



March 22, 2020
Fourth Sunday in Lent
Virtual Worship

No matter who you are,
No matter where you are
On life's journey,
You are loved by God.

THOUGHT FOR PREPARATION

“When children perceive their caretakers as steady and calm - regardless of their moods or behaviors - they can relax, knowing they have someone to rely on to get them through the challenging moments of their lives.” Susan Stiffelman

PRELUDE My Tribute *To God Be the Glory* Andrae Crouch
St. Arbucks Trio
Brendan Henry, piano
Alex Austin, bass; and Matt Plaskota, drums

CHIMES

INTROIT *Morning Has Broken* Gaelic Melody
Todd Coe, tenor

WELCOME Matt Fitzgerald

* CALL TO WORSHIP

Based on Psalm 95

One: O come, let us sing to the LORD; let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation!

All: Let us come into her presence with thanksgiving; let us make a joyful noise to her with songs of praise!

One: For God is great, and rules above all other rulers.

All: In her hands are the depths of the earth; the heights of the mountains are hers also.

One: O come let us worship!

All: For she is our God, and we are her people.

One: Oh that today we would listen to her voice!

All: Today we will sing God's praises. We will give thanks to God. We are listening to you, Lord.

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

* HYMN

Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee

Joyful, joyful, we adore You,
God of glory, Lord of love;
Hearts unfold like flow'rs before You,
Op'ning to the sun above.
Melt the clouds of sin and sadness;
Drive the dark of doubt away;
Giver of immortal gladness,
Fill us with the light of day!

All Your works with joy surround You,
Earth and heav'n reflect Your rays,
Stars and angels sing around You,
Center of unbroken praise;
Field and forest, vale and mountain,
Flow'ry meadow, flashing sea,
Chanting bird and flowing fountain
Praising You eternally!

Always giving and forgiving,
Ever blessing, ever blest,
Well-spring of the joy of living,
Ocean-depth of happy rest!
Loving Father, Christ our Brother,
Let Your light upon us shine;
Teach us how to love each other,
Lift us to the joy divine.

Mortals, join the mighty chorus,
Which the morning stars began;
God's own love is reigning o'er us,
Joining people hand in hand.
Ever singing, march we onward,
Victors in the midst of strife;
Joyful music leads us sunward
In the triumph song of life.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Almighty God,
You have set before us the path
but we have wandered on our own
to try to find our way.
We are children testing boundaries,
ignoring Your call until fear finally makes us look back.
Gracious and merciful God,
forgive us for past faults
and help us in the present and future
to make ourselves more available
to the hurting world that surrounds us.
Equip us to be patient and compassionate listeners,
proclaiming the gospel not in overbearing ways but sensitively and
lovingly.
May we be witnesses to Jesus in all we do and say. Amen.**

MOMENT OF SILENT PRAYER

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

THE BIBLICAL WORD FOR THIS DAY

Gregg Taylor

Exodus 17:1-7

From the wilderness of Sin the whole congregation of the Israelites journeyed by stages, as the LORD commanded. They camped at Rephidim, but there was no water for the people to drink.

The people quarreled with Moses, and said, "Give us water to drink." Moses said to them, "Why do you quarrel with me? Why do you test the LORD?"

But the people thirsted there for water; and the people complained against Moses and said, "Why did you bring us out of Egypt, to kill us and our children and livestock with thirst?"

So Moses cried out to the LORD, "What shall I do with this people? They are almost ready to stone me."

The LORD said to Moses, "Go on ahead of the people, and take some of the elders of Israel with you; take in your hand the staff with which you struck the Nile, and go. I will be standing there in front of you on the rock at Horeb. Strike the rock, and water will come out of it, so that the people may drink." Moses did so, in the sight of the elders of Israel.

He called the place Massah and Meribah, because the Israelites quarreled and tested the LORD, saying, "Is the LORD among us or not?"

* 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 "I Will Be There" Sarah Garcia

OFFERTORY *How Can I Keep From Singing?* Robert Lowry
Todd and Breanna Coe, soloists arr. Timothy Shaw
Kevin Dzierzawski, piano

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

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

What a Covenant

What a fellowship, what a joy divine,
leaning on the everlasting arms;
what a blessedness, what a peace is mine,
leaning on the everlasting arms.

Refrain:

Leaning, leaning,
safe and secure from all alarms;
leaning, leaning,
leaning on the everlasting arms.

O how sweet to walk in this pilgrim way,
leaning on the everlasting arms;
O how bright the path grows from day to day,
leaning on the everlasting arms. *Refrain*

What have I to dread, what have I to fear,
leaning on the everlasting arms?
I have blessed peace with my Lord so near,
leaning on the everlasting arms. *Refrain*

A GIFT HAS BEEN MADE in memory of Nancy Brandt by Bill Borden and Allen Heinemann to support the St. Pauls Faith and Public Issues program.

BORN THIS WEEK IN MARCH

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.

- Mar 22 Scott Lawrence, Brooks Beeson, Robert Colosi-McCann
- Mar 23 Amanda O'Rourke, Marti Pechnyo, Mike Vahey, MJ Rogers
- Mar 24 Addison Williams
- Mar 26 Nick Richardson, Anna Titcomb, Toby Smedley, Bill Rodriguez,
Mark Swanson, Andrew Hein, Matthew Scholes, Molly Dierks
- Mar 27 Melinda Morrissey, Emmett Sheehan, Katie Sheehan, Hazel Vespa,
Ivy Combs, Michael Weiskirch
- Mar 28 Lindsey Mergl, Adam Houser

LENT AND EASTER AT ST PAULS

- SUN, APRIL 5 PALM SUNDAY - 10 a.m.
-Palm branches, songs, Elmhurst College Jazz Band
- THU, APRIL 9 MAUNDY THURSDAY - 7 p.m.
-Dinner Church: eat, pray, sing. Please RSVP at
spucc.org/worship-music/2020-lent-easter
- FRI, APRIL 10 GOOD FRIDAY - 7:30 p.m.
-Communion, Tenebrae with choir
- SUN, APRIL 12 EASTER SUNDAY - 9 a.m. & 11 a.m.
-Communion, choir, brass

ALSO

LENTEN GROUPS & SHORT CIRCLES

Six-week small groups, devotional classics readings, movie group, women's book group. Many groups are continuing to meet virtually. If you would like to start a new group, email Pastor Matt mfitzgerald@spucc.org.

Sign up at signupgenius.com/go/30e084baaac2daaf94-2020

ANNOUNCEMENTS

JOYFUL SOUNDS ACROSS THE CITY - We want to take this time to find ways to grow closer together even while we are apart. Please send Pastor Sarah a video of how you are still finding a way for "Making a Joyful Sound in the City" (or wherever you are). Maybe you are having living room dance parties or listening to your cat purr. What are the joyful sounds in your life? Please also include a three-sentence bio. These will be shared on the St. Pauls Facebook page. Email sgarcia@spucc.org.

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 a group chat 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.

Not tech-savvy? Contact Pastor Jeff to be connected with a volunteer who can help you get set up, jcarlson@spucc.org

Stay tuned for more!

EASTER FLOWER ORDER FORM is available on the last page of the bulletin. You can remember a loved one by purchasing a lily or other flowering plant for the Easter Festival Altar. Purchased plants may be taken home. See the form for more details.

GRANTS FOR NONPROFITS - The Outreach and Benevolence Committee annually distributes a number of grants to various non-profit organizations in the city. Historically, these grants have been made to organizations that have had a long standing relationship with St. Pauls and our members. We are also considering grant applications for other non-profits. If you are involved in a non-profit and wish for them to be considered, please email Pauline Taylor at paulinetaylor933@gmail.com.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

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.

WOMEN'S BOOK GROUP

Please join us for the second meeting of a women's book group, during which we will discuss the second chapter of the book *Inspired*, by Rachel Held Evans. All are welcome - even if you missed the first meeting or haven't read the chapter. Email Corie Gallemore for more information: corie.gallemore@gmail.com.

OPPORTUNITIES

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 – Seeking volunteers to serve on April 5, April 19 and April 26. Each week, St. Pauls welcomes homeless and hungry people to Sunday dinner in the afternoon as part of the Community Engagement Program (CEP). Teams of 4-6 volunteers prepare and serve dinner. To sign up, contact Jennifer Kew at CEPsupper@gmail.com.

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 Luerksen at jenluerksen@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 – One Saturday a month, 10-11:45 a.m. Newcomers are always welcome. Increase your faith and your knowledge of the Bible in this monthly study. RSVP: Pastor Jeff at jcarlson@spucc.org.

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.

- 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

2335 North Orchard Street Chicago, Illinois 60614

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Matt Fitzgerald, *Senior Pastor*, mfitzgerald@spucc.org

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Sarah Garcia, *Associate Pastor for Children and Youth*, sgarcia@spucc.org

Karaçan Sayrun-Thomas, *Children's Program Coordinator*, kara@spucc.org

Karen E. Johnson, *President of the Congregation*, kejpiano@aol.com

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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

Mark Mosley, *Intergenerational Orchestra Director*, mwmosley@gmail.com

Kevin O'Brien, *Lay Liturgical Administrator*, kkobrien48@hotmail.com

EASTER ALTAR FLOWERS ORDER FORM

You can remember a loved one by purchasing a lily or other flowering plant for the Easter Festival Altar. Purchased plants may be taken home after the 11 a.m. service on Easter Sunday – more details about pickup to come.

In Memory, or in Celebration of

(print name(s) as you wish to appear):

From *(your name(s) as you wish to appear):*

Daytime phone: _____

Email: _____

Email this form to Claire Higgins at chiggins@spucc.org

Your gift of \$30 or more may be made through Zelle “giving@spucc.org” or by visiting spucc.org/about-us/giving-to-st-pauls. Please put “Easter Flower” in the memo.

This form, along with your gift, **must arrive by April 8**. Any orders received after that date will not be printed in the bulletin.



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.