



December 24, 2020 • 5:00 p.m.

A Homemade Nativity

Christmas Eve

Virtual Worship

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

#### THOUGHT FOR PREPARATION

"God became a child. Wait a minute! Don't speak. Stand still before this  
statement! *God became a child!*" Dietrich Bonhoeffer

PRELUDE *O Little Town of Bethlehem* Lewis Redner  
Gospel Trio arr. Carl Strommen  
Brendan Henry, piano; Joel Kelsey, bass; and Matt Plaskota, drums  
Kris Hansen, soloist

ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING The Hull Family

WELCOME AND CALL TO WORSHIP Sarah Garcia

One: The prophets have proclaimed it and the  
angels have announced it: Unto us a child is born. Unto us a savior is given.  
Glory to God in the highest!

**All: And on earth peace, goodwill.**

One: Go tell it on the mountain.

**All: Go tell it in the city.**

One: This is good news of great joy.

**All: Jesus Christ is born!**

ANTHEM

*O Holy Night*

Adolphe Adam

Breanna and Todd Coe, soloists

O Holy Night!

The stars are brightly shining;  
It is the night of the dear Savior's birth!  
Long lay the world in sin and error pining,  
Till he appear'd and the soul felt its worth.  
A thrill of hope the weary soul rejoices,  
For yonder breaks a new and glorious morn!

Fall on your knees,  
Oh, hear the angel voices  
Oh, night divine;  
Oh, night when Christ was born.  
Oh, night divine.  
Oh, night divine.

Truly He taught us to love one another;  
His law is love and His gospel is peace.  
Chains shall He break for the slave is our brother,  
And in His name all oppression shall cease.  
Sweet hymns of joy in grateful chorus raise we,  
Let all within us praise His holy name.

Fall on your knees . . .

THE CHRISTMAS STORY IN SCRIPTURE AND SONG

THE PROPHECY FROM THE HEBREW SCRIPTURES

Benny VanDerburgh

*Isaiah 9: 2; 6-7*

ANTHEM

*Do You Hear What I Hear?*

Pauls People

THE ANGELIC ANNOUNCEMENT

The Simonton Family

*Luke 1: 26-35; 38*

ANTHEM

*Hark! The Herald Angels Sing*

Chancel Choir

THE FULFILLMENT OF THE GOSPEL

The Cedeno Smedley Family

*Luke 2:1-7*

ANTHEM

*Away in a Manger*

Kinderchapel Singers and Children's Choir members

arr. Breanna Coe

THE SHEPHERDS HEAR THE GOOD NEWS FROM THE ANGELS

*Luke 2:8-14*

The Gallemore Family

CAROL

*What Child Is This?*

What child is this, who, laid to rest, on Mary's lap is sleeping?

Whom angels greet with anthems sweet while shepherds watch are ke-eping?

This, this, the angels sing, is Christ, God's holy offering;

Haste, haste your praise to bring the babe, the child of Mary

THE ADORATION OF THE MAGI

The Wallace Family

*Matthew 2: 1-12*

CAROL

*We Three Kings*  
The Waldschmidt Family

We three kings of Orient are  
Bearing gifts we traverse afar.  
Field and fountain, moor and mountain, following yonder star.

O star of wonder, star of night,  
Star of royal beauty bright,  
Westward leading, still proceeding,  
Guide us to thy perfect light.

EVERYONE IS WELCOME

Benny VanDerburgh

CAROL

*O Come, All Ye Faithful*

O come all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant  
O come ye, O come ye, to Bethlehem;  
Come and behold him, born the King of angels;  
O come let us adore him, O come let us adore him,  
O come let us adore him, Christ the Lord.

Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation!  
Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!  
Glory to God, all glory in the highest!  
O come, let us adore Him, O come, let us adore Him,  
O come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord!

THE PRESENTATION OF OUR GIFTS

Matt Fitzgerald

OFFERTORY

*O Come, O Come Emmanuel*  
St. Arbucks Trio and Kris Hansen

arr. Bradley Sowash

O come, O come, Emmanuel  
And ransom captive Israel,  
That mourns in lonely exile here,  
Until the Lord of Lords appear.  
Rejoice, rejoice!  
Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

*Give to St. Pauls with Zelle: [giving@spucc.org](mailto:giving@spucc.org) or [spucc.org/about-us/giving-to-st-pauls](http://spucc.org/about-us/giving-to-st-pauls)*

THE CHRISTMAS EVE PRAYER

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.**

THE LIGHTING OF THE CANDLES

The Gillmore Family

CAROL

*Silent Night*

Silent night, Holy night  
All is calm, all is bright  
'Round yon virgin, mother and child  
Holy infant, so tender and mild  
Sleep in heavenly peace,  
Sleep in heavenly peace.

Silent Night, Holy Night  
Shepherds quake at the sight.  
Glories stream from heaven afar  
Heavenly hosts sing Alleluia,  
Christ the Savior is born!  
Christ the Savior is born

THE WORD BECOMES FLESH

*John 1: 1-5, 9-14*

Sylvia Pine

CAROL

*Joy to the World*

Rachel Barton Pine and Sylvia Pine

Joy to the world! The Lord is come.  
Let earth receive her King!  
Let every heart prepare Him room  
And heaven and nature sing, and heaven and nature sing  
And heaven, and heaven and nature sing.

Joy to the earth! The Savior reigns! Let us our songs employ:  
While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains  
Repeat the sounding joy, repeat the sounding joy,  
Repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

BENEDICTION

Sarah Garcia

POSTLUDE

*Toccata* from Symphony V  
Kevin Dzierzawski, organ

Charles Marie Widor

***Hush***

Sssh.

Can you hear it?  
An expectant silence,  
a hushed anticipation,  
as if the very galaxy  
is holding its breath.  
There are some truths  
even the stars know,  
like darkness,  
like loneliness  
and how the night  
can be a living thing.  
And how once, long ago,  
the night waited in wonder  
along with the darkness  
and the loneliness,  
for the sound of a baby's cry,  
for the miraculous  
to come down  
to the earth mundane.

— written by Lucinda Hynett, in ***Alive Now***



## **VIRTUAL WORSHIP PRODUCTION TEAM**

Chuck Kent

Mary Beth Hughes, Big Thinking By The Hour

Jim Courtright, Big Thinking By The Hour

## **VIRTUAL MUSIC PRODUCTION TEAM**

Kevin Dzierzawski

Breanna Coe

Kristofer Hansen

ABOUT ST. PAULS  
*Making a Joyful Sound in the City!*

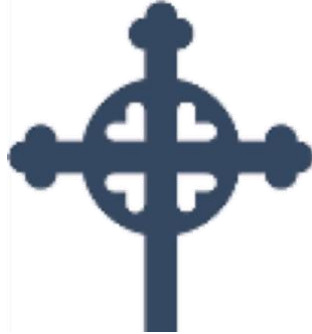
Saint Pauls UCC has a vibrant history in the city of Chicago. Founded in 1843, we are one of the city's oldest churches. In 1989, we became one of America's first congregations to declare ourselves "Open and Affirming" of LGBTQ women and men.

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 177 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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## 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.