

First Sunday in Lent
Bach Motet - *Komm, Jesu, komm*
March 9, 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.*

PRELUDE *If We Ever Needed the Lord Before ...* Thomas Dorsey
St. Arbucks Quartet

CHIMES

INTROIT *In the Cross of Christ I Glory*
Chancel Choir

WELCOME Liz Nickerson

* WELCOMING EACH OTHER

* CALL TO WORSHIP

One: This is the day that our God has made!

All: Let us rejoice and be glad in it!

One: It is good to give thanks to God.

All: Let's sing praises to God Most High!

One: Let's declare God's steadfast love in the morning!

All: Sing with the organ, piano, bass, trumpet and drums!

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

* HYMN

Sing Praise to God

1. Sing praise to God, who has shaped and sus - tains all cre -
2. Praise God, our guard - ian, who lov - ing - ly of - fers cor -
3. Sing praise to God, with sin - cere thanks for all your suc -
4. Sing praise, my soul, the great name of your high God com -

- a - tion! Sing praise, my soul, in pro - found and com -
- rec - - tion, Who, as on ea - gle's wings, saves us from
- cess - - es. Mer - ci - ful God ev - er loves to en -
- mend - - ing. All that have life and breath join you, their

- plete ad - o - ra - - tion! Glad - some re - jice— or - gan and
sin - ful de - jec - - tion. Have you ob - served, how we are
- cour - age and bless us. On - ly con - ceive, what god - ly
notes sweet - ly blend - ing. God is your light! Soul, ev - er

trum - pet and voice— join - ing God's great con - gre - ga - - tion.
al - ways pre - served by God's pa - ren - tal af - fec - - tion?
strength can a - chieve: strength that would touch and car - ess us.
keep this in sight: a - men, a - men nev - er end - - ing.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**God of love and light, we confess that we are fascinated by our shadows,
fooled into thinking that our sins are interesting.**

**But they are so deadly ordinary: pride, envy, anger, sloth, lust,
greed, gluttony.**

Forgive us.

**So capture our attention with your love, that we might live as we truly are -
your beloved children.**

Amen.

MOMENT OF SILENT PRAYER

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

RESPONSE

Lord Jesus, Who Through Forty Days

vv. 1-2

1. Lord Je - sus, who through for - ty days for us did fast and pray,
2. As you with Sa - tan did con-tend, and did the vic - tory win,
3. And through these days of pen - i - tence, and through this Pas - sion - tide,
4. A - bide with us, till when this life of suf - fering shall be past,

Teach us with you to mourn our sins, and close by you to stay.
O give us strength to per - se - vere, in you to con - quer sin.
Yes, ev - er - more, in life and death, O Christ, with us a - bide.
An Eas - ter of un - end - ing joy we may at - tain at last.

*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.*

SCRIPTURE

James Rowley

Luke 4:1-13

Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit in the wilderness, where for forty days he was tempted by the devil. He ate nothing at all during those days, and when they were over, he was famished. The devil said to him, 'If you are the Son of God, command this stone to become a loaf of bread.' Jesus answered him, 'It is written, "a human being does not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God."'

Then the devil led him up and showed him in an instant all the kingdoms of the world. And the devil said to him, 'To you I will give their glory and all this authority; for it has been given over to me, and I give it to anyone I please. If you, then, will worship me, it will all be yours.' Jesus answered him, 'It is written, "Worship the Lord your God, and serve only him." '

Then the devil took him to Jerusalem, and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple, saying to him, 'If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down from here, for it is written, "He will command his angels concerning you, to protect you", and "On their hands they will bear you up, so that you will not dash your foot against a stone." ' Jesus answered him, 'It is said, "Do not put the Lord your God to the test." ' When the devil had finished every test, he departed from him until an opportune time.

* 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

Lord Jesus, Who Through Forty Days
See previous hymn

vv. 3-4

SERMON

"It is written."

Jeff Carlson

* HYMN

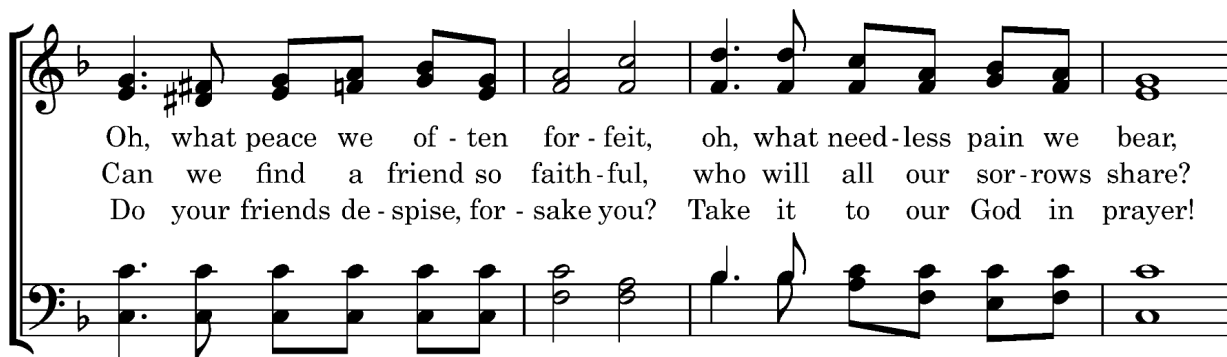
What a Friend We Have in Jesus



1. What a friend we have in Je - sus, all our sins and griefs to bear!
2. Have we tri - als and temp - ta - tions? Is there trou - ble an - y - where?
3. Are we weak and heav - y lad - en, bur - dened with a load of care?



What a priv - i - lege to car - ry ev - ery - thing to God in prayer!
We should nev - er be dis - cour - aged; take it to our God in prayer!
Pre - cious Sav - ior, still our ref - uge, take it to our God in prayer!



Oh, what peace we of - ten for - feit, oh, what need - less pain we bear,
Can we find a friend so faith - ful, who will all our sor - rows share?
Do your friends de - spise, for - sake you? Take it to our God in prayer!



All be - cause we do not car - ry ev - ery - thing to God in prayer.
Je - sus knows our ev - ery weak - ness; take it to our God in prayer!
Je - sus' arms will take and shield you; you will find a sol - ace there.

OFFERTORY

Komm, Jesu, komm
Chancel Choir

J.S. Bach

All:

Komm, Jesu, komm, mein Leib ist müde,
Die Kraft verschwindt je mehr und
mehr,

Ich sehne mich nach deinem Friede;
Der saure Weg wird mir zu schwer!

Double octets:

Komm, ich will mich dir ergeben;
Du bist der rechte Weg,
Die Wahrheit und das Leben.

All: "Aria"

Drum schließ ich mich in deine Hände
Und sage, Welt, zu guter Nacht!
Eilt gleich mein Lebenslauf zu Ende,
Ist doch der Geist wohl angebracht.
Er soll bei seinem Schöpfer schweben,
Weil Jesus ist und bleibt
Der wahre Weg zum Leben.

*Come, Jesus, come, My body is weary,
My strength fails me more and more,*

*I am longing for your peace ;
The bitter journey is too difficult for me!*

*Come, I shall give myself to you;
You are the right path,
The truth and the life.*

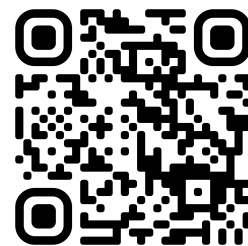
*Therefore I put myself in your hands
And bid goodnight to the world!
If my life's course hastens unto its end,
My soul is then well-prepared.
It will rise up to be with its creator
For Jesus is and remains
The true pathway to life.*

You can give to St. Pauls electronically by:

Scanning this code with your cell phone camera,

At spucc.churchcenter.com/giving,

Or through Zelle or PayPal to giving@spucc.org.



* FESTIVAL DOXOLOGY

Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise God all creatures 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

Matt Fitzgerald

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

Lift High the Cross

Lift high the cross, the love of Christ pro - claim; Let

all a - dore and praise that sa - cred name.

1. Come, Chris - tians, fol - low where our Sav - ior trod, the
2. Each new - born ser - vant of the Cru - ci - fied bears
3. O Christ, once lift - ed on the glo - rious tree, your
4. Set up your throne, that earth's de - spair may cease, be -
5. So shall our song of tri - umph ev - er be: praise

Lamb vic - to - rious, Christ the Child of God.
on the brow the seal of Christ who died.
death has brought us life e - ter - nal - ly.
-neath the shad - ow of its heal - ing peace.
to the Cru - ci - fied for vic - to - ry.

* BENEDICTION

* BENEDICTION RESPONSE *Threefold Amen*

A musical score for a vocal response. It consists of two staves: a treble clef staff on top and a bass clef staff on the bottom. The key signature has three flats (B-flat, E-flat, A-flat) and the time signature is 4/4. The lyrics 'A - men, A - men, A - - - men.' are written below the treble staff. The music features a melody in the treble staff and a supporting bass line in the bass staff. The melody starts with a half note G4, followed by a half note F4, then a quarter note E4, and a quarter note D4. The bass line starts with a half note G3, followed by a half note F3, then a quarter note E3, and a quarter note D3. The piece concludes with a final cadence.

POSTLUDE

Toccata in D Minor "Dorian"
Kevin Dzierzawski, organ

J.S. Bach

***Please join us for Social Hour following worship today
downstairs in the Social Hall.***

TODAY'S WORSHIP LEADERS

Clergy: Liz Nickerson, Jeff Carlson, 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: James Rowley

Head Usher: Beatrice Jaji

Ushers: David Faulkner, Fred Pearson

Greeter: Mercedes Ridao

Gatekeeper: Dodd Brown

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

Custodian: Ramiro Gonzalez

FLOWERS ON THE ALTAR are in memory and celebration of Mr. Lueder's birthday on
March 12.

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

BORN THIS WEEK IN MARCH

*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.*

Mar. 9 Beth Wiser, Greg Basil, Kimberly Carter, Sean Banjavcic, Susan Coe

Mar. 11 Lennon Fangman, Nancy Pifer

Mar. 12 Penny Trowbridge

Mar. 14 Juanita Barlow

Mar. 15 Breanna Coe

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.

- That we each find our role, our voice, in bringing peace forward.
- Students, workers, and communities at risk of family separation, loss of homes and businesses due to government overreach.
- Karen L. Johnson, recovering from a fall.
- Sally Acker, recovering from a fall.
- Christa Hamilton at the death of her father.
- Marcia Knudson, being treated for lung cancer.
- Wayne Bradley, pursuing ongoing treatment.
- 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.

LENT & EASTER AT ST. PAULS

- SUN, MAR 16 SECOND SUNDAY IN LENT - 10 a.m.
Intergenerational Orchestra
Annual Meeting - 11:15 a.m.
Blood Drive - 8 a.m. to 2 p.m.
- SUN, MAR 23 THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT - 10 a.m.
- SUN, MAR 30 FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT - 10 a.m.
- FRI, APR 4 PERFORMANCE OF *THE GOSPEL OF MARK* - 7 p.m.
- SUN, APR 6 FIFTH SUNDAY IN LENT - 10 a.m.
Mozart Requiem
- SUN, APR 13 PALM SUNDAY - 10 a.m.
Palm branches, songs, Easter Egg Hunt
- THU, APR 17 MAUNDY THURSDAY
Labyrinth walk - 7 p.m.
Taizé Service - 7:30 p.m.
- FRI, APR 18 GOOD FRIDAY - 7:30 p.m.
Communion, Tenebrae with choir
- SUN, APR 20 EASTER SUNDAY - 9 a.m. & 11 a.m.
Communion, choir, brass

*Scan here
for Lent Info:*



ST. PAULS WOMEN'S HISTORY – ALMA ATZEL 1874-1953

Alma Atzel was born in Chicago on September 1, 1874, and was baptized at St. Pauls on October 18, 1874. Her parents were immigrants from Germany. Ms. Atzel was a member of the St. Pauls Church League, the young adult group. In 1916, she traveled to China, where she served as a nurse on behalf of the American Board of Missions. St. Pauls' Dorcas Society, a women's group focused on needy assistance, provided funds to the mission board in support of Ms. Atzel's work. Ms. Atzel returned to Chicago in 1927 and served for four years in the position of Parish Visitor at St. Pauls – visiting hundreds of sick and shut-in members. In 1931, she took a position with the Women's Church Federation Protectorate of Chicago, an organization which assisted many needy women and girls during the Depression. She returned to the St. Pauls staff in 1938, working full-time and then part-time as her health permitted. She retired in 1949. After her retirement, she lived at St. Pauls House until her death on June 6, 1953.

UPCOMING EVENTS

TODAY – 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.

TODAY – MOMS' GROUP -11:30 a.m., Pastor Matt's Office

Pastor Liz is looking forward to a meaningful discussion with you! Moms' group alternate location today: Pastor Matt's office across from the lower level restrooms. Childcare is available in the lower level Star Room 18.

MAR 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

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., Gym

Save the Date to save more lives! St. 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:



MAR 20 – WEEKDAY MOMS’ GROUP - Thursdays, 9:15-10:15 a.m., Room 028
New weekday Moms’ group meets at St. Pauls once per month from 9:15-10:15 a.m. on Thursdays, 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 23 – SACK LUNCH MAKING FOR LPCS SHELTER - 11 a.m., Kitchen
Make a difference by joining us after worship in the church kitchen on Sunday, March 23, 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.

MAR 25 – FOOD FOR THE SOUL GROUP - 12-1:30 p.m., Social Hall
Sponsored by St. Pauls Social. Adults of all ages are invited to make new friends and reconnect with old ones through lunch, fun and faith. Childcare provided. March is Women’s History Month. We will share personal reflections.

APR 26 – VOLUNTEER WITH REBUILDING TOGETHER - 8:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m.,
Off Site

Registration is open for the National Rebuilding Together Day. Join the St. Pauls team as this year we work on two Maywood houses -- making them safe, warm and dry. Sample tasks include moving things to the dumpster, painting, and installing safety devices. Working together is a great way to meet and get to know others from St. Pauls. March is registration month. Sign up on Church Center at this link: <https://tinyurl.com/34ned8w4>. Note: indicate cat allergy; second house is cat free. For questions, email Pat Ruch at pmr.ruch@gmail.com.

MAY 4 – NEW MEMBER CLASS – 11 a.m., Room 211 (Confirmation Room)
Join pastors, members and others curious about St. Pauls for the 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. See other upcoming dates here: spucc.org/new_member_classes.

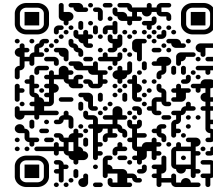
JUNE 15-21– YOUTH MISSION TRIP

We are excited to invite our youth on the summer 2025 trip to Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. Youth will work with activists and church leaders from the Christian Church of Wilkinsburg, a dynamic inter-racial congregation in the heart of the community. We will stay at the church, joining youth and young adults from the Wilkinsburg church in a weeklong effort called "Project Peace." We will do carpentry, urban gardening, and other projects in the neighborhood. Lessons learned will be brought home and put to work at St. Pauls and in Chicago. If you are already planning to join the adventure, you can register here: tinyurl.com/mrxmed3c.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

NEW! OPT-IN TO TEXTING FROM ST. PAULS

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



LITTLE LIGHTS SUMMER CAMP

Registration is open for summer fun! Our part-time summer program is geared toward ages 3+ and runs from June through August, Monday-Thursday from 8:30 a.m.-12 p.m. Camp combines play and structured fun inside our classrooms, in the gym and outside in the sun. We create arts & crafts, enjoy music & games, making friends and memories along the way! Register by March 31 to lock in Early Rate (10% discount). There is also a 10% sibling discount and 20% Church Member discount (contact Erin for the code at erin.fitzgerald@spucc.org). Register here: <https://tinyurl.com/2nt8zsvx>.

STAY & PLAY CANCELED DURING CONSTRUCTION

Our Friday morning playgroup is canceled through the duration of Phase II Construction Project. The playgroup overlaps with Little Lights classes and since we are sharing the classrooms, there will not be enough space for both to run at the same time. Thank you for your understanding and we look forward to getting it up and running again in the fall after construction is complete.

LOSS AND GRIEVING DISCUSSION GROUP

Some St. Pauls members and friends are starting a group that will meet twice a month to talk about our losses and our grieving processes. These can include both recent loss of a loved one and older losses that continue to run their course (often for years). This will not be a therapy group, but a source of mutual non-professional support, although we can also invite guest experts to speak to us if the group wants. If you'd like to learn more about this group, please email Pam Woll at pamelawoll@sbcglobal.net or 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 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.

THE WHIFFENPOOFS CONCERT - MARCH 15

The Whiffenpoofs are returning to Chicago at St. Pauls on Saturday, March 15, at 7 p.m.! Since its founding at Yale University in 1909, the Whiffenpoofs have brought a diverse repertoire of vocal jazz, folk, pop, and Broadway hits to more than 200 audiences each year across all six inhabited continents. In past years, the ‘Whiffs’ have sung for Presidents Reagan, Clinton, Bush (41 and 43), and Obama and have even been featured on such television shows as *The Sing Off*, *The West Wing* and *Glee*. Get your tickets at tinyurl.com/ynfue5fn.

JOIN OUR INTERGENERATIONAL ORCHESTRA

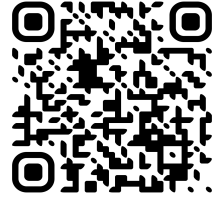
Do you play an orchestral string, woodwind, brass, or percussion instrument? If so, please join the St. Pauls UCC Intergenerational Orchestra as we prepare to perform in worship on Sunday, March 16. Orchestra members range in age from 10 to 100! Rehearsals are immediately after church for about an hour in the Oscar Mayer Room today and Sundays, 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

A Call to Action!

Caring for Creation now requires ACTION, including messages to elected officials asking them to support funding, jobs and activities to protect the environment. It is equally important to donate and volunteer. Look up Congressional contacts at <https://www.congress.gov/contact-us> to send a personal message.

Some environmental associations make it easy to write directly to your U.S. senators and representatives by inputting your name and address and clicking a button. Examples:

- Climate Reality Project <https://www.climaterealityproject.org/act>
- Nature Conservancy Take Action With The Nature Conservancy
- Citizens' Climate Lobby
<https://citizensclimatelobby.org/get-loud-take-action/>
- Environmental Defense Fund: <https://www.edf.org/take-action-current-opportunities>

Please contact Ninon Freeman at (312) 447-1330 if you know of other groups we should list.

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!

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



Chancel Choir

Kurt R. Hansen, Music Director

Kevin Dziersawski, Organist

Karina Kontorovitch, Rehearsal pianist

Sopranos

Katie Alrutz+
Shannon Banjavcic
Lenore Ettinger+
Nadia Jimenez+
Jennifer Kew+
Karin Magnuson
Nancy Pifer *+
Ashley Saluga
Grace Stauskas
Meg Tazelaar
Annika Victorson
Kecia Waldschmidt+
Christie DeForest Ward
Pam Woll

Altos

Cindy Ball
Amy Barton
Lois Basil
Terry Brancaccio Hansen
Lila Brown
Carrie Bruggers - Librarian
Breanna Coe *
Micki Fayhee
Karen Johnson
Winnie Kearns+
Jana O'Brien
Amy Petersen Beck
Pat Ruch
Jade Luo Santos
Lola Stevenson

Tenors

Todd Coe+
Andy Davis- Asst. Librarian
Ninon Freeman
Kris Hansen+
Doug Heyboer+
Joseph JaQuay
Rick Peterson
Sare Scanlan
Nathan Streeter*+

Basses

Scott Banjavcic+
Bill Borden
Jim Brandt
Nathan Chamberlain
Allen Heineman
Mark Huddle
Julian Jarzebowski+
Lee Lichamer *+
Mark Mosley+
Mark Swanson
Doug Walters

* Section leader
+Bach Double octet

TODAY'S MUSIC

If We Ever Needed the Lord Before, We Sure Do Need Him Now was composed in 1943 by Thomas A. Dorsey (1899-1993). He is truly the originator of gospel music, a fusion of church music with jazz. He is a Chicago original and beloved worldwide. Take 6 is an American a capella sextet that was formed in 1980 at Oakwood College in Huntsville, Alabama. They focus on updated versions of spirituals and Gospel music.

In the Cross of Christ I Glory is a text written in 1825 by John Bowring (1792-1872). He was an English Unitarian and became a member of Parliament. His text is decidedly Christian. RATHBURN was composed in 1851 by Ithamar Conkley (1815-1867). Conkley was an American of Scottish descent. He became a professional bass and also organist in New York City.

Sing Praise to God is another great hymn from our German heritage. The tune, LOBE DEN HERRN, is the first line of the first stanza of the German text. The composer of the music is unknown but it was first published in a hymnal in 1668. The original text was written by Joachim Neander (1650-1680). Although he was reported to have spent a "riotous youth," he became the first important hymn writer of the German Reform Church. This updated translation was made in 1993 for our *New Century Hymnal* by Madeleine Forell Marshall (b. 1946).

Lord Jesus, Who Through Forty Days is a text written in 1873 by Claudia Frances Hernaman (1838-1898). She was born in England and her father was an Anglican priest. She composed more than 150 hymns and devoted her life to the religious education of children. The tune, ST. FLAVIAN, is of unknown origin and dates from a hymnal published in the 16th century.

Joseph Medicott Scriven (1819-1886) wrote the famous text for ***What a Friend We Have in Jesus*** in 1855. An Irish immigrant to Canada, his life was full of ill health and grief, which he worked out in Christian poetry. The tune, ERIE, is also known as CONVERSE and was composed in 1868 by John C. Converse (1832-1918) who grew up in Erie, Pennsylvania, which explains both tune names. He was an attorney who also composed "church songs." He studied both law and music in Leipzig before returning to this country.

Komm, Jesu komm BWV 229 was composed by Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750) sometime between 1731 and 1732, although the exact dates are not known and it was not for any specific occasion. At that time, Bach was in his eighth or ninth year in Leipzig. The text by Paul Thymich (1656-1694) is from an earlier time, 1694, and definitely has a Lenten feel. Thymich was a scholar in the Thomasschule in Leipzig under one of Bach's predecessors, Johann Schelle (1648-1701). It is unclear whether Bach ever met either Thymich or Schelle, but a copy of Thymich's text was in Bach's library. An unusual facet of this motet for Bach's sacred works is that it is neither based on a biblical text nor a chorale melody. No one could mistake the religious and deeply Lutheran message in the text. The motet is composed for double choir which allows for dialogue of text and music between the two choirs. This kind of dialogue was common both theologically and musically. This dialogue is between believers first acknowledging their weakness of faith and then proclaiming that Jesus shows us/them the path of righteousness.

Why the Double Octets? It was common in Baroque music, which certainly includes the music of Bach, to contrast smaller ensembles in both instrumental and choral music with the full ensemble. In *Komm, Jesu, komm*, the full ensemble opens the motet with the corporate pleading for Jesus to come and rescue us from our difficult and exhausting existence. The double octets reply with an almost childlike joyful repeat of the invitation for Jesus to be with us because He has shown us the righteous path. The full ensemble returns at the end for the Aria, which functions like a congregational chorale or hymn that states the conclusion that the faithful put their trust and life in the hands of God.

Lift High the Cross - George William Kichen (1827-1912) was the original author of the text, but there is a second "contributor" referred to as an "alterer;" Michael R. Newbolt (1874-1956), who added to and improved the Kichen text. The tune, CRUCIFER, was composed in 1916 at the height of The Great War by Sydney H. Nicholson (1875-1947). He was Organist/Choirmaster at Westminster Abbey in the 1920s and had a deep influence on English hymnody.

The postlude, ***Tocatta in D Minor "Dorian"*** BWV 538, is another testament to the brilliance of Bach's composition for the organ. *Tocatta* is an Italian term meaning "touched." A toccata is supposed to highlight the technique of the organist with improvisatory sounding flourishes and also to demonstrate the number of varying colors within a pipe organ. It creates a layered soundscape that can be compared to the many small pieces of stained glass in our windows creating a larger picture or design.

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!

EASTER ALTAR FLOWERS ORDER FORM

Celebrate or remember a loved one by ordering a flowering plant for the Easter Festival Altar. Flowers may be picked up after the 11 a.m. Easter Sunday service. Remaining flowers will be donated to our senior members and neighbors. Please enclose \$30 or more per plant with this order form, or order and pay online here: tinyurl.com/mwvkad2h

Please print legibly.

In Celebration of *(print name(s) as you wish to appear):*

In Memory of *(print name(s) as you wish to appear):*

From *(your name(s) as you wish to appear):*

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Tear out this form and drop it in the offering plate or mail it to:

St. Pauls UCC

Attn: Easter Flowers

2335 N. Orchard St., Chicago, IL 60614

Completed orders must arrive **by April 14th** to appear in the Easter Bulletin.

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
Associate Pastor Jeff Carlson, jcarlson@spucc.org
Associate Pastor Liz Nickerson, lnickerson@spucc.org

For a complete list of St. Pauls Staff, Governance, and Lay Leadership
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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 main office.



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.