

May 17, 2020
Virtual Worship

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

THOUGHT FOR PREPARATION

On fire but unconsumed because such heat amazes
and makes not cinders but rapture and language.

Michael Schmidt

PRELUDE

Meditation

R. Woolen
Kevin Dzierzawski, organ

CHIMES

INTROIT

O Be Joyful in the Lord
Chancel Choir

Traditional Hebrew Melody

WELCOME

Jeff Carlson

* CALL TO WORSHIP *based on Psalm 66*

One: Praise God, all people!

All: Let me tell you what God has done for us:

One: We went through fire.

All: He refined us like silver.

One: He tested us. He laid burdens on our back.

All: He listened. He preserved our lives.

One: He kept us steady. He brought us to safety.

All: He heard our prayers! Amen.

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

* HYMN

A Mighty Fortress Is Our God



1. A might - y for - tress is___ our God, A bul - wark nev - er
2. Did we in our_ own strength con - fide, Our striv - ing would be
3. And though this world, with dev - ils filled, Should threat - en to un -
4. That word a - bove all earth - ly powers, No thanks to them, a -



fail - - ing; Our help - er he___ a - mid_ the flood Of
los - - ing, Were not the right man on___ our side, The
- do_____ us, We will not fear,_ for God_ hath willed His
- bid - - eth; The Spir - it and_ the gifts_ are ours Through



mor - tal ills pre - vail - ing. For still our an - cient foe Doth
man of God's own choos - ing. Dost ask who that may be? Christ
truth to tri - umph through us. The prince of dark - ness grim, We
him who with us sid - eth. Let goods and kin - dred go, This



seek to work us woe; His craft and power are great, And
Je - sus, it is he; Lord Sab - a - oth his name. From
trem - ble not for him; His rage we can en - dure, For
mor - tal life al - so; The bod - y they may kill; God's



armed with cru - el hate, On earth is not his e - - qual.
age to age the same, And he must win the bat - tle.
lo, his doom is sure: One lit - tle word shall fell___ him.
truth a - bid - eth still, His king - dom is for - ev - - er.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Oh God, we confess to suspecting
that quarantine, fear, impatience
and pandemic are able to separate
us from you.**

**Yet, you work for the good in everything.
Renew our faith. Remind us that
neither death, nor life, nor angels,
nor principalities, nor things present,
nor things to come, nor powers, nor height,
nor depth, nor anything else in all creation,
will be able to separate us from the love of God
in Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.**

MOMENT OF SILENT PRAYER

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

THE BIBLICAL WORD FOR THIS DAY

Larry Simpson

Psalm 66:8-17

Praise our God, all peoples,
let the sound of his praise be heard;
he has preserved our lives
and kept our feet from slipping.
For you, God, tested us;
you refined us like silver.
You brought us into the net
and laid burdens on our backs.
You let our enemies run over us;
we went through fire and water,
but you brought us to a place of abundance.
I will come to your temple with burnt offerings
and fulfill my vows to you—
vows my lips promised and my mouth spoke
when I was in trouble.

I will sacrifice fat animals to you
and an offering of rams;
I will offer bulls and goats.
Come and hear, all you who fear God;
let me tell you what he has done for me.
I cried out to him with my mouth;
his praise was on my tongue.

* A STATEMENT OF FAITH

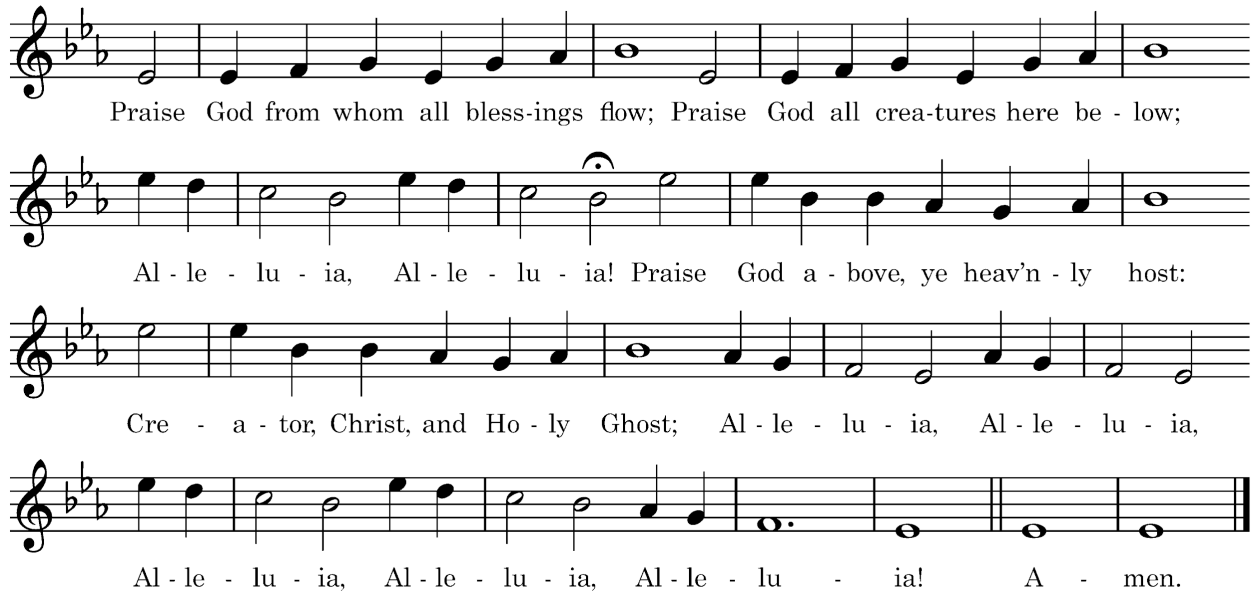
**We believe in God who has created and is creating,
who has come to us in Jesus Christ to reconcile and make us new,
who works in us and others by the Holy Spirit.
We trust God. God calls us to be the Church,
to celebrate God's presence,
to love and serve others,
to care for creation,
to seek justice 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	"Carrying"	Matt Fitzgerald
MEDITATION	<i>Concert Fantasia on the Tune Hanover—Var. II</i> Kevin Dzierzawski, organ	Edwin Lemare
OFFERTORY	<i>Spring Song</i> Tom Clancy, guitar and french horn	Tom Clancy

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

* FESTIVAL DOXOLOGY



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

Sarah Garcia

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

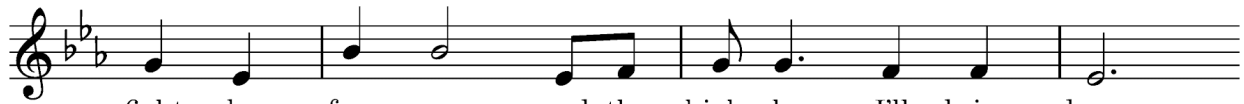
I Will Lift the Cloud of Night



1. I will lift the cloud of night be - fore you, what is
2. With an ev - er - last - ing love I'll love you, though with
3. Al - though Sa - tan in a rage would tear you, and with
4. I will lift the cloud of night be - fore you, I will



wrong I'll make it right be - fore you, all your bat - tles I will
tri - als I will test and prove you, still there's noth - ing that can
ev - ery win - ning art would snare you, yet from youth to your old
make the crook - ed straight be - fore you, I will spread my wings pro -



fight be - fore you, and the high place I'll bring down.
hurt or move you; and the high place I'll bring down.
age I'll bear you and the high place I'll bring down.
-tect - ing o'er you; and the high place I'll bring down.

Refrain



When you walk and lose the way I'll lead you; on the



pro - duce of the land I'll feed you; And a home with - in my heart I'll



deed you; and the high place I'll bring down.

* BENEDICTION

* BENEDICTION RESPONSE

A Gaelic Blessing
Virtual Chancel Choir

John Rutter

POSTLUDE

Recessional
Kevin Dzierzawski, organ

William Mathias

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 website, spucc.org/streaming

*SUNDAY SCHOOL is now on Zoom for all age groups!
See the announcement section for new days and times.*

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.*

A MEMORIAL GIFT has been made by Juanita Barlow in memory of her cousin Hector Ramon Castro, who passed away last week.

BORN THIS WEEK IN MAY

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.

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|--------|---|
| May 17 | Fred Deters, Hendrix Thomas, Kris Gallagher, Larry Damron |
| May 18 | Blake Bowersock, Gaby Godinez, Jay Gleason, Tara Magner |
| May 19 | Dede Koldyke, James Keller, Janet Cory, Jeffrey Calore, Michael Pechnyo, Nancy Voigts |
| May 20 | Gustav Schmidt, Nate Gallagher, Ryan Braun |
| May 21 | Leon Richardson, Nate Combs, Scott Moehrke |
| May 22 | Julian Chaiken, Leslie Chamberlain |
| May 23 | David Mosley, Julia Walker |

OPPORTUNITIES TO HELP OUR COMMUNITY

The need for goods, volunteers and donations continues to increase. If you have time, talents or treasures to help, below are a few options. If you have any questions, please contact Pauline Taylor at paulinetaylor933@gmail.com or 312-497-4401.

LINCOLN PARK COMMUNITY SERVICES - LPCS is so grateful to all of you who have donated meals or had meals delivered to their two shelters. They need meals for the dates below. Sally Fletcher is coordinating these meals. Please contact her at sfletcher1443@gmail.com or (312) 848-5400 for details.

1521 N. Sedgwick: Lunch at 12:30 p.m. - **May 22, 25, 27**

600 W. Fullerton: Lunch at 12:30 p.m. - **May 18, 19, 20, 21, 28**

Breakfast - **May 20**

LAKEVIEW PANTRY - To volunteer: email volunteers@lakeviewpantry.org.
In-Kind Donations: Most needed food items (can be delivered to 3945 N. Sheridan Road): Peanut Butter, Canned Tuna, Canned Vegetables, Oatmeal, Canned Fruit.

THE NIGHT MINISTRY - Needs gift cards for Aldi, Jewel-Osco, GrubHub, and Family Dollar. Email Brittany Caine-Conley at BrittanyC@thenightministry.org for delivery or pick-up options.

GREATER CHICAGO FOOD DEPOSITORY - Volunteer at chicagosfoodbank.org

ANNOUNCEMENTS

VIRTUAL DATE FOR EIGHT

Get to know people at St. Pauls through small group virtual socials! St. Pauls will be forming groups of eight or so parishioners who will get together virtually (over Zoom, Google Meet, etc.) to share stories, experiences and good humor. A 'host' will help each group determine their own meet-up time and dates, which could be organized around a meal time, coffee hour, happy hour, or really any other theme. If you are interested in joining a Virtual Date for Eight group, please submit your information to the link in the Friday Newsletter, or at spucc.org/connect-learn/virtual-date-for-eight by May 31. Contact Tom Murray at murraytom91@gmail.com for more information.

LOCAL NONPROFIT GRANTS AVAILABLE

Each year the Outreach and Benevolence Committee awards grants to local nonprofits who have a relationship with St. Pauls or its members. The committee is interested in expanding its reach and is seeking suggestions. If you are involved in a nonprofit that doesn't customarily receive a grant from St. Pauls and you would like them to be considered, please forward that information to Pauline Taylor at paulinetaylor933@gmail.com.

SUNDAY SCHOOL IS NOW BEING OFFERED VIA ZOOM

11:15 a.m. Sunday mornings for preschool to 4th graders

1 p.m. Sunday afternoons for high school students

1 p.m. Wednesday afternoons for 5th and 6th graders

CHILDREN'S SUPPORT AND AFTERSCHOOL CLUBS

Are you busy working and don't have enough time to help your kids with school work? Do your kids whiz through their work and then end up bored and lonely? We will be offering Zoom support groups led by our licensed school psychologist and Zoom Afterschool Clubs led by our Children's Program Coordinator. If you are interested, email Pastor Sarah 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 ongoing, weekly, and individual opportunities to stay connected in our time apart. Stay tuned for more!

- Let the pastors know if you're interested in a Zoom Coffee Hour after worship on Sunday mornings.
- 10 a.m. Sunday Worship is now streaming on St. Pauls Website at spucc.org/streaming. Join members and friends in our lively comment section to say "Hello!"
- Our Facebook Group, "Saint Pauls Together," is for St. Pauls Members and Friends to connect and share uplifting thoughts and stories.
- Join church members chatting 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 get connected with a volunteer who can help you get set up, jcarlson@spucc.org.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

MAY 15-17 - NATIONAL WEEKEND OF PRAYER FOR FAITH, HOPE & LIFE

St. Pauls is joining with faith communities across the nation to pray for those who have been touched by suicide, those who are dealing with mental health concerns or feelings of hopelessness, and those who love and care for them. With the detrimental effects the novel coronavirus pandemic is having on some peoples' lives, faith communities have an especially important role to play in uplifting those who may be struggling by providing hope, support and a sense of belonging. St. Pauls members are encouraged to join the movement and learn more at theactionalliance.org/faith-hope-life/national-weekend-of-prayer.

MAY 20 - 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.

MAY 21 - THURSDAY PARENTS OF LITTLE ONES NIGHT OUT/IN - 8 p.m., Zoom

Connect with other parents and enjoy conversations with people you are not stuck at home with. Contact Pastor Sarah at sgarcia@spucc.org.

MAY 26 - WOMEN'S BOOK GROUP - 7:30 p.m., Zoom

Please join us for a women's book group, during which we will discuss the fourth 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, lpattton21@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.

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. 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.

- Amy Newman being treated for cancer.
- Prayers of well being for Michelle who is suicidal.
- Congratulations to Anne and Randy Forman and big sister Maddie on the birth of Elizabeth on April 28!
- Patty, friend of Petrine Ashley, hospitalized with a very serious knee infection.
- Debbie, friend of Petrine Ashley, recovering from an operation for breast cancer.
- Dear friend of Jenny Benefield who has chronic depression and is currently experiencing severe problems.
- Stacie B., sister of Mark P., and her sons at the unexpected passing of their husband/father, Ken.
- 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.
- 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 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
(773) 348-3829 FAX (773) 348-3858
www.spucc.org

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