved to **Tuesday, December 17 at 7 p.m.** We'll still meet at our usual virtual location: [tinyurl.com/bd954sv5](https://tinyurl.com/bd954sv5). Please update your calendar! If you have questions or if this change affects your ability to attend, feel free to reach out to Nancy Curotto at [Petlosspsych@gmail.com](mailto:Petlosspsych@gmail.com). Thank you for your understanding and we look forward to seeing you on December 17th for a meaningful and supportive session together.

### **DEC 18 - COOKIE EXCHANGE - 9-11 a.m., Social Hall.**

If you like holiday cookies and a chance to hang out with other Little Lights parents, please come to our exchange. As you are able, please bring two dozen cookies to share. Toddler rooms available for play. Please contact Angi Miller with any questions at (802) 223-8955. Homemade, semi-homemade, and store bought treats are all welcome. We want to spend time with you, no matter your ability to share treats!

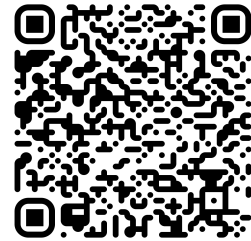
### **FEB 9, 2025 - NEW MEMBER CLASS – 11 a.m., Oscar Mayer Room**

Join pastors, members and others curious about St. Pauls for our next 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 other upcoming dates here: [spucc.org/new\\_member\\_classes](https://spucc.org/new_member_classes).

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### HURRICANE HELENE RELIEF EFFORTS - UCC RESPONSE

The United Church of Christ is responding to the devastation caused by Hurricane Helene, which has left more than 200 dead, millions without power, and damages exceeding \$140 billion. Several UCC congregations have suffered severe flood and wind damage.



St. Pauls Activism and Advocacy Ministry has voted unanimously to donate \$500 of their Council allocated budget to UCC Hurricane Relief funds. This contribution will help fund the relief efforts of the UCC for victims of both Hurricane Helene and Milton. The Ministry is encouraging members to contribute to this effort as an act of our faith for those whose lives have been seriously impacted by this tragedy. Together we can make a difference! Donations can be made online by scanning the QR code or by check to the National UCC. Thank you for your support.

### BIBLE OFF BROADWAY 2025 IS COMING!

Get your kids aged 3 to 18 ready to shine, because our in-service production of *"SHE-roes of the Bible"* will start rehearsals on Sunday, January 5, and run each Sunday through January 26, all in preparation for the always-inspiring February 2 annual BOB service. Whether your kids want to sing, dance, or play an instrument on stage or work behind the scenes, we hope all will participate.

**Watch for a parent survey in the coming week to capture your kids' interest in participating.**

### JOIN OUR INTERGENERATIONAL ORCHESTRA

Do you play an orchestral string, woodwind, brass, or percussion instrument? If so, please join the St. Pauls UCC Intergenerational Orchestra as we prepare to perform in worship on Sunday, March 16. Orchestra members range in age from 10 to 100! Rehearsals are immediately after church for about an hour in the Oscar Mayer Room on February 23, March 2 and March 9. If you are interested, please contact our conductor Mark Mosley at (773) 732-0625 or [mwmosley@gmail.com](mailto:mwmosley@gmail.com). Please join us as together we "Make a Joyful Sound in the City!"

**THANK YOU** to everyone who contributed to our annual gift drive for the youth at UCAN. Because of your generosity, St. Pauls donated 113 gifts this year! A special shoutout to the Activism and Advocacy Ministry for organizing this effort as part of their outreach mission. We also want to recognize Lovely Carter and Pauline Taylor for their amazing work coordinating the drive. Your dedication makes a real difference—thank you!

## **CHURCH SCHOOL REGISTRATION**

Please register your K-6<sup>th</sup> Sunday School students, 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade Confirmation students, and high school class members by scanning this QR code.



## **CHILDREN'S CHOIR**

Youth Choirs are in session! 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](mailto:burnett.db@gmail.com).

## **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](http://tinyurl.com/wuphf495).

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

Just before Thanksgiving, Community Renewal Society members traveled to Jerusalem to align against apartheid and occupation. One delegate shared, "What if the moment we've come to know is a myth? ... We can debate the details of the situation, but I'm cautious of a settlement history that solely centers on celebration. After recently returning from a sacred pilgrimage to Israel/Palestine, I am unashamedly suspicious of the stories we choose to tell and how we ourselves will be remembered... So the question becomes, *what will we choose to remember?*" Read his full reflection and consider his answers at [tinyurl.com/4m3nf6wr](http://tinyurl.com/4m3nf6wr).

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

At the Federal level, we are in for a rough ride with an attempt to roll back many conservation and green initiatives. We should neither feel dejected nor defeated. According to Jennifer L. Morris, CEO of the Nature Conservancy, 94% of voters in the United States support conservation initiatives. Indeed, nationally, 13 ballot initiatives related to climate and conservation representing \$18 billion were approved. One such initiative in Illinois will allocate more than \$500 million to conservation in forest preserves. This means that politically green initiatives will need greater local and regional emphasis and strategies. Those areas particularly of interest to voters are clean water, wildfire prevention and ecological resilience.

### **STEPHEN MINISTRY AT ST. PAULS**

Our Stephen Ministers are here for you if you are going through a tough time. Extensively trained in compassionate Christian caregiving, Stephen Ministers are matched confidentially with someone in our congregation who is going through a crisis, such as the death of a loved one, a diagnosis, a divorce, a job loss, etc. They meet with you once a week for an hour to offer support through listening, companionship and prayer. If you wonder whether having a Stephen Minister might be helpful for you, please speak with Pastor Jeff, [jcarlson@spucc.org](mailto:jcarlson@spucc.org). Every one of us could benefit from a Stephen Minister at some point in our lives.

### **BULLETIN ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Please send announcements for St. Pauls-sponsored events to [info@spucc.org](mailto:info@spucc.org) no later than 10 a.m. on Wednesdays, for publication in the Friday email and next Sunday bulletin. You are welcome to share personal announcements and other event invitations in our Facebook Group, St. Pauls Together.

**Please limit announcements to 100 words. Thank you!**

**St. Pauls UCC**  
**Giving Campaign 2025**  
October 27, 2024 - January 14, 2025

<b>\$1,000,000</b>
<b>\$950,000</b>
<b>\$900,000</b>
<b>\$800,000</b>
<b>\$700,000</b>
<b>\$600,000</b>
<b>\$500,000</b>
<b>\$400,000</b>
<b>\$300,000</b>
<b>\$200,000</b>
<b>\$100,000</b>

***Embrace, Nurture, Inspire***



## UPDATE ON 2025 PHASE II` CONSTRUCTION PLANS TO “EXPAND AND ELEVATE SAINT PAULS’ OPENNESS”

On October 20, our members unanimously and joyfully approved moving forward with Phase II of our long-awaited capital construction project. In disciplined planning and thoughtful review since 2016, the endorsed final work phase will make our entire public building complex more welcoming and fully accessible through the installation of a five-stop elevator and a beautiful open-air courtyard with a new north-end building access ramp.

Project general contractor Bulley & Andrews, St. Pauls owner’s rep Lorne Frank, and architect Larry Kearns have met regularly to lay out a work plan for 2025. To maximize efficiency and minimize costs, work on the exterior and interior will happen concurrently from March through early November. The planned schedule for the phases of work is summarized in the following table:

"CAMPAIGN TO EXPAND AND ELEVATE OUR OPENNESS"		
PHASE II CONSTRUCTION GENERAL WORK PLAN/APPROXIMATE TIMETABLE*		
MONTH OF 2025	INTERIOR WORK (NORTH END)	EXTERIOR WORK (COURTYARD)
January – March	Equipment and materials procurement Pre-construction asbestos abatement	
April	Interior site preparation North stairwell partial removal	Site preparation Current site demolition
May	Elevator shaft preparation Roof preparation for elevator top Masonry and roofing Elevator installation	Install tree bases Electrical Ramp construction Handrail installation
	North interior structural steel and deck work	
June		
July	North stairwell construction North interior frame-out	Pour and finish plaza base Landscape bed preparation
August		Install plaza pavers Install plaza steps
September		Plantings Asphalt patching, finishing Final site clean-up
	October	Interior flooring, tile, millwork, painting, and finishing
November	(Project completion if any delays in planned schedule)	
<b>*IMPORTANT DISCLAIMER:</b> As with any construction project of any size, timetables are approximations and subject to change/delay.		

Our project team has met with St. Pauls, Lighthouse Church, and Little Lights program staff members to ensure that all are aware of and can plan for/around the implications of all phases of the construction.

Watch for an all-congregation email containing a link to an inspirational virtual tour of the Phase II outcome.

We continue to be grateful for the faithful and generous support of the entire St. Pauls congregation that made Phase I and II of this bold project possible. Generations to come will benefit and thank you!

### **WELCOME TO ST. 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

We are happy to welcome the **St. Pauls Brass** to worship: Kris Hansen, Jim Brandt, Jake Nitzsche, trumpets; Tom Clancy, Rick Peterson, French horns; Nancy Pifer, tenor horn; Mark Swanson, Lorne Frank, trombones; and Lola Stevenson, bass trombone

***O Come, O Come Emmanuel*** is thought of as a Christmas carol, but its text definitely references the anticipation of Advent. The original Latin, VENI EMMANUEL, is an unattributed chant melody. This haunting arrangement by Brendan Henry is also included on the St. Arbucks seasonal recording, *Mid-Winter Gifts*. Please see the details on how to hear it in the announcements.

***There Was a Little Baby*** is a traditional children's carol arranged in 1983 by Raffi (b. 1948). He is an Armenian-Canadian lyricist who was born in Egypt. The Washington Post called him "the most popular children's singer in the English-speaking world." Nearly any parent of a young child born in the '80s or after can still sing at least one Raffi song they learned with their child.

***Once in Royal David's City*** became popular as the traditional opening carol of the *Festival of Lessons and Carols* broadcast each year from King's College Chapel at Cambridge in England. The text was composed in 1848, not long after the 1843 founding of our St. Pauls UCC, by Cecil Frances Alexander (1818-1895), the wife of the bishop of Ireland. She wrote many hymn texts specifically for children. The tune, IRBY, was composed in 1849 by Henry J. Gauntlett (1805-1876). Gauntlett became the organist at his father's church, and after beginning a career in law, gave it up to become a full-time church musician. He even held patents on organ mechanical parts.

The poetry for ***O Little Town of Bethlehem*** has a wonderful story. Phillips Brooks (1835-1893), an American, took a trip to Israel in 1865 at the close of the Civil War. Reverend Brooks spent Christmas 1866 in Bethlehem and, as a result of that visit, this poem poured forth in 1868. ST. LOUIS, which is the tune most Americans know, was also composed in 1868 by Louis Redner (1831-1908), a Sunday School superintendent in Philadelphia. It was composed the night before it was sung at his church and it is the only one for which he is remembered.

***Whatcha Gonna Call That Baby?*** was composed in 1999 by Phyllis Wolfe-White, who is on the faculty of Oakland University in Rochester, Michigan. She actually got her first work published as an undergraduate at the same institution. She has more than 100 titles published for children's voices. She holds Bachelors, Master's and Ph.D. degrees, all from Oakland. This cheerful setting uses Latin calypso rhythms to add to the joy.

***O Christmas Tree*** is also known by its original German title, *O Tannenbaum*. It was translated into English in 1926 by H. Breuckner (1866-1942). Breuckner was born in Iowa and died in rural Nebraska. He was a pastor and also on the faculty of Hebron College in Nebraska. The text models the evergreen pine to never fading faith. The tune, EVERGREEN, is a German folk song of unknown origin.

The composer, Mykola Leontovich (1877-1921), was a Ukrainian composer, conductor, ethnomusicologist, and teacher. Although he composed many works, ***The Carol of the Bells*** is his most performed work outside his homeland. He was assassinated by a Soviet agent in 1921. Peter J. Wilhousky (1902-1978) translated and made the most well-known arrangement in 1936. He was also of Ukrainian descent and wrote a famous arrangement of *Battle Hymn of the Republic*. The arranger for this version is Chicago-based Mark Dover.

***Angels We Have Heard on High*** is originally an 18th century French Noël (carol) freely translated by James Chadwick (1813-1882), an Irish Catholic priest. GLORIA is from the text of the joyfully cascading Latin refrain, which we sing as a Benediction Response after Christmas and during Epiphany.

The words for ***It Came Upon a Midnight Clear*** were written in 1849 by Edmund H. Sears (1810-1876). He was born in this country and moved to England in 1838. Ill health forced him to retire to a quiet life of literature. The text doesn't refer to Christmas at all in the eight original stanzas. Rather, it calls people out in the build-up towards the Civil War and recent conclusion of the Mexican-American War. The well-known music, CAROL, was composed in 1850 by Richard Storrs Willis (1819-1900). He was an American composer, particularly drawn to creating hymn tunes.

Theodore Baker (1851-1934) translated the original German into the English we love, ***Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming***. He was born in New York City and immigrated to Germany, where he spent the rest of his life. His famously created *Baker's Biographical Dictionary of Musicians* was first published in 1900. ES IST EIN' ROS was first published in 1599 in the *Cöln Gesangbuch*.

The text of ***In the Bleak Midwinter*** was composed by Christina Georgina Rossetti (1830-1894) in 1872. She was a prolific English poet. The tune, CRANHAM, is by Gustav Holst (1874-1934), who is best known as the composer of *The Planets*.

***Gospel Nativity Carol*** is an Edisto Island spiritual. Edisto Island is on the Atlantic coast near Charleston, South Carolina. Before our Civil War, enslaved Africans cultivated rice and cotton on large plantations. Craig Curry, who arranged this great spiritual in a Gospel style 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. He is currently Composer In Residence at Friends University in Wichita, Kansas.

***Good Christian Friends, Rejoice*** is a translation of the original Latin by John Mason Neale (1818-1886). He was born into an evangelical home, became an Anglican clergyman, but had real sympathies for Catholicism. IN DULCI JUBILO, which means “in sweet rejoicing,” is an early undated folk dance.

***Go Now in Peace*** was composed in 1976 by Natalie Sleeth (1930-1992), who 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 and received her musical training at Wellesley College where her husband was a professor of homiletics.

John Iveson (b. 1941), the arranger of ***A Carol Fantasy***, began his career in 1965 as co-principal trombone of the BBC Symphony Orchestra. He has held principal positions in major British orchestras and the Royal Opera House. He is also the principal trombonist with the renowned Philip Jones Brass Ensemble. He was also on the faculty of the Royal College of Music for more than 25 years.

# **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, during the past 181 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 LGBTQ+ people.

Welcome to each and to everyone.

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