



September 2, 2018
Communion 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.

THOUGHT FOR PREPARATION Muriel Lester
“Given on the first Good Friday, was the visible demonstration of the only permanent way to overcome evil. Human nature demands something more enduring than the unquiet equilibrium of rival powers.”

PRELUDE *Concerto in d minor—Largo e spiccato BWV 596* Bach/Vivaldi
Kevin Dzierzawski, organ

WELCOME Jeff Carlson

*WELCOMING EACH OTHER

*CALL TO WORSHIP

One: O God, make this hour bright, pleasing to you, helpful to us!

All: Don't let us rest until we come to rest in you.

One: Move against us and fight for us until your peace is in our hearts!

All: Make what we say, pray, and sing have power and truth. Amen.

**Please stand if you are able*

*HYMN

Onward Christian Soldiers

Red Hymnal No. 205

Onward, Christian soldiers, Marching as to war, With the cross of
Jesus Going on before; Christ the royal Master Leads a-
gainst the foe; Forward into battle, See his banners go.
Onward, Christian soldiers, Marching as to war,
With the cross of Jesus Going on before.

Like a mighty army Moves the church of God; People, we are
Treading Where the saints have trod; We are not divided , All one
body we, One in hope and doctrine, One in charity.
Onward, Christian soldiers, Marching as to war,
With the cross of Jesus Going on before.

Crowns and thrones may perish, Kingdoms rise and wane, But the church of
Jesus Constant will remain; Gates of hell can never 'Gainst that
church prevail; We have Christ's own promise, And that cannot fail.
Onward, Christian soldiers, Marching as to war,
With the cross of Jesus Going on before.

Onward, then ye people, join our happy throng, Blend with ours your
Voices In the triumph song; Glory, laud, and honor Unto
Christ the King; This through countless ages We and angels sing.
Onward, Christian soldiers, Marching as to war,
With the cross of Jesus Going on before.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Though we know you as the Prince of Peace
we define ourselves with violence,
defiantly spending billions
on our willingness to kill.
Convinced that only bloodshed
can stop bloodshed,
we ignore
your blood
shed for us,
your peace,
given to us.
Forgive us.
Reform us.
Amen.**

MOMENT OF SILENT PRAYER

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

*RESPONSE

Black Hymnal No. 553, v. 1

There is a balm in Gilead, to make the wounded whole,
there is a balm in Gilead, to heal the sin-sick soul.
Sometimes I feel discouraged, and think my work's in vain,
But then the Holy Spirit revives my soul again.

THE BIBLICAL WORD FOR THIS DAY

Diane Biegert

Ephesians 6:10–17

Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his power. Put on the whole armor of God, so that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For our struggle is not against enemies of blood and flesh, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers of this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places. Therefore take up the whole armor of God, so that you may be able to withstand on that evil day, and having done everything, to stand firm. Stand therefore, and fasten the belt of truth around your waist, and put on the breastplate of righteousness. As shoes for your feet put on whatever will make you ready to proclaim the gospel of peace. With all of these, take the shield of faith, with which you will be able to quench all the flaming arrows of the evil one. Take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.

*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. 553, v. 2

There is a balm in Gilead, to make the wounded whole,
there is a balm in Gilead, to heal the sin-sick soul.
Don't ever feel discouraged, for Jesus is your friend,
who, if you ask for knowledge, will never fail to lend.

SERMON

"Permeable Armor"

Matt Fitzgerald

*RESPONSE

Black Hymnal No. 553, v. 3

There is a balm in Gilead, to make the wounded whole,
there is a balm in Gilead, to heal the sin-sick soul.
If you cannot preach like Peter, if you cannot pray like Paul,
you can tell the love of Jesus, who died to save us all.

OFFERTORY

Simple Song from Mass
Nancy Pifer, soprano

Leonard Bernstein

Sing God a simple song, Lauda, Laudē
Make it up as you go along, Lauda, Laude

Sing like you like to sing
God loves all simple things
For God is the simplest of all.

I will sing the Lord a new song
To praise Him, to bless Him, to bless the Lord.
I will sing His praises while I live
All of my days.

Blessed is the man who loves the Lord,
Blessed is the man who praises Him.
Lauda, Lauda, Laudē
And walks in His ways.

I will lift up my eyes
To the hills from whence comes my help
I will lift up my voice to the Lord
Singing Lauda, Laudē.

For the Lord is my shade,
Is the shade upon my right hand

And the sun shall not smite me by day
Nor the moon by night
Blessed is the man who loves the Lord
Lauda, Lauda, Laudē
And walks in His ways.

Lauda, Lauda, Laudē
Lauda, Lauda di da di day
All of my days.

***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!

CELEBRATION OF THE SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

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.*

*PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

God we thank you for the precious gift of Christ. You don't feed us because of our worth, but in the kindness of your mercy. May Christ's body and blood be a helmet of faith and a shield of good will. Through him, may we grow in the power to do good. Amen.

*HYMN

O God of Earth and Altar

Red Hymnal No. 187

O God of earth and altar, Bow down and hear our cry;
Our earthly rulers falter, Our people drift and die;
The walls of gold entomb us, The swords of scorn divide;
Take not thy thunder from us, But take away our pride.

From all that terror teaches, From lies of tongue and pen,
From all the easy speeches That distort grace's lens,
From sale and profanation Of honor and the sword,
From sleep and from damnation, Deliver us, good Lord!

Tie in a living tether The prince and priest and thrall;
Bind all our lives together, Smite us and save us all;
In ire and exultation A flame with faith, and free,
Lift up a living people, A single gift to thee.

*BENEDICTION

*BENEDICTION RESPONSE

Amen, amen, amen

POSTLUDE

Fanfare
Kevin Dzierzawski, organ

J. Lemmens

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

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

TODAY'S OFFERTORY MUSIC is not only a celebration of praise, but also appropriate because the centennial of Leonard Bernstein's birthday was barely two weeks ago on August 25. Mass was commissioned by Jacqueline Kennedy and was premiered at the opening of Kennedy Center in 1971. It is far from a traditional setting of the Roman Mass Ordinary. Simple Song is sung by the Celebrant as a way to encourage the disaffected youth of the '60s to connect with faith in a non-traditional "simple" way.

Our soloist today, Nancy Pifer, has a long familial connection with St. Pauls. She first sang with Sam Hill when she was in college at North Park. Her contributions to the life of St. Pauls includes being a past leader of our Youth Choir, a Rum-Bud, and also plays in both the St. Pauls Brass and Intergenerational Orchestra. Nancy is the soprano section leader of our Chancel Choir.

TODAY'S WORSHIP LEADERS

Head Usher: Beatrice Jaji

Ushers: Lauren Vega, Layne Lebahn, Mary Brown, Fred Pearson

Head Greeter: Greg Mooney

Gatekeeper: Dodd Brown

Consider the Lilies: Liz Raiman

Communion Coordinator: Jana O'Brien

Communion Servers: Rick Peterson, Beverley Petrunich

Communion bread baked by Marcia Knudson

FLOWERS ON THE ALTAR are from Larry and Char Damron to celebrate their wedding anniversary.

BORN THIS WEEK IN SEPTEMBER

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.

Sep 2 Drew Heller, Gretchen Althen, Mary L. Train

Sep 3 Natalie Mutch

Sep 4 Beatrix Kompare

Sep 5 Brent Bunch, Isaiah Fitzgerald

Sep 6 Kathryn Dreves-Hunt, Nicholas Dreves-Hunt

ANNOUNCEMENTS

SUNDAY SCHOOL STARTS AGAIN - On Sunday September 9, classes will begin again for children 2 years old to high school. Please make sure to register for a new year. <http://www.spucc.org/churchschool>

OKTOBERFEST VOLUNTEERS NEEDED - How do we pour 750 beers, serve 600 brats/hot dogs and run games for six hours? With the help of our awesome volunteers! Can we count on you to be one of them? St. Pauls' Oktoberfest will be Saturday, September 22, 3 - 9 p.m. As a volunteer, you will work a 2-hour shift and receive a free food/drink ticket, as well as enjoy the chance to meet new friends, support St. Pauls' neighborhood outreach efforts, and have lots of fun! Please sign-up online at <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/904094fa9ad29a20-stpauls> or contact Lorne Frank directly at lornefrank@lornefrank.com. Thank you!

EPHESIANS SUMMER SERMON SERIES CONCLUDES TODAY - This summer's sermon texts are from the book of Ephesians. This letter invites an incredibly diverse group of Christians to expand our imaginations. Our lives are part of something vast, hopeful and wonderful that God is up to in the universe and we're invited to grow together into God's dream for the world.

UPDATE! FULLERTON AVE. STREET CLOSURE - Fullerton will be closed between Burling St. and Orchard St. from Tuesday, September 4 through Friday, September 7 due to construction.

LINCOLN AVENUE PARKING GARAGE CONSTRUCTION - Starting Friday, August 17, the main north entrance of the Lincoln Avenue parking garage will be closed for construction for approximately three months. The parking lot will be accessible via the south entrance of the garage also located on Lincoln Avenue. Visit LincolnCommon.com for additional project details.

CHURCH GRANDPARENTS - We will pair Saint Pauls "grand members" with church families who have infants and young children. As these new friendships form, each will take its own shape. Activities could include praying for each other, reading stories, visiting, etc. Saint Pauls older members are incredible people! Saint Pauls young families are remarkable, as well. Let's get to know each other. You can still sign up by emailing Pastor Sarah at sgarcia@spucc.org.

COLLEGE CARE PACKAGES - If you have a daughter or son in college, please send Pastor Sarah their mailing address so the Connectors can send them a care package this fall. sgarcia@spucc.org

FEED THE HUNGRY - Additional volunteers needed on September 16, October 21, and October 28 for Community Engagement Program (CEP) meals. Each week St. Pauls welcomes homeless and hungry people to Sunday dinner. Volunteers prepare and serve dinner. To find available dates and to sign up, contact Jennifer Kew at CEPsupper@gmail.com

FAITH IN ACTION - People charged with low-level, non-violent offenses stay in jail for as long as a year or more before their trials—losing jobs, cars, and missing seeing their kids grow up—because they cannot afford bail. To read an article on this subject and sign a petition, go to: www.communityrenewalsociety.org/let-our-people-go.

SEPTEMBER 10 - CHRISTIANITY 101 - 7:30 p.m., Parlor
Join Pastor Sarah 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.

SEPTEMBER 16 - MONTHLY BRUNCH - 11 a.m.
Join the Young Adults as we resume our monthly 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.

SEPTEMBER 17 - LES MISERABLES DISCUSSION - 7 p.m., Parlor
Come discuss Victor Hugo's classic, "Les Miserables." New members are always welcome. For more information or to RSVP: Jeff Carlson at jcarlson@spucc.org.

SEPTEMBER 22 - SATURDAY BIBLE STUDY - 10-11:45 a.m., Parlor
How did the early Christians survive in the midst of a hostile empire? We'll explore that question in a two-part series on the early Christian document Colossians - an "explosive and subversive tract in the context of the Roman empire and in the imperial realities of our own time." Newcomers are always welcome.
RSVP: jcarlson@spucc.org.

SEPTEMBER 22 - OKTOBERFEST - 3-9 p.m., Courtyard
Prost! It's Munich meets Chicago as St. Pauls hosts Oktoberfest in celebration of our German heritage. Tap into the excitement of this Bavarian tradition with an evening of authentic German food and beer, live music and dancing, a jumpy-house, corn-pit, and games for all ages. This year's live entertainment will feature everyone's favorite oompah band, *Die Musikmeisters*. It's open and free to all so invite your neighbors and friends. If it rains, the event will be held in the gymnasium. Stay tuned for fun volunteer opportunities!

SEPTEMBER 23 & 30 - JOY - 11:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m., Parlor, Chapel

We will read together some of the poems collected by Christian Wiman in his recent book, *Joy: 100 Poems*. Wiman writes, "The best way of thinking through any existential problem is with poetry, which does not 'think through' such a problem so much as undergo it ... What might that one word [joy], in these wild times mean?"

RSVP: Steve Peterson, sspeterson01@gmail.com.

OCTOBER 3 - FIRST WEDNESDAY BINGO - 12 p.m., Parlor

Attention bingo lovers, we are going to host a lunch and BINGO for First Wednesday next month. All are welcome! To RSVP, contact Claire Higgins at chiggins@spucc.org or 773-348-3829 ext. 2046

OPPORTUNITIES

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.

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/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.

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

GET YOUR NEW NAME TAG! - Email Virgie at vberry@spucc.org.

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 2018-2019. Check out www.littlelightslp.org. Email Virgie Berry at vberry@spucc.org.

LONG, CLASSIC NOVEL READING GROUP - Summer/Fall book is Victor Hugo’s classic “Les Miserables.” First half discussion: Sept. 17, 7 p.m., Parlor. New members are always welcome. For more information or to RSVP: Jeff Carlson at jcarlson@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.) and so that we can inform you of opportunities in our Parents of Little Ones (POLO) group. Also, let her know if you have small children and are new to the church. Contact Corie Gallemore at corie.gallemore@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.

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).

SAINT 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 for children from birth to 3 years old in the church Nursery. Drop in anytime from 10 a.m. – 12 p.m. Wednesdays. Corie Gallemore at corie.gallemore@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, take it home 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 new 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.

- Dennis Nodulman, recovering from surgery following an accident.
- Wayne Bradley, recovering from surgery.
- Caleb Bryant and family upon the passing of his aunt.
- Mary Sacia, who recently passed away after a battle with cancer.
- Pearlie Jernigan struggling with health problems.
- Wade Ek, who is in the final stages of terminal cancer.
- Sally and Janine Fletcher and family at the sudden death of their cousin Scott.
- Sonja Rae and family at the death of her husband Jack Hogan.
A memorial service is being planned for September 15th.
- Karl Wirsum, in rehabilitation for mini-strokes.
- The family and friends of Rachel Serber Duncan at her death. Rachel played trumpet for our Easter Brass for many years.
- Naomi, who is trying to adopt a baby.
- Bruce Voice's sister, Valerie, facing several health problems.
- Larry Howell undergoing chemo with complications.
- Rob Castle's mother, Kathie, in hospice care for Alzheimer's.
- Ivy's brother and his wife, who are going through serious financial difficulty.
- Don Vossburg, former St. Pauls member.
- Maryn, 6-year-old friend of the Ashley family, with a rare brain tumor.
- Marti Pechnyo's friend, Jane, being treated for ovarian cancer.
- Dorothy, in hospice care.
- Dede Koldyke, beating cancer.
- Bobbi Gannello, diagnosed with lymphoma.
- Amy Newman's sister, Linda, being treated for cancer.
- All those struggling to conceive.
- All those struggling with eating disorders.

You are beloved - to others, to the world you live in, and most importantly, 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.

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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" LGBT 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 174 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.

2335 North Orchard Street Chicago, Illinois 60614
(773) 348-3829 FAX (773) 348-3858

www.spucc.org

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*, brendanpherry@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.