August 23, 2026

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 — Patricia Mora

"Slowly, your faith grew into my courage."

PRELUDE — *The Creator Has a Master Plan* — Pharoah Sanders

St. Arbucks Quartet

The creator has a working plan
Peace and happiness across the land
The creator has a working plan
Peace and happiness across the land
The creator has a master plan
Peace and happiness across the land
The creator has a master plan
Peace and happiness across the land
The creator makes but one demand
Peace and happiness through all the land
The creator makes but one demand
Happiness through all the land

CHIMES

WELCOME — Jeff Carlson

* WELCOMING EACH OTHER

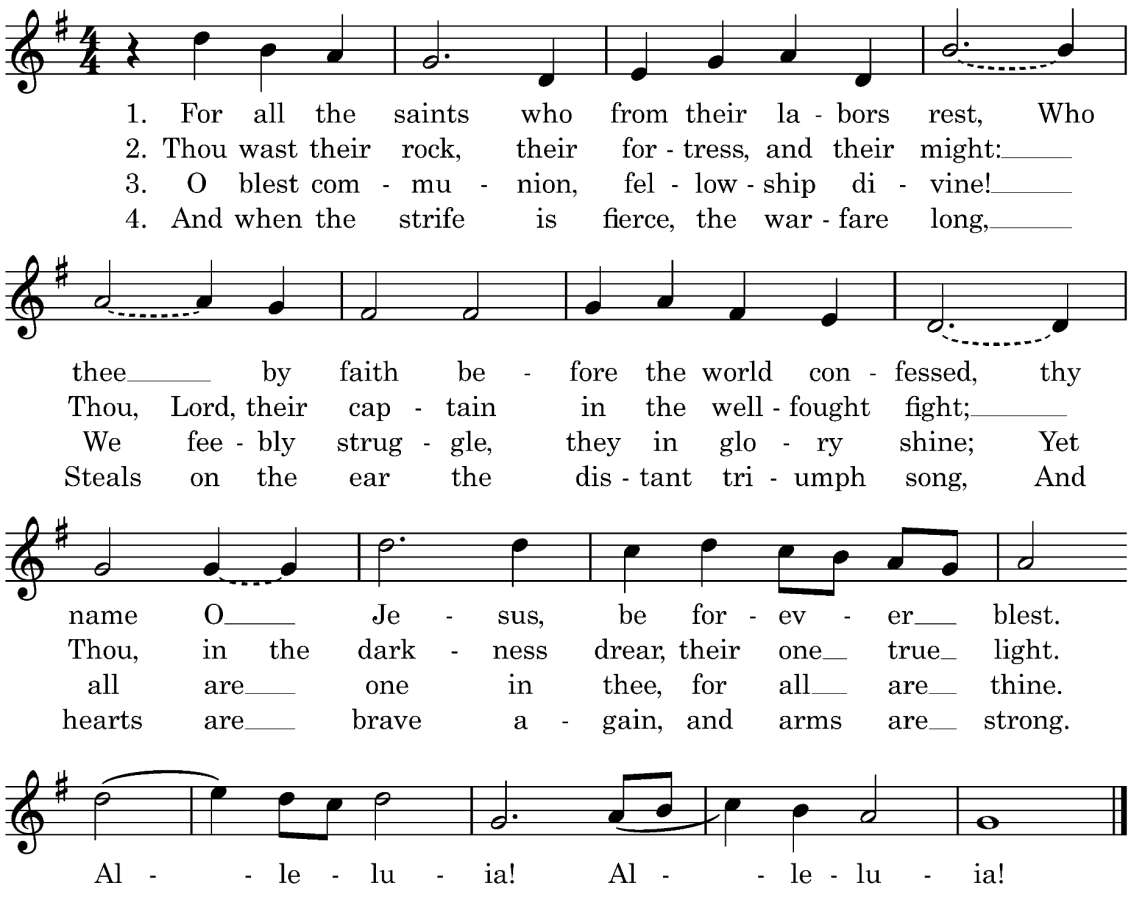
* CALL TO WORSHIP

One: We ask ourselves, "Who am I to be brilliant, gorgeous, talented, fabulous?"
All: Actually, who are you not to be?
One: You are a child of God redeemed by Christ; your playing small doesn't serve the world.
All: We are born to shine with the glory God has given to us! Praise God! Amen.

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

* HYMN

For All the Saints



PRAYER OF CONFESSION

O God,
Left to our own devices
we sin by what we do,
and what we leave undone.
Rebellious as we are,
we cannot trust ourselves.
We can only trust your
grace. And so we beg
again, forgive us.
Encourage us!
Love us!
Amen.

MOMENT OF SILENT PRAYER

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

Sunday School students are invited to go to their classroom.
If you would like to accompany your child(ren),
you are welcome to drop them off and return to worship.

ANTHEM *Even When He Is Silent* Kim Andre Arnesen
The Sopranos
Kecia Waldschmidt, director

I believe in the sun, even when it is not shining.
I believe in love, even when I feel it not.
I believe in God, even when He is silent.

SCRIPTURE Gay Kelly

Romans 12:2-8

Don't become so well-adjusted to your culture that you fit into it without even thinking. Instead, fix your attention on God. You'll be changed from the inside out. Readily recognize what he wants from you, and quickly respond to it. Unlike the culture around you, always dragging you down to its level of immaturity, God brings the best out of you, develops well-formed maturity in you.

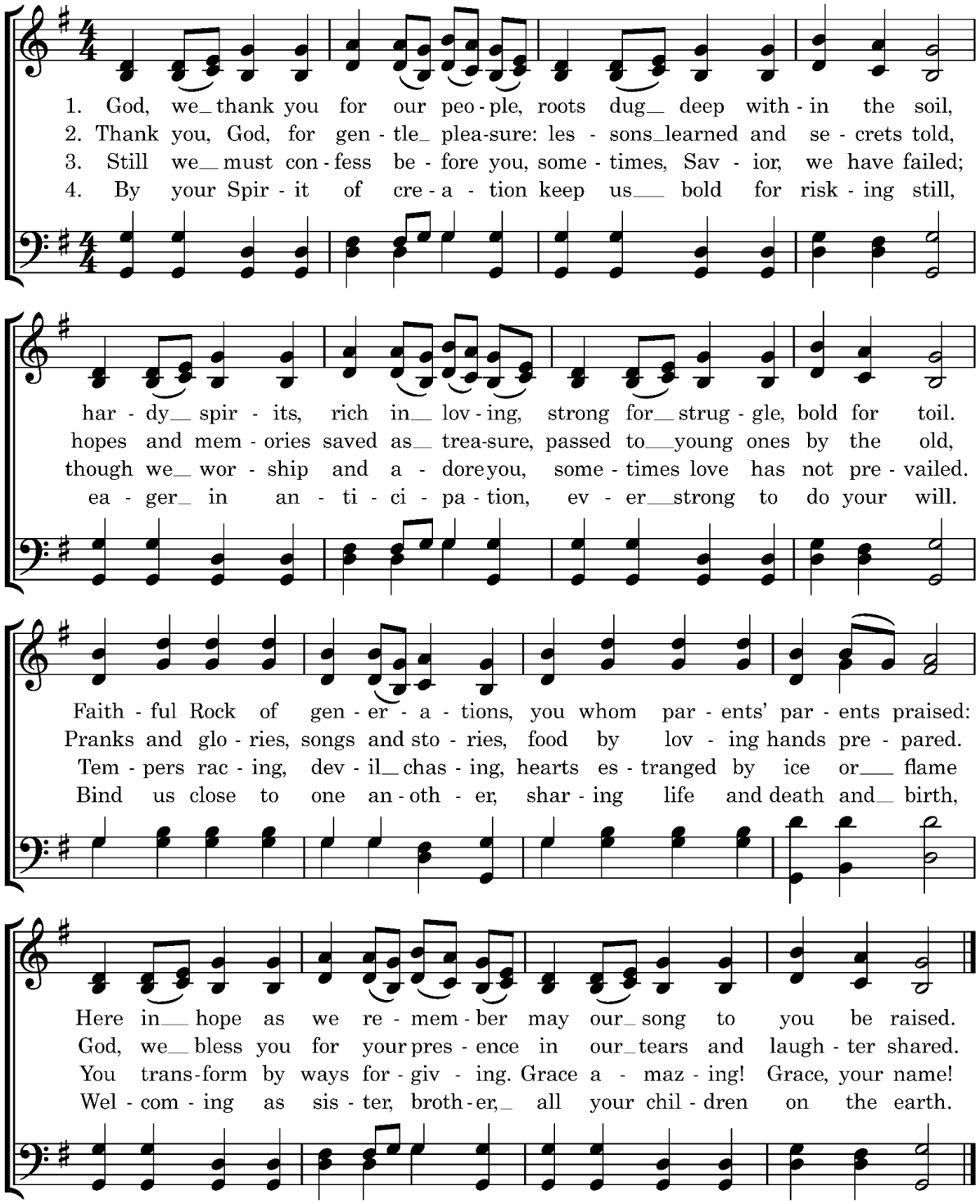
I'm speaking to you out of deep gratitude for all that God has given me. Living then, as every one of you does, in pure grace, it's important that you not misinterpret yourselves as people who are bringing this goodness to God. No, God brings it all to you. The only accurate way to understand ourselves is by what God is and by what he does for us, not by what we are and what we do for him.

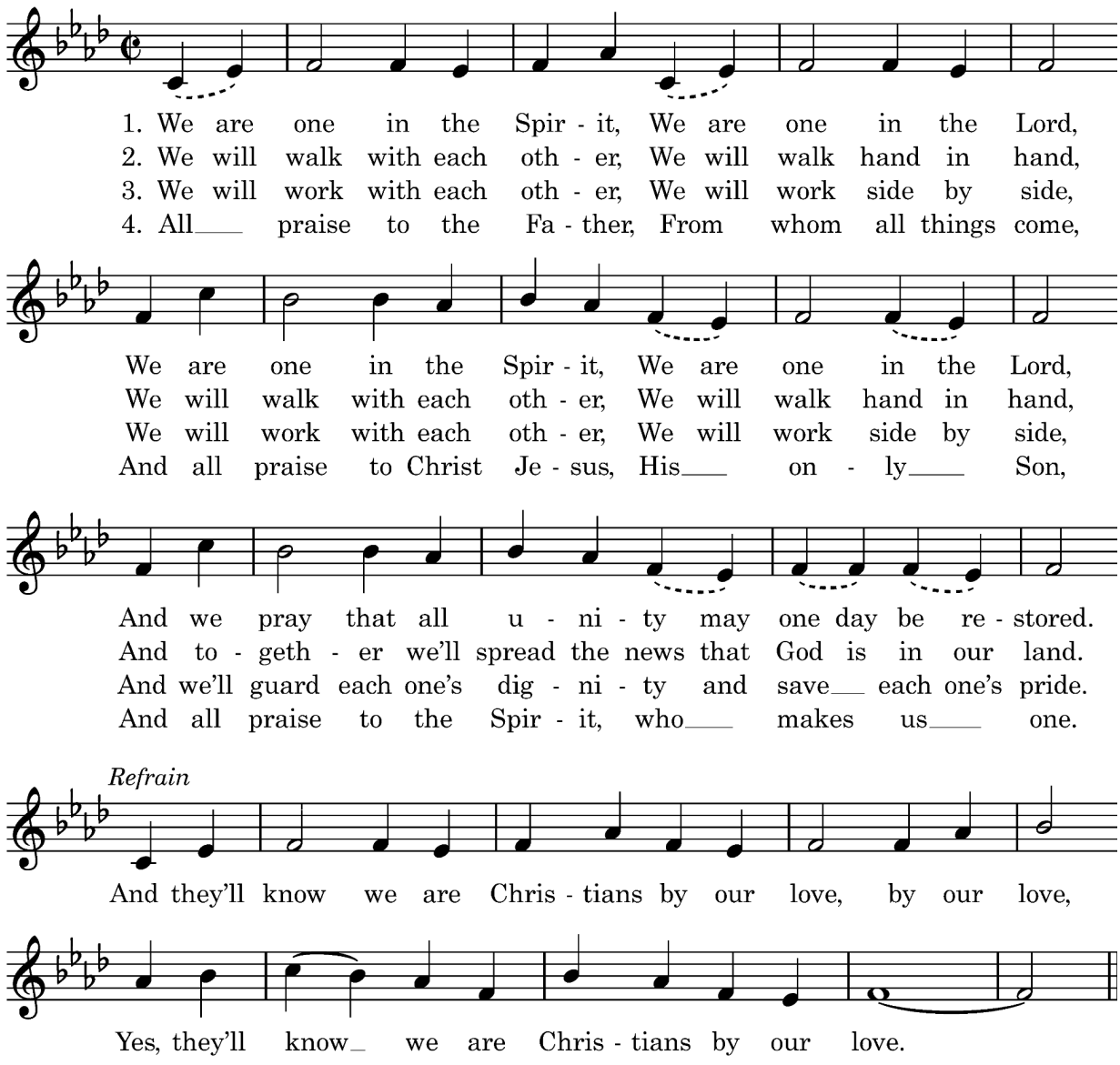
In this way we are like the various parts of a human body. In Christ we, though many, form one body, and each member belongs to all the others. We have different gifts, according to the grace given to each of us. If you preach, just preach God's message, nothing else; if it is serving, then serve; if it is teaching, then teach; if it is to encourage, then give encouragement; if it is giving, then give generously; if it is to lead, do it diligently; if it is to show mercy, do it cheerfully.

* 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)

* HYMN *God We Thank You for Our People*

SERMON "We All Need It. Everyone Can Give It" Matt Fitzgerald

* HYMN *They'll Know We are Christians By Our Love*

OFFERTORY *Wade In The Water* Traditional Spiritual

The Sopranos arr. Rheuben W Green III

Annika Victorson, Meg Tazelaar,
Christie Ward, and Kecia Waldschmidt, soloists

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

See that band all dressed in white
The leader looks like the Israelite
See that band all dressed in red
It looks like the band that Moses led

Wade in the water….

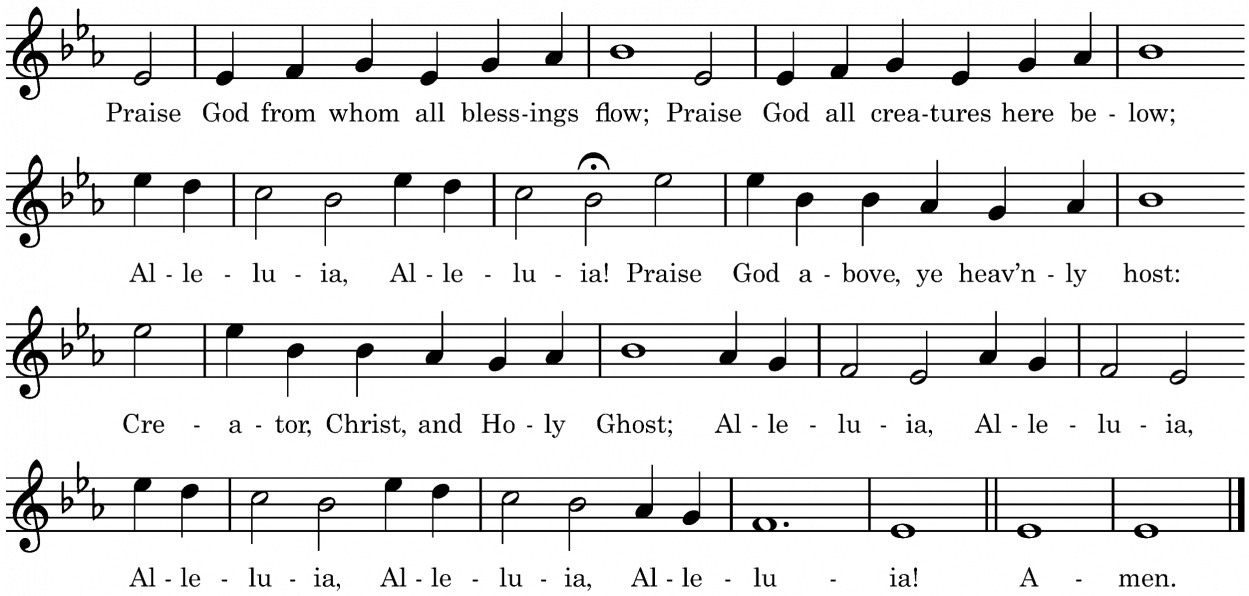
ELECTRONIC OFFERING OPTIONS

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



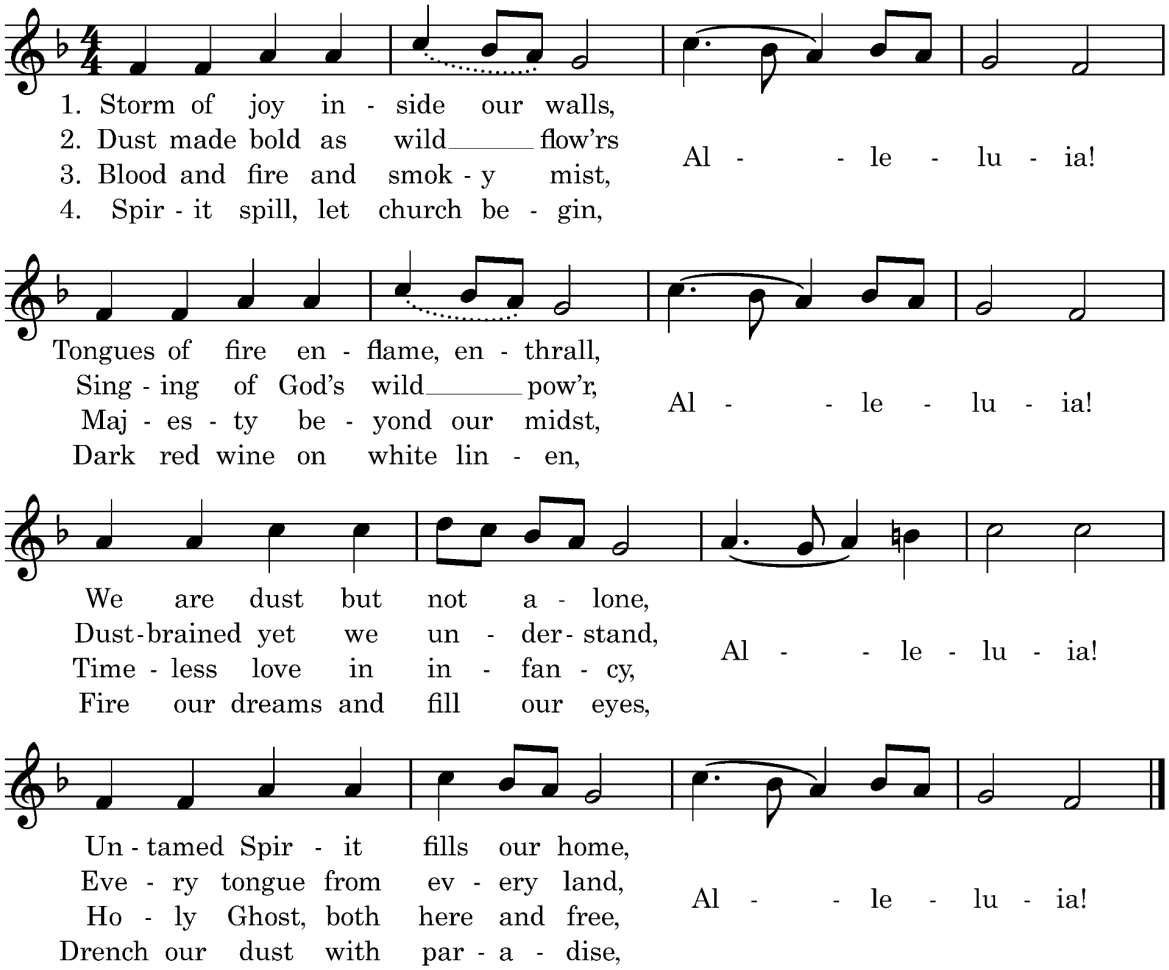
PRAYER OF THE CHURCH Liz Nickerson

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.

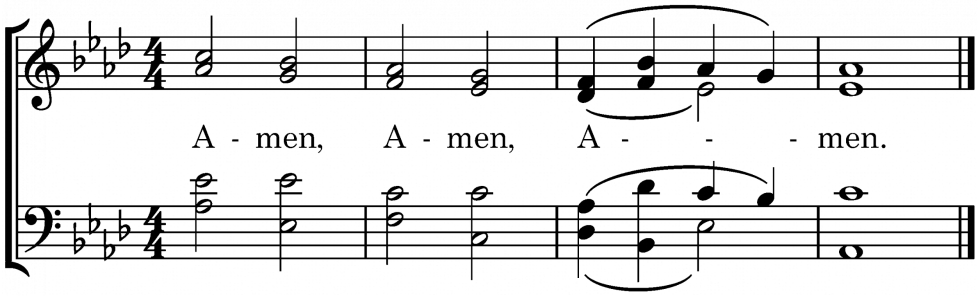
* HYMN

Storm of Joy Inside Our Walls



* BENEDICTION

* BENEDICTION RESPONSE



POSTLUDE *Fanfare* J. Lemmens

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. If you're visiting, please stop by the Welcome Table so we can greet you.

TODAY'S WORSHIP LEADERS

Clergy: Jeff Carlson, Matt Fitzgerald, Liz Nickerson
Music Director: Stephen Edwards
Organist: Kevin Dzierzawski
St. Arbucks Quartet: Brendan Henry, piano; Alex Austin, bass; Matt Plaskota, drums; Kris Hansen, trumpet & vocals
Scripture Reader: Gay Kelly
Head Usher: Beatrice Jaji
Greeters: Elaine Filus
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.

BORN THIS WEEK IN AUGUST

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.

August 24	Cres Roewer, Doug Heyboer, Paige Terborg
August 25	Clark Baurer, Kurt Hansen, Maureen Reilly, Paul Berghoff
August 26	Landon Roark
August 27	Brooke Gentzen, Holden Lechtenberg, Maureen Grunst, Todd Smith
August 28	Cici Coquillette, Grace Ashley-McGraw, Katie Kobak, Nolan Dierks, Pat Mayer
August 29	Karen Schmidt-Hein, Laura Nowack, Nathaniel Weldon, Steve Patton, Theresa Broderick

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.

- To our Director of Operations, Aubraea Cleveland on the deaths of her father and grandfather.
- Friends and loved ones of Pat Kirby at her death. Pat's memorial service will be held in the sanctuary at 10:00 on Saturday, September 19th.
- Charles Michod and family as they grieve the death of his wife, longtime Saint Pauls member Susan Michod.
- To the family of Ninon Freeman's dear friend, Tim Rooney, upon the death of his mother, Magda Rooney.
- Pauline Taylor and Rich Carpenter's daughter-in-law, as she prepares to donate a kidney to an unknown recipient on August 19.
- Friends and loved ones of Dianne Witkowski at her death.
- The Coleman family as they seek strength, healing, justice, and peace through life's many challenges.
- Nadia Jiménez's cousin Dayana being treated for cancer.

Continue to hold these loved ones in prayer:
Randy Lyons, Jim Stovall, Megha Whiteman, David Folkes, Donn Schimp, Beverley Petrunich, Doug Dobmeyer

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 – FILL THE SILLS
This summer, we will continue to collect items for the Common Pantry. The Pantry has many gluten-intolerant clients but rarely has gluten-free items in the pantry. St. Pauls has been asked to help fill their shelves with gluten-free items. There is also a continued need for personal hygiene items (shampoos, razors, feminine hygiene, toothpaste, diapers, baby wipes, etc.) and, of course, proteins are always in demand. The Pantry can always use reusable bags, backpacks, duffles, suitcases and roller bags to transport their food items. Thank you for supporting our neighbors in need.

AUGUST 25 - FOOD FOR THE SOUL - 12:00 - 1:30 p.m., Social Hall
Building Walk and Windows that Talk. After lunch, Jeff Carlson will take us on an updated building tour put together by our Facilities Ministry, including a peek through one of Jeff's favorite hidden doorways. We'll end our tour with Larry Simpson as he relates the stories behind some of our beautiful sanctuary windows. Adults of all ages are invited. Connect with new and old friends with lunch (please bring your own), fellowship, fun and discussion. Childcare provided; register at tinyurl.com/une5bdd9

AUGUST 26 & 27 - LITTLE LIGHTS PLAY DAYS - 9:00-10:30 a.m.
Students and parents/caregivers visit their classroom and engage in free play together. No teachers are present, perfect for warming up to the space and making new friends. This is especially useful for children who will benefit from a gentle transition into the environment before classes start in September. Drop-in on Wednesday and/or Thursday morning.

AUGUST 26 - WEDNESDAY BIBLE STUDY - 1 & 2 Kings, Noon, ZOOM
Despite the names of these books, the Old Testament takes a critical view of monarchy. Liberated from slavery under the king of Egypt, Israel was initially governed by judges, not kings. Yet, Israel demanded a king, and they got what they asked for. In their critique of power, hubris and all of the things that draw the human heart away from the love of God, these ancient books remain surprisingly contemporary. Led by Jeff Carlson, we meet weekly from Noon to 12:40 p.m. over ZOOM. Sign up via Church Center here: tinyurl.com/y3w7fkpw

AUGUST 26 - YOUNG ADULT WOMEN'S SMALL GROUP - 7 p.m., Off-site
If you're 22 to 35, join us on Wednesday, July 22, at 7 p.m. for a weekly summer Small/Life Group at a member's apartment. Form stronger bonds with women at church, make new friends, and grow in your faith! For more information, email youngadults@spucc.org.

AUGUST 28 - BACK TO SCHOOL BBQ - 5:00 - 8:00 p.m., Courtyard & Plaza
Join us for food, fellowship, and fun with your St. Pauls family! Let's spend time together and toast to a wonderful summer. A grill and full hot dog bar will be provided, and you're welcome to bring a side, drink, or game to share. R.S.V.P. here: tinyurl.com/8vswjj2t

AUGUST 30 - CONFIRMATION ICE CREAM SOCIAL - 11:00 a.m., Gym
Calling all new and returning Confirmation students! Join us for an Ice Cream Social as we kick off a new year of faith, friendship, and fun. Meet new classmates, reconnect with returning students, and enjoy a sweet treat together before the Confirmation year begins. We hope you'll join us! Please register here: tinyurl.com/53bpsc8w

AUGUST 30 - GUIDED TOUR OF ALFRED CALDWELL LILY POOL - 12 p.m., Offsite
Green Team has arranged a guided tour of the Alfred Caldwell Lily Pool, a recently restored hidden jewel in Lincoln Park. Alfred Caldwell designed this sanctuary to represent a glacial river with Midwestern native plants. Its structures are strongly influenced by the Prairie School of Architecture. Due to the Lily Pool's small area, this tour is limited to eight people. Please e-mail Ninon Freeman at: nlanda05@yahoo.com to indicate your interest.

SEPTEMBER 8 - FALL READING GROUP - 7:00 - 8:00 p.m., ZOOM
Our monthly Reading Group continues on September 8 and October 13 with *Rivermouth* (A Chronicle of Language, Faith and Migration) by Alejandra Oliva. Carrie Bruggers will lead what promises to be lively discussions. On November 10, Lydia Murray will lead our adventure with *The Book of the Dun Cow* by Walter Wangerin, Jr. All discussions are over ZOOM at 7 p.m. on the second Tuesday of each month. Questions? Contact Marti Pechnyo at mpechnyo@gmail.com. Join us! Sign up here: tinyurl.com/yjutaszj

SEPTEMBER 13 - K-6TH SUNDAY SCHOOL BREAKFAST - 9:00 a.m., Social Hall
Families of children K-6 are invited to breakfast to meet teachers and learn about the theological framework for learning at each stage of your child's development. Come learn about how your children will grow in their faith and connect with families here at St. Pauls!

SEPTEMBER 13 - KICK OFF SUNDAY FINGER FOOD POTLUCK - 11:00 a.m., Gym
Celebrate the start of a new church year together! Reconnect with friends and welcome new faces with food and fellowship. Bring a dish based on your last name to share. R.S.V.P. on Church Center: tinyurl.com/4rbcbtt9

SEPTEMBER 13 - 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 p.m. Prepare dinner at the church and help deliver the meal to LPCS (600 W. Fullerton). Sign up for Dinner: tinyurl.com/5n92ywpk

SEPTEMBER 15 – 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.

SEPTEMBER 17 – MOMS' GROUP - Thursday, 11:30 a.m., Nursery

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.

SEPTEMBER 26 - OKTOBERFEST - 1:00 - 8:00 p.m., Courtyard
It's "Munich meets Chicago" as St. Pauls hosts Oktoberfest in celebration of our German heritage. What better way to tap into the excitement of this Bavarian tradition than with authentic German food, local Oktoberfest beers, live music and dancing, a jumpy-house, and activities for all ages. This year's live entertainment will feature acclaimed children's entertainer, Laura Doherty (1:30 p.m. – 3 p.m.), and everyone's favorite oompah band, Die Musikmeisters (3:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.). This free event is open to the public and family-friendly, so invite your neighbors and friends and join us at the corner of Fullerton and Orchard. In case of inclement weather, the event will be held in our gymnasium. Stay tuned for volunteer opportunities in the coming weeks.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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.

VOLUNTEER WORSHIP TRANSPORTATION
Help a fellow member attend Sunday worship by providing transportation assistance for Mary Stainton on selected Sundays. Volunteers will meet Mary at Warren Barr (66 W. Oak St.) at approximately 8:15 a.m. and ride the PACE bus with her to St. Pauls, then accompany her on the return trip around 12:00 p.m. (times may vary slightly each week). Your support helps ensure every member can fully participate in our church community. For more information or to volunteer, please call or text (205)799-8979.

VENEZUELA EARTHQUAKE RELIEF
Critical help is needed for Venezuelans following the recent earthquakes. Immediate impacts include loss of shelter, infrastructure, disruption of basic services, and psycho-social distress. Long-term impacts are expected to include prolonged displacement and loss of livelihoods.. The UCC is working with Global Ministry partners to deliver aid. You can find out more and donate to the efforts here: tinyurl.com/4v7ejndv

TAKE ACTION TO FIGHT HUNGER
St. Pauls' letters on hunger to congresspeople are having a positive effect. For the rest of August, the Activism and Action Ministry recommends that you contact Senator Dick Durbin's office. He sits on the Agriculture Committee which has a key vote coming upon the Farm Bill. You can find a sample letter here: tinyurl.com/3kj2wppb

POP TAB COLLECTION MILESTONE
Thank you to all who have contributed to the Ronald McDonald pop tab collection bin. With our last donation, we surpassed the 100 pound donation mark! That's 100 pounds of pure aluminum that is being recycled to benefit the programs of our local Ronald McDonald House. Keep popping those tabs. Our donation bin is located in the Social Hall!

BLAST FROM THE PAST

After our founding in 1843 and the schism which resulted in the establishment of First St. Pauls Lutheran, our membership skyrocketed. This was the result of political unrest in Germany. German refugees flooded Chicago so much that our pastor Reverend Hartmann could not keep up on calls to members living south and west of the Chicago River. With our support these members in 1858 formed the Zion German Evangelical congregation. It was founded on the west side near Ashland & 14th St. In the mid 1920s, the church moved further west to the Austin neighborhood at 5442 W. Van Buren. It dissolved in the early 1970s due to the changing neighborhood.

CREATION CORNER by Green Team

Finishing Summer With Ecotopian Novels

There is still time to align your summer reading with our new climate reality. The ecotopian novel— admittedly dark and dystopian—imagines climate change darkly while a sub-genre — "solar punk"— is more positive and imagines "…futures where people survive the coming chaos," according to Nicolas Rivera of the Washington Post.*

Recommended is Octavia Butler's "Parable of the Sower"; Nick Fuller Googins's "The Great Transition"; Barbara Kingsolver's "Flight Behavior." Let these authors' imagination help you overcome the daily annoyance of tropical steam and flooded streets to a bigger picture with possible solutions.

*Nicolas Rivera, "What Fictional Worlds Can Teach Us About the Reality of Climate Change," Washington Post, January 3, 2026.

WANT TO GET INVOLVED?

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

CONNECT & GROW

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 the next Sunday bulletin**. Share personal announcements/events on our Facebook group page, St. Pauls Together.
Please limit announcements to 100 words. Thank you.

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!

TODAY'S MUSIC

The Creator Has A Master Plan was composed by Pharoah Sanders (1940-2022) He was born Farrell Sanders and changed his name after his conversion to Islam. He was a saxophonist known for creating "spiritual jazz" as well as exploring the overtones on the sax. The legendary saxophonist John Coltrane, who became a close friend of Sanders, recorded this work as an almost musical mantra and featured it on his testament album, *A Love Supreme.*

The author of the text of ***For All The Saints*** was William Walsham How (1823-1897). He penned the poetry we love so much in 1864. How was an Oxford graduate and served many parishes in England throughout his life. Just to prove that there can be a sense of humor even in hymn tune names, SINE NOMINE, means "no name" in Latin. The stirring music was written in 1906 by Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872-1958). He is one of the greatest English composers of the post-Victorian era. He composed music for nearly all genres of performance.

Even When He Is Silent was commissioned in 2011 by the St. Olaf Festival in Trondheim, Norway. The premier happened just a few days after the terrorist attacks in Oslo and Utøya, Norway. The unattributed text was discovered on a wall in a German concentration camp. The composer viewed the text as a Credo lifted up during dark times of the soul. Kim André Arnesen (b. 1980) grew up in Trondheim and graduated from the Music Conservatory there. He has many published works, and this anthem in particular has been performed around the world.

The text for ***God We Thank You For Our People*** was written in 1986 by Ruth Duck (b. 1947). She is an ordained minister in the United Church of Christ and has written four volumes of hymn texts. HOLY MANNA is an unattributed melody from the great American series of shaped-note hymnals from the early 19th century including The Sacred Harp.

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 south side 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.*

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 by Rheuben W. Green III (1917-2009). He was born and spent most of his life in Oklahoma. He taught music at Temple High School in Temple, OK, and he was also a Baptist minister for 56 years.

Storm of Joy Inside Our Walls is a new hymn text composed recently 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 from 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.

The composer of ***Fanfare*** (1862), Jacques-Nicolas Lemmens (1823-1881), was born in Belgium and trained to reinvigorate the Belgian organ tradition. He also studied the works of Bach in Germany. At only age 26, he was appointed the organ professor at the Royal Brussels Conservatoire. As a tribute to his influence and fame, a church music institute which he founded in Mechelen was named in his honor after his death.

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.