



December 24, 2020 • 9:00 p.m.

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

"The prince of bliss came into the darkest hour in quiet and silent light."

Madeleine L'Engle

PRELUDE

Sure on This Shining Night

Samuel Barber

Breanna Coe, mezzo-soprano; flute and harp

Sure on this shining night
Of star made shadows round,
Kindness must watch for me
This side the ground.
The late year lies down the north.
All is healed, all is health.
High mystery holds the earth.
Hearts all whole.
Sure on this shining night
I weep for wonder, wand'ring far alone
Of shadows on the stars.

CHIMES

THE LIGHTING OF THE CHRISTMAS CANDLES

Toccata from Symphony V

Charles Marie Widor

Kevin Dzierzawski, organ

PROCESSIONAL HYMN

O Come, All Ye Faithful

1. O come, all ye faith - ful, joy - ful and tri - um - phant, O
 2. Sing, choirs of an - gels, sing in ex - ul - ta - tion, —
 3. Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this hap - py morn - ing, —

come ye, O come — ye to Beth - - le - hem;
 Sing, all ye cit - i - zens of heaven — a - bove!
 Je - sus, to thee — be all glo - - ry given;

Come and be - hold him, born the King of an - gels;
 Glo - ry to God, all glo - ry in the high - est;
 Word of the Fa - ther, now in flesh ap - pear - ing;

O come, let us a - dore him, O come, let us a - dore him,

O come, let us a - dore him, — Christ, — the Lord!

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!

THE CHRISTMAS STORY IN SCRIPTURE AND SONG

THE PROPHECY FROM THE HEBREW SCRIPTURES

Isaiah 9, 60 and 40, selections

CHOIR

El nacimiento

Ariel Ramirez

from Navidad Nuestra

Chancel Choir

Kris Hansen, tenor; and Alex Hansen, bongo drums

*Noche anunciada, noche de amor,
Dios ha nacido, pétalo y flor,
todo es silencio y serenidad,
paz a los hombres, es Navidad.*

*En el pesebre mi redentor
es mensajero de paz y amor,
cuando sonrío se hace la luz
y en sus bracitos crece una cruz.*

*Angeles cantan sobre el portal
Dios ha nacido, es navidad*

*Esta es la noche, que prometió
Dios a los hombres y ya llegó,
es Noche Buena, no hay que dormir
Dios ha nacido, Dios está aquí.*

Night foretold,
Night of love,
God is born, petals and flowers.
All is silent and serene.
Peace on earth at Christmas.

In the manger, the Redeemer from above brings news of peace and love.
In Christ's smile a radiance glows.
And his tiny arms form a cross

Angels are singing above the scene.
God is born. It is Christmas.

This is the night that God has promised,
God's gift to all and we see it unfold.
It's Christmas Eve; you don't need to sleep.
God is born. God is with us.

THE FULFILLMENT IN THE GOSPEL

Luke 2:1-7

CONGREGATION

O Little Town of Bethlehem

1. O lit - tle town of Beth - le - hem, How still we see thee lie!
 2. How si - lent - ly, how si - lent - ly, The won - drous gift is given!

A - bove thy deep and dream - less sleep the si - lent stars go by;
 So God im - parts to hu - man hearts The bless - ings of his heav'n.

Yet in thy dark streets shin - eth The ev - er - last - ing Light;
 No ear may hear him com - ing, But in this world of sin,

The hopes and fears of all the years Are met in thee to - night.
 Where meek souls will re - ceive him, still The dear Christ en - ters in.

THE ANGELIC ANNOUNCEMENT

Luke 2:8-14

CONGREGATION

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

Hark! the her - ald an - gels sing, - "Glo - ry to the new - born King;

Peace on earth, and mer - cy mild - God and sin - ners rec - on - ciled!"

Joy - ful, all ye na - tions, rise, - Join the tri - umph of the skies;

With the an - gel - ic host pro - claim, "Christ is - born in Beth - le - hem!"

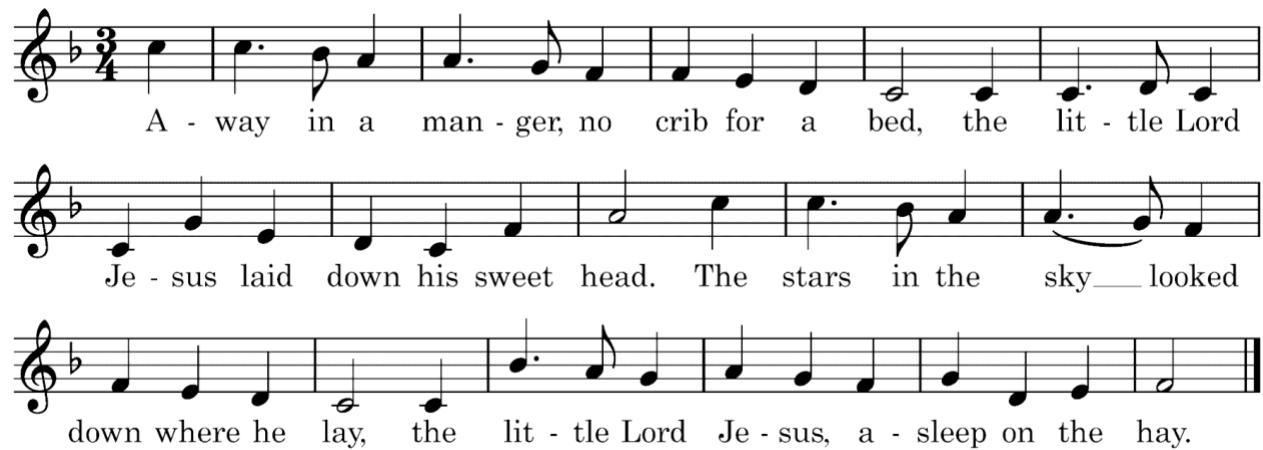
Hark! the her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry - to the new - born King!"

THE SHEPHERD'S VISIT

Luke 2:15-20

CONGREGATION

Away in a Manger



A - way in a man - ger, no crib for a bed, the lit - tle Lord
Je - sus laid down his sweet head. The stars in the sky — looked
down where he lay, the lit - tle Lord Je - sus, a - sleep on the hay.

CHOIR

Peace, Peace, Wonderful Peace

Gustav Nordqvist

Chancel Choir

Text-Edvard Evers

English-Norman Luboff

*Jul, Jul, strålande jul, glans över vita skogar,
Himmelens kronor med gnistrande ljus,
Glimande bågar I alla Guds hus,
Psalm, som är sjungen från tid till tid,
Eviga längtan till ljus och frid!
Jul, Jul, strålande jul, glans över vita skogar!*

Peace, peace, wonderful peace, Peace to the world is given.
Hushed are the angels, so still is the night.
Then in the East shone a heavenly light.
Join in the chorus, His praises sing!
Glory to God, to the newly born King!
Peace, peace, wonderful peace, Peace to the world is given!

CONGREGATION

The First Nowell

1. The first Now - ell, the an - gel did say, Was to
 2. And by the light of that same star Three

cer - tain poor shep - herds in fields as they lay; In
 wise men came from coun - try far; To

fields where they lay keep - ing their sheep, On a cold win - ter's
 seek for a king was their in - tent, And to fol - low the

night that was so deep. Now - ell, Now - ell, Now -
 star wher - ev - er it went.

- ell, Now - ell, Born is the king of Is - ra - el.

THE ADORATION OF THE MAGI

Matthew 2:1-12

CHOIR

Mary Had a Baby
Nancy Pifer. Soprano
Chancel Choir

African-American Spiritual
arr. William Dawson

Mary had a baby, My Lord!
Where was he born?
Born in a manger.
What did they call him?
King Jesus.
He is called King Jesus, Mighty Counselor,
King Emanuel, Mighty God, Everlasting Father.
Mary had a baby, My Lord!

SERMON

“Repeat the Sounding Joy”

Matt Fitzgerald

CONGREGATION

Joy to the World

1. Joy to the world! the Lord is come: Let earth re -
 2. Joy to the earth! the Sav - ior reigns: Let men their
 3. He rules the world with truth and grace, And makes the

- ceive her king; Let ev - 'ry heart pre - pare him room,
 songs em - ploy; While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains
 na - tions prove The glo - ries of his righ - teous - ness,

And heav'n and na - ture sing, And heav'n and na - ture
 Re - peat the sound - ing joy, Re - peat the sound - ing
 And won - ders of his love, And won - ders of his

And heav'n and na - ture sing, And
 Re - peat the sound - ing joy, Re -
 And won - ders of his love, And

sing, And heav'n and heav'n and na - ture sing.
 joy, Re - peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.
 love, And won - ders, won - ders of his love.
 heav'n and na - ture sing.
 - peat the sound - ing joy,
 won - ders of his love,

THE PRESENTATION OF OUR GIFTS

Matt Fitzgerald

CHOIR

Wexford Carol Traditional 12th Century English
Nancy Pifer, Nathan Streeter, arr. Gary Fry
and Lee Lichamer, solists
Monty Adams, flute; and Phyliss Adams, harp
Chancel Choir

Good people all, this Christmas time,
Consider well and bear in mind
What our good God for us has done,
In sending His beloved Son.
With Mary holy we should pray
To God with love this Christmas Day;
In Bethlehem upon the morn
There was a blest Messiah born.

Near Bethlehem did shepherds keep
Their flocks of lambs and feeding sheep;
To whom God's angels did appear
Which put the shepherds in great fear.
Arise and go, the angels said,
To Bethlehem, be not afraid;
For there you'll find, this happy morn,
A princely babe, sweet Jesus born.

With thankful heart and joyful mind,
The shepherds went the babe to find,
And as God's angel has foretold,
They did our Savior Christ behold.
Within a manger He was laid,
And by His side the virgin maid
Attending to the Lord of Life,
Who came on earth to end all strife.

Give to St. Pauls with Zelle: giving@spucc.org or 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

Light a candle, or each other's candles, as the light is passed

CHOIR

Stille Nacht
Chancel Choir

Franz Gruber

Stille Nacht, heilige Nacht!
Alles schläft, einsam wacht
Nur das traute, hoch heilige Paar
Holder Knabe im lockigen Haar,
Schlaf in himmlischer Ruh,
Schlaf in himmlischer Ruh.

CONGREGATION

Silent Night

1. Si - lent night, ho - ly night, All is calm, all is bright
 2. Si - lent night, ho - ly night, Shep - herds quake at the sight,
 3. Si - lent night, ho - ly night, Son of God, love's pure light

Round you vir - gin moth - er and child, Ho - ly in - fant so ten - der and mild
 Glo - ries stream from heav - en a - far; heav'n - ly hosts sing al - le - lu - ia;
 Ra - diant beams from thy ho - ly face, With the dawn of re - deem - ing grace,

Sleep in heav - en - ly peace, — Sleep in heav - en - ly peace. —
 Christ, the Sav - ior, is born! — Christ, the Sav - ior, is born! —
 Je - sus, Lord, at thy birth, — Je - sus, Lord, at thy birth. —

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Angels We Have Heard on High
 Monty Adams, flute; and Phyllis Adams, harp

French Carol

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

excerpt December 24, 1971

When it's Christmas we're all of us magi.
At the grocer's all slipping and pushing.
Where a tin of halvah, coffee-flavored,
is the cause of a human assault-wave
by a crowd heavy-laden with parcels:
each one his own king, his own camel.

Emptiness. But the mere thought of that
brings forth lights as if out of nowhere.
Herod reigns but the stronger he is,
the more sure, the more certain the wonder.
in the constancy of this relation
is the basic mechanics of Christmas.

Joseph Brodsky

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

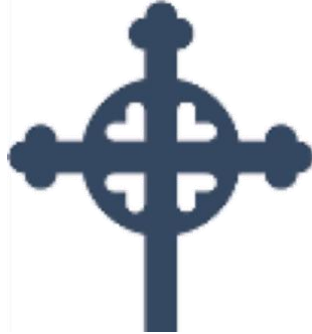
Saint Pauls UCC has a vibrant history in the city of Chicago. Founded in 1843, we are one of the city's oldest churches. In 1989, we became one of America's first congregations to declare ourselves "Open and Affirming" of LGBTQ women and men.

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.