Second Sunday in Lent

March 1, 2026

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.

THOUGHT FOR PREPARATION

"...hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit, who has been given to us."

Romans 5:5 ESV

PRELUDE *Prelude and Fugue in g minor, BWV 861* J.S. Bach
Kevin Dzierzawski, piano

CHIMES

INTROIT *Forty Days And Forty Nights*
Chancel Choir

WELCOME Matt Fitzgerald

* WELCOMING EACH OTHER

* CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Come, let us worship the God who moves like the wind—unseen, yet powerful and transforming.

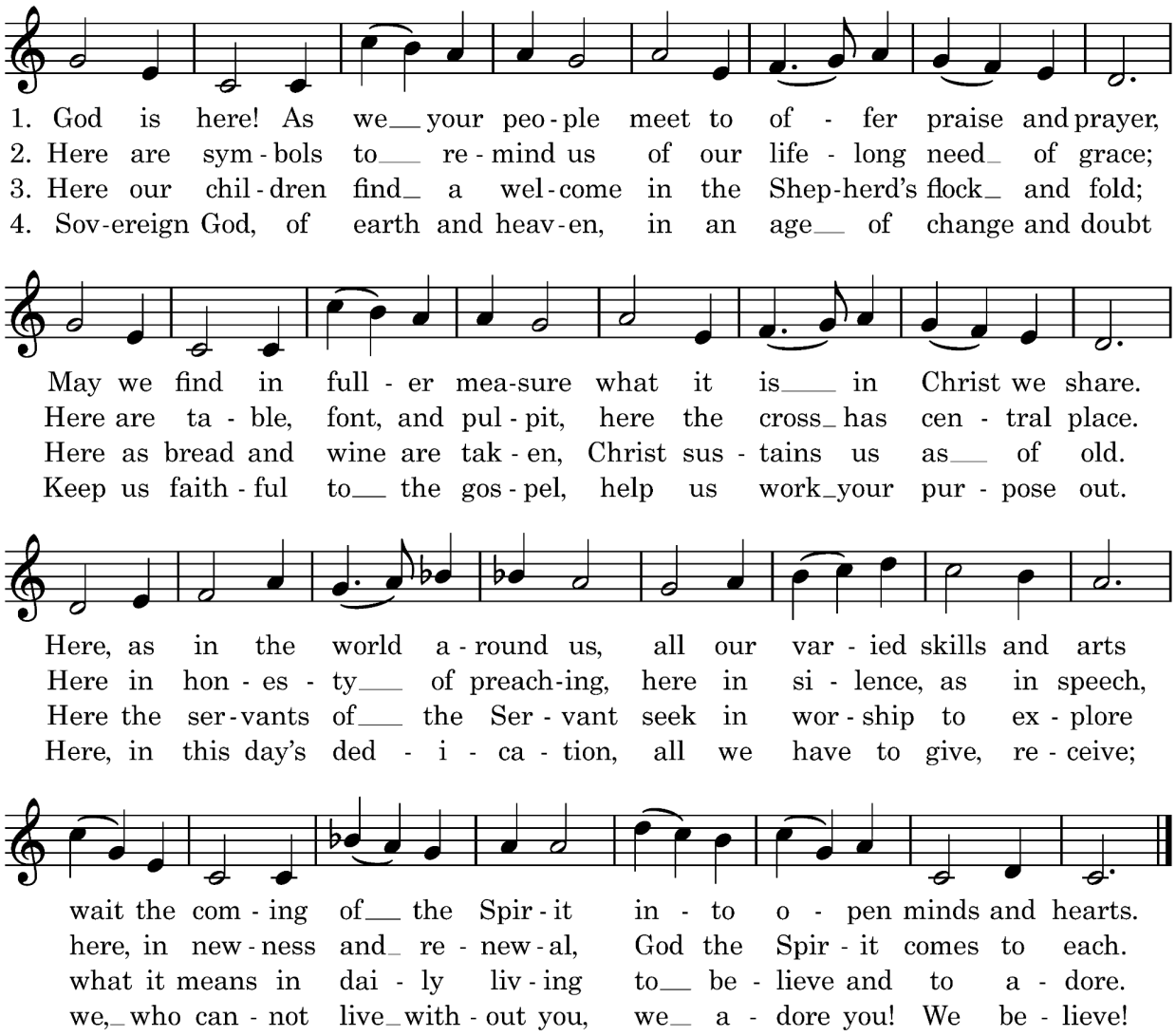
All: We come seeking, searching, and questioning.

One: Forget what you think you know, and open your hearts to the new things God is doing.

All: Jesus calls us to a new life, a spiritual rebirth, to be born anew, for a fresh start.

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

* HYMN *God Is Here! As We Your People Meet*



CELEBRATION OF THE SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God, you are great, high, and holy.
Yet you have not forgotten us.
You have not rejected us.
Help us believe this!
Let us place our sins in Christ's outstretched hands.
Cleanse us and send your Spirit to remake us in your image. 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.

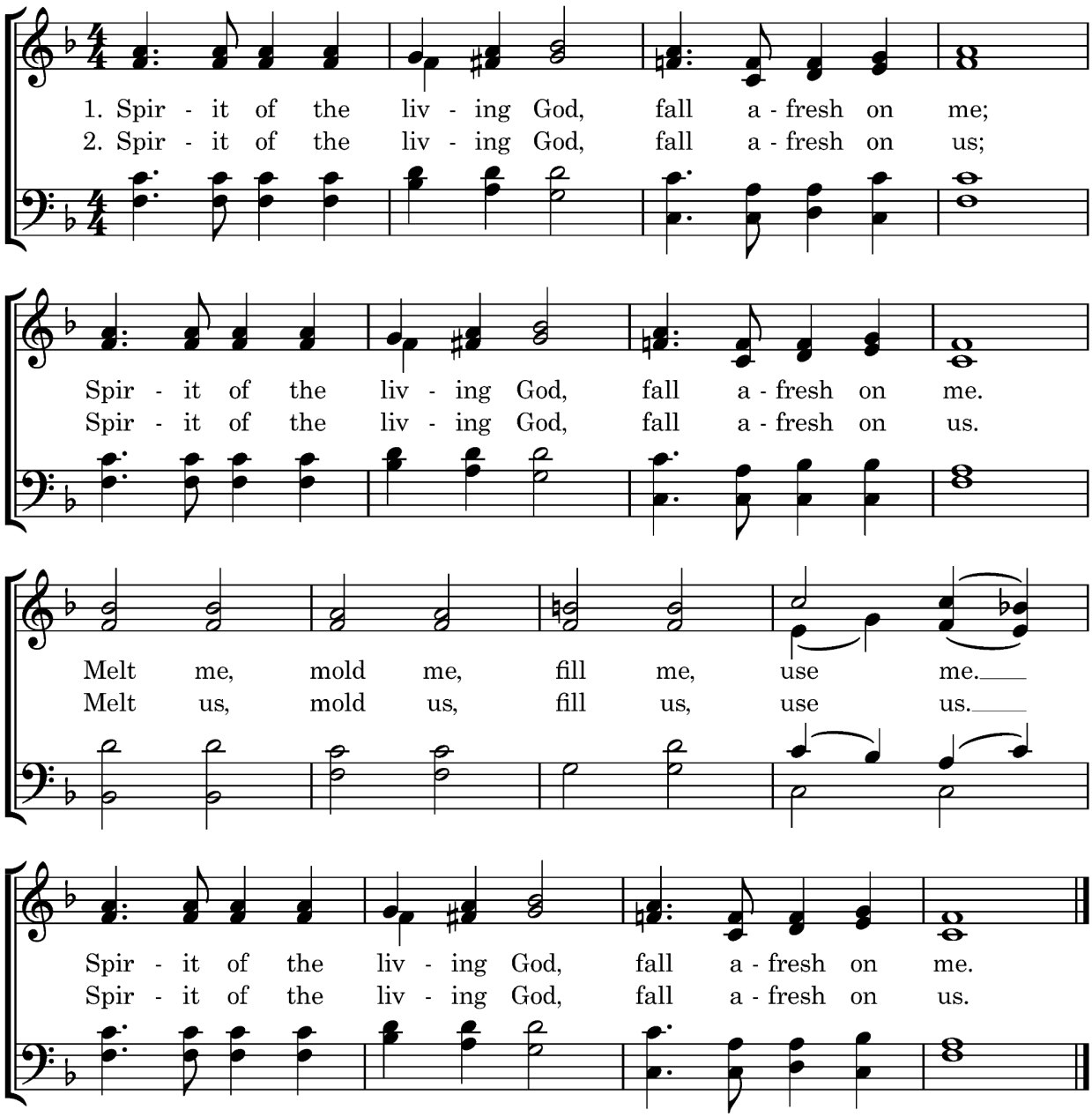
COMMUNION MUSIC

Prelude and Fugue in F# Major, BWV 858 J. S. Bach
French Suite No. 4—Allemande
Kevin Dzierzawski, piano

* PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING Liz Nickerson

Holy God, we give you thanks for this meal. We praise you for the wind of the Holy Spirit, moving in ways we cannot see, uniting us as members of the body of Christ by sharing these elements of bread and cup, and bringing new life to our lives. 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 *Spirit Of The Living God* v. 1

SCRIPTURE Cheryl Kennedy

John 3:1–8

Now there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. He came to Jesus by night and said to him, "Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God, for no one can do these signs that you do unless God is with that person." Jesus answered him, "Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born again." Nicodemus said to him, "How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother's womb and be born?" Jesus answered, "Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. Do not be astonished that I said to you, 'You must be born again. The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit."

* 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!

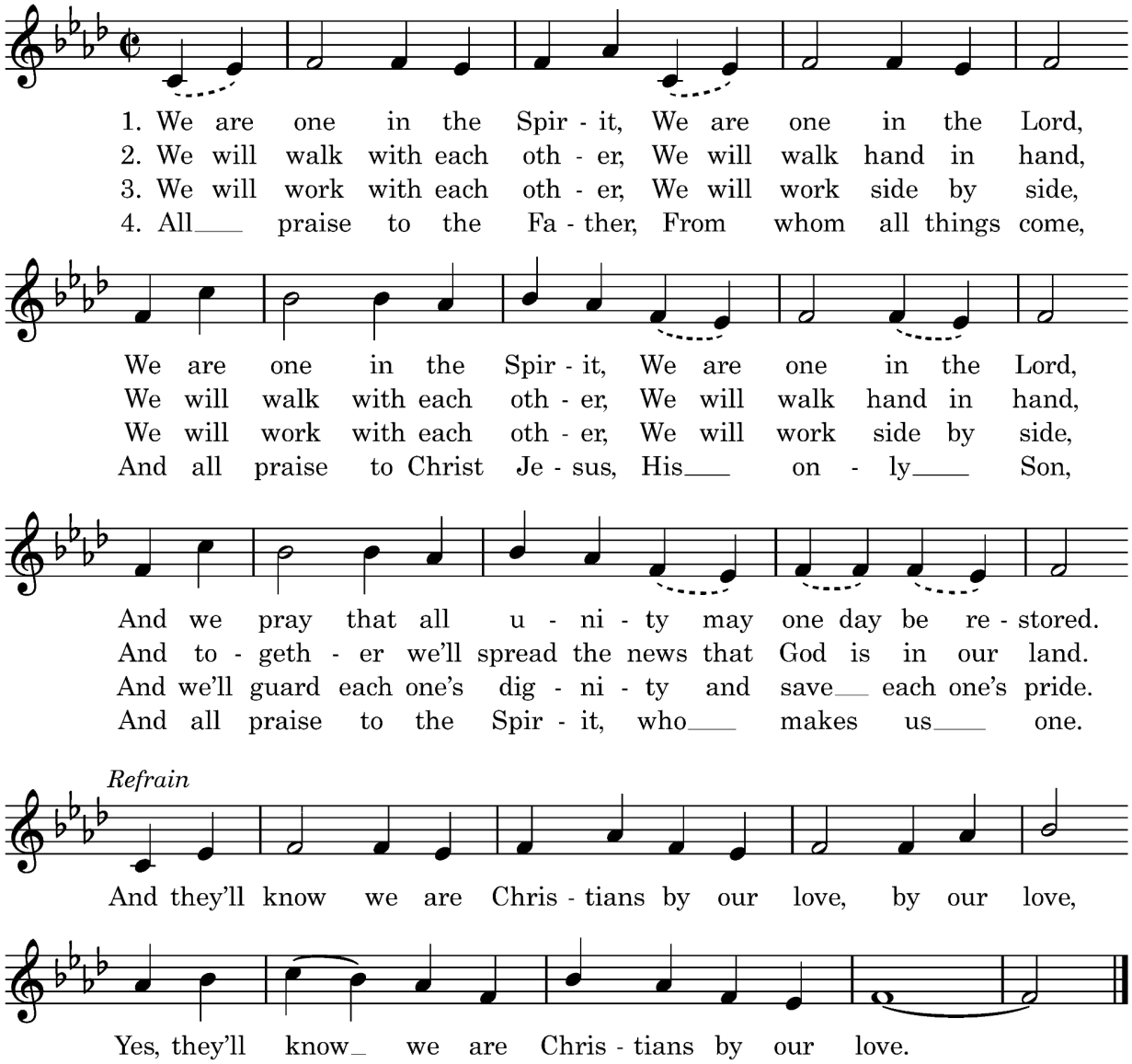
(adapted from the United Church of Canada)

* RESPONSE *Spirit Of The Living God* v. 2

See the previous hymn

SERMON "Born Again: A promise not a threat" Liz Nickerson

* HYMN

We Are One In The Spirit

OFFERTORY *Crucifixus* Antonio Lotti

(Sung in Latin)

Chancel Choir

He was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate,
He suffered, and was buried.

ELECTRONIC OFFERING OPTIONS

Scan this code with your cell phone camera,

Church Center at spucc.churchcenter.com/giving,

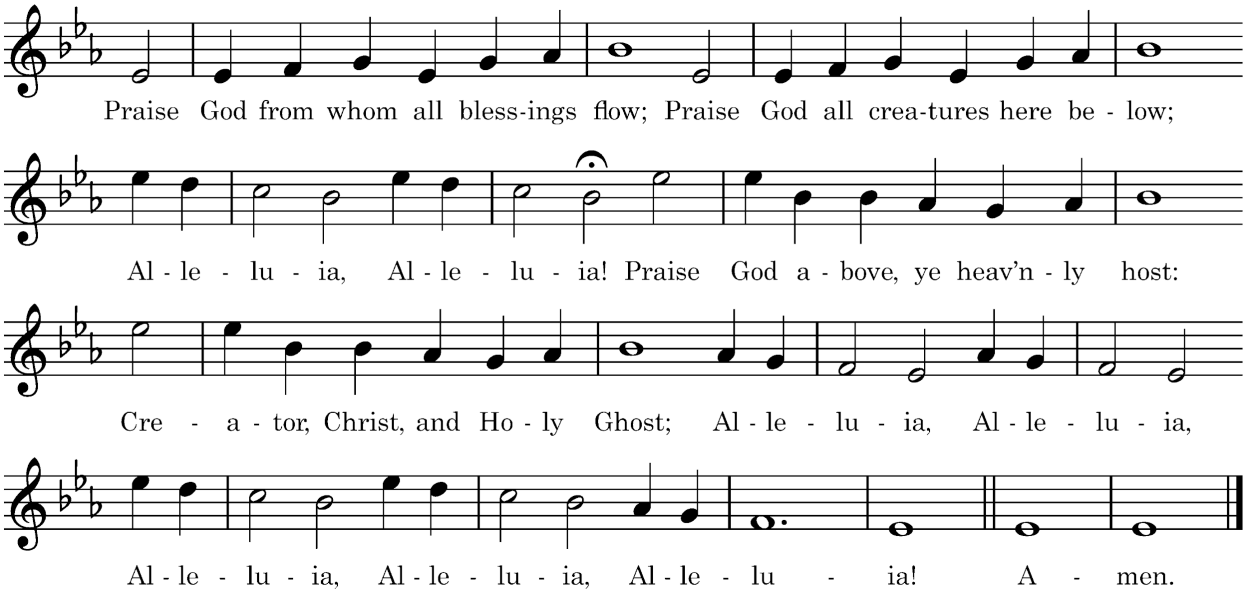
PayPal at spucc.org/paypal, or Zelle to giving@spucc.org.

WELCOME CARD

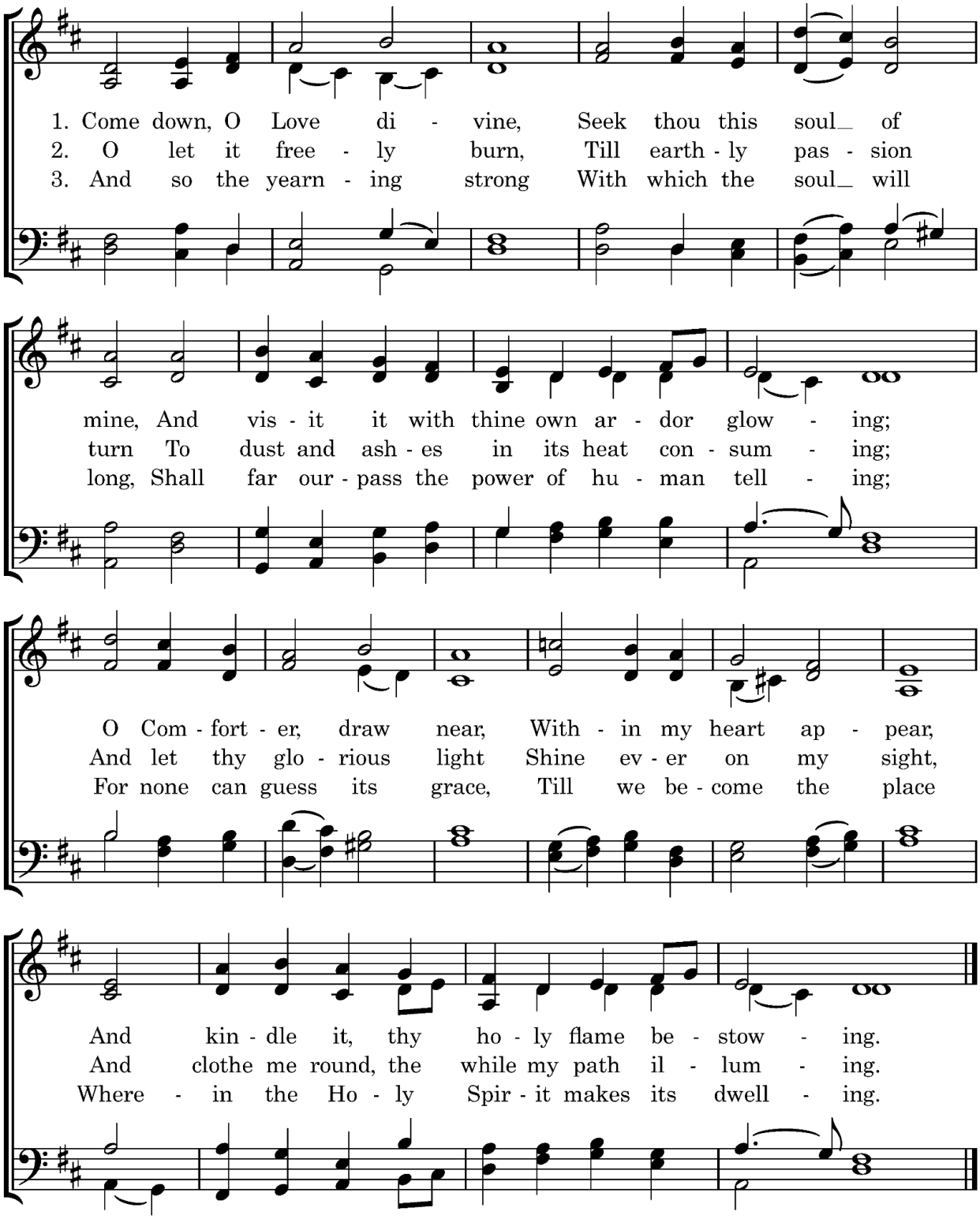
If you are a visitor, welcome! Thank you for worshiping with us today!

If would like to learn more about the church, please scan the QR code.

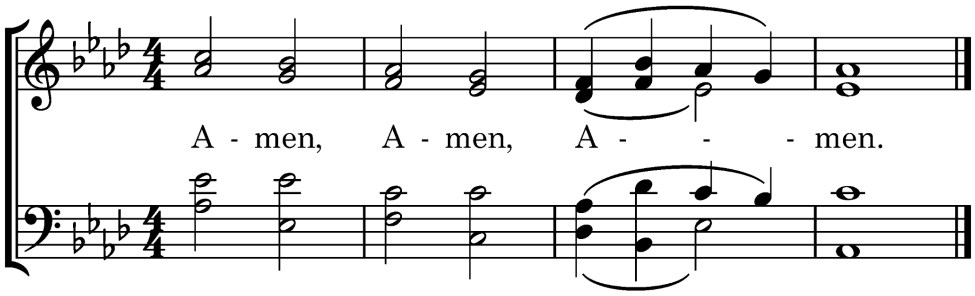
* FESTIVAL DOXOLOGY



* HYMN

Come Down, O Love Divine

* BENEDICTION Liz Nickerson

* BENEDICTION RESPONSE *Threefold Amen*



POSTLUDE *O Happy Day* Edwin Hawkins
St. Arbucks Quartet

Oh happy day
When Jesus washed
He washed my sins away!

If you would like someone to pray with you today, Stephen Ministers are present after the postlude at the right front of the Sanctuary.

Following Worship, all are invited for coffee and snacks in the Social Hall, downstairs, directly beneath the Sanctuary.

TODAY'S WORSHIP LEADERS

Clergy: Matt Fitzgerald, Liz Nickerson
Music Director: Kurt R. Hansen
St. Arbucks Quartet: Brendan Henry, piano; Alex Austin, bass; Matt Plaskota, drums; Kris Hansen, trumpet & vocals
Communion Coordinator: Jana O'Brien
Communion Servers: Annie Johnson, Lydia, and Tom Murray
Scripture Reader: Cheryl Kennedy
Head Usher: Beatrice Jaji
Ushers: Fred Pearson, David Baker
Greeters: Andrea Koepke, Jennifer Gourley
Gatekeeper: Dodd Brown
Camera Operators: Nana Addadzi-Koom, Jim Alrutz, Marie Ankenman, Bob Ball, Brian Hafner, Trevor Hafner
Custodian: Ramiro Gonzalez

Communion bread baked by Annie Johnson.

Pastor Jeff is on vacation and will return on March 12.

TODAY'S ALTAR FLOWERS are given by Jan Bail in celebration of Maddy Lockhart as she begins her new chapter.

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. 1 Andrew Ramirez, Drew Brinkoetter, Kent Carter, Tommy Demery
Mar. 2 Chip Moehrke, Fred Pearson, Mahalia Henry, Sue Moulton
Mar. 3 Matthew Molvar, Terrill Stumpf
Mar. 4 Martha Sanders, Sue Finkle
Mar. 5 Arlo Brinkoetter, Sherry Smith, Winona Koldyke
Mar. 6 Marcia Gulbrandsen
Mar. 7 Amy Barton, Rick Peterson, Scott Wadsworth

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. You may also share your request at tinyurl.com/3j6sayku.
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.

- Prayers for Andy Davis and Lynn Dykstra, as Andy's mother enters hospice.
- Family and friends of Mike Lynch, friend of Gerald Wilk, who is recovering from heart surgery.
- Prayers for Sue Derison's older sister, hospitalized with a serious condition.
- Prayers for Jim Alrutz's friends, Megan Behnke, Connor Liss, and their families as they mourn the passing of Connor's father, Ron.
- Loved ones of Stan Winiarski at his death.
- Pat Kirby in palliative care at Aperion Care Wesley.
- Gloria Joseph's friend Betsy's brother who has entered hospice.
- Juanita Barlow at the death of her sister-in-law.
- Family and friends of Jan Exworthy at her death. Her service will be on May 2 at 11 AM at St. Pauls.
- Julie Higginbotham recovery from broken vertebrae.
- Cheryl Kennedy's daughter, Hillary recovering from surgery on Feb. 2.
- Ninon Landaverry-Freeman's siblings, Sonja and John.
- The family of Susan Strattner, Ann Ferroni's sister, at her death.
- Diane Biegert, who had hip replacement surgery on January 16.
- Ember Sophia, who was born with a serious brain injury, and her parents, Alex and Liza.
- Angie, struggling to recover from multiple surgeries.
- Alicia Braun and her family on the death of her father, Joseph Kroenert.
- Families undergoing treatments for infertility.
- Prayers for Rick Sensenbrenner's mother, Marie, as she navigates various health conditions.
- Donn Schimp and his family as Donn continues cancer treatment.
- Dianne Witkowski, as she deals with cancer chemotherapy.

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 8	THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT - 10 a.m. Intergenerational Orchestra Annual Meeting - 11:15 a.m.
SUN, MAR 15	FOURTH WEEKEND IN LENT - 10 a.m. Bach Motet, Jesu meine Freude One Great Hour of Sharing Blood Drive - 8 a.m. to 2 p.m.
SAT, MAR 21	Bunny Hop 9:30 a.m. -11:30 a.m. Egg Hunt 10:30 a.m.
SUN, MAR 22	FIFTH SUNDAY IN LENT - 10 a.m. Kinderchapel Sings & Pauls People in worship
SUN, MAR 29	PALM SUNDAY - 10 a.m. Palm branches, Children's Choir in worship
THU, APR 2	MAUNDY THURSDAY - 7 p.m. A Dramatic Performance of the Gospel of Mark
FRI, APR 3	GOOD FRIDAY - 7:30 p.m. Communion, Tenebrae with choir
SUN, APR 5	EASTER SUNDAY - 9 a.m. & 11 a.m. Communion, choir, brass
SUN, APR 12	SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER - 10 a.m. Pancake Church in the Gym! Youth Mission Trip Offering

for Lent Info:

UPCOMING EVENTS

TODAY – FILL THE SILLS
It's cold outside so let's bring in the heat for the Common Pantry. In addition to needing rice, beans and proteins, there is a great need for spices, seasonings, condiments, cooking oils, coffee and ingredients for baking. The Pantry is so grateful for our support. Thank you for your participation.

MARCH 5 – YOGA FOR ALL - 6-7 p.m., OMR
Yoga is a community building practice. We begin with a brief meditation, often taking inspiration from the weekly sermon. We practice a breath to movement flow from the chair, with options to modify for standing and/or mat work when possible. Yoga connects body and mind, and functions to support the Vagal nerve, restoring calmness and our sense of safety and security.

We offer this practice freely, and encourage you to make a $10 to $20 donation to the Migrant Legal Fund. Sign up via this link: tinyurl.com/4cpmednw.

MARCH 6 – FAITH FAMILY FRIDAY - 6-8 p.m., OMR/Gym
Faith Family Fridays are full of fun, fellowship, and food with your church family! All ages welcome. The theme is "Taste of Italy" for March's dinner. Pasta, meatballs, and garlic bread provided by RPM Italian. Feel free to bring your own beverage, side, or game to share. This event is free, and registration is required for food count. $10/family suggested donation. Register here: tinyurl.com/3vneneja.

MARCH 8 – ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING - 11:15 a.m., Sanctuary
Please plan to attend the Annual Meeting of the Congregation after worship on Sunday, March 8. We will vote on the 2026 budget and learn about the activities of 2025 and plans going into 2026.

MARCH 9 – LABYRINTH WALK - 7-8 p.m., Gym
The Chartres Cathedral-inspired labyrinth painted on our gym floor offers an opportunity for quiet "walking meditation." The labyrinth will be available monthly on the second Monday 7-8 pm and the third Thursday 2-3 pm. Registration not required but helpful. Sign up here: tinyurl.com/57z6psvm.

MARCH 10 - ILIAD AND ODYSSEY READING GROUP BEGINS - 7 p.m., Zoom
Start the new year with an old story! We'll read and discuss these two foundational classics over four months. Any translation of The Iliad and The Odyssey is fine; Emily Wilson's are recommended but not required. Monthly discussions will be over Zoom the second Tuesday of the month at 7pm through June 9. Questions? contact Emily Emily.cromwell3@gmail.com. Sign up to participate here: tinyurl.com/358yh848.

MARCH 13 – WINDY CITY WINDS CONCERT AT ST. PAULS - 7:30 p.m., Sanctuary
In 2026, Windy City Winds celebrates the 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence in 1776 -- the birth of our nation. Our March 13 concert, "The Red, White and Blue", features music inspired by the American flag, including our national march The Stars and Stripes Forever. This FREE concert will also feature our annual Audience Raffle for fabulous prizes!

Program Highlights:

- The Stars and Stripes Fanfare, by James Stephenson
- Redwood, by Ryan George
- Blue Shades, by Frank Ticheli
- Flag of Stars, by Gordon Jacob
- One movement from Symphony #2 by Charles Ives

MARCH 15 – BLOOD DRIVE - 8 a.m. - 2 p.m., Gym
The Red Cross blood supply has dropped nearly 35% in the past month as the hospital needs outpaced donations. Winter storms and flu season are adding to the shortage. Patients can't wait. Help rebuild the blood supply - book an appointment now. Invite your friends and neighbors to St. Pauls blood drive March 15th 8 am to 2 pm. Sign up in advance by reserving a time slot via the QR code:

MARCH 15 – MEAL MAKING FOR LPCS - 11:15 a.m. & 4 p.m., Kitchen
Join us in the kitchen today to prepare meals for the residents of Lincoln Park Community Services. We have two opportunities to serve:

- Lunch Making: 11:15 a.m. – 12:15 p.m. Help us assemble sack lunches right after church. Sign up for Lunch: tinyurl.com/e4m9v9zz
- Dinner Making: 4 p.m. – 6:00 p.m. Prepare dinner at the church and help deliver the meal to LPCS (600 W. Fullerton). Sign up for Dinner: tinyurl.com/5dmys5hc

MARCH 16 – GAME NIGHT FOR GROWN-UPS - 6–8 p.m., OMR
Join us for a laid-back evening of games, conversation, and connection—designed for adults who want to unwind, laugh, and enjoy good company. Whether you love board games, card games, or simply hanging out and chatting, you're welcome here.

Bring a favorite game to share—or jump in with games on hand like Pictionary, Jenga, or Sorry. Snacks are encouraged but not required; feel free to bring something to share if you'd like.

This is a drop-in, drop-out evening, so come when you can and stay as long as you'd like. Register at this link: tinyurl.com/ypuwptae Questions? Text Wendelin (Lin) at (773) 304-6734 or email wendelin@wendelindunlap.com.

MARCH 18 – WEDNESDAY BIBLE STUDY 1 PETER - Noon, Zoom
What did it mean for the early Christians to follow Jesus in the midst of a violent world empire? How were they to live as an alternative community that looked like Jesus and not like Rome? These are questions they faced and that we also face in our post-Christian world. This winter we're studying 1 is a small book that wrestles with these big questions. Led by Jeff Carlson, we meet every Wednesday over Zoom for about 40 minutes. Sign up here: tinyurl.com/y3w7fkpw.

MARCH 21 – BUNNY HOP - 9:30-11:30 a.m., Gym
Join us for St. Pauls' Bunny Hop, a joyful celebration created especially for families! Little ones will enjoy a visit from the Bunny, hands-on crafts, egg hunt, and kid-friendly snacks. This bright and cheerful event is perfect for the 1st day of Spring. Come make sweet memories together as we celebrate the Lent season with smiles, laughter, and community. Register here: tinyurl.com/ydw2mdd9.

MARCH 22 – YOUNG ADULTS WINE & CHEESE GATHERING - 4:30 - 6:30 p.m., Parsonage
Join us on March 22nd from 4:30–6:30 PM at Pastor Matt's home for a fun evening of wine, cheese, and community. If you're 23-35, please join us! Register at this link: tinyurl.com/4sjethzv

MARCH 22 – MOMS' GROUP - Third Thursday 9:15 a.m., Sunday 11:30 a.m.
Pastor Liz is looking forward to a meaningful discussion with you! 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.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PALESTINE STUDY GROUP BOOK DISCUSSION
We wrap up our discussion of 2025 National Book Award Winner for Nonfiction, Omar El Akkad's "One Day, Everyone Will Have Always Been Against This." Chapters 8, 9, and 10. Sunday, March 8th @ 5:30pm via Zoom. Contact David Burnett burnett.db@gmail.com to join, or sign up via Church Center.

UCAN VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY
On Saturday April 4th, the day before we celebrate Easter, our church will prepare and serve breakfast to the youth at UCAN. We will have an opportunity to engage with the youth and offer simple Easter activities to share joy and encouragement. The event will take place at UCAN's North Lawndale facility from 7:30 - 10:00 am. If you would like to volunteer, please contact Pauline Taylor at paulinetaylor933@gmail.com.

LISTENING TO JESUS LENT DEVOTIONAL
This year you're invited to listen to Jesus by reflecting on a passage from Matthew each of the forty days, plus Easter Sunday. (The other Sundays are not counted in Lent, as every Sunday is considered a "mini-Easter".) The Gospel of Matthew highlights Jesus as a teacher, so each daily passage of scripture contains something that he taught. You can find instructions for a way to prayerfully reflect on scripture along with the readings from Ash Wednesday to Easter Sunday here: tinyurl.com/nhd32wyy

BLAST FROM THE PAST - EVOLVING STATEMENT OF FAITH
We've been saying our Statement of Faith every Sunday since 1985. Before that, either no statement of faith was said at all or else the preacher of the day would choose one. In 1984 St. Pauls said no less than 14 different statements of faith over the course of the year! The current one, based on the United Church of Canada faith statement eventually just came to stay for its succinctness and clarity. The most recent change happened on July 5, 2009 when we added the line "to care for creation." And it has been there ever since.

LOSS AND GRIEVING DISCUSSION GROUP
We've all lost someone we loved. Whether you lost someone you loved last month, last year, or five years ago, you can still grieve that loss. Grief changes, but it never goes away. Would you be interested in sharing stories with others who are in similar situations? We're not therapists, just your friends and neighbors who are also grieving and would like to share our ideas and learn how others are coping. We're planning to start a grief support group at St. Pauls, but we need to make sure there's interest. Please contact Pam Woll at pamelawoll3333@gmail.com if you think this might benefit you.

CREATION CORNER by Green Team
Caring for Creation: Fostering Cats and Dogs
Under good conditions, Chicago Animal Care and Control (CACC) is under institutional stress; however, currently it is facing a trifecta of: leadership, historically high intake and decreased funding. For the animals being housed, this translates to substandard care (and in some cases inhumane care) and a high kill rate.

There are multiple initiatives we can take to alleviate this suffering:

1. ABOVE ALL, Foster animals awaiting adoption.
2. Volunteer at CACC and be a witness and catalyst for change.
3. Volunteer at other shelters.
4. Support pantries which provide food for animals.

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.

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!

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.

WANT TO GET INVOLVED?

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

SOCIAL EVENTS

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

SPECIAL SERVICES

KIDS ACTIVITIES

NEW MEMBERS

HOLIDAYS

SUBMIT AN ANNOUNCEMENT

For St. Pauls sponsored events, please fill out the new form **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.

TODAY'S MUSIC

During Lent, Kevin Dzierzawski is making a special music offering every Sunday, a Prelude and Fugue from the Well-Tempered Clavier by J.S. Bach played on piano for our Prelude. Please feel free to sit in the first pews in order to enjoy this great music and Kevin's playing.

The ***Prelude and Fugue in G Minor*** BWV 861 is from the first book of the Well-Tempered Clavier compiled in 1722 by Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750). The reflective fugue subject also appears in Bach's earlier (1707/1708) funeral cantata, *Gottes Zeit ist die allerbeste Zeit* (God's time is the very best time) BWV 106.It is impossible to overstate the genius manifested in not just one but two books of the Well-Tempered Clavier. Bach set himself the task of composing preludes and fugues in all major and minor keys, 24 in total in *each* book. The stunning fact is how beautiful and inventive each pair of preludes and fugues is beyond just Bach's musical architecture. Before the "compromise" of "even temperament," (well-tempered), which involves tuning based on "perfect" octaves, fourths and fifths, there were certain major and minor keys that had to be avoided because they sounded out of tune to modern ears. Even temperament is still used as the method for tuning pianos and organs.

The text for ***Forty Days And Forty Nights*** was written in 1856 by George Hunt Smyttan (1822-1870).He was an Anglican clergy and he also composed a few small volumes of poetry. The tune, HEINlEIN, was composed in 1676 by Martin Herbst (1654-1681). He was a German Lutheran pastor.

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

Spirit Of The Living God was written in 1926 by Daniel Iverson (1890-1977)) and gets its tune name, IVERSON, from the author/composer. Mr. Iverson was inspired to compose this hymn after hearing a sermon on the Holy Spirit at an evangelism crusade.

We Are One In The Spirit is a very popular contemporary hymn especially in Roman Catholic churches. The text and music are authored by Peter Scholtes (1938-2009), who was born in Evanston and grew up in Oak Park. He wrote this hymn in the 1960's while he was the parish priest at ST. BRENDAN'S on the southside of Chicago.

The tune obviously was given the name of his church. The text holds us to high aspirations, *We are one in the Spirit, we are one in the Lord, and we pray that our unity may one day be restored.*

This setting of ***Crucifixus*** was composed in 1717. Antonio Lotti (1667-1740) was a late Italian Baroque composer. He preferred to write in *stile antico*, or the old style of the Renaissance masters. *Crucifixus* is a wonderful example of that style. The text is part of the Nicene Creed, the *Credo*, in the Catholic Mass Ordinary. Lotti was born and died in Venice. He wrote 30 operas and a great deal of scared music. He became choir master at St. Mark's Cathedral, one of the most prestigious church positions in Europe.

The text for ***Come Down, O Love Divine*** was originally composed in Italian by Bianco de Siena (c. 1350-c. 1434) and translated by Richard Frederick Littledale (1833-1890) Siena was a poet and wool worker who became a non-ordained Jesuit in 1367. Irish born Littledale became both an Anglican priest and lawyer. Due to lifelong illness, he spent much of his time writing. The tune, DOWN AMPNEY, was composed by Ralph (*British pronunciation* - Rayf) Vaughan Williams (1872-1958) in 1906. He was one of the greatest English composers of the 20th century. He composed 9 symphonies, operas, numerous oratorios and choral works.

O Happy Day was composed by Edwin Hawkins (1943- 2018). He was an artist of wide ranging talents: gospel musician, singer, pianist, composer, arranger, and choir master. He was born in Oakland, CA and was already playing keyboards at age 7 for his family's gospel group. *O Happy Day* is his most performed and remembered work. This work always reminds Brendan Henry of the day that his daughter, Mahalia, was born.

Special Music Theme 2025-2026
Joyful Sounds

Enjoy another year of special music during worship services.
Mark these dates in your calendar!

Sunday, March 15, 2026 - Lenten Cantata
***Jesu meine Freude* - Bach**

June 13, 2026 - 7 p.m.
***Gospel Mass* - Robert Ray**
A benefit for the National Gospel Music Museum with Pilgrim Baptist Church, UCAN and St. Sabina Church.
Greater Harvest Missionary Baptist Church
5141 South State Street, Chicago, IL

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/4sp7zp2x

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 March 30th** 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 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
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
Please visit www.spucc.org/contact

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

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

Welcome to Saint Pauls UCC!

Welcome to those whose hearts are on fire with faith,
and to those who bring their doubt inside our doors.
Welcome to our first time guests and
our longtime members.
Welcome to single people, tiny children,
grandparents and families of all configurations.
Welcome to those who rejoice and to those who grieve.
Welcome to LGBTQ+ people.
Welcome to each and to everyone.
We are blessed by your presence and
we are glad you are here.