

February 16, 2025

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

“You only get anywhere near the truth when all the easy things to say about God are dismantled, so that your image of God is no longer just a big projection of your own self-centered wish fulfillment fantasies.”

–Rowan Williams

PRELUDE

A Change is Gonna Come
St. Arbucks Quartet

Sam Cooke

I was born by the river
In a little tent
Oh, and just like the river, I've been running
Ever since

It's been a long
A long time coming, but I know
A change gon' come
Oh yes, it will

It's been too hard living
But I'm afraid to die
'Cause I don't know what's up there
Beyond the sky

It's been a long...

INTROIT

Jubilate Deo a 8
(Sung in Latin)
Alice Millar Chapel Choir
Stephen Alltop, conductor

Giovanni Gabrieli

Make a joyful sound to God,
all the earth.
Serve the Lord with gladness.
Enter his presence
with rejoicing.
Know that the Lord himself is God:
he himself made us,
and not we ourselves—
his people and the sheep of his
pasture.
Enter his gates with acknowledgement,
his courts with hymns.
Be thankful to him,
(and) praise his name,
for the Lord is gracious;
his mercy is forever,
and his truth till (every) generation
Psalm 100

CHIMES

WELCOME

Matt Fitzgerald

* WELCOMING EACH OTHER

* CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Put away your cares.

All: Redirect your worry!

One: God has not forsaken us.

All: God has not forgotten us!

One: Could a parent forget their own children?

All: Neither will God forget us.

One: God is with us!

All: We are not alone!

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

* HYMN

O God Beyond All Praising



1. O__ God be - yond all prais - ing, We wor - ship you to - day
2. The flower of earth - ly splen - dor, In time must sure - ly die,
3. Then hear, O gra - cious Sav - ior, Ac - cept the love we bring,



And sing the love a - maz - ing That songs can - not re - pay;
Its__ fra - gile bloom sur - ren - der To you, the Lord most high;
That we who know your fa - vor May serve you as our king;



For__ we can on - ly won - der At__ ev - 'ry gift you send,
But__ hid - den from all na - ture The e - ter - nal seed is sown
And__ wheth - er our to - mor - rows Be__ filled with good or ill,



At__ bless - ings with - out num - ber And mer - cies with - out end:
Though small in mor - tal sta - ture, To heav - ens gar - den grown;
We'll tri - umph through our sor - rows And rise to bless you still:



We__ lift our hearts be - fore__ you And wait up - on your word,
For__ Christ, your son, from hea - ven From death has set us free
To__ mar - vel at your beau - ty And glo - ry in your ways,



We__ hon - or and a - dore you, Our great and might - y Lord.
And through him you have giv - en The fi - nal vic - to - ry!
And make a joy - ful du - ty Our sac - ri - fice of praise.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

O God,

**We pretend to understand you,
but we don't even know ourselves.**

We try to impress others with our self-confidence.

In the process we hope to become our resumes.

Save us from such pretense,

that we might learn who we are through our trust in you,

through your love for us,

through your call to love.

Bind up our wounds,

forgive our sins,

make us yours.

Amen.

MOMENT OF SILENT PRAYER

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

RESPONSE

We Have Gathered Jesus Dear

v. 1

1. We have gath - ered, Je - sus dear, we have come to
 2. All our in - tel - lec - tual dreams come to noth - ing,
 3. Born of God, true light of light, Ho - ly Spir - it,

watch and lis - - ten. Fix our minds, our sens - es clear,
 fade at day - break. All our hope - ful plots and schemes,
 pure, un - fail - - ing: All our fac - ul - ties ex - cite,

to re - ceive your heaven - ly les - son. Please im - prove our
 start in pre - tense, end in heart - ache. Thought - ful speech, and
 ears and heart and mouth un - seal - ing: Then, through Je - sus'

con - cen - tra - tion: draw us in - to con - tem - pla - tion.
 ac - tive jus - tice, you ac - com - plish these with - in us.
 me - di - a - tion, God will hear our sup - pli - ca - tion.

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.*

ANTHEM

Hive of Frightened Bees
Alice Millar Chapel Choir
Kenneth He, piano

Andrea Ramsey

A Hope for Change

There is an ache in my chest from the emotions that swarm
like a hive of frightened bees.

There are tears in my eyes, as an imitation for the drops of blood shed in hatred. My
head is
stuffed with cotton, with thoughts I cannot comprehend,

So instead, I try to ignore.
I need to protect my family.
I need to protect my friends.
I need to protect my heart.

They say I am safe, but they cannot guarantee.

They cannot dig the hurt, the hatred in their souls, of those that wish to hurt

for revenge we cannot know.
No matter what we do, no matter what is said,

They always find a way.

They are blind towards the future, the past, and the present.

I hope one day we will change.

Original poem by Taylor Huntley

SCRIPTURE

Liz Kurman

1 Corinthians 15:12-20

Now if Christ is proclaimed as raised from the dead, how can some of you say there is no resurrection of the dead? If there is no resurrection of the dead, then Christ has not been raised; and if Christ has not been raised, then our proclamation has been in vain and your faith has been in vain. We are even found to be misrepresenting God, because we testified of God that he raised Christ--whom he did not raise if it is true that the dead are not raised. For if the dead are not raised, then Christ has not been raised. If Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile and you are still in your sins. Then those also who have died in Christ have perished. If for this life only we have hoped in Christ, we are of all people most to be pitied.

But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who have died.

* 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

We Have Gathered Jesus Dear
See previous hymn

vv. 2 & 3

SERMON

“The Wisdom of Not Thinking”

Matt Fitzgerald

* HYMN

We Limit Not the Truth of God

1. We lim - it not the truth of God to our poor reach of mind,
2. Who dares to bind to one's own sense the or - a - cles of heaven,
3. E - ter - nal God, In - car - nate Word, Spir - it of flame and dove:

to no - tions of our day and place, crude, par - tial, and con - fined:
for all the na - tions, tongues, and climes and all the a - ges given?
en - large, ex - pand all liv - ing souls to com - pre - hend your love;

No, let a new and bet - ter hope with - in our hearts be stirred:
That u - ni - verse, how much un - known? that o - cean un - ex - plored!
And help us all to seek your will with wis - er powers con - ferred:

O God, grant yet more light and truth to break forth from your Word.

OFFERTORY

Adoramus te, Christe
(Sung in Latin)
Alice Millar Chapel Choir

Claudio Monteverdi

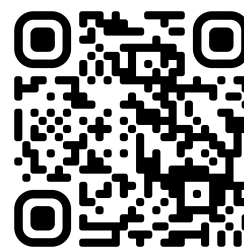
We adore you, O Christ,
and we bless you.
For by your holy Cross
you redeemed the world.
Lord, have mercy on us

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

Musical notation for the Festival Doxology, consisting of four staves of music in G minor (one flat) and 3/4 time. The lyrics are written below the notes.

Praise God from whom all bless-ings flow; Praise God all crea-tures here be - low;
Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia! Praise God a - bove, ye heav'n - ly host:
Cre - a - tor, Christ, and Ho - ly Ghost; Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia,
Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia! A - men.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

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

My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less

1. My hope is built on noth - ing less than Je - sus' love and
2. When shad - ows veil my Sav - ior's face, I rest up - on un -
3. Christ's oath and cov - e - nant and blood sup - port me in the
4. When Christ shall come with trum - pet sound, oh, may I then in

righ - teous - ness; I dare not trust this earth - ly frame, but
chang - ing grace; In ev - ery high and storm - y gale, my
ris - ing flood; When all a - round my soul gives way, Christ
Love be found, Dressed in God's righ - teous - ness a - lone, fault -

whol - ly lean on Je - sus' name.
an - chor holds with - in the veil. *On Christ, the sol - id Rock, I stand;*
then is all my hope and stay.
less to stand be - fore the throne.

all oth - er ground is sink - ing sand, all oth - er ground is sink - ing sand.

* BENEDICTION

* BENEDICTION RESPONSE

The Lord Bless You and Keep You Peter Christian Lutkin
Alice Millar Chapel Choir
and
St. Pauls Chancel Choir

The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make his face to shine upon you,
And be gracious unto you.
The Lord lift up the light of his countenance upon you,
And give you peace.
Amen.
Numbers 6: 24-26

POSTLUDE

Grand Dialogue Louis Marchand
Stephen Alltop, organ

We are very pleased to welcome our guest choir from Northwestern University's Alice Millar Chapel. Their conductor and our organist today is **Stephen Alltop**. Dr. Alltop and Kurt Hansen team-taught an annual course in Oratorio Repertoire, which he continues to teach. He also directs the Baroque Music Ensemble at Northwestern. Professionally, he is Music Director of the Apollo Chorus, Elmhurst Symphony Orchestra, and the Champaign-Urbana Symphony Orchestra. A personal note: Kurt and Terry Hansen met in the Alice Millar Chapel Choir.

TODAY'S WORSHIP LEADERS

Clergy: Matt Fitzgerald

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: Liz Kurman

Head Usher: Beatrice Jaji

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

Greeters: Elaine Filus, Mercedes Ridao

Gatekeeper: Dodd Brown

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

Custodian: Ramiro Gonzalez

Pastor Liz is away for President's Day weekend and will be back in the office on Tuesday, February 18th. Pastor Jeff is taking some vacation days and will return for worship on Sunday, February 23rd.

FLOWERS ON THE ALTAR are given by Susan Lloyd in celebration and remembrance of Rebecca Blank.

Would you like to donate altar flowers? Sign up here: tinyurl.com/4w6fu5js.

BORN THIS WEEK IN FEBRUARY

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.

Feb. 16 Brian Hafner, Graham Hicks, Julia Ehrhardt

Feb. 17 Alex Doty

Feb. 18 Ryan Holzrichter, Wayne Parman

Feb. 19 Simon Baurer

Feb. 20 Sonya Brizzolara, Sophia Riportella

Feb. 21 Albert Ettinger, Andrew Dickson, Jen Luerksen, Richard Koldyke

Feb. 22 Jeff Braun, Nathan Cata

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.

- Doug Dunham and family at the death of his mother, Jane.
- Karen L. Johnson, recovering from a fall.
- Sally Acker, recovering from a fall.
- Christa Hamilton at the death of her father.
- David Folkes at the death of his daughter, Sarah Philomena.
- Loved ones of Rachel Joyce at her death.
- Marcia Knudson, as she begins treatment for lung cancer.
- Sabrina Brancaccio, sister-in-law of Terry Hansen, for cancer diagnosis.
- Char Damron asks for prayers for Vicki Kendall and her family following Vicki's recent surgery.
- Wayne Bradley, recovering from surgery.
- Bob Ball's brother, Phill, being treated for complications associated with leukemia, and Jane, who is Phill's primary caregiver.
- Cheryl Kennedy at the death of Bill Kennedy.

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 - SACK LUNCH MAKING FOR LPCS SHELTER - 11 a.m., Kitchen

Make a difference by joining us after worship in the church kitchen today and on Sunday, March 16, as we prepare brown bag lunches for clients at the Lincoln Park Community Services shelter. Learn more about the shelter at www.lpcschicago.org. We'll begin right after worship (around 11 a.m.) and deliver the lunches to their location at 600 W. Fullerton. We will provide all the food needed, but volunteers are asked to donate \$25 (cash or via Venmo/Zelle) to help cover the cost of the lunches. To sign up, please visit tinyurl.com/2v92p898. If you have questions or need more information, please email Mark Pellegrino at jjmarkp@yahoo.com.

FEB 18 - DRAFT 2025 BUDGET REVIEW: CONGREGATION INPUT - 7 p.m., Zoom

The St. Pauls Giving and Finance Ministry is hosting a virtual conversation for church members about the draft 2025 budget this Tuesday, February 18 at 7 p.m. This is your opportunity to provide input on budget priorities before the Council meeting on February 24. **Members can join the virtual meeting at tinyurl.com/7x4yh8s8 using passcode: 121744.** Contact St. Pauls Treasurer, Allen Heinemann, for more information at Treasurer@SPUCC.org.

FEB 21 - FAMILY FONDUE NIGHT (REGISTRATION REQUIRED)- 6-8:30 p.m., OMR

Families + Fun + Fondue = Friday, February 21! Join St. Pauls families of all ages for a night of fellowship! Fondue (cheese and chocolate) will be served for dinner, the nursery will be open for little ones, and kids will have activities in both the gym and the Youth Lounge. This event is free, but please sign up by February 16 to secure your spot. Register here: tinyurl.com/mrb3xwt4.

FEB 21 - ST. PAULS SOCIAL WHISKEY TASTING - 7 p.m., Parlor

Join St. Pauls Adult Social and host Todd Coe for a whiskey tasting. Todd will walk us through the sights, smells and tastes of several different whiskeys and discuss what to look for when shopping for a bottle of your own. Please bring a snack to share. Todd is generously donating the whiskeys, but a \$10 donation that will go toward the Migrant Housing Project–Legal Fund is requested. Please RSVP here by Friday, February 14: tinyurl.com/2ybfan52. The event is limited to the first 20 registered attendees.

FEB 22 - POLO OPEN GYM & LITTLE LIGHTS OPEN HOUSE - 9:30-11:30 a.m.

Looking for a place to get those wiggles out on a Saturday morning? Drop in at St. Pauls for some free play in the gym! Mini-bounce house, coffee & snacks provided. Little Lights classrooms open to visit and learn about our program. Bring a friend! Open to the community. Questions? Reach out to Erin Fitzgerald at littlelights@spucc.org.

FEB 25 - FOOD FOR THE SOUL GROUP - 12-1:30 p.m., Gym

Labyrinth Walk. 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. Please bring your own lunch. Childcare provided. Sponsored by St. Pauls Social.

FEB 26 - BIBLE STUDY: THE GOSPEL OF JOHN - 12 p.m., Zoom

John's stories and images have captured the imaginations of Christians in every generation. It's very different from the three other "Synoptic" Gospels in the New Testament, with material all its own. It depicts Jesus as the Good Shepherd, the Bread of Life and the Light of the World, always shining in whatever darkness may come. Led by Pastor Jeff, we meet weekly at noon over Zoom. Sign up here: tinyurl.com/bdzytb33

FEB 27 - MOMS' GROUP - Thursdays, 9:15-10:15 a.m., Youth Lounge

New weekday Moms' group meets at St. Pauls once per month on Thursdays from 9:15-10:15 a.m. on February 27, March 20, April 24 and May 22. Being a mom is the hardest job in the world! So come meet other moms, make new friends, learn from each other, get advice, pray, and get renewed! Each month has a relevant theme on an issue you face as a mom. Free professional childcare is available. Babies can stay with their moms. RSVP to lnickerson@spucc.org.

MAR 4 - MARDI GRAS FAMILY POTLUCK - 5-6:30 p.m., Oscar Mayer Room

Save the date for a Fat Tuesday feast! Bring a dish/beverage to share. Attire: purple, green, gold, casual, or costume. Fellowship, fun, and food - open to all! Point of contact: Erin Fitzgerald erin.fitzgerald@spucc.org.

MAR 9 - PRE-ANNUAL MEETING BUDGET REVIEW -11 a.m., Room 028 (Old Confirmation Room)

Join us after worship on Sunday, March 9, for a deeper dive into St. Pauls finances. Treasurer Allen Heinemann and the Finance Committee will present an overview and be available to answer your questions.

MAR 16 - ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING - 11:15 a.m., Sanctuary

Please plan to attend the Annual Meeting of the Congregation after worship on Sunday, March 16. We will vote on the 2025 budget and learn about the activities of 2024 and plans going into 2025.

MAR 16 - BLOOD DRIVE - 8 a.m., Oscar Mayer Room and Gym

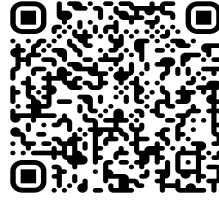
Save the Date to save more lives! Saint Pauls will be sponsoring another blood drive on March 16 and hope you can sign up to donate! And bring friends! Appointments are encouraged. Your life-saving gift of blood can save up to THREE lives! The need for blood is constant and only volunteer donors can fulfill that need for patients in our community. Nationwide, someone needs a unit of blood every 2 to 3 seconds and most of us will need blood in our lifetime. Sign up in advance by reserving a time slot via the QR code:



ANNOUNCEMENTS

NEW! OPT-IN TO TEXTING FROM SAINT PAULS

Want to receive reminders and announcements via text?
Simply scan the QR code and fill out the form!



BIBLE OFF BROADWAY GRATITUDE

Infinite thanks go to everyone who contributed to the Bible Off Broadway production of *SHE-roes of the Bible*! We thank the marvelous youthful SHE-roes and narrators, the supporting cast, and the many other youthful players from age 3 to 18 who sang and danced so wonderfully, the adult group leaders who coached and choreographed (and coerced) the many groups, the musicians and videographers and sound team, the parents/grandparents/friends who shepherded the kids to rehearsals and provided snacks, and especially the BOB leadership team who led the entire process from conception to delivery! Thanks also to the church pastors, staff, and Council who support, fund, and facilitate this multi-decade effort with such enthusiasm. Nearly 500 service attendees who watched in person or online were entertained, enlightened and inspired!

LOSS AND GRIEVING DISCUSSION GROUP

Some St. Pauls members and friends are exploring the possibility of starting a group that would meet twice a month to talk about our losses and our grieving processes. These might include both recent losses and older losses that continue to run their course. This will not be a therapy group, but a source of mutual non-professional support, although we could also invite guest experts to speak to us if the group wanted. If you'd like to explore this possibility, please email Pam Woll at pamelawoll3333@gmail.com.

WINDY CITY WINDS CONCERT - MARCH 14

Come hear Windy City Winds, "Chicago's Community Band," in a free concert Friday, March 14 at 7:30 p.m. at St. Pauls UCC (also live-streamed at spucc.org/streaming). The program theme is "Looking Upward: Music Inspired by Stars and Planets," featuring music by Gustav Holst, John Philip Sousa, John Williams and two contemporary composers. Dr. Kevin Geraldi, director of bands at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, will be the guest conductor. The event will also include the band's annual raffle where audience members can win fabulous prizes! Windy City Winds is a 60-piece symphonic band conducted by Mark Mosley and Sarah Good Mosley.

JUMPSTART GYM – JANUARY 7-MARCH 19

Parents/Caregivers supervise children ages 0-3 in an open-ended environment. Take advantage of our beautiful full-size gym while it's cold outside and your little one needs a place to get those wiggles out! Jumpstart Gym continues on Tuesday and Wednesday mornings from 9-9:45 a.m. through March 19. Register here: <https://tinyurl.com/3hnt2rijw>. Reach out to Erin Fitzgerald at littlelights@spucc.org if you have any questions. Thank you!

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. Please join us as together we "Make a Joyful Sound in the City!"

NEW SMALL GROUPS! SHORT CIRCLES: REGISTER TODAY

Short Circles are small groups for people who want to experience growth in their spiritual lives. In circles of 6-8 people, we will connect to God and one another. We will meet for 50-60 minutes once a week for six weeks beginning in early February. Each week, your Short Circle will focus on a few short verses of scripture using the ancient method of "lectio divina" or "spiritual reading." The aim is for you to discover what God is calling you to do or to become in 2025. Upon registration, you will indicate whether you prefer to meet in person or via Zoom, along with your day/evening preferences. Register here: tinyurl.com/mry4acbf

CHURCH SCHOOL REGISTRATION

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



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.

CREATION CORNER - provided by Green Team

Keeping the Faith

“God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. Therefore, will not we fear, though the earth be removed, and though the mountains be carried into the midst of the sea...” Psalm 46, vv. 1-2, King James

Project 2025 calls for “a whole-of-government unwinding” of the nation’s environmental laws and eliminating and/or diminishing FEMA, NOAA, and the EPA.

We are not bystanders, there are many ways to fight back:

- In our own lives, we can buy purposefully, watching our carbon footprints, as we repurpose and recycle.
- We can support regional and city initiatives for better recycling and clean air and water.
- We can financially support ecological organizations, particularly with their legal initiatives.

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. Every one of us could benefit from a Stephen Minister at some point in our lives.

BULLETIN ANNOUNCEMENTS

For St. Pauls-sponsored events, send to info@spucc.org by 10 a.m. on Wednesdays for publication in the Friday email and next Sunday bulletin. Share personal announcements/ events on our Facebook group page, St. Pauls Together. **Please limit announcements to 100 words.** Thank you!

St. Pauls UCC

Giving Campaign 2025

October 27, 2024 - January 14, 2025

Grand Total: **\$1,024,478.14**

\$1,000,000
\$950,000
\$900,000
\$800,000
\$700,000
\$600,000
\$500,000
\$400,000
\$300,000
\$200,000
\$100,000

Embrace, Nurture, Inspire

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

Singer-songwriter Sam Cooke (1941-1964) composed *A Change Is Gonna Come* in 1963. It was released on his album *Ain't That Good News* in February 1964. The song was inspired by events in Cooke's life, notably when he, his wife and friends were turned away from a Whites-only hotel in Louisiana. Sadly, Cooke was shot and killed at a motel in December 1964 in an incident that today would have raised questions regarding race vs. protection of property.

Jubilate Deo a 8, composed by Giovanni Gabrieli (1567-1612), a Venetian by birth, is closely associated with the Basilica of San Marco. His uncle, Andreas Gabrieli (c. 1532-1585), served as organist at San Marco and also as Giovanni's principal teacher. Following his uncle's death, Giovanni became organist at the Basilica and greatly advanced the long-renowned practice of music within its gilded walls. Andreas and Giovanni Gabrieli helped promulgate the polychoral style of sacred music that featured multiple choirs of voices and instruments. This Venetian style influenced many composers of the time, making its way to Germany in the music of Heinrich Schütz, Michael Praetorius and Hans Leo Hassler. The composition *Jubilate Deo* is in eight voices and is a shining example of contrapuntal mastery and sensitive evocation of the text.

O God Beyond All Praising is by Gustav Holst (1874–1934). The tune is called THAXTED, which is the main theme of the Jupiter movement from Holst's *The Planets*. It is truly a majestic hymn. Thaxted is the village where Holst grew up. Ralph Vaughan Williams adapted *Thaxted* as a hymn. The author of our text is Michael A. Perry (1942–1996). He began studies as a physicist and changed to theology.

Tobias Clausnitzer (c. 1619–1684) wrote the original German text in 1663 for *We Have Gathered Jesus Dear*. He became a chaplain to a Swedish regiment and was later Kapellmeister at St. Thomaskirche in Leipzig, the church that Bach would eventually serve. The English translation was made by Madeleine Forell Marshall (b. 1946). A respected academic who began her studies at St. Olaf College, she is now on the faculty of the Claremont School of Theology in California. The tune, LIEBSTER JESU, was composed in 1664 by Johann Rodolf Ahle (1625–1673). Educated at Erfurt University, he was well known as an organist, but beyond that little is known about his life.

The Chapel Choir performed ***Hive of Frightened Bees*** as part of a concert on October 27, 2025 that addressed the scourge of gun violence in our country. The text to *A Hive of Frightened Bees* was adapted from the poem “A Hope for Change” by Taylor Huntley. Huntley was a student at Arvada West High School in Arvada, Colorado, when the news broke of the school shooting in Parkland, Florida. During the same week, there was a threat written in one of the bathrooms at her own school. Rattled by the news and her own school’s situation, Taylor took the opportunity to express her feelings in a poem as part of her English class. Her choir director, Chris Maunu, shared the poem on social media where I discovered it and reached out about the possibility of setting an adaptation of it. This soon evolved into a commission and a collaboration, resulting in the final work presented here. The music is shaped with the hope of honoring Taylor’s words while also reshaping them slightly – adding breathing and heartbeats to elicit those feelings of panic, fear, and anxiety that so many American students live with on a daily basis in our era of recurring mass school shootings. –Andrea Ramsey

The text for ***We Limit Not the Truth of God*** was authored by George Rawson (1807–1889). He was born in Leeds, England, and became a lay minister in the Congregational Church. Professionally a solicitor, he penned more than 40 hymn texts. *OLD 22nd* is an unattributed hymn from the *Anglo-Genevan Psalter* of 1556. The number 22 means that the tune was used to set Psalm 22 in the Psalter.

Claudio Monteverdi (1567-1643), the composer of ***Adoramus te, Christe***, holds the unrivaled position as the most important Italian composer of the 17th century. His achievements steered the course of music in ways and directions still felt today. *Adoramus te, Christe, SV289*, is a six-voice motet published in 1620 as part of a collection assembled by Giulio Cesare Bianchi (1590-1661). Bianchi had known Monteverdi in Mantua where the latter served the Duke of Mantua. This setting is notable for its mood of great reverence and the dialogue Monteverdi creates between the upper and lower voices.

The text for ***My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less*** was written in 1834 by Edward Mote (1797–1874). British-born Mote wrote a number of hymn texts after a spiritual awakening as a result of the preaching of an evangelical preacher. He also authored a number of Christian pamphlets. *SOLID ROCK* was composed in 1863 by the prolific hymn writer William Bradbury (1816–1868) who was raised on his father’s farm in Maine. He developed a love for music as a child and by age 15 began playing the organ in church. Among the best known of his hymns is the children’s hymn, *Jesus Loves Me, This I Know*.

The Lord Bless You and Keep You was composed in 1900 by Peter Christian Lutkin, (1858–1931). He was the founder and first Dean of the School of Music at Northwestern University in 1895. He was organist at St. Clement’s Church, as well as one of the founders of the American Guild of Organists. Along with F. Melius Christiansen at St. Olaf College, Lutkin was one of the leaders of the American *a capella* choral movement in the early part of the 20th century. Kurt R. Hansen’s maternal grandfather, John Mahard Rosborough, received his Bachelor of Music degree in 1905 at Northwestern under Dean Lutkin and was his first accompanist. This benediction was composed while Kurt’s grandfather was a student of Lutkin. The text is known as “the priestly benediction.” These are the words Moses was commanded to use when blessing Aaron and his sons before the completion of the tabernacle.

Grand Dialogue was composed by Louis Marchand (1669-1732), a French organist and harpsichord player. Born into a family of organists and considered a prodigy, he became one of only four organists for the king of France. In a colorful side note, there was a musical duel arranged in 1717 in Dresden between Bach and Marchand. The court in Dresden had offered a substantial monetary prize to the winner. The day of the contest people arrived, Bach arrived, but no Marchand. He evidently fled Dresden having heard of Bach’s musical prowess. The duel never took place.

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!

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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.

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