

March 15, 2020
Third Sunday in Lent
Virtual Worship

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

Please silence cell phones.

Bibles for use during worship are available at each entrance to the Sanctuary.

THOUGHT FOR PREPARATION

"Like fawns running over a field suddenly
give up and stand puzzled in their heavy coats."

Alice Oswald

PRELUDE

CHIMES

INTROIT

WELCOME

* CALL TO WORSHIP *based on Psalm 46*

One: God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.

All: We will not fear!

One: Even though the earth shudders, we will not fear.

All: Even though mountains shake, we will not fear.

One: We will not fear!

All: "Be still."

One: "Be still."

All: "Be still and know that I am God!"

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

* HYMN

There is a Balm in Gilead

Refrain:

There is a balm in Gilead to make the wounded whole,
There is a balm in Gilead to heal the sin-sick soul.

Sometimes I feel discouraged and think my work's in vain,
But then the Holy Spirit revives my soul again.

Refrain

If you cannot preach like Peter, if you cannot pray like Paul,
You can tell the love of Jesus, And say, "He died for all!"

Refrain

Don't ever feel discouraged, For Jesus is your friend;
And if you lack for knowledge He'll ne'er refuse to lend.

Refrain

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Lord our God,
in this uncertain moment,
it is good to proclaim that Jesus Christ is the light of the world.
This unchanging fact gives us hope and reassurance.
But, we confess that his brilliance also exposes us.
Christ gives. We grasp.
He relies on you. We go it alone.
And yet he *loves* us.
In his cross he gives forgiveness
and in his resurrection, life.
Amen.**

MOMENT OF SILENT PRAYER

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

THE BIBLICAL WORD FOR THIS DAY
Psalm 23

Karen Johnson

The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want.
He makes me lie down in green pastures;
He leads me beside still waters;
He restores my soul.
He leads me in right paths
for his name's sake.
Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,
I fear no evil;
For you are with me;
your rod and your staff - they comfort me.
You prepare a table before me
in the presence of my enemies;
You anoint my head with oil;
my cup overflows.
Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me
all the days of my life,
And I shall dwell in the house of the Lord forever.

* 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

“growing closer while apart”

Matt Fitzgerald

OFFERTORY

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

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

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

God Who Stretched the Spangled Heavens

God who stretched the spangled heavens, infinite in time and place,
Flung the suns in burning radiance through the silent fields of space,
We, your children, in your likeness, share inventive powers with you;
Great Creator, still creating, show us what we yet may do.

We have ventured worlds undreamed of since the childhood of our race;
Known the ecstasy of winging through untraveled realms of space;
Probed the secrets of the atom, yielding unimagined power,
Facing us with life's destruction or our most triumphant hour.

As each far horizon beckons, may it challenge us anew,
Children of creative purpose, serving others, honoring you.
May our dreams prove rich with promise, each endeavor, well begun;
Great Creator, give us guidance till our goals and yours are one.

* BENEDECTION

***To help contain the spread of Covid 19, worship at Saint Pauls is suspended until further notice. Worship services will be streamed on Sunday morning. Small groups and committee meetings will continue to gather at their leaders' and members' discretion. The church will be open on weekdays.
Watch your email for updates.***

If you would like someone to pray with you this week, Clergy and Stephen Ministers will be available for phone calls and clergy for office visits

FLOWERS ON THE ALTAR are in celebration of the 36th wedding anniversary of Andrew and Lynn Davis.

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 24 Addison Williams

Mar 26 Anna Titcomb, Tobias Smedley, Bill Rodriguez, Andrew Hein,
Matthew Scholes, Molly Dierks

Mar 27 Melinda Morrissey, Emmett Sheehan, Katie Sheehan, Hazel Vespa,
Ivy Combs

Mar 28 Adam Houser

Mar 29 Keeley Chamberlain

Mar 30 Mark Pellegrino, Brendan Henry

LENT AND EASTER AT ST PAULS

SAT, APRIL 4 EASTER EGG HUNT - 10 a.m. - 12 p.m.
-Egg hunt in the Sanctuary, pictures with the easter bunny, crafts

- 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
- SUN, APRIL 19 PANCAKE CHURCH
-Worship over breakfast, Gym

ALSO

LENTEN GROUPS & SHORT CIRCLES

Six-week small groups, devotional classics readings, movie group, women's book group. Sign up at signupgenius.com/go/30e084baaac2daaf94-2020

SINGING OUR FAITH - Kurt Hansen will conclude a two-part series on a brief "History of Music In Worship," from 11:30-12:30 next week. The presentation will be streamed.

MALCOLM, MARTIN and AMERICA - POSTPONED Stay tuned for a new date!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

EASTER FLOWER ORDER FORM is now 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 after the 11 a.m. service on Easter Sunday. See the form for more details.

REBUILDING TOGETHER - we need volunteers for our upcoming service project when we will work together to repair a home on Chicago's southside as part of the National Day of Rebuilding Together, Saturday April 25th. This is an intergenerational opportunity to make a difference. You can sign up for a morning or afternoon shift or the whole day. If you are interested contact Pastor Sarah at sgarcia@spucc.org

YOUTH OUTREACH - Every Tuesday night, we offer food, gym time and community building to marginalized middle school and high school students. They come because St. Pauls is a safe place for them, and they want and need connection and support. Feeding 30 hungry teenagers is no small task. If you have any interest in providing pizza or any other dinner for our youth outreach meal on Tuesdays at 5 p.m., please contact Pastor Sarah sgarcia@spucc.org. It really will make a difference and help us to share God's love with youth who need it.

SPRING 2020 - LAST CALL FOR SOFTBALL - Join the Young Adults 16" softball team's 7th season at Oz Park! Games are Sunday afternoons beginning April 19. Sign up today - final roster is due March 25. Cost is \$60 per person, which includes eight games, T-shirt, beer after the games, and more. Sign up through the YA newsletter and email Todd Coe with any questions, toddsingstenor@gmail.com.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

MARCH 16 - LONG, CLASSIC NOVELS READING GROUP - 7 p.m., VIRTUAL MEETING

Contact Pastor Jeff to join us on-line for the first of four discussions in 2020 on selections from the Zora Canon of novels by African American Women. We will mull over *Moses*, *Man of the Mountain*, by Zora Neale Hurston (1939). Anyone is welcome to join us for one or all four. See the opportunities section for more details. Please RSVP to Pastor Jeff for email updates: jcarlson@spucc.org.

MARCH 20 - POLO PIZZA AND BOUNCE PARTY IS POSTPONED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE.

MARCH 20 - YOUNG ADULTS WHIRLEYBALL OUTING - 7 p.m., 1825 W. Webster Avenue. Find out if the luck of the Irish lasts a full week! Show off your Whirleyball skills by joining the Young Adults Group for (arguably) Chicago's best winter sport, along with drinks and appetizers beforehand. RSVP to the Punchbowl evite. The first 20 people to RSVP are guaranteed at least two matches per person. Cost is a maximum of \$30, payable the evening of the event. Afterwards, we'll go to Jack and Ginger's for drinks. Questions? Email Derek at derek.diemer@gmail.com.

MARCH 21 - MALCOLM, MARTIN and AMERICA - POSTPONED - Stay tuned for a new date!

MARCH 28 - GREATER CHICAGO FOOD DEPOSITORY VOLUNTEER DAY - 1 p.m. - 3:45 p.m., 4100 W. Ann Lurie Place. Give back to the community by helping to sort and repack donated food at the GCFD warehouse. We need 15 volunteers ages 11 and up. RSVP to Maureen Reilly by March 21 at mreilly773@gmail.com.

MARCH 31 - WOMEN'S BOOK GROUP - 7:15 - 8:45 p.m., Parlor
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.

APRIL 17 - SAINT PAULS SOCIAL PLAY READING - 6:00 p.m., Parlor
Release your inner thespian! Join St. Pauls Social as we read a play from Lux Radio Theater. We will be asking for donated refreshments and libations. More details to follow. "Act well your part; there all the honor lies." Questions? Contact Rick Peterson, rnpeterson2017@gmail.com.

APRIL 18 - GAME NIGHT --6-10 p.m., Rebecca Brown's home
Join the Young Adults Group for a game night. From Guesstures to Clue, we have an array of games to pick from. You're also welcome to BYOG - bring your own game! Food and some drinks will be provided. This event is free - just bring a snack or beverage to share. Space is limited to the first 15 people who RSVP. Contact Rebecca Brown at rebstormbrown@gmail.com for questions and RSVP to the upcoming Punchbowl invite.

APRIL 24 - LPCS METAMORPHOSIS GALA - Newberry Library
Join Lincoln Park Community Services in celebrating 35 years of empowering individuals facing homelessness at our Metamorphosis Gala! On February 12, 1985, LPCS opened its doors thanks to our neighbors and founding churches, including St. Pauls. On our first night, we provided shelter to five individuals. Today, we provide housing, comprehensive services and an empowering community of support to 120 guests at our two locations. Tickets to the event include cocktails, dinner, music, a live auction and great company. Contact Lexi Gallopoulos at Lexi@lpcschicago.org with any questions. Tickets available at lpcsonline.ejoinme.org/MyEvents/Metamorphosis2020.

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 in the Social Hall or email Claire Higgins to check open Sundays, 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 - Our meal for those experiencing homelessness will happen today, then, at the request of Lincoln Park Community Services, we will go on hiatus for the rest of the month.

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:

Moses, Man of the Mountain, Zora Neale Hurston (1939) - Discussion date: March 16

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 every Wednesday morning to make 40 bag lunches to be distributed 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 - 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!

NOTES

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.

- 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.
- Denese S., friend of Pat Kirby, dealing with significant health problems.
- Rob and Shannon Castle's friend, Mike, in treatment for cancer.
- Pastor Sarah and her father's family upon the death of her uncle.
- 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.
- Tom Klein, grieving his mother's death.
- 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
(773) 348-3829 FAX (773) 348-3858
www.spucc.org
Matt Fitzgerald, *Senior Pastor*, mfitzgerald@spucc.org
Jeff Carlson, *Associate Pastor*, jcarlson@spucc.org
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*, kejplano@aol.com
Maddy Lockhart, *Director of Operations*, mlockhart@spucc.org
Tom Henry, *Pastor Emeritus*, emeritushenry@gmail.com
Kurt R. Hansen, *Music Director*, kurtsingsbach@gmail.com
Kevin Dzierzawski, *Organist*, kdzierza@att.net
Brendan Henry, *Pianist*, brendanphentry@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

Free Parking is available Sundays from 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. at Lincoln Common Parking Garage,
2300 block of North Lincoln Ave. – Parking validation is available in the Narthex.

EASTER ALTAR FLOWERS ORDER FORM

You can remember a loved one by purchasing a lily or other flowering plant for the Easter Festival Altar. Enclose your gift of \$30 or more per plant with this order form. Purchased plants may be taken home after the 11 a.m. service on Easter Sunday.

In Memory, or **in Celebration of**
(print name(s) as you wish to appear):

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

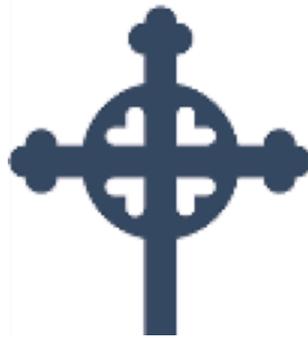
Daytime phone: _____

Email: _____

Drop this form in the offering plate or it mail to:

St Pauls UCC
Attn: Easter Flower Order Form
2335 N. Orchard Street
Chicago, IL 60614

This form, along with your check, **must arrive at the church by April 3**. 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.