

April 19, 2020
Virtual Worship

No matter who you are,
No matter where you are
On life's journey,
You are welcome here.

THOUGHT FOR PREPARATION

"Your mother might forget you, child, but I never forget. I've engraved your name
on the palm of my hands." Joy Ladin

PRELUDE *Lord, Don't Move the Mountain* Mahalia Jackson
St. Arbucks arr. Brendan Henry

CHIMES

INTROIT *Easter Carillon* W. Leonard Beck
Chancel Choir

WELCOME Sarah Garcia

* CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Put away your cares

All: Put away your anxieties

One: God has not forsaken us

All: Could a mother forget her child?

One: Neither will God forget us.

All: God is coming toward us.

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

* HYMN

Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing

1. Come, thou Fount of ev - ery bless - ing, Tune my heart to sing thy grace;
2. O to grace how great a debt - or Dai - ly I'm con - strained to be!

Streams of mer - cy, nev - er ceas - ing, Call for songs of loud - est praise.
Let thy good - ness, like a fet - ter Bind my wan - dering heart to thee:

Teach me some me - lo - dious son - net, Sung by_ flam - ing tongues a - bove;
Prone to_ wan - der, Lord, I feel_ it, Prone to_ leave the God I love;

Praise the mount! I'm fixed up - on it, Mount of thy re - deem - ing love.
Here's my heart, O take and seal it, Seal it for thy courts a - bove.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**God of resurrection,
We confess boredom and disinterest,
limp faith, timid hope.**

**God of resurrection,
We confess we have loved
some of our grudges tenderly.**

**Disbelief roars in us
Like thunder when we're told
You loved us enough to die.**

**But we bank on that love now.
God of resurrection,
*Forgive us. Amen.***

MOMENT OF SILENT PRAYER

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

THE BIBLICAL WORD FOR THIS DAY

Todd Coe

John 20:19-31

On the evening of that first day of the week, when the disciples were together, with the doors locked for fear of the Jewish leaders, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you!" After he said this, he showed them his hands and side. The disciples were overjoyed when they saw the Lord.

Now Thomas, one of the Twelve, was not with the disciples when Jesus came. So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord!"

But he said to them, "Unless I see the nail marks in his hands and put my finger where the nails were, and put my hand into his side, I will not believe."

A week later his disciples were in the house again, and Thomas was with them.

Though the doors were locked, Jesus came and stood among them and said,

"Peace be with you!" Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here; see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it into my side. Stop doubting and believe."

Thomas said to him, "My Lord and my 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)

SERMON

"Vast Open Field"

Matt Fitzgerald

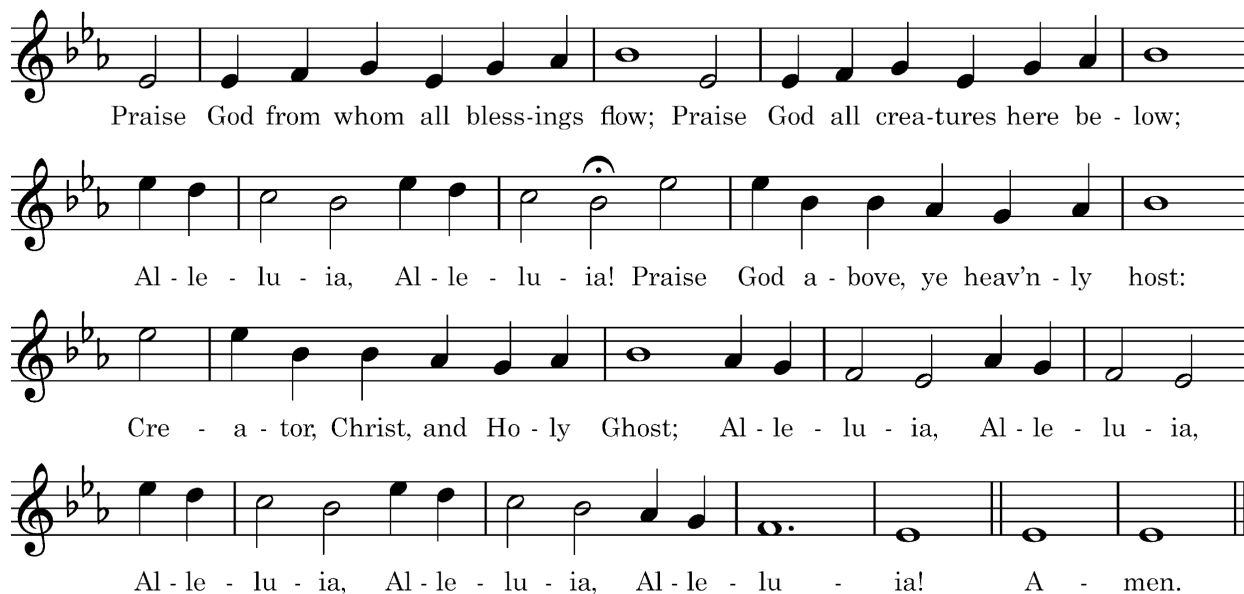
OFFERTORY

Since I Laid My Burdens Down
Jack Knight and Nick Swinehart

Traditional

Please use Zelle - "giving@spucc.org" or visit spucc.org/about-us/giving-to-st-pauls

* FESTIVAL DOXOLOGY



Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise God all creatures here be - low;
Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia! Praise God a - bove, ye heav'n - ly host:
Cre - a - tor, Christ, and Ho - ly Ghost; Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia,
Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia! A - men.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Jeff Carlson

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

How Firm a Foundation



1. How_ firm a foun - da - tion for you has been laid,
2. "Fear not, I am with you, oh, be not dis - mayed,
3. "When through the deep wa - ters I call you to go,
4. "When through fi - ery tri - als your path - way shall lie,
5. "The_ soul that on Je - sus has leaned for re - pose,



by___ God in the Word, in the sac - ri - fice paid!
for___ I am your God, I will still give you aid;
the___ riv - ers of woe shall not o - ver you flow;
my___ grace all - suf - fi - cient shall be your sup - ply;
I___ will not, I will not de - sert to its foes;



What more can God say than to you has been said,
I'll strength - en you, help you, and cause you to stand
For I will be with you, your trou - bles to bless,
the flame shall not hurt you; for I have de - signed
That soul, though all hell should en - deav - or to shake.



to___ you, who for ref - uge to Je - sus have fled?
up - held by my gra - cious, om - ni - po - tent hand."
de - liv - er - ing you from your deep - est dis - tress."
your_ soul to make pure just as gold is re - fined."
I'll___ nev - er, no nev - er, no nev - er for - sake!"

* BENEDICTION

* BENEDICTION RESPONSE



A - men, A - men, A - - - men.

POSTLUDE

Good Christians All, Rejoice and Sing!
Kevin Dzierzawski, organ

G. Martin

To help contain the spread of COVID-19, worship at Saint Pauls is suspended until further notice. Worship services will be streamed Sundays at 10 a.m. on St. Pauls Facebook page, [facebook.com/saintpaulsucc](https://www.facebook.com/saintpaulsucc).

KIDS WORSHIP will be streamed on St. Pauls Facebook page on Sundays at 11:15 a.m. This will be geared towards preschoolers and young elementary school students. Stay tuned and join in!

If you would like someone to pray with you this week, Clergy and Stephen Ministers are available for phone calls.

Small groups and committee meetings are encouraged to reach out to church pastors and staff for alternative ways to stay connected, or for assistance holding virtual meetings during this time. Watch your email for updates.

BORN THIS WEEK IN APRIL

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.

April 19 Meridyth McIntosh, Tom Scrivner

April 20 Andrea Reed, Daniel Nowack, Ella Javorcic, Sebastien Millard

April 21 Aileen Schloerb, Alex Baker, Mason Saltarelli

April 22 Jack Lyons, Kyle Nietzsche

April 24 Debra Kent, Mary Heffernan

April 25 Ayres Newcomer, Dutch Newcomer, Caroline Heffernan, Michael Nagy,
Rick Bail, Stephen Stack

ANNOUNCEMENTS

GET CONNECTED – Aptly put by our Stephen Minister, Deon Fayhee, “The church as a place is closed until further public health authority notice. The church as a connected community of individuals moved by faith to thrive in an imperfect world is very much open for business.” We have ongoing, weekly, and individual opportunities to stay connected in our time apart.

There is a group on MarcoPolo at onmarcopolo.com/groups/bknWay6XQYqQ/spucc.

The St. Pauls Zoom account is available to continue or start groups virtually. Email Claire Higgins at chiggins@spucc.org to schedule your meeting.

Our Facebook Group, “Saint Pauls Together,” is for St. Pauls Members and Friends to connect and share uplifting thoughts and stories.

We have a lively comment section each Sunday morning on the worship livestreams. Not tech-savvy? Contact Pastor Jeff to get connected with a volunteer who can help you get set up, jcarlson@spucc.org.

OPPORTUNITIES TO HELP OUR COMMUNITY – We have heard from many of you who are interested in helping out those who many not be as fortunate as we are. The Outreach and Benevolence Committee has connected with our historic relationships and other nonprofits whose demand for services has grown exponentially in the past weeks. They have provided us with specific requests and volunteer opportunities you may be interested in. You can see these opportunities and more information at mailchi.mp/spucc/opportunities-to-help-our-community

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

APRIL 20 - MONDAY MORNING PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE - 9:15 a.m., Zoom with Pastor Sarah. Now more than ever we are in need of prayer and we need each other. Start your week sharing your joys and concerns and praying with and for each other. You can participate online, or call in from your phone. Email Pastor Sarah for more information and to join, sgarcia@spucc.org.

APRIL 22 - WEDNESDAY BIBLE STUDY - 12 p.m., Zoom
Pastor Jeff is holding a Bible Study on Wednesdays at noon on Zoom. You can participate online, or call in from your phone. Email Jeff with questions or to get the meeting invitation and instructions, jcarlson@spucc.org.

APRIL 23 - THURSDAY PARENTS OF LITTLE ONES NIGHT OUT/IN - 8 p.m., Zoom
We know it is tough to be stuck inside with small children at home and we need to support each other. Tune in on Thursdays to see what is working for other moms and dads. Pour yourself a glass of wine and enjoy some adult conversation. Contact Pastor Sarah at sgarcia@spucc.org.

APRIL 28 - WOMEN'S BOOK GROUP - 7:30 p.m., Zoom
Please join us for the third meeting of a women's book group, during which we will discuss the third chapter of the book *Inspired*, by Rachel Held Evans. All are welcome - even if you missed the other meetings or haven't read the chapter. Email Corie Gallemore for more information: corie.gallemore@gmail.com.

OPPORTUNITIES

Most of these opportunities are currently suspended due to our stay-at-home, and some of them are happening virtually.

We look forward to the time when we can enjoy them all in person again.

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 by emailing Claire Higgins to check open Sundays in 2020, chiggins@spucc.org.

COLLEEN HENRY WRITING CENTER – Tutors Needed

Tutors volunteer two hours once a week, Monday through Thursday. Training and mentoring are available. For more information or to volunteer, contact Linda Patton, lpatton21@yahoo.com.

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 – Some people call it showing up for a protest. Others call it public witness for the values inherent in our faith. Most of us appreciate being able to do both with like-minded congregational members. We are continually building a Faith-in-Action list of people who wish to receive notice of such protests and gatherings – frequently on short notice due to swift governmental action. Please join this email list by contacting Claire Higgins at chiggins@spucc.org.

FAITH AND PUBLIC ISSUES – Help us connect our faith to critical public issues. Do you wish you knew more from a faith perspective about current issues that are important to our public life? Racism, climate change, immigration, to name a few. FPI programs provide opportunities to ask questions, help us understand issues in depth, and discuss possible action. The FPI Task Force plans these programs and we could use your ideas. Contact Toby Rogers at toby@rogers-home.com for information about meetings.

FEED THE HUNGRY – Community Engagement Program (CEP) Suppers at St Pauls are cancelled until future notice. In the interim, please support our friends at Lincoln Park Community Services. Information on how to donate food, supplies and money can be found on their website: lpcschicago.org/get-involved

GIFTS, PASSIONS, SKILLS – If you have not already completed our GPS Survey, we still need to hear from you. Please go to forms.gle/jK54YezLs8Ea27uW8 to fill it out. This is an important component of our overall member engagement initiative, as mentioned in the November 10, 2019 congregational meeting. If you prefer to complete a paper document, they are available on the front counter of the office next to the labeled return box. Thank you in advance for your participation.

LINCOLN PARK COMMUNITY SERVICES HAS EXPANDED! – This St. Pauls founded organization serves homeless individuals for breakfast and dinner at two locations: 1521 N. Sedgwick and 600 W. Fullerton. Serving meals at two facilities means that LPCS is looking for new individuals and groups to volunteer to provide food. It's a great way to gather your friends, family, or colleagues together for an engaging and rewarding opportunity. For more information on how to get involved, email Abby at volunteer@lpcschicago.org, or call 773-549-6111 ext. 208.

LITTLE LIGHTS is a St. Pauls early childhood program with classes for 2, 3, and 4-year olds. We are now accepting applications for 2020. Check out www.littlelightslp.org. Email Little Lights Director Erin Fitzgerald at littlelights@spucc.org.

LONG, CLASSIC NOVELS READING GROUP – 2020 Selections are Four Novels by African American Women

This year, the “Long, Classic Novels Reading Group” will be reading:

Oreo, Fran Ross (1974) - Discussion Date: June 15

Parable of the Sower, Octavia E. Butler (1993) - Discussion Date: September 21

A Mercy, Toni Morrison (2008) - Discussion Date: December 14

Anyone is welcome to join us for one or all four. Please RSVP to Pastor Jeff for email updates: jcarlson@spucc.org.

NEW MEMBER CLASSES – We have new member classes throughout the year. Come after worship to these meetings – announced in the calendar section – and talk with pastors and members about faith and the community here at St. Pauls. Contact Pastor Matt for more information at mfitzgerald@spucc.org.

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

OUTREACH AND BENEVOLENCE COMMITTEE – Do you have a passion for reaching out to others? The St. Pauls O&B Committee would love to have you join us in keeping our church engaged in community outreach. For more information contact Pauline Taylor, paulinetaylor933@gmail.com, or Pastor Jeff, jcarlson@spucc.org.

PARENTS OF LITTLE ONES (POLO) has play dates, Moms night out, Dads night out, family pizza parties, prayer groups, and more activities to support families with little ones between the ages of 0 and 5. If you have young children and would like to get involved, please contact Joanne Tong at jctong@yahoo.com.

SARAH’S SIBS gather Wednesday mornings to make 40 bag lunches to distribute to homeless people. Come to the church kitchen at 9:30 a.m.

ST. PAULS BASKETBALL – 7 p.m. Wednesdays
Our weekly pick-up games are co-ed. Ages range widely and skill levels go from enthusiastic to “I think she played in college.” All are welcome!
mfitzgerald@spucc.org.

ST. PAULS SOCIAL – Get better acquainted with other adults at St. Pauls. If you are interested in hosting, please contact Jen Luerssen at jenluerssen@yahoo.com.
Subscribe to the distribution list at eepurl.com/gQ4Eg1, or look out for future events announced in the bulletin calendar.

SATURDAY BIBLE STUDY – Now meeting every Wednesday at noon via ZOOM. Newcomers are always welcome. Increase your faith and your knowledge of the Bible. RSVP: Pastor Jeff at jcarlson@spucc.org to get the ZOOM link.

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).

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.

BULLETIN ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

Please limit announcements to 100 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.

- Dear friend of Jenny Benefield who has chronic depression and is currently experiencing severe problems.
- Juanita Barlow recovering from surgery.
- Stacie B., sister of Mark P., and her sons at the unexpected passing of their husband/father, Ken.
- Andreas Hecht, whose father passed away suddenly at his home in Brazil.
- Hugo Osorio, whose son, Julio Esteban Sanchez Fierro, was killed in gun violence in Brazil.
- Polly Sippy, in hospice care.
- Denese S., friend of Pat Kirby, dealing with significant health problems.
- Rob and Shannon Castle's friend, Mike, in treatment for cancer.
- The Corbin family as they get settled in D.C. and navigate Ann's health issues.
- The Basil family at the death of Lois's mother, Carol Stoub.
- Pat Ruch's sister, Aline, beginning treatment for brain cancer.
- Prayers of healing for the young patients at Lurie and Comer Children's Hospitals.
- Carole Crowley, recovering from a stroke.
- Karl Wirsum, in rehabilitation for mini-strokes.
- Veterans and those in wars.

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 important, over the past 176 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.

St. Pauls United Church of Christ
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www.spucc.org
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Kecia Waldschmidt, Youth Choir Director, keciagerman@hotmail.com
Mark Mosley, Intergenerational Orchestra Director, mwmosley@gmail.com
Kevin O'Brien, Lay Liturgical Administrator, kkobrien48@hotmail.com



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.