May 24, 2026

Pentecost Sunday

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
"Without the Spirit, God is far away."
Ignatius of Antioch

PRELUDE *Wade In The Water* Spiritual
(In the style of Ramsey Lewis)
St Arbucks Quartet

Wade in the water,
wade in the water, children,
wade in the water.
God's gonna trouble the water.

CHIMES

INTROIT *Come Holy Ghost*
Chancel Choir

WELCOME Matt Fitzgerald

* WELCOMING EACH OTHER

* CALL TO WORSHIP

One: The Holy Spirit comes like a rushing wind!

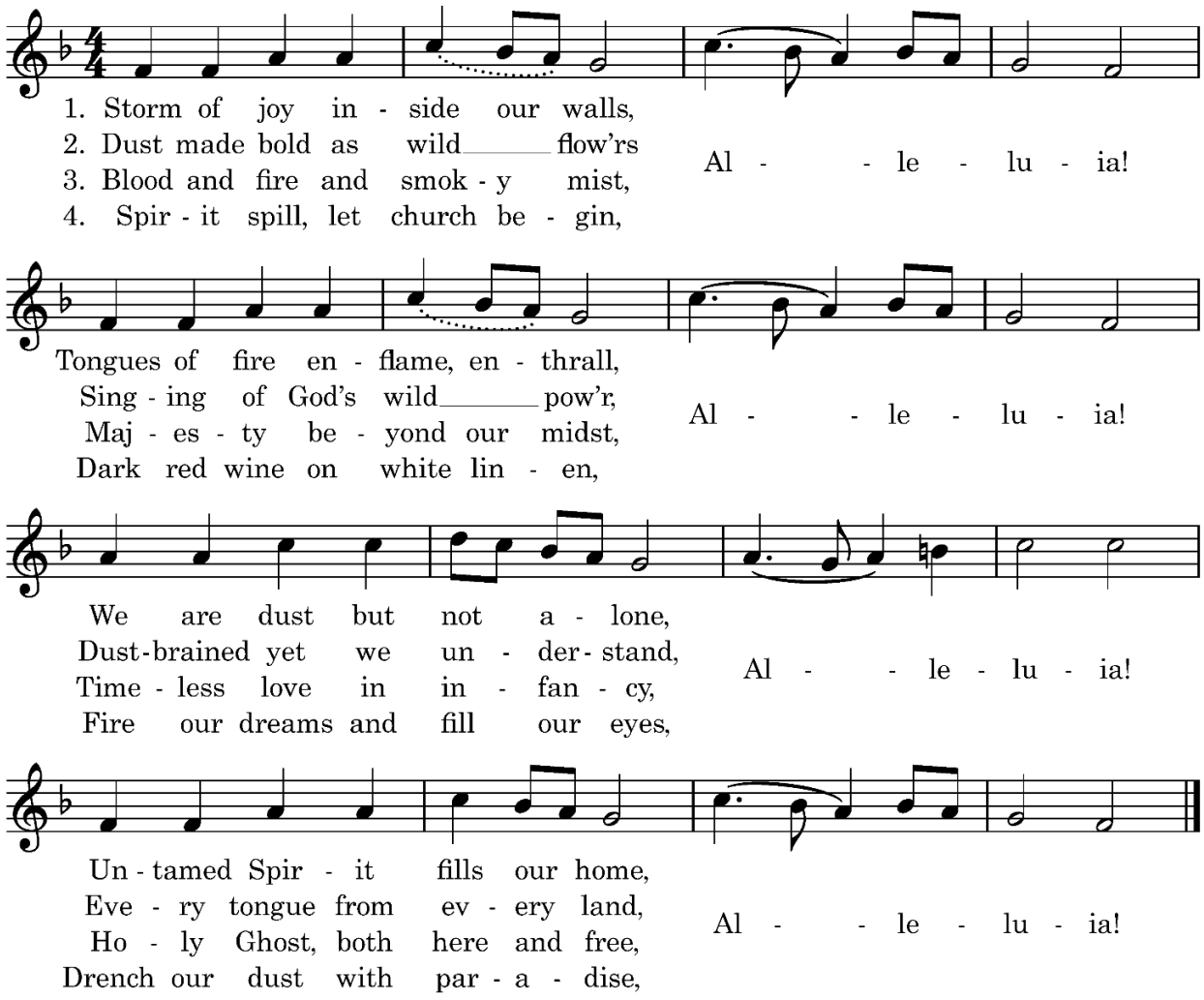
All: The Holy Spirit comes like tongues of flame!

One: The Holy Spirit brings visions and dreams!

All: The Holy Spirit is out of control!

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

* HYMN *Spirit Spill, Let Church Begin*



PRAYER OF CONFESSION Liz Nickerson

The Spirit comes like a violent wind,
strong enough to toss our furniture around.
We fix ourselves to the ground.

The Spirit comes like tongues of fire,
able to burn our cautious religion down.
We carefully write a prayer.

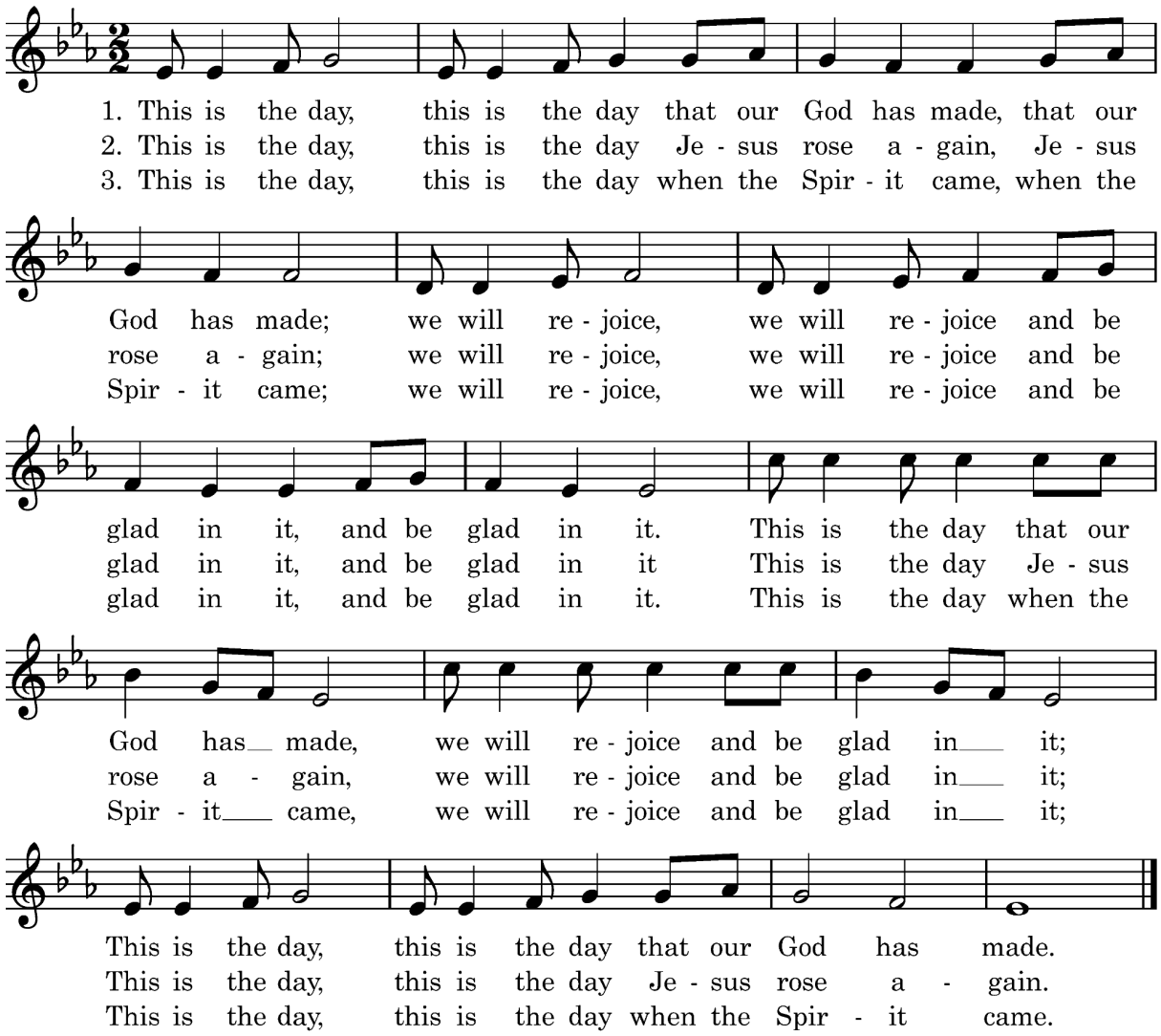
The Spirit is wild and absolutely free,
like a squall, or a storm of grace.
We ignore Her.

Lord, have mercy on us.
Amen.

MOMENT OF SILENT PRAYER

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

RESPONSE *This is The Day* vs. 1 & 2



SCRIPTURE

Acts 2:1-21

When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. And suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability.

Now there were devout Jews from every people under heaven living in Jerusalem. And at this sound the crowd gathered and was bewildered, because each one heard them speaking in the native language of each. Amazed and astonished, they asked, "Are not all these who are speaking Galileans? And how is it that we hear, each of us, in our own native language? Parthians, Medes, Elamites, and residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya belonging to Cyrene, and visitors from Rome, both Jews and proselytes, Cretans and Arabs—in our own languages we hear them speaking about God's deeds of power." All were amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, "What does this mean?" But others sneered and said, "They are filled with new wine."

But Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed them, "Fellow Jews and all who live in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and listen to what I say. Indeed, these are not drunk, as you suppose, for it is only nine o'clock in the morning. No, this is what was spoken through the prophet Joel:

'In the last days it will be, God declares,
that I will pour out my Spirit upon all flesh,
  and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy,
and your young men shall see visions,
  and your old men shall dream dreams.
Even upon my slaves, both men and women,
  in those days I will pour out my Spirit,
    and they shall prophesy.
And I will show portents in the heaven above
  and signs on the earth below,
    blood, and fire, and smoky mist.
The sun shall be turned to darkness

and the moon to blood,
before the coming of the Lord's great and glorious day.
Then everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.'

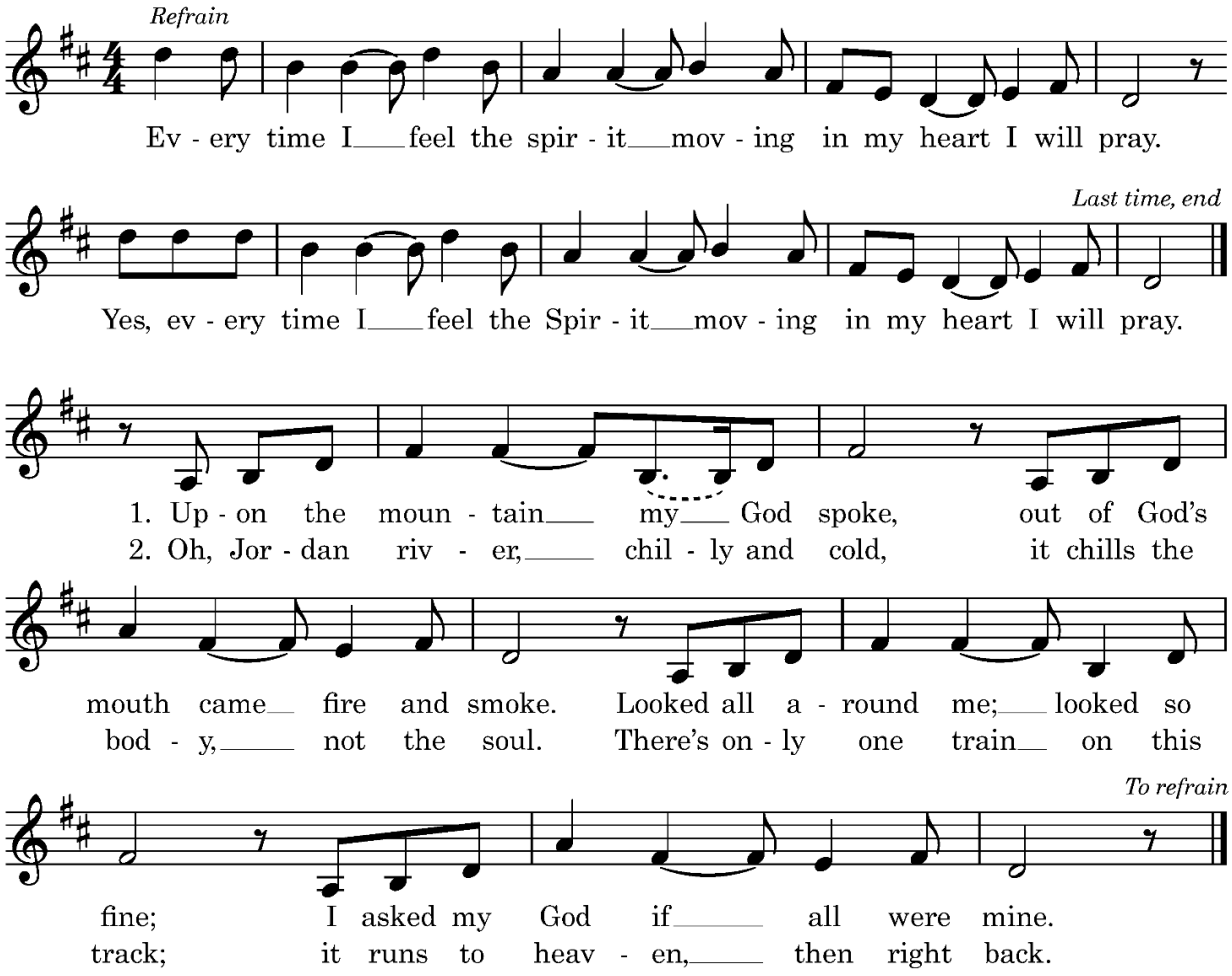
* STATEMENT OF FAITH

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	*This is The Day*	v. 3
	See the previous hymn	
SERMON	"In The Spirit, God is Near"	Matt Fitzgerald

* HYMN

Every Time I Feel the Spirit

OFFERTORY | *Total Praise* | Richard Smallwood
Chancel Choir | arr. Carol Cymbala

Lord, I will lift my eyes to the hills,
Knowing that my help is coming from you.
Your peace, You give me
In time of the storm.
You are the source of my strength.
You are the strength of my life.
I lift my hands in total praise to you.
Amen.

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.

STRENGTHEN THE CHURCH OFFERING

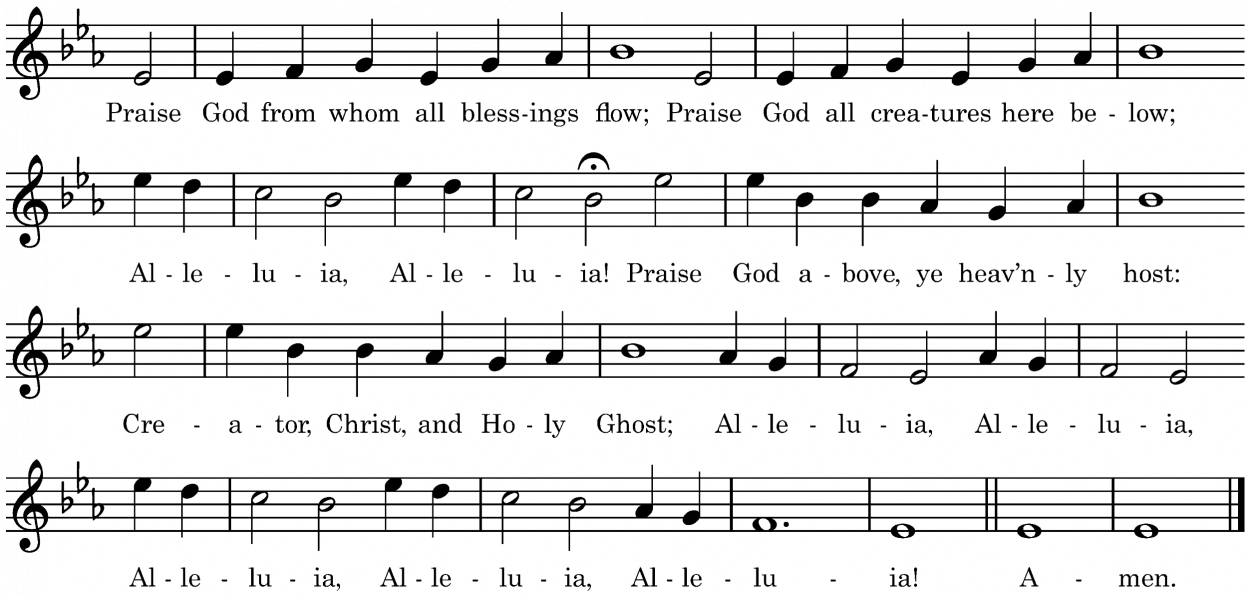
On Pentecost, we join churches across the United Church of Christ in supporting leadership development, youth ministry, new churches, and fresh ideas in existing congregations. Your generosity helps strengthen and grow the Body of Christ for future generations.

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

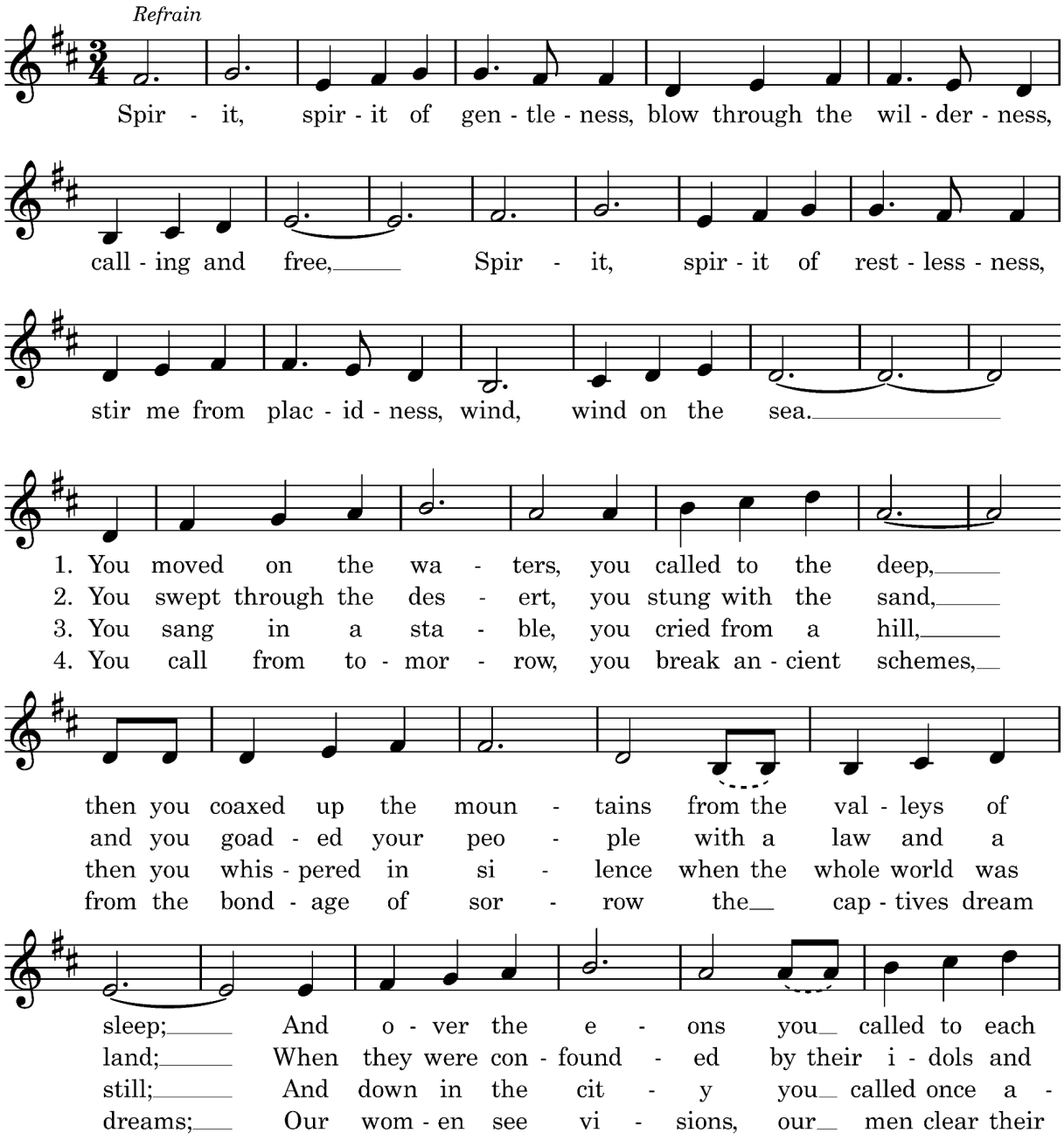
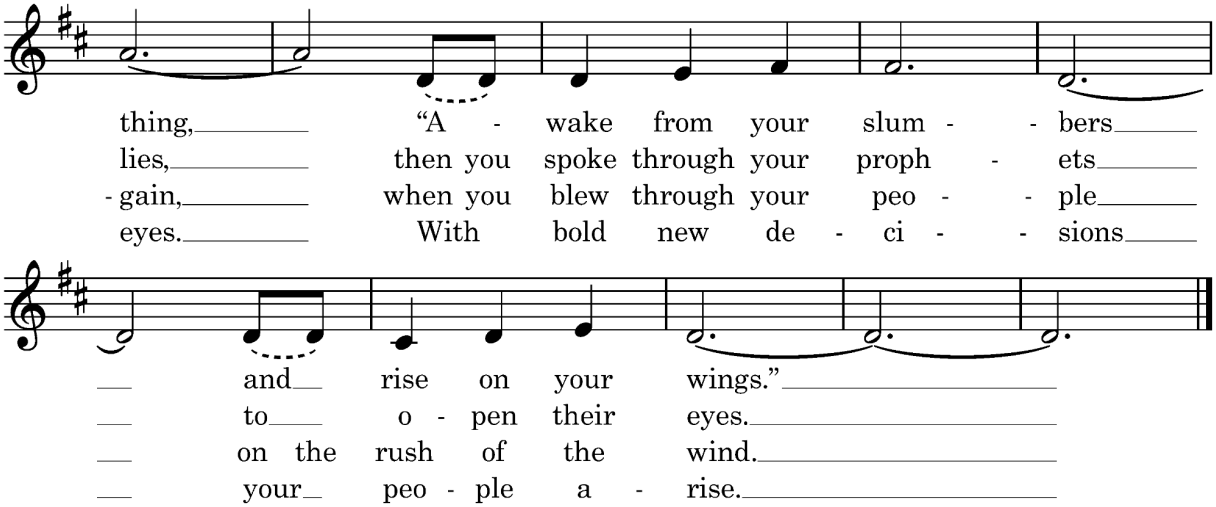


PRAYER OF THE CHURCH Liz Nickerson

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

Spirit, Spirit of Gentleness


thing, "A - wake from your slum - - bers
lies, then you spoke through your proph - ets
- gain, when you blew through your peo - - ple
eyes. With bold new de - ci - - sions
and rise on your wings."
to o - pen their eyes.
on the rush of the wind.
your peo - ple a - rise.

* BENEDICTION

* BENEDICTION RESPONSE *Amen* from *Total Praise* Richard Smallwood
Chancel Choir

POSTLUDE *Intrada* Grayston Ives
Kevin Dzierzawski, organ

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

Are you going through a crisis, such as the death of a loved one, a diagnosis, a divorce, a job loss, etc? Extensively trained in Christian caregiving, Stephen Ministers are also available to listen, support and offer confidential caring on a weekly basis to our members at a mutually agreeable time. If you wonder whether this may be helpful to you, please contact Pastor Jeff, jcarlson@spucc.org

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
Organist: Kevin Dzierzawski
St. Arbucks Quartet: Brendan Henry, piano; Alex Austin, bass; Matt Plaskota, drums; Kris Hansen, trumpet & vocals
Head Usher: Beatrice Jaji
Ushers: David Baker, Fred Pearson
Greeters: Mark Sancya
Gatekeeper: Dodd Brown
Camera Operators: Nana Addadzi-Koom, Jim Alrutz, Marie Ankenman, Bob Ball, Brian Hafner, Trevor Hafner
Custodian: Ramiro Gonzalez

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

A gift in memory of John Larimer was made by Sarah Flosi.
A gift in memory of Maralyn McMinn was made by Jessica McMinn.

BORN THIS WEEK IN MAY

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.

May 24 David Wu, Josiah Smedley, Maegan Kaiser
May 25 Becca Fayhee, Carlos Cata, Spencer Ward, Spencer Weldon
May 26 Grady Clarke, Lucas Bowgren, Marinel Workman-Mandell
May 27 Graham Roark, Libby Braband, Norman Beck
May 28 Christine Terborg, Nancy Curotto, Tyler Holland
May 29 Faye Johnson, Larry Kearns, Liana Cramb, Molly Terborg, Monty Kehl, Nora Penniman

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 the elderly and families affected by the reduction in SNAP funding at the federal level.
- Rob Montgomery over the death of his brother Bill, and for his partner Rob Sorum, and his family.
- Prayers for a new treatment for Megha Whiteman family following the death of her father.
- Prayers of Thanksgiving for Anders (Andy) Johannes Worby, who was born on March 25 to Amy Linman Worby and Trevor Worby.
- Bea Jaji at the death of her sister Elizabeth.
- Drew Occhipinti at the death of his father.
- Prayers for Ashley Saluga over the loss of both of her cats.
- Michelle, being treated for kidney cancer.
- Ally, a college student, getting OT and PT at Shirley Ryan for double vision.
- David Folkes recovering from cancer surgery and beginning radiation.
- Juanita Barlow and Paquita Mueller's brother-in-law, Jerry, in hospice.
- Brent Carstensen and family at the death of his father, James.
- Prayers for Barb Kaiser's sister as she recovers from surgery and begins cancer treatments.
- Prayers for Jim Alrutz's friends, Megan Behnke, Connor Liss, and their families as they mourn the passing of Connor's father, Ron.
- Julie Higginbotham's recovery from broken vertebrae.
- Donn Schimp and his family as Donn continues cancer treatment.
- Dianne Witkowski, as she deals with cancer chemotherapy.

The sanctuary is reserved monthly on the fourth Tuesday from 1:30 p.m. - 2:45 p.m. for prayer.

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 - STRENGTHEN THE CHURCH SPECIAL OFFERING
On Pentecost, the Strengthen the Church Offering reflects the shared commitment of people across the United Church of Christ to cooperatively build up the UCC. The funds raised support leadership development, new churches, youth ministry, and innovation in existing congregations. By your generosity to this offering, you build up the Body of Christ. Your generosity will plant new UCC churches, awaken new ideas in existing churches, and develop the spiritual life in our youth and young adults. If you'd like to donate, you can do so here: tinyurl.com/mrxy7tvd or via the QR code on page 10.

TODAY – FILL THE SILLS
Help us fill our sills with much needed items for the Common Pantry. In addition to canned proteins such as chicken/salmon/tuna, cooking oil, whole grains and brown rice are always in high demand. Personal hygiene items needed are: baby wipes, soap, shampoo and conditioner (shampoo/conditioner are much sought after and are not eligible for SNAP benefits). These are all items that the Pantry can't keep stocked on their shelves. Thank you for your participation and support of the Common Pantry and our neighbors in need.

MAY 26 - FOOD FOR THE SOUL - 12:00 - 1:30 p.m. in the Social Hall
Adults of all ages are invited. Connect with new and old friends with lunch (please bring your own), fellowship, fun and discussion. Jan Fraccaro will facilitate "Patriotism - Earned or Expected?" Sponsored by St. Pauls Social. Childcare provided.

JUNE 5 - ST. SABINA SUMMER PEACE WALK KICK-OFF - 7 p.m.
Join a group from St. Pauls as we join St. Sabina for their annual summer peace walks through the Auburn-Gresham neighborhoods. Thousands of people will gather for these powerful walks! They happen every Friday in the summer, but we will organize a group to attend the First Friday of June-August. Contact Louise Gram at (773) 870-6311 to attend and R.S.V.P. on Church Center to coordinate carpools with other attendees at tinyurl.com/3wxkmnf3.

JUNE 7 - CELEBRATE KURT HANSEN DURING WORSHIP AND SPECIAL BRUNCH
Be among the countless members and friends who will celebrate the remarkable 35-year career of Kurt Hansen as St. Pauls' beloved Music Director. As Kurt moves toward his retirement at the end of June, we will honor him on the first Sunday in June during the worship service and at a catered brunch in the gym immediately afterward. Expect grateful tributes and meaningful music, a delicious meal, and a chance to let Kurt know how much he has meant to St. Pauls.

JUNE 14 - MEAL-MAKING FOR LPCS - 11:15 a.m. & 4 p.m., Kitchen
Join us in the kitchen 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/5n92ywpk

JUNE 16 – RETIREMENT GROUP MEETING – 10 a.m., Parlor
Please join other retirees to discuss our transition paths, what's meaningful, what's on our minds, what brings (and has brought) us joy and sorrow, what's keeping us occupied, and what's next. For more information, contact Jana O'Brien at (708) 846-9415 or janaobrien1@gmail.com.

JUNE 21 - MOMS' GROUP - 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. R.S.V.P. to lnickerson@spucc.org.

JUNE 27 - WINDY CITY WINDS CONCERT IN THE COURTYARD
Please join Windy City Winds, "Chicago's Community Band", at 3:00 p.m. on Saturday, June 27 for the first concert performed on St. Pauls' new courtyard plaza! The program celebrates America's 250th birthday, featuring patriotic marches and music by American composers. It's a free and family-friendly concert for St. Pauls members, friends and neighbors of all ages. Windy City Winds is a 60-piece symphonic wind band; it includes St. Pauls Church members Jim Brandt, Tom Clancy, Lorne Frank, Rick Peterson, Nancy Pifer, Mark Swanson, Penny Trowbridge, and conductors Mark and Sarah Mosley.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

LITTLE LIGHTS: AWARD WINNER

We are thrilled to announce that the St. Pauls Little Lights program has been officially recognized as the BEST Preschool in Mid-North District for 2026 – an honor based on verified data from Google Reviews, as analyzed and certified by BusinessRate. Congratulations to our caring staff, our supportive community, and to the wonderful program we've built together. Limited spots are available for the fall – tell a friend! Church members receive a 25% discount on tuition. Scan the QR code to read reviews. Share the link to apply now: tinyurl.com/yeheb43k

CALLING ALL GRADUATES

We want to acknowledge all of our grads! Please share the students' name and school from which they are graduating via email to erin.fitzgerald@spucc.org. Graduates will be included in the May 31st worship bulletin.

TAKE ACTION TO PROTECT SNAP PROGRAMS!

Starting October 1, states will be responsible to pay a larger amount of SNAP funding to keep programs running, and several programs are at stake, putting vulnerable families at further risk of food insecurity. You can use the following resource to contact your government representatives to ask that they vote to delay this cost-sharing. Even if your representative has voted to support SNAP in the past, it's important to make your voice as a constituent heard. tinyurl.com/mm2jdbxh

ST. ARBUCKS QUARTET'S NEW RELEASE - ***People Get Ready*** - a new album-length professional recording by our own St. Arbucks Quartet. It is available NOW on your favorite streaming services, Spotify and Apple Music. We will let you know other ways you can listen and support our wonderful gospel/jazz quartet.

BLAST FROM THE PAST

The first St Pauls Confirmation class was confirmed in 1859, 16 years after the founding of the church. Confirmation was traditionally held on Palm Sunday for many years, until in the 1990s when it was switched to the end of the church school year. For many years, children who were residents of Uhlich Children Home (now UCAN) attended classes and were confirmed at St Pauls. There were eight years when there was no class confirmed – all between 1977 and 1986 when the church membership was at its low point. This year we are confirming seven teens.

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
Five Million Out of the Affordable Health Plan
In spite of the partial government shutdown, COVID-era subsidies were not returned to the Affordable Care Act, through which, in 2025, 24.5 million people obtained health insurance. For 2026, as many as five million enrollees are expected to drop out, one million because of cost and approximately four million through attrition (unable to meet premiums). Additionally, enrollees are facing higher deductibles, growing from $1,000 in 2025 to $3,786 in 2026.

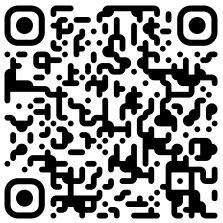
This translates to higher medical debt, delayed care, and death. This affects our parish, as well as the whole nation, so it is our problem to solve.

NEW! OPT-IN TO TEXTING FROM ST. PAULS
Want to receive reminders and announcements via text?
Simply scan the QR code to the right and fill out the form!

WANT TO GET INVOLVED?

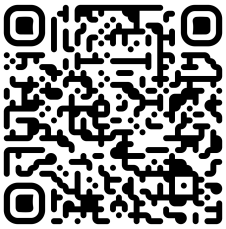
Scan the QR codes to discover ways to connect with others.

SOCIAL EVENTS

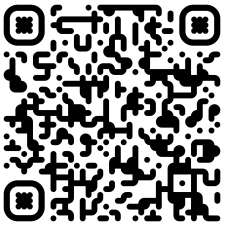


VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

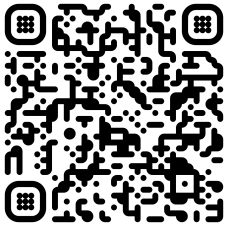
SPECIAL SERVICES



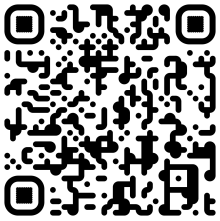
KIDS ACTIVITIES



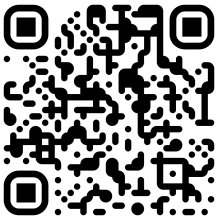
NEW MEMBERS



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

Wade In The Water is unattributed and from the nearly limitless wealth of African-American Spirituals dating to somewhere between 1750 and 1875. In addition to its obvious connection to baptisms, especially those that took place in rivers or ponds, its secondary meaning of escaping from enslavement by crossing rivers like to Potomac or Ohio is less direct. This arrangement is "in the style of Ramsey Lewis" (1935-2022). Chicago native, Ramsey Emmanuel Lewis Jr. was an American jazz pianist, composer, and radio personality. Lewis recorded over 80 albums and received five gold records and three Grammy Awards across his career.

The original text for ***Come, Holy Ghost, God And Lord*** was in German and written by Martin Luther (1483-1546), who began the Reformation and founded the Lutheran Church, which shares some of our denomination's history and lineage. The tune name is drawn from the first three words of Luther's hymn, KOMM HEILIGER GEIST. The tune is unattributed and predates the Reformation. The translation into English is also unattributed and was first found in the Lutheran Book of Worship 1941.

Spirit Spill, Let Church Begin is a new hymn text composed in 2023 by our Senior Pastor Matt Fitzgerald. Matt is a lover of poetry, especially as it relates to faith, so it is natural for him to create new words appropriate for Pentecost. The tune LLANFAIR was composed in 1817 by Robert Williams (1782-1821). Williams was a blind basket weaver with an innate musical talent. It was said that he could write down a tune having heard it only once.

This Is The Day uses a folk melody and unattributed words from Fiji. It was first published in 1967 in a hymnal in Australia. It lends itself to be sung in a call and response style.

Every Time I Feel The Spirit is an upbeat spiritual from the rich tradition of music created by African-Americans. As with nearly all spirituals, its source is unknown and was taught and shared orally. The text couldn't be more perfect for Pentecost Sunday.

Total Praise was "composed," both the words and music, in 1996 by Richard Smallwood (b. 1948). The word "composed" must be amplified to be understood in the context of gospel music. Very often printed scores of gospel songs follow AFTER a song is learned and performed – a bit like transcribing a jazz solo that is improvised in the moment. Most gospel choirs learn their music aurally, or by ear. That gives the spirit and voice more freedom within strict time. Richard Smallwood is a classically trained pianist and singer who graduated *cum laude* from Howard

University, and he was also steeped in the style and substance of the gospel musical traditions. He was BOTH classically trained and also adept in creating music and text in a "spiritual jazz" freedom and inspiration. ***Total Praise*** is one of his most popular gospel songs and came out of a time of great sorrow in his life. ***Precious Lord*** was "composed" by Thomas Dorsey under the same kind of sorrow. Carol Cymbala is the Music Director of the Brooklyn Tabernacle Choir. She has won six Grammy Awards with the choir. The Tabernacle and its Choir celebrate a diverse membership and style of worship.

Spirit Of Gentleness**,** tune title SPIRIT, is another relatively new hymn composed in 1975 by James K. Manley (b. 1940), who became a UCC pastor in California. Our New Century Hymnal was the first to publish it in congregational hymn form.

Intrada was composed in 1977 by Grayston Ives (b. 1948). He is also known as Bill and is a British composer, singer and choral director. He was a member of the famous British male ensemble, The King's Singers. He was the choral director of the faculty of Magdalen College at Oxford. His compositions include choral, solo, and organ works.

Special Music Theme 2025-2026

Joyful Sounds

Enjoy another year of special music during worship services.
Mark this date in your calendar!

June 13, 2026 - 7 p.m.

Gospel Mass **- Robert Ray**
A benefit for the National Gospel Music Museum
with the St. Pauls Chancel Choir joining Pilgrim Baptist Church, UCAN, and St. Sabina Church.
Greater Harvest Missionary Baptist Church
5141 South State Street
Chicago, IL

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.