

December 30, 2018

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.

THOUGHT FOR PREPARATION

PRELUDE

Bist du bei mir
Justin DuPont, trumpet
Paul Raiman, piano

J.S. Bach

CHIMES

INTROIT

Es ist ein Ros entsprungen
(Lo, How A Rose E're Blooming)
Kurt R. Hansen, tenor

Michael Praetorius

WELCOME

* WELCOMING EACH OTHER

* CALL TO WORSHIP

One: O God, you are always with us.

All: And always on your way toward us.

One: Come to us in modest and unlikely guise, a silent night, a child, a stable.

All: Come to us in frost and weariness.

One: Come to us in relief and celebration.

**All: Come to us in silence and trumpet sound
and angels' joyful proclamation! Amen.**

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

* HYMN

Good Christian Friends, Rejoice

Black Hymnal No. 129

Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart and soul and voice;
Now give heed to what we say: Jesus Christ is born today;
Ox and ass before him bow, asleep within the manger now.
Christ is born today, Christ is born today.

Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart and soul and voice;
Now you know of endless bliss: Jesus Christ was born for this!
God has opened heaven's door, and you are blessed forever more.
Christ was born for this, Christ was born for this!

Good Christian friends, rejoice with heart and soul and voice;
Now you need not fear the grave: Jesus Christ was born to save!
Calls you one and calls you all to gain the everlasting hall.
Christ was born to save, Christ was born to save!

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**O God, what can we possibly give to you at Christmas?
There is so much tension in our lives.
So much resentment in our hearts.
So many confused thoughts in our minds.
So much that separates us from each other.
So much that runs directly against Christ's birth!**

**Yet all of this is precisely what you want to receive from us
and take away at Christmas -
all of our mistakes, regret, fear and suspicion,
in order to give us Jesus in return.
We thank you for the wonder of this gift.
Amen.**

MOMENT OF SILENT PRAYER

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

* RESPONSE

Tune: Black Hymnal No. 124

Be near me, Lord Jesus, I ask thee to stay,
Close by me forever and love me, I pray.
Bless all the dear children in thy tender care,
And fit us for heaven to live with thee there.

ANTHEM

The Work Of Christmas Begins

Dan Forrest

Kurt R. Hansen, tenor and Kevin Dzierzawski, piano

When the song of the angels is stilled,
When the star in the sky is gone,
When the kings and princes are home,
When the shepherds are back with their flock,
The work of Christmas begins:

To find the lost,
To heal the broken,
To feed the hungry,
To release the prisoner,
To rebuild the nations,
To bring peace among brothers,
To make music from the heart.

When the song of the angels is stilled,...

THE BIBLICAL WORD FOR THIS DAY

Gerald Wilk

Luke 2:41-52

Now every year his parents went to Jerusalem for the festival of the Passover. And when he was twelve years old, they went up as usual for the festival. When the festival was ended and they started to return, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem, but his parents did not know it. Assuming that he was in the group of travelers, they went a day's journey. Then they started to look for him among their relatives and friends. When they did not find him, they returned to Jerusalem to search for him. After three days they found him in the temple, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. And all who heard him were amazed at his understanding and his answers.

When his parents saw him they were astonished; and his mother said to him, "Child, why have you treated us like this? Look, your father and I have been searching for you in great anxiety." He said to them, "Why were you searching for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?" But they did not understand what he said to them. Then he went down with them and came to Nazareth, and was obedient to them. His mother treasured all these things in her heart.

And Jesus increased in wisdom and in years, and in divine and human favor.

* A 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

Black Hymnal No. 127, vv. 1 & 2

Lo, how a Rose e'er blooming from tender stem hath sprung!
Of Jesse's lineage coming as those of old have sung.
It came, a floweret bright, amid the cold of winter
When half-spent was the night.

Isaiah t'was foretold it, the Rose I have in mind:
With Mary we behold it, the virgin mother kind.
To show God's love aright she bore to us a Savior
When half-spent was the night.

SERMON

"Air Gordon"

Matt Fitzgerald

* HYMN

Once in Royal David's City

Red Hymnal No. 104

Once in royal David's city stood a lowly cattle shed,
Where a mother laid her baby in a manger for his bed:
Mary was that mother mild, Jesus Christ her little child

He came down from earth to heaven, who is God and Lord of all,
And his shelter was a stable, and his cradle was a stall;
With the poor and mean and lowly, lived on earth this Savior lowly.

And our eyes at last shall see him, through his own redeeming love;
And that child so dear and gentle is our Lord in heaven above;
And he leads his children on to the place where he has gone.

OFFERTORY

Prayer of St Gregory

Alan Hovhaness

Justin DuPont, trumpet, and Kevin Dzierzawski, organ

* FESTIVAL DOXOLOGY

Praise God from Whom all blessings flow,
Praise God all creatures here below,
Alleluia, Alleluia!
Praise God above, ye heavenly hosts,
Creator, Christ and Holy Ghost.
Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

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

God Rest You Merry Christian Friends

God rest you merry Christian friends let nothing you dismay,
Remember Christ our Savior was born on Christmas Day,
To save us all from Satan's power when we were gone astray.
Oh tidings of comfort and joy, comfort and joy,
Oh tidings of comfort and joy!

From God our Heavenly Father a blessed Angel came,
And unto certain Shepherds brought tidings of the same,
How that in Bethlehem was born the Son of God by name.
Oh tidings of comfort and joy, comfort and joy,
Oh tidings of comfort and joy!

Now to the Lord sing praises, all you within this place,
With brotherhood and sisterhood each other now embrace,
This holy tide of Christmas all other doth deface.
Oh tidings of comfort and joy, comfort and joy,
Oh tidings of comfort and joy!

* BENEDICTION

* BENEDICTION RESPONSE

Gloria in excelsis Deo!

POSTLUDE

Grand Choeur
Kevin Dzierzawski, organ

César Franck

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

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

WE WELCOME Paul Raiman and Justin DuPont as musical guests. Paul is the son of Liz Raiman and grew up at St. Pauls. He is a professional conductor with Broadway credits as well as keyboard player. He lives with his wife and son in Knoxville, Tennessee. Justin is a senior in Electrical Engineering at the University of Texas in Austin. His mom, Laura Raiman DuPont, also grew up at St Pauls; their family lives in League City, Texas.

TODAY'S MUSIC features the German Baroque in the prelude by Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750), a pillar of French romanticism, César Franck (1822-1890) in the postlude, and three Americans, Alan Hovhaness (1911-2000), a contemporary "local" composer, Dan Forrest (b. 1978) and the poet for the Forrest anthem, Howard Thurman (1899-1991). Rev. Howard Thurman was a prominent African-American civil rights leader, author, philosopher, and theologian. Dan Forrest is a prolific published composer who is also on the composition faculty at Wheaton College. Alan Hovhaness was of Armenian heritage and his early works especially were deeply influenced by his time in the Armenian church. Later in his life, he explored the variety of musical forms in Asian music. César Franck composed chamber music and symphonic music, as well as music for the organ. He was champion of the great French Romantic organ builder Cavaillé-Coll. He counted Vierne, Duparc, Tournemier, and Chausson among his students.

TODAY'S WORSHIP LEADERS:

Head Usher: Brian Hafner
Ushers: Lauren Vega, Layne Lebahn
Head Greeter: Greg Mooney
Gatekeeper: Dodd Brown
Acolyte Coordinator: Tiffany Jozwiak

A donation to the Gordon Fishburn Memorial Fund was made by Liz Raiman.

Andrew and Lynn Davis and family celebrate the 90th birthday of his mother, Lucille.

BORN THIS WEEK IN DECEMBER

Donations to the Birthday Fund support A Just Harvest

We celebrate and give thanks for your life at St. Pauls. A perfect way to celebrate and help St. Pauls: give one dollar for each year of your life to our Birthday Fund.

Dec 30 Sally Fletcher, Deirdre McGrath
Dec 31 Justin Hartanov, Gemma Womack
Jan 1 Nathan Chamberlain
Jan 2 Matilda Fanai Danesh
Jan 3 Susan Michod, Theresa Busker, Aaron Lawson
Jan 5 Laini Zinn, Charles Hall, Christine Frisch, Sally Glowiak

ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS AT ST PAULS

SUN, DEC 30 WORSHIP - 10 a.m., Sanctuary

-Watch for the Light, session three - 11:30 a.m., Oscar Mayer Room

SUN, JAN 20 POLAR PEACE MARCH - 11:15 a.m.

-March to support UCAN's work for non-violence, and honor the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. on this 1.5 mile walk. This family friendly event will start after the 10 a.m. worship service and conclude with soup in the Gym. Invite your friends and family to be a part of your team. Register now. YOU CAN be part of the solution to a more peaceful Chicago.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

SAINT PAULS 175th ANNIVERSARY MUSICAL REVUE - Feb. 3 at 10 a.m. We will be spending the month of January preparing to bring significant historical moments in the life of Saint Pauls to the stage. Each Sunday school class will be using their creative talents to capture moments in Saint Pauls' past. Adults who would like to be involved are also welcome to be part of the production. Rehearsals will take place on Jan. 6, 13, 20, 27 from 10:15 to 11:15 a.m. If you don't want to be onstage, we need help offstage with costumes, sets and makeup design. To get involved, email Pastor Sarah sgarcia@spucc.org.

GIVE THE VERY BEST - People are precious, and when they hurt or suffer, they deserve the best care we can offer. That's why St. Pauls has Stephen Ministers. Their training, commitment, and service help them give their best at providing care for our members. In January 2019, we'll be training a new class of Stephen Ministers. If you'd like to know more, your best move is to contact Pastor Jeff.

A MATCHING GRANT FOR THE POLAR PEACE MARCH - This year, every donation will be doubled with a matching grant! We have an anonymous donor that is going to match funds raised at the Polar Peace March - \$2 for every dollar we raise!!!! Our goal is to raise \$50,000 for UCAN and, with our matching grant, that means \$150,000 for UCAN - a great way to celebrate UCAN's 150th birthday! If you are not able to join us at the march, please support your fellow St. Pauls marchers.

JANUARY 7 - CHRISTIANITY 101 - 7:30 p.m., Parlor

Join Pastor Jeff and fellow young adults for a lively discussion of the real-life questions we face in our daily lives. There is no need to prepare in advance. Email Hannah at youngadults@spucc.org with RSVP or questions.

JANUARY 13 - VIOLENCE INTERRUPTION AND PREVENTION: MENTORING AT-RISK YOUTH - 11:30 a.m. Oscar Mayer Room.

Join St. Pauls member Steve Patton and Norman Kerr, VP for Violence Prevention at UCAN, for this special Faith Formation/Faith and Public Issues presentation and learn about the good work that our Polar Peace March is supporting.

JANUARY 27 - MONTHLY BRUNCH - 11:30 a.m.

Join the Young Adults Group for brunch after worship. We will gather during Social Hour and walk somewhere close. Have a suggestion of where we should go? Email Hannah at youngadults@spucc.org with your idea and RSVP.

OPPORTUNITIES

ALTAR FLOWER SIGN UP - Providing flowers for the altar is a great way to celebrate a birthday, anniversary or honor someone special in your life. You can sign up in the Social Hall or online at <http://tinyurl.com/h55pl82>. There are many Sundays available, but be sure to sign up early so you can bring flowers on your preferred date. If you have any questions, please contact the church office.

AMAZON SMILE - Support St. Pauls when buying Amazon products, the AmazonSmile Foundation will donate 0.5% of the purchase price from eligible purchases to St. Pauls. <https://smile.amazon.com/ch/36-2179808>

COLLEEN HENRY WRITING CENTER - Tutors Needed

This program at Lincoln Park High School was initiated by St. Pauls and developed in connection with the English and Social Studies Departments. Tutors volunteer two hours once a week, Monday through Thursday. Training and mentoring are available. For more information, or to volunteer, contact Nancy Brandt, nhbrandt@sbcglobal.net.

CONNECTORS reach out providing networking and support for members and friends of St. Pauls. Membership is open to all who have the time and the inclination to help. Contact Marcia Volk at marcia@volkonline.com.

CONSIDER THE LILIES - Deliver our Sunday altar flowers to members and friends who need to know St. Pauls is thinking of them. If you would like to be part of this initiative, please contact Maureen Grunst at mvgrunst@gmail.com.

FAITH IN ACTION - Saint Pauls Strategic Plan calls us to be “Increasingly bold and active as we try to live out our faith in an age of rising injustice.” If you would like to receive advance notice of protests and actions that call for our faithful witness, join the Faith in Action email list by contacting Claire Higgins at chiggins@spucc.org.

FAITH AND PUBLIC ISSUES - Whether you're interested in supporting women or LGBTQ persons or immigrants and refugees, or interested in planning programs on critical issues, you can find St. Pauls people involved and join them now. Contact Toby Rogers at toby@rogers-home.com for more information.

FEED THE HUNGRY - We need volunteers for February 17 and March 17. Each week St. Pauls welcomes homeless and hungry people to Sunday dinner as part of the Community Engagement Program (CEP). Volunteers prepare and serve dinner. To sign up, contact Jennifer Kew at CEPsupper@gmail.com

FOOD FOR THOUGHT - Visit our Food for Thought blog
<http://www.spucc.org/blogs/food-for-thought>.

LINCOLN PARK COMMUNITY SHELTER NEEDS OVERNIGHT VOLUNTEERS
To sign up: volunteer@lpcsonline.org or call 773-549-6111.

LITTLE LIGHTS is a St. Pauls early childhood program with classes for 2, 3, and 4-year-olds. We are now accepting applications for 2019-2020. Check out www.littlelightslp.org. Email Virgie Berry at vberry@spucc.org.

NEW OR EXPECTING PARENTS - If you have a new baby or are expecting a baby, please let Corie know so that we can find ways to support you (meals, prayer, etc.) Corie Gallemore at corie.gallemore@gmail.com

PARENTS OF LITTLE ONES - POLO has playdates, Moms night out, family pizza parties, prayer groups and more activities to support families with little ones between the ages of 0 to 5. If you have young children and you would like to get involved please contact Molly Mcgrath mollymcgrath906@gmail.com

SARAH'S SISTERS gather every Wednesday morning to make 40 bag lunches to be distributed to homeless people. Come to the church kitchen at 9:30 a.m.

ST. PAULS BASKETBALL WEDNESDAYS - 7 p.m. Our weekly pick-up game is co-ed. Ages range widely and skill levels go from from enthusiastic to “I think she played in college, you guard her.” All are welcome! pastormatt@spucc.org

ST. PAULS PLAYGROUP - NOW ON FRIDAYS - For children from birth to 3 years old and their parent or caregiver in the church Nursery. Drop in anytime from 10 a.m. – 12 p.m. on Friday mornings. Corie Gallemore at corie.gallemore@gmail.com.

ST. PAULS SOCIAL - Get better acquainted with other adults at St. Pauls. If interested in hosting, please contact Jen Luerssen at jenluerssen@yahoo.com and stay tuned for future events.

SATURDAY BIBLE STUDY - One Saturday a month, 10-11:45 a.m. Newcomers are always welcome. Increase your faith and your knowledge of the Bible in this monthly study. Next meeting: January 26. RSVP: Pastor Jeff jcarlson@spucc.org.

STEPHEN MINISTRY AT ST. PAULS - If you're in need of support through a tough time and would like to be matched with someone who would support you with companionship and prayer, or you're feeling called to offer support, speak to Pastor Jeff Carlson (jcarlson@spucc.org), Marti Pechnyo (mpechnyo@gmail.com), or Barb Kaiser (bkaiser2213@gmail.com).

WANT MORE VARIETY AT COFFEE HOUR? - Sign up to bring it by emailing Claire Higgins at chiggins@spucc.org.

YOUNG ADULTS - A group for fun and fellowship for folks in their twenties and thirties. All are welcome! Volunteers needed! Any ideas for future events? Email them at youngadults@spucc.org.

YOUTH GROUP - For kids in 4th-8th grade. Meets each Tuesday from 4-6 p.m. in the Gym. Pizza dinner, fun, and Christian fellowship. Contact Pastor Sarah for more details at sgarcia@spucc.org.

BULLETIN ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please send any announcements you would like in the following week's Friday email to announcements@spucc.org no later than 10 a.m. on Tuesday.

Please limit announcements to 70 words. Thank you.

SAINT PAULS PRAYS

Please clip this page and pray for those who are named below. We only print requests we receive. To make a request, 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.

- Karen Hein's mom, Christine Schmidt, recovering from a stroke.
- Carole Knuti gives thanks for a completely clear MRI brain scan.
- Friends and family of Gordon Fishburn mourning his death. A service is being planned for January 12.
- The thousands who lost homes and jobs due to the floods and fires this fall, and to those who gave them shelter.
- Liz Rein at the death of her sister, Becky.
- The family of Stacie B., sister of Mark P., at the death of her sister-in-law.
- Michael, nephew of Juanita Barlow, for his recuperation from surgery.
- Kathie Castle, in hospice care for Alzheimer's disease.
- Jessica Ashley and family during her boyfriend Darren McGraw's one-year deployment with the Army National Guard.
- Mary, a beloved friend of Stacy and Brent, and her doctors and children, as she recovers from a brain aneurysm and is still at great risk.
- Toby Knott's aunt, Diane Smith, fighting cancer
- Carole Crowley, recovering from a stroke.
- Karl Wirsum, in rehabilitation for mini-strokes.
- Dede Koldyke, beating cancer.
- Amy Newman's sister, Linda, being treated for cancer.

You are beloved - to others, to the world you live in, and most important, to God. God knows your struggles and failures, as well as your joys and triumphs. Even when you walk through the valley of shadows, God is with you. If you or someone you love has lost hope, is feeling completely alone or like life doesn't matter, reach out for help. Contact one of the pastors today for information about mental health care advocacy and resources that can help you and your loved ones. Contact information for the pastors is at the back of this bulletin.

ABOUT ST. PAULS
Making a joyful sound in the city

Saint 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 to and Affirming of" LGBTQ women and men.

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 importantly, over the past 175 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.

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Matt Fitzgerald, *Senior Pastor*, mfitzgerald@spucc.org

Jeff Carlson, *Associate Pastor*, jcarlson@spucc.org

Sarah Garcia, *Associate Pastor for Children and Youth*, sgarcia@spucc.org

Karen E. Johnson, *President of the Congregation*, kejpliano@aol.com

Tom Henry, *Pastor Emeritus*, emeritushenry@gmail.com

Kurt R. Hansen, *Music Director*, kurtsingsbach@gmail.com

Kevin Dzierzawski, *Organist*, kdzierza@att.net

Brendan Henry, *Pianist*, brendanphentry@hotmail.com

Nancy Voigts, *Children's Choir Director*, nvoigtsgod@att.net

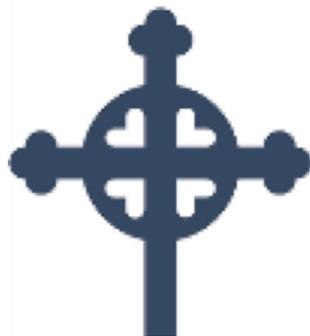
Kecia Waldschmidt, *Youth Choir Director*, keciagerman@hotmail.com

Kristofer Hansen, *Joyful Sounds Choir Co-Director*, thebeatb0xer1995@gmail.com

Mark Mosley, *Intergenerational Orchestra Director*, mwmosley@gmail.com

Kevin O'Brien, *Lay Liturgical Administrator*, kkobrien48@hotmail.com

Free Parking is available on Sundays from 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. at Lincoln Avenue Parking Garage,
2300 block of North Lincoln Ave. - Vouchers Not Needed



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 each and to everyone.

We are an Open and Affirming church.

We welcome all.

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