

February 9, 2025

Communion

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

"Easy utterance travesties God's majesty."

Avivah Zornberg

PRELUDE

*Intrada*

John Ireland

Kevin Dzierzawski, organ

CHIMES

INTROIT

*Here, O My Lord, I See Thee Face to Face*

Chancel Choir

WELCOME

Matt Fitzgerald

\* WELCOMING EACH OTHER

\* CALL TO WORSHIP (based on Psalm 46)

One: God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.

**All: We stand fearless at the cliff-edge,  
courageous in seastorm and earthquake**

One: Though the earth should change, though mountains tremble  
in the heart of the sea:

**All: Be still and know that I am God! I break weapons across my knee!**

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

\* HYMN

*To You, O God, All Creatures Sing*



1. To you O God, all crea - tures sing, and all cre - a - tion, ev - ery -
2. Your wind that blows the tem - pest by, your clouds that sail a - cross the
3. Your flow - ing wa - ters, crys - tal clear; make mel - o - dies for you to
4. To you, O God, day af - ter day, your plan - et earth in ev - ery
5. Now we who are of ten - der heart, for - giv - ing oth - ers, take our



- thing sings your prais - es, al - le - lu - ia! Your burn - ing sun with gold - en  
sky sing your prais - es, al - le - lu - ia! Your morn - ing ris - es with a  
hear, sing your prais - es, al - le - lu - ia! Your fire, — boun - ti - ful and  
way, sings your prais - es, al - le - lu - ia, As sa - vory fruit and fra - grant  
part, sing your prais - es, al - le - lu - ia! To you we lift our pain and



beam, your sil - ver moon with soft - er gleam sing your prais - es,  
song, and lights of eve - ning sing a - long, sing your prais - es,  
bright, re - mem - bering your warmth and light, sings your prais - es,  
flower show forth your glo - ry and your power, sing - ing prais - es,  
care, re - ceive the bur - dens that we bear, sing - ing prais - es,



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le lu - ia!

CELEBRATION OF THE SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

Jeff Carlson

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**O God,**

**You know what kind of people we are.**

**We cannot hide our hardened hearts,**

**our selfish thoughts,**

**our casual cruelties.**

**Nor can we deny the pain they have caused.**

**So, we come before you**

**relying on your promise that Jesus**

**will melt our hearts and free our minds.**

**We cannot save ourselves.**

**We cannot even change ourselves.**

**You can change us. You can save us.**

**You can do what we cannot do!**

**You will do it!**

**We believe that you will do it!**

**Not because we are good,**

**But because you are.**

**Save us! Change us!**

**Amen.**

MOMENT OF SILENT PRAYER

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

WORDS OF INSTITUTION & PRAYER OF CONSECRATION

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.**

## SERVING OF THE BREAD AND CUP

*Please come forward for communion.*

*Take the bread and eat it. Then take the cup and drink.*

*Deposit the cups in the baskets on the way back to your seat.*

*The outer ring of cups contains grape juice. The inner rings contain wine.*

*A gluten-free bread option is wrapped and available on a separate tray.*

*Return to your seat by the side aisles.*

*All are welcome to take part in communion.*

### \* PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

**O God, you are above our politics, and beyond our understanding.**

**And yet, you come to us in this feast, to know and to be known.**

**Our gratitude is beyond words. Amen.**

*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.*

### \* COMMUNION HYMN

*Let Us Break Bread Together*

verse 1



1. Let us break bread to - geth - er on our knees; \_\_\_\_\_  
2. Let us drink wine to - geth - er on our knees; \_\_\_\_\_  
3. Let us praise God to - geth - er on our knees; \_\_\_\_\_



Let us break bread to - geth - er on our knees. \_\_\_\_\_  
Let us drink wine to - geth - er on our knees. \_\_\_\_\_  
Let us praise God to - geth - er on our knees. \_\_\_\_\_



When I fall on my knees, with my face to the ris - ing sun,



O Lord, have mer - cy on me.

SCRIPTURE

Mark Sancya

*Isaiah 6:1-10*

In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord sitting on a throne, high and lofty, and the hem of his robe filled the temple. Seraphs were in attendance above him; each had six wings: with two they covered their faces, and with two they covered their feet, and with two they flew. And one called to another and said,

“Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts;  
the whole earth is full of his glory.”

The pivots on the thresholds shook at the voices of those who called, and the house filled with smoke. And I said,

“Woe is me! I am lost, I am as good as dead.  
Every word I’ve ever spoken is tainted - blasphemous even!  
and the people I live with talk the same way,  
using words that corrupt and desecrate,  
yet my eyes have seen the King, the Lord of hosts!”

Then one of the angel-seraphs flew to me, holding a live coal that had been taken from the altar with a pair of tongs. He touched my mouth with it and said,

“Now that this has touched your lips, your guilt has departed and your sin is blotted out.” Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, “Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?” And I said, “Here am I; send me!”

And he said, “Go and say to this people:

‘Keep listening, but do not comprehend;  
keep looking, but do not understand.’  
Make the mind of this people dull,  
and stop their ears,  
and shut their eyes,  
so that they may not look with their eyes  
and listen with their ears  
and comprehend with their minds  
and yes, so they won’t turn around  
and be made whole.”

\* 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)*

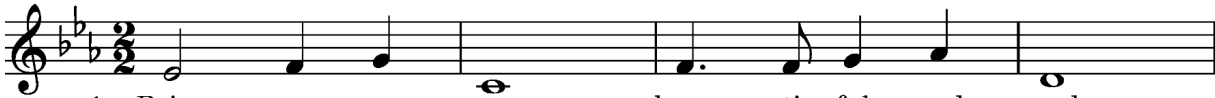
\* RESPONSE

*Let Us Break Bread Together*  
See previous hymn

verses 2 & 3

\* HYMN

*Bring Many Names*



1. Bring man - y names, beau - ti - ful and good,  
 2. Strong moth - er God, work - ing night and day,  
 3. Warm fa - ther God, hug - ging ev - ery child,  
 4. Old, ach - ing God, grey with end - less care,  
 5. Young, grow - ing God, ea - ger, on the move,  
 6. Great, liv - ing God, nev - er ful - ly known,



cel - e - brate, in par - a - ble and sto - ry, ho - li -  
 plan - ning all the won - ders of cre - a - tion, set - ting  
 feel - ing all the strains of hu - man liv - ing, car - ing  
 calm - ly pierc - ing e - vil's new dis - guis - es, glad of  
 say - ing no to false - hood and un - kind - ness, cry - ing  
 joy - ful dark - ness far be - yond our see - ing, clos - er



-ness in glo - ry, liv - ing, lov - ing God.  
 each e - qua - tion, gen - i - us at play:  
 and for - giv - ing till we're rec - on - ciled:  
 good sur - pris - es, wis - er than de - spair:  
 out for jus - tice, giv - ing all you have:  
 yet than breath - ing, ev - er - last - ing home:



Hail and Ho - san - na! bring man - y names!  
 Hail and Ho - san - na, strong moth - er God!  
 Hail and Ho - san - na, warm fa - ther God!  
 Hail and Ho - san - na, old, ach - ing God!  
 Hail and Ho - san - na, young, grow - ing God!  
 Hail and Ho - san - na,

great, liv - ing God!



OFFERTORY

*Ninye otpushaiyeshi*  
(Sung in Old Church Slavonic)

Alexander Grechaninov

*Gloria Patri*  
Chancel Choir

George Matterling

Now let thy servant depart in peace, O Lord, according to thy word.  
For my eyes have seen thy salvation,  
Which thou has prepared before the face of all peoples.  
A light as revelation to the Gentiles, and a glory of thy people Israel.  
*Luke 2:29-32*

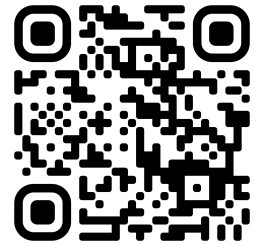
Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;  
As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be,  
World without end. Amen  
*Response after the Gospel in western liturgy*

*You can give to St. Pauls electronically:*

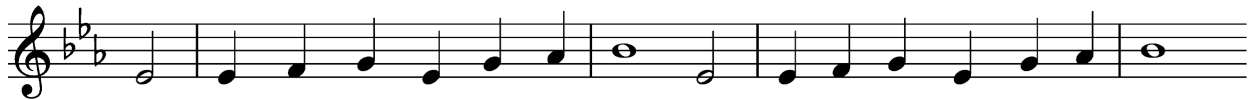
*Scan this code with your cell phone camera,*

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

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



\* FESTIVAL DOXOLOGY



Praise God from whom all 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.

\* HYMN

*Battle Hymn of the Republic*



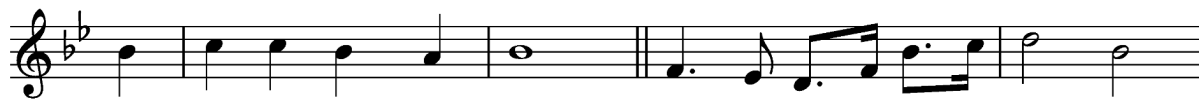
1. Mine eyes have seen the glo - ry of the com - ing of the Lord;  
2. I have seen him in the watch - fires of a hun - dred cir - cling camps;  
3. He has sound - ed forth the trum - pet that shall nev - er call re - treat;  
4. In the beau - ty of the lil - ies Christ was born a - cross the sea,



He is tram - pling out the vin - tage where the grapes of wrath are stored;  
They have build - ed him an al - tar in the eve - ning dews and damps;  
He is sift - ing out the hearts of all be - fore the judg - ment seat;  
With a glo - ry in his bos - om that trans - fig - ures you and me;



He has loosed the fate - ful light - ning of his ter - ri - ble swift sword;  
I can read his righ - teous sen - tence by the dim and flar - ing lamps,  
O be swift, my soul, to an - swer him; be ju - bi - lant, my feet!  
As he died to make all ho - ly, let us live to make all free!



His truth is march - ing on.  
His day is march - ing on.                      Glo - ry, glo - ry, hal - le - lu - jah!  
Our God is march - ing on.  
While God is march - ing on.



Glo - ry, glo - ry, hal - le - lu - jah!                      Glo - ry, glo - ry, hal - le -



- lu - jah! God's truth is march - ing on.

\* BENEDICTION

\* BENEDICTION RESPONSE

*Gloria Patri*  
Chancel Choir

George Matterling

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;  
As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be,  
World without end. Amen

POSTLUDE

*I Wish I Knew How It Would Feel to Be Free*  
St. Arbucks Quartet

Billy Taylor

## TODAY'S WORSHIP LEADERS

**Clergy:** Matt Fitzgerald, Jeff Carlson

**Music Director:** Kurt R. Hansen

**Organist:** Kevin Dzierzawski

**St. Arbucks Quartet:** Brendan Henry, piano; Alex Austin, bass; Matt Plaskota, drums; Kris Hansen, trumpet & vocals

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

**Communion Coordinator:** Jana O'Brien

**Communion Servers:** Nancy Godinez, Jen Kew

**Scripture Reader:** Mark Sancya

**Acolytes:** Adrian Broderick, Charlotte Crouch

**Head Usher:** Beatrice Jaji

**Ushers:** David Baker, Doug Clark

**Gatekeeper:** Dodd Brown

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

**Custodian:** Ramiro Gonzalez

*Would you like to donate altar flowers? Sign up here: [tinyurl.com/4w6fu5js](http://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. 9 Bruce Reider

Feb. 10 Becky Kornick, Cameron Rogers, Jack Sancya, Jan Bail, Melinda Schrimpf, Wes Gudonis

Feb. 11 Joshua Badanes

Feb. 12 Bobbi Gannello, Iise Wiebe, Jim Brandt, Linda Loving

Feb. 13 Dana Peterson Harrits

Feb. 14 Harrison Rodriguez, Natalie Cramb

Feb. 15 Michelle Drew Rodriguez

## **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.*

- 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 - NEW MEMBER CLASS** – 11 a.m., Room 210 (Confirmation Room)

Join pastors, members and others curious about St. Pauls for today's 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. See other upcoming dates here: [spucc.org/new\\_member\\_classes](http://spucc.org/new_member_classes).

### **FEB 12 - 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](http://tinyurl.com/bdzytb33)

### **FEB 16 - GUEST CHOIR IN WORSHIP FROM NORTHWESTERN**

Next Sunday, we will welcome the Alice Millar Chapel Choir and their Organist-Choir Master Dr. Stephen Alltop from Northwestern University. They will share their music throughout the service and our Chancel Choir will join them for the benediction response.

### **FEB 16 - SACK LUNCH MAKING FOR LPCS SHELTER** - 11 a.m., Kitchen

Make a difference by joining us after worship in the church kitchen on Sundays, January 19, February 16 and 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](http://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](http://tinyurl.com/2v92p898). If you have questions or need more information, please email Mark Pellegrino at [jjmarkp@yahoo.com](mailto:jjmarkp@yahoo.com).

### **FEB 21 - FAMILY FONDUE NIGHT** - 6-8:30 p.m., Oscar Mayer Room

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 in the Oscar Mayer Room, 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 18 to secure your spot. Register here: [tinyurl.com/mrb3xwt4](http://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](https://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](mailto:littlelights@spucc.org).

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

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 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](mailto:lnickerson@spucc.org).

**MAR 9 - PRE-ANNUAL MEETING BUDGET REVIEW** -11 a.m., Location TBD

Join us on Sunday, March 9, after worship 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 - BLOOD DRIVE** - 8 a.m., Oscar Mayer Room and Gym

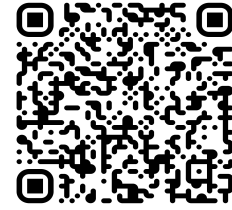
Save the Date to save more lives! Saint Pauls will be sponsoring another blood drive on March 16th and hope you can sign up to donate! And bring friends! Appointments are encouraged. Your life-saving gift of blood can save up to THREE lives! The need for blood is constant and only volunteer donors can 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!



### 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](https://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 Gerald, 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/3hnt2rjw>. Reach out to Erin Fitzgerald at [littlelights@spucc.org](mailto:littlelights@spucc.org) if you have any questions. Thank you!

### FAITH AND ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE – THE NEW BOOK GROUP

Artificial Intelligence raises important questions for Christians. If you are interested in how faith and technology intersect, our new book group is for you. Join Pastor Matt, Helen Chang and others for two sessions to discuss *God, Human, Animal, Machine* by essayist Megan O’Gieblyn. The New York Times calls the book “A rigorously thoughtful collection of meditations on technology, humanity and religion, and crucially, a memoir.” Meetings will be in late January and February, dates will be determined once registration is complete. Register here: [tinyurl.com/ms5wuwma](https://tinyurl.com/ms5wuwma).

### 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!”

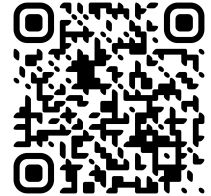


### **NEW SMALL GROUPS! SHORT CIRCLES: REGISTER TODAY**

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](https://tinyurl.com/mry4acbf)

### **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.



### **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).

### **“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](https://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](https://tinyurl.com/wuphf495).

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

Recycling, Repurposing, Reusing Valentine Gifts

As you begin thinking about Valentine gifts, do not forget to consider their ecological effects:

- Can the gift or the wrapping materials be recycled? Wrapping paper, ribbons, and cards impregnated with plastics and shiny materials cannot be recycled.
- Is this a gift that has multiple uses? Can it be repurposed?
- Instead of buying a dozen roses, buy a live plant which will last months, if not years.
- If you are buying a clothing item, buy natural materials (silk, cotton, wool, rayon), preferably made locally.

Love for the planet is love for community!

## **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.

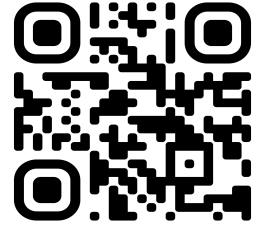
## **BULLETIN ANNOUNCEMENTS**

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

## PLEDGING & GIVING INFORMATION

### PLEDGE WITH BOLD GRATITUDE FOR 2025

Thank you to everyone who has already made a pledge for 2025! Your generous support of St. Pauls is greatly needed and much appreciated. If you have yet to pledge your time, talents or treasures for 2025, you can fill out a paper pledge form and put it in the offering tray or return it to the office. Or, you can pledge online at [spucc.org/pledge](http://spucc.org/pledge) or by scanning this QR code.



Making a pledge shares with us your intention to donate your time, talents and financial support. This information helps us plan and budget for the upcoming year.

**Important Note:** If your pledged financial support for 2025 is changing from this year, and you have a current recurring donation set up through one of our donation options, please adjust your recurring donation accordingly. Pledge forms do not authorize St. Pauls to create or update recurring donations. Email [bookkeeper@spucc.org](mailto:bookkeeper@spucc.org) with questions or for help.

### IRA QUALIFIED CHARITABLE DISTRIBUTIONS

If you have an IRA and are required, or will be required, to take a minimum annual distribution (RMD) from your account, you may be interested to know that there are tax advantages to taking your distribution as a direct contribution to a charitable organization such as St. Pauls. If the distribution is made directly from your IRA to St. Pauls, then you enjoy two tax benefits: 1) the distribution does not count as taxable income and 2) the distribution does count towards satisfying your RMD if over age 73. The gift, called a Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD), must go directly from your IRA to the organization, and your total gifts cannot exceed \$100,000 per year. You can make QCDs after you reach age 70 ½, which is earlier than the current RMD age of 73. You cannot make QCDs from your 401K; it has to be rolled into an IRA first.

With the 2017 changes in the tax law, some have lost the ability to itemize their deductions, including charitable contributions, and are now taking the higher standard deduction. Making a Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD) is a great way to still get a tax benefit for charitable giving. If you have questions about QCDs, consult your tax or financial advisor. Members of the Finance Committee are able to provide more information as well. Reach out to Committee chair Allen Heinemann at [Treasurer@SPUCC.org](mailto:Treasurer@SPUCC.org).

**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*

**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

John Ireland (1879-1962) composed our Prelude, *Intrada*, the first movement of his *Miniature Suite*, in 1904. He is among the Victorian composers from England that included Stainer, Parry and Stanford. He is probably best known for his many songs. Benjamin Britten was one of his students. Although Ireland's training was nearly exclusively English, he was also influenced by French impressionist composers.

Our Introit, *Here, O My Lord, I See Thee Face to Face* is a chant from the Latin, ADORO TE DEVOTE, from the 13th century attributed to the Benedictines at the monastery at Solesmes, France. Its English text is by Horace Bonar (1808–1889), a Scottish minister who wrote many poetic hymn texts. This setting is especially appropriate for a communion Sunday.

*To You, O God, All Creatures Sing* is a text that was adapted by Sister Miriam Therese Winter (b. 1938). She is a Catholic theologian and Medical Mission Sister who has worked in a number war-torn areas, including Ethiopia and Cambodia. The German hymn tune LASST UNS ERFREUEN dates from 1623, and was first found in a hymnal published in Cologne, Germany. It is recognisable to us as the same tune as our *Festival Doxology*.

The tune and text for *Let Us Break Bread Together*, the well known communion hymn, are unattributed but became widely known after being printed in 1926 in *The Second Book of Negro Spirituals*, which was curated and compiled by the famous poet, James Weldon Johnson, and equally prominent composer, J. Rosamond Johnson. The history of the text and tune probably predates the Civil War.

The text for *Bring Many Names* was written by Brian A. Wren (b. 1936). A major British contributor to contemporary hymn writing, he was a pastor of a Congregational Church in Essex. WESTCHASE was composed in 1989 by Carlton R. Young (b.1926). He served in World War II and became a teacher, editor, composer and conductor. He edited two editions of the *United Methodist Hymnal*.

*Ninye otpushaiyeshi*, commonly known in Latin as the *nunc dimittis*, or the Song of Simeon, was composed by Alexandr Grechaninov (1864-1956). He is primarily remembered for his liturgical music for the Russian Orthodox Church. This is a setting of Simeon's prayer upon seeing the child Jesus. God promised Simeon that he would live to see the Messiah. Grechaninov moved from the Soviet Union to France in 1925, immigrated to the United States in 1939, and spent the rest of his life here. Old Church Slavonic has a similar relationship to modern Russian as Latin does to Italian.

George Matterling added the *Gloria Patri* in the style of Grechaninov. While the Gloria Patri is a prescribed response in liturgical western churches to biblical readings or anthems on biblical texts, it is not part of the liturgy in the Russian Orthodox Church. **A note for this time** - The Russian Orthodox Church was said to be founded by St. Andrew, one of the twelve disciples, when he journeyed from Greece to what became Kiyv, Ukraine, but was then known as *Kiyvan Rus'* (land of the Rus').

*Battle Hymn of the Republic* hardly needs much of an introduction. The words were written by abolitionist Julia Ward Howe (1819-1910) in 1861 at the outbreak of our Civil War. Its words have inspired generations here and beyond our shores. The tune is attributed to William Steffe (1830-1890), but is thought to be an American camp meeting song, *John Brown's Body*, combined with another song *Oh Brothers!*

Billy Taylor (1921-2010) was a great African American jazz pianist, composer, broadcaster and educator. From 1994, he was the Artistic Director for Jazz at the Kennedy Center in Washington D.C. He also worked tirelessly to raise funds to replace homes of older jazz musicians in New Orleans after Hurricane Katrina. ***I Wish I Knew How It Would Feel to Be Free*** was composed in 1963 at the height of the civil rights movement and became an unofficial anthem of that movement. The New York Times called it "one of the greatest songs of the sixties."

# **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 180 years we are glad to have introduced thousands of children and adults to the amazing, inclusive, life changing, uplifting love of God. We do so in worship that is traditional, but far from conventional.

Senior Pastor Matt Fitzgerald, [mfitzgerald@spucc.org](mailto:mfitzgerald@spucc.org)

Associate Pastor Jeff Carlson, [jcarlson@spucc.org](mailto:jcarlson@spucc.org)

Associate Pastor Liz Nickerson, [lnickerson@spucc.org](mailto:lnickerson@spucc.org)

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

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

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



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

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

Welcome to our first time guests and  
our longtime members.

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

Welcome to those who rejoice and to those who grieve.

Welcome to LGBTQ+ people.

Welcome to each and to everyone.

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