

December 20, 2020
Fourth Sunday of Advent
Virtual Worship

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

PRELUDE

Infant Holy
Kevin Dzierzawski, organ

K. Chapman

CHIMES

WELCOME

Sarah Garcia

INTROIT

Christ Was Born on Christmas Day
Chancel Choir

German Carol

LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLE

The Candle of Love

Simonton Family

CALL TO WORSHIP

One: The four candles of Advent have all been lit - Hope! Peace! Joy! Love!

All: Christ is about to be born!

One: Christ is coming and bringing us gifts - Hope! Peace! Joy! Love!

All: Christ is about to be born!

One: Let Christ be born again in us - with Hope! Peace! Joy! Love!

All: Let every heart make room, for Christ is coming soon!

HYMN

One Candle Is Lit



1. Come sure - ly, Lord Je - sus, as__ dawn fol - lows night,
 2. Come quick - ly, sha - lom, teach us__ how to pre - pare
 3. Come, fes - tive - ly__ sing while a - wait - ing the birth,
 4. Come, wan - der where li - on and__ lamb gent - ly play,



our__ hearts long to greet you, as__ ros - es, the light.
 for a gift that com - pels us with__ jus - tice to care.
 join__ an - gels in danc - ing from__ heav - en to earth.
 where e - vil is ban - ished and__ faith takes the day,



Sal - va - tion, draw near us, our__ vi - sion en - gage.
 Our spir - its are__ rest - less till__ sin and war cease.
 Wave ban - ners of__ good news, lift__ high thank - ful praise.
 a babe in a__ man - ger to__ fool the world's eyes.



One__ can - dle is lit for the__ hope of the age.
 One__ can - dle is lit for the__ reign of God's peace.
 One__ can - dle is lit for the__ joy of these days.
 One__ can - dle is lit for God's lov - ing sur - prise.

ANTHEM

Away in a Manger

Kinderchapel Singers and Children's Choir

Nancy Voigts Godinez, director & Karen Johnson, piano

PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND ASSURANCE

Matt Fitzgerald

**God of wonder and of love,
If our hearts have become blurred with cynicism,
so that we no longer feel the depths of joy,
or if we hear the Christmas story and hand it over to children,
because we've forgotten how to wonder,
forgive us.**

**If anxiety and fear have so exhausted our bodies and souls,
that we have little room left for the gift that you are bringing,
refresh us.**

**Melt our hearts to receive the wonder of your love.
We need you, God.
Come, Lord, Jesus, come, and bring your grace into our weary world.
Amen.**

SCRIPTURE

Diane Biegert

Luke 1:26-55, excerpts

The angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" The angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. For nothing will be impossible with God." Then Mary said, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word." Then the angel departed from her.

In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit and exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leaped for joy. And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her by the Lord."

And Mary said, "My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, for he has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant. Surely, from now on all generations will call me blessed; for the Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is his name. His mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation. He has shown strength with his arm; he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts. He has brought down the powerful from their thrones, and lifted up the lowly; he has filled the hungry with good things, and sent the rich away empty. He has helped his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy, according to the promise he made to our ancestors, to Abraham and to his descendants forever."

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)

HYMN

Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming

Solo: Nancy Pifer

Solo Es, ist ein' Ros ent - sprun - gen aus ein - er Wur - zel
 1. Lo, how a Rose e'er bloom - ing from ten - der stem has
 2. I - sa - iah had fore - told it, the Rose I have in

zart, wie uns die Al - ten sun - gen: von Jes - se kam die
 sprung! Of Jes - se's lin - eage com - ing as saints of old have
 mind, With Mar - y we be - hold it, the Vir - gin Moth - er

Art und hat ein Blüm - lein bracht mit - ten im kal - ten
 sung. It came a flower - et bright, a - mid the cold of
 kind. To show God's love a - right she bore to us a

Win - ter wohl zu der hal - ben Nacht.
 win - ter, when half spent was the night.
 Sav - ior, when half spent was the night.

SERMON	“Hail, Mary, full of grace.”	Jeff Carlson
MEDITATION	Excerpt from <i>Processional in Eb</i> Cosmopolitan Brass	David N. Johnson
OFFERING INVITATION		Tom Henry
OFFERTORY	<i>I Am His Child</i> Chancel Choir	Moses Hogan

I may not be all that you are.
 I may not be a shining star.
 But what I am,
 I thank the Lord,
 for making me His child.

Thank you Lord for hearing every prayer.
 Thank you Lord for just being there.
 Thank you Lord, Thank you Lord,
 for I am not worthy of your love.

I may not be all that you are . . .

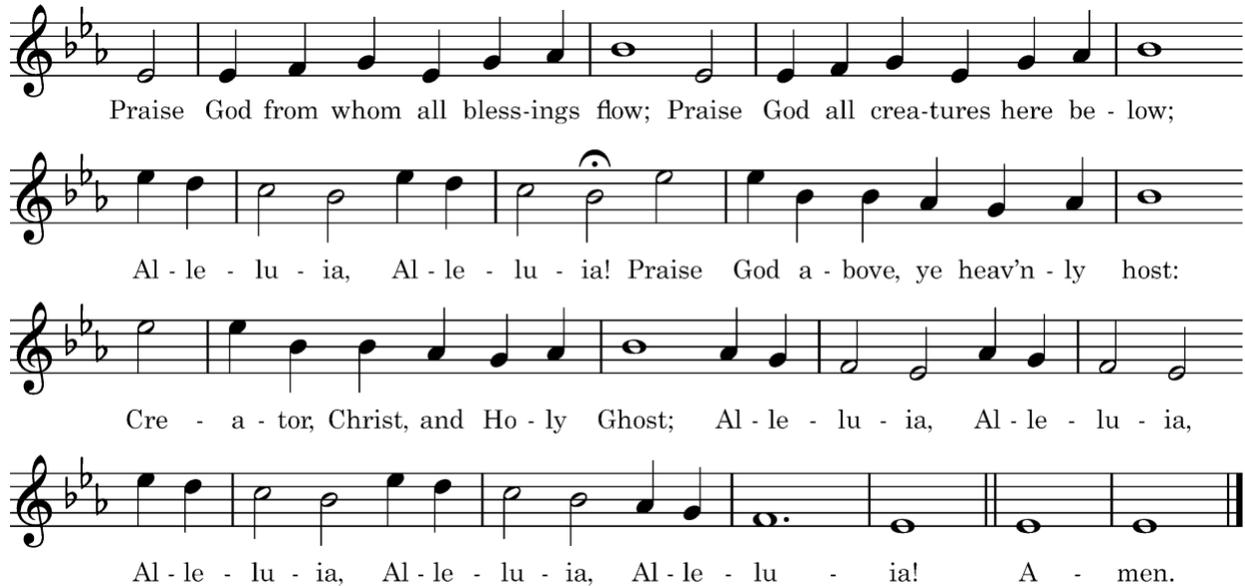
Thank you Lord for hearing every prayer . . .

I may not be all that you are . . .

So, don't use me or abuse me,
 for I am His child.
 Don't tease me or mistreat me,
 for I am still His child.
 You can even talk about me
 but, I am still His child.

Give to St. Pauls with Zelle: giving@spucc.org or spucc.org/about-us/giving-to-st-pauls

FESTIVAL DOXOLOGY



The musical notation is written on four staves in a single system. Each staff begins with a treble clef and a key signature of two flats (B-flat and E-flat). The first staff contains the melody for the first line of text. The second staff contains the melody for the second line of text, including a fermata over the word 'host'. The third staff contains the melody for the third line of text. The fourth staff contains the melody for the final line of text, ending with a double bar line. The lyrics are: Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise God all creatures here below; Al-le-lu-ia, Al-le-lu-ia! Praise God above, 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! A-men.

Praise God from whom all bless-ings flow; Praise God all crea-tures 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

Matt Fitzgerald

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

On Christmas Night All Christians Sing



1. On Christ - mas night all Chris - tians sing, to hear the news the
 2. Then why should we on earth be sad, since our Re - deem - er
 3. From out of mys - tery came the Light, which made the an - gels



an - gels bring; On Christ - mas night all Chris - tians sing, to hear the
 made us glad; Then why should we on earth be sad, since our Re -
 sing this night; From out of mys - tery came the Light, which made the



news the an - gels bring— News of great joy, — news of — great
 - deem - er made us glad, When from our sin — Christ set — us
 an - gels sing this night: “Glo - ry to God — and peace to



mirth, news of our gra - cious Rul - er's birth. —
 free, all for to gain our lib - er - ty. —
 all, for - ev - er - more, Al - le - lu - ia!” —

BENEDICTION

BENEDICTION RESPONSE



Re - joice! Re - joice! Em - man - - u - el



Shall come to thee, O Is - - - ra - el!

POSTLUDE

Rejoice!
 St. Arbucks Trio

Richard Smallwood

Coffee Hour is on Zoom!

*Please join our pastors and other members after worship for this hour of fellowship.
Using a computer or smartphone app, use Meeting ID: **882 5733 7213**, Pswd: **Coffee**
By phone, dial **(312) 626-6799**, Meeting ID: **882 5733 7213**, Password: **530750**.*

*To help contain the spread of COVID-19, worship at Saint Pauls will be streamed online
until further notice. Worship services are streamed on Sundays at 10 a.m. Central,
and re-streamed every day at 10 a.m., 5 p.m. and 8 p.m. Central,
on Saint Pauls website, spucc.org/streaming.*

*You can also call in to listen to our services at **(312) 626-6799** at 10 a.m. Central on
Sundays and use Meeting ID: **816 5093 8507**, Password: **459359***

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

ADVENT WREATH

Each week during Advent, we light another candle in our Advent wreath to anticipate the coming of Christ, the light of the world. These candles symbolize the gifts of hope, love, joy, and peace that Christ's coming brings. Today we light the Candle of Love.

ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS AT ST. PAULS

All events will be virtual, due to COVID-19.

See announcements for RSVP details.

Tuesday Evening Prayer

December 22

8 p.m. Weekly prayer with pastors

Advent/Christmas Bible Study

December 23, 30 & January 6

12 p.m. with Pastor Jeff

Stories of Advent

Christmas Eve Coffee

December 24

4 p.m. with Pastor Jeff

Have a coffee and chat before our

Christmas Eve Family service

Christmas Eve Worship

December 24

5 p.m. Family Service

9 p.m. Candlelight Service

on spucc.org/streaming

Christmas Day Coffee Hour

December 25

4 p.m. with Pastor Matt

Have a coffee with members and friends on Christmas afternoon

Virtual Polar Peace March

Sunday, January 17, 2021

10 a.m. Worship

11:15 a.m. Virtual Peace March

Record and share a video of your mini-march, support UCAN, and honor Dr. King

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

BORN THIS WEEK IN DECEMBER

We celebrate and give thanks for your life at St. Pauls.

*A perfect way to celebrate is by giving one dollar for each year of your life to our
Birthday Fund, which supports A Just Harvest.*

Dec 20 Kirsten Simonton

Dec 21 Sara Nagy

Dec 22 Alexandra Patton, Kristie Bergeron

Dec 23 Heather Cerkan, Jim Alrutz, John Cochran, Kristy Combs, Sally Etz,
Valerie Schimp

Dec 24 Ainslie Granzetto, McKenzie Liebergen

Dec 25 Dana Dreves, Kevin Tavas

Dec 26 Mike Perricone, Sarah Zelonis, Susan Holt

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PASTORS' VIRTUAL OFFICE HOURS

Want to talk? Ask for a prayer? Share an idea? Be consoled? Seek forgiveness? Think through a problem? Hear a word of hope? Start a church program? Find a referral to a therapist? Think about the future? Search for God? We are here for you! You can always reach out to one of our pastors, but we are also offering regularly scheduled virtual office hours, beginning next week. To “drop in” during virtual office hours, contact a pastor to make an appointment.

Benny, Pastoral Intern: Mondays, 3-5 p.m.

Pastor Matt: Wednesdays, 10 a.m.-12 p.m.

Pastor Jeff: Fridays, 3-5 p.m. (Off Christmas and New Year's Day)

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT PROGRAM (CEP) - CEP meals in the St. Pauls courtyard are being discontinued until warmer weather returns. We are currently seeking several sets of new sweatsuits or scrubs in sizes M, L, XL, and XXL for street-based guests to change into while they launder their clothing. If you are looking for other ways to help our neighbors experiencing homelessness, please contact Jennifer Kew at CEPsupper@gmail.com.

LINCOLN PARK COMMUNITY SERVICES NEEDS YOUR HELP! - This St. Pauls founded organization provides comprehensive social services to our neighbors experiencing homelessness. LPCS is looking for individuals to provide meals during this time, and Saint Pauls has signed up to provide lunches on the following Mondays and Wednesdays: **January 4, 25, 27, and February 3, 10**. Please contact Sally Fletcher to sign up at sfletcher1443@gmail.com, or (312) 848-5400. Needed are 20 lunches, including 3 vegetarian, at the 600 W. Fullerton location on each of these days. For other LPCS volunteer opportunities, visit their website at lpcschicago.org to get involved, or contact volunteer coordinator Jameela Chaudhry at volunteer@lpcschicago.org.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

DEC 22 - TUESDAY EVENING PRAYER - 8 p.m., Zoom

Join with other members, friends, and a pastor each Tuesday of Advent for an evening time of prayer. The Zoom link will be sent to RSVPs each Tuesday afternoon.

RSVP at: <https://forms.gle/p6id7bwGjGiLJUhd9>.

DEC 23 - WEDNESDAY BIBLE STUDY: Stories of Advent - 12 p.m., Zoom

To prepare for Christmas, we'll look at the stories in Matthew and Luke that anticipate the birth of Christ. You can participate online, or call in from your phone. Email Pastor Jeff with questions or to get the meeting invitation and instructions, jcarlson@spucc.org.

DEC 24 - CHRISTMAS EVE 4 O'CLOCK COFFEE - 4 p.m., Zoom

Pour yourself a cuppa, grab a snack and join Pastor Jeff for a chat before the Family Service begins on Christmas Eve.

RSVP here: <https://forms.gle/LQv5VsFK4ppWinZGA>

DEC 25 - CHRISTMAS DAY COFFEE WITH MATT - 4 p.m., Zoom

Join Pastor Matt with other members and friends for a Christmas Coffee Hour.

RSVP here: <https://forms.gle/LQv5VsFK4ppWinZGA>

JAN 17, 2021 - 7TH ANNUAL POLAR PEACE MARCH - 10 a.m.

Immediately following worship, join with your family and friends to watch our St. Pauls members marching in our virtual peace program and learn about the impactful work that UCAN is doing to help support youth that have been traumatized by violence. By raising funds for UCAN, you will be contributing to their many violence prevention programs. Let's continue the work that was started by St. Pauls members more than 150 years ago. To donate, visit polarpeacemarch.org. Your contributions this year will be matched 2 for 1 up to \$50,000 by an anonymous family foundation.

OPPORTUNITIES

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.

EMAIL LIST SIGN-UP - Are you new to St. Pauls and want to get more connected, or have you been a longtime friend and missed signing up for our email? Either way, you can go here: spucc.org/connect-learn/signups to fill out our virtual fellowship card to begin receiving our weekly email and special congregational emails, introduce yourself and receive a call from a pastor, and request more information about Children and Youth Programming and more!

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.

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.

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 –

This year we read four books from the Zora Canon, written by African American Women. Our meetings for 2020 have concluded and readings for 2021 are being set, so stay tuned! Anyone is welcome to join us. Please RSVP to Pastor Jeff for email updates: jcarlson@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.

SAINT 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.

SAINT PAULS TOGETHER – Our Facebook Group, “Saint Pauls Together,” is for St. Pauls Members and Friends to connect and share uplifting thoughts and stories. Check out our Facebook Page to request an invitation if you’re a member or friend!

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).

WEDNESDAY 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.

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.

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

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.

Verbal announcements are due by Wednesdays at noon.

Please limit announcements to 100 words. Thank you!

SAINT PAULS PRAYS

Please clip this page and pray for those who are named below. To have your prayer request included, 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.

- Carrie Brugger's brother, Steve, and family at the death of his wife Barb.
- Juanita Barlow's sister, Maria Dolores Guadalupe, recovering from a stroke.
- The Rieck family at the death of Shirley.
- The Nitzsche family at the tragic death of Dan.
- Jenny Benefield, recovering from shoulder surgery.
- Kristin Mack and family at the deaths of her grandfather, Dennis Carlson, and granny, Charlotte.
- Ninon Freeman at the death of her mother, Alba Young.
- Jan Bail's sister, Marty, diagnosed with cancer.
- Michael VanZeyl's Aunt Betty, hospitalized, and Laura VanZeyl's parents, Lionel and Donna, coping with isolation.
- Molly Dierks, in the hospital.
- Erick, an Army friend of Bruce Voice.
- Bruce Voice, recovering from surgery.
- A mother and her two children going through a very difficult time.
- Patty, friend of Petrine and Garold Ashley, as she undergoes a third knee transplant.
- Mark Huddle at the death of his father, Mike.
- Sheryl Mooney, who is receiving treatment for leukemia.
- Mary Train, recovering from a broken wrist.
- Amy Newman, being treated for cancer.
- Rob and Shannon Castle's friend, Mike, in treatment for cancer.
- Pat Ruch's sister, Aline, beginning treatment for brain cancer.
- Carole Crowley, recovering from a stroke.
- Karl Wirsum, in rehabilitation for mini-strokes.

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!

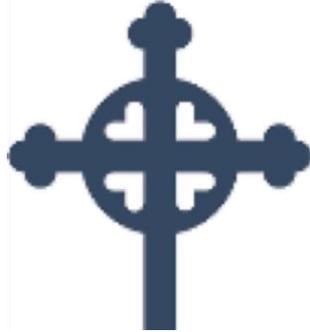
Saint Pauls UCC has a vibrant history in the city of Chicago. Founded in 1843, we are one of the city's oldest churches. In 1989, we became one of America's first congregations to declare ourselves "Open and Affirming" of LGBTQ women and men.

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.

St. Pauls United Church of Christ
2335 North Orchard Street Chicago, Illinois 60614
(773) 348-3829 FAX (773) 348-3858
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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.