



January 23, 2022

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

Children are asked to go to Sunday School before worship begins.
Bibles for use during worship are available at each entrance to the Sanctuary.
Assisted listening devices and Bluetooth hearing aid guides are in the Narthex.
Please silence cell phones. Masks are required.

THOUGHT FOR PREPARATION

"God is not known, not spoken, not named, not something among beings, and not known in something among beings." Dionysius the Areopagite

PRELUDE *Now Behold the Lamb* Kirk Franklin
St. Arbucks Quartet

INTROIT *For the Beauty of the Earth*
Jennifer Kew

CHIMES

WELCOME Matt Fitzgerald

* WELCOMING EACH OTHER

* CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Our thoughts cannot hope to capture God.

All: Nature itself is on God's side.

One: You cannot threaten a thunderstorm with a revolver.

All: The stalks of flowers trap God's enemies.

One: Sheep shall chase them away.

All: God is no tourist! We are more than scenery to Her.

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

* HYMN

Over My Head
Led by Kris Hansen

Over my head I hear music in the air. (3x)
There must be a God somewhere.

Over my head I hear singing in the air. (3x)
There must be a God somewhere.

Over my head I see trouble in the air. (3x)
There must be a God somewhere.

Over my head I see Jesus in the air. (3x)
There must be a God somewhere.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Marti Pechnyo

**Oh God,
We are sophisticated and
bursting with certainty.
We insist.
We clarify.
We elucidate.
Forgive our
nauseating expertise.
Make us childlike,
able to wonder at soap bubbles,
and skipping stones,
and You.
Amen.**

MOMENT OF SILENT PRAYER

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

RESPONSE

Precious Lord, Take My Hand
St. Arbucks Quartet

Thomas Dorsey

SCRIPTURE

Psalm 19: 1-4

Marti Pechnyo

The heavens are telling the glory of God;
and the firmament proclaims his handiwork.

Day to day pours forth speech,
and night to night declares knowledge.

There is no speech, nor are there words;
their voice is not heard;

yet their voice goes out through all the earth,
and their words to the end of the world.

* 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)

* RESPONSE

Fanfare
Kevin Dzierzawski, organ

SERMON

"There are no words."

Matt Fitzgerald

* HYMN

I Love to Tell the Story
Led by Nancy Pifer



1. I love to tell the sto - ry Of un - seen things a - bove,
2. I love to tell the sto - ry, For those who know it best



Of Je - sus and his glo - ry, Of Je - sus and his love.
Seem hun - ger - ing and thirst - ing To hear it, like the rest.



I love to tell the sto - ry, Be - cause I know it's true;
And when, in scenes of glo - ry, I sing the new, new song,



It sat - is - fies my long - ings As noth - ing else would do.
'Twill be the old, old sto - ry That I have loved so long.



I love to tell the sto - ry; 'Twill be my theme in glo - ry



To tell the old, old sto - ry Of Je - sus and his love.

OFFERTORY

Sonata in D Major, K. 443

Domenico Scarlatti

Graham Hicks, piano

You can give to St. Pauls by:

Scanning this code with your cell phone camera,

At spucc.churchcenter.com/giving,

Or through Zelle to giving@spucc.org.



* FESTIVAL DOXOLOGY

Led by Lee Lichamer

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, Al - le - lu - ia! A - men.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Barb Kaiser

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

O How Glorious, Full of Wonder

Led by Kurt R. Hansen

1 O how glo - rious, full of won - der is your name o'er all the earth,
2 When we see your lights of heav - en, moon and stars, your power dis - played,
3 You have set us in com - mu - nion with the won - ders of your hand,
4 O how won - drous, O how glo - rious is your name in ev - ery land,

God, who wrought cre - a - tion's splen - dor, bring - ing suns and stars to birth!
Who are we that you should love us, crea - tures that your hand has made?
Made us fly with ea - gle pin - ion, pil - grims o - ver sea and land.
God, whose pur - pose shines be - fore us toward the goal that you have planned!

Rapt in rev - erence we a - dore you, mar - veling at your mys - tic ways.
Born of earth, yet full of yearn - ing, mix - ture strange of good and ill,
Soar - ing spire and ru - ined cit - y, these our hopes and fail - ures show.
Yours the will our hearts are seek - ing, con - scious of our hu - man need.

Hum - bly now we bow be - fore you, lift - ing up our hearts in praise.
From your ways so of - ten turn - ing, yet your love does seek us still.
Teach us more of hu - man pit - y, that we in your im - age grow.
Spir - it in our spir - it speak - ing, make us yours, O God, in - deed.

* BENEDICTION

* BENEDICTION RESPONSE

Led by Nathan Streeter

Glo - - - - - ri - a

in ex - cel - sis De - o, Glo - - - - -

- - - - - ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - - - o.

POSTLUDE

Wie schön leuchtet der Morgenstern

Johann Pachelbel

Kevin Dzierzawski, organ

If you would like someone to pray with you today, Stephen Ministers are present after the Postlude at the right front of the Sanctuary.

Following Worship, all are invited for a Social Hour time of fellowship in the gym. At this time, we will not be serving coffee so everyone remains masked while indoors.

TODAY'S MUSIC

Our prelude, *Now Behold the Lamb*, was written in 1993 and features both text and music by Kirk Franklin (b. 1970). He has also brought a new and contemporary edge to gospel music by adding the energy of hip-hop.

Over My Head is another text and melody from the great wealth of spirituals. Its present version was arranged in 1981 by Verolga Nix (1933-2014), a world class pianist and graduate of Oberlin Conservatory, and J. Jefferson Cleveland (1937-1986), one of the most important scholars of African American spirituals. Cleveland and Nix collaborated on a seminal work about African American music, *Songs of Zion*. It is actually a shortened version, including only the very catchy refrain of a longer song.

The composer of *Precious Lord*, Thomas A. Dorsey (1899-1993), began his career as a blues pianist and songwriter. Later, he became a church choir director here in Chicago and was a co-founder of the National Convention of Gospel Choirs and Choruses. Widely known as the "father of the gospel song," he played an important role in the development of African American gospel music. This is his best-known song and was composed following the tragic double death of his first wife, Nettie, and their newborn son. It was a great comfort to Mr. Dorsey in his grief, as well as countless others who have sung it. He became Director of Music at Pilgrim Baptist Church.

I Love to Tell the Story has multiple authors. The familiar refrain was written in 1866 by Kate Hankey (1834-1911) and the verses were penned and the music composed in 1869 by William G. Fisher (1835-1912). Although Hankey was born into privilege in London, she spent her life working with the poor and teaching Bible classes. Fisher was an American who had a lifelong interest in music. Although he was a businessman, he composed more than 200 "spiritual songs," and conducted mass choirs at Dwight L. Moody revivals. The tune name, HANKEY, takes its name from Ms. Hankey.

Sonata in D Major, K. 443 is one of Domenico Scarlatti's best known and often performed works. He composed more than 550 works for keyboard. John Eliot Gardiner refers to Scarlatti (1685-1757) as one of the "trio" of the "class of 1685," which includes Bach (1685-1750) and Handel (1685-1759). Scarlatti, like Bach, came from famous musical parentage. His father, Alessandro Scarlatti (1660-1725), was one of the most prominent Baroque composers in Italy. Whereas Domenico was known primarily for his keyboard works, his father was a renowned composer of opera and chamber music.

The author of the text for ***O How Glorious, Full of Wonder*** was Curtis Beach (1914-1993). He was Harvard educated and came from a long line of ministers. He wrote this text in 1958 while serving a church in Pasadena, CA. The tune, IN BABILONE, is a traditional Dutch melody first published in 1710. It was adapted as a hymn by Julius Röntgen (1855-1932), a Dutch Romantic composer and pianist. Brahms chose him to debut his *Piano Concerto No. 1*.

Wie schön leuchtet der Morgenstern is known to us in English as an Epiphany hymn, *O Morning Star, How Clear and Bright*, that can be found in our Black Hymnal No. 158. The chorale melody was composed in 1598 by Philipp Nicolai (1556-1608), who was a Lutheran pastor, poet and composer. This chorale melody was so beloved that it was set by many composers, including Bach (1685-1750). Johann Pachelbel (1653-1706) is not well known outside music circles, but his compositions, especially for organ and choir, provided a deep foundation for German composers in the following generation, including Bach and his contemporaries.

TODAY'S WORSHIP LEADERS

Clergy: Matt Fitzgerald

Stephen Ministers: Barb Kaiser, Marti Pechnyo

Music Director: Kurt R. Hansen

Organist: Kevin Dzierzawski

St. Arbucks Quartet: Brendan Henry, piano; Alex Austin, bass; Matt Plaskota, drums; Kris Hansen, trumpet & vocals

Scripture Reader: Marti Pechnyo

Lay Liturgical Administrator: Kevin O'Brien

Head Usher: Beatrice Jaji

Ushers: David Baker, Fred Pearson

Head Greeter: Greg Mooney

Gatekeeper: Dodd Brown

Camera Operators: Brian Hafner, Bob Ball

Custodian: Ramiro Gonzalez

BORN THIS WEEK IN JANUARY

We 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.

- Jan 23 Dan Abercrombie
- Jan 24 Kelly Martin
- Jan 25 Michael Sanders
- Jan 26 Dan Martin, Harrison Rogers
- Jan 28 Candi Huber, David Duvall, Ryan DuPont
- Jan 29 Veronica Tong

ANNOUNCEMENTS

GOD IN NEW NOVELS

This winter is providing plenty of time to dive into a good book. Join Pastor Matt and others to look for God in contemporary fiction. Our first novel is *Deacon King Kong* by James McBride, author of *The Good Lord Bird* and *The Color of Water*. We will meet to discuss this excellent novel about church on Monday, February 7, at 7 p.m. Register at: spucc.churchcenter.com/registrations/events/1137474

BONHOEFFER IN A YEAR

More than 30 Saint Pauls members have registered to read the works of Dietrich Bonhoeffer in a Year. Join us as we read the works of this anti-Nazi martyr and brilliant theologian. We will meet monthly throughout 2022. Register at: spucc.churchcenter.com/registrations/events/1136986

POLAR PEACE MARCH POSTPONED TO PALM SUNDAY

Due to COVID concerns, along with hope for greater impact on our community, this year's Polar Peace March will be on April 10, Palm Sunday. We'll wave our palms for peace around our neighborhood and show the city how all of our streets are connected. You can help UCAN achieve its mission of violence prevention and treatment for traumatized youth in our communities and supporting their peace-making work by registering and donating at: polarpeacemarch.org.

**JOIN THE MOVEMENT - provided by SPARC
(Re)discover Community Renewal Society (CRS)**

St. Pauls is a longtime member congregation of CRS, whose vision is “the Beloved Community: where all God’s children flourish and live in dignity.” They work to bring “people of faith and congregations together, in partnership with communities, coalitions, interfaith organizations, and civic leaders, to intentionally and decisively transform society toward greater social justice at the intersection of racism and poverty.” Learn more and get involved at communityrenewalsociety.org.

**CREATION CORNER - provided by Green Team
Who Knew Toilet Tissue Could Make Such a Difference?**

Who knew you could make a huge difference by buying your toilet paper from us.whogivesacrap.org? Besides the website being humorous, you’ll discover that 50% of profits from their eco-friendly products help build toilets and improve sanitation in the developing world. Roughly 40% of the global population doesn’t have access to a toilet, which means that approximately 300,000 children under 5 years old die every year from diarrheal diseases caused by poor water and sanitation. That’s almost 800 children every day, or one child every two minutes. You may also buy tissues and paper towels at this site.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

JAN 26 - BIBLE STUDY: THE GOSPEL OF LUKE - 12 p.m., Zoom

Luke introduces us to Jesus, who brings hope, justice and truth to the world. This Gospel contains some of the most cherished stories, such as the Prodigal Son, Zacchaeus and the Good Samaritan. Meets once a week for about a half hour. All are welcome! RSVP to Pastor Jeff, jcarlson@spucc.org.

JAN 30 - YOUTH SUMMER MISSION TRIP ORIENTATION - After Worship, Oscar Mayer Room

We are planning a youth mission trip with the Appalachia Service Project June 18-25 for youth going into ninth grade and up. ASP teams do home repair, making homes warmer, safer and dryer. It’s a great experience and St. Pauls youth and adults have served with ASP for many years. You’ll find out more about it at this orientation session for youth and parents. If a youth in your family is interested, please contact Pastor Jeff, jcarlson@spucc.org.

FEB 4 - VIRTUAL SUPER BOWL SCAVENGER HUNT - 7-8:30 p.m., Zoom
Fabulous prizes, fun and fellowship! Three reasons to join the St. Pauls Social Super Bowl Scavenger hunt, hosted by CPS (Carrie, Peg and Sally). RSVP to crbruggs@gmail.com and Zoom details will be sent in response.

OPPORTUNITIES

ALTAR FLOWERS – Providing flowers for the altar is an excellent way to celebrate a special event in your life: an anniversary, a birthday, a holiday, or just because you like flowers! Sign up at spucc.churchcenter.com/registrations/events/1078968

CHURCH CENTER – spucc.churchcenter.com is our new portal for the Saint Pauls community. See our calendar, register for events, update your contact information, join and view our photo directory, manage your online donations, see your giving history, and more!

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT PROGRAM (CEP) – We are seeking **CEP Laundry volunteers on Saturday mornings**. One volunteer is needed each week to greet street-based guests and launder their clothes on site at St. Pauls from 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. If you have any interest in **cooking in-person** meals for homeless neighbors in the coming months, please contact Jennifer Kew at CEPsupper@gmail.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.

EMAIL SIGN-UP – Are you new to St. Pauls and want to get more connected? You can go to spucc.org to fill out our virtual fellowship card to begin receiving our weekly email and special congregational emails, introduce yourself and request more information about our programs!

EMERGENCY CONTACT FORM & CARDS – The Emergency Contact Form developed by the Connectors has been updated. You may follow this link for additional information and to consider whether this form could be useful for you: spucc.churchcenter.com/people/forms/178271.

FAITH & 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.

GREEN TEAM – Help us as a congregation live out what we say in our Statement of Faith: “God calls us to care for creation.” The Green Team welcomes your input, participation and ideas. Joe Womack and Jan Fraccaro are co-chairs. If interested or to offer suggestions, email Jan at jan.fraccaro@gmail.com.

LITTLE LIGHTS is a St. Pauls early childhood program with classes for 2, 3, and 4-year-olds. We are now accepting applications for 2022. Check out www.littlelightslp.org. Email Little Lights Director Erin Fitzgerald at littlelights@spucc.org.

OUTREACH & BENEVOLENCE COMMITTEE – Do you have a passion for reaching out to others? The St. Pauls O&B Committee would love you to join us in keeping our church engaged in community outreach. For more information, contact Jennifer Kew, JenniferLKew@gmail.com, or Pastor Jeff, jcarlson@spucc.org.

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!

SARAH’S SIBS are back and gather every Wednesday morning to make and distribute 40 bag lunches to our homeless neighbors. You are most welcome to come to the church kitchen at 9:30 a.m. and lend a hand.

SCRIPTURE READER VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Volunteers are needed for the 10 a.m. in-person worship service each week to read the scripture passage of the day. Learn more and sign up here: spucc.churchcenter.com/registrations/events/1079008

SPARC (St. Pauls Anti-Racism Cluster) invites you to join the journey toward racial justice through educational opportunities, resources, and actions as we seek to live our faith in an age of injustice. For more information contact Cindy Ball at cindyball11@gmail.com.

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).

SUNDAY SCHOOL – Please register your children for Sunday School. This is a one-time registration for the year so we can prepare the correct staffing and activities, spucc.churchcenter.com/registrations/events/985445.

WEDNESDAY BIBLE STUDY – 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.

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.

- Tom Henry, in rehab recovering from pneumonia.
- Phill, brother of Bob Ball, who has leukemia and has been diagnosed with Covid-related pneumonia.
- Marcia Knudson at the death of her husband, Wes Salisbury.
- Sonja Rae recovering from hip replacement surgery.
- Juanita Barlow and son Jeff at the 50th anniversary of her husband George's death. A gift has been made to the Sam Hill Music Fund.
- Ginger Hecht and family at the death of her mother, Nina Whitsel.
- Jan Bail at the death of her sister, Marty.
- Lorri Gunn Wirsum, diagnosed with COVID and at home managing symptoms.
- Encouragement for Al Cerkan as he enters home recovery for a serious spinal cord injury.
- An 18-year-old friend of Lisa Doerr in critical condition from a burst aneurysm.
- Chris, Rem and Sabrina Cabrera-Schram at the death of son and brother, Gabriel.
- Pastor Jamie Frazier, whose mother, Irene, has died.
- Joe JaQuay, being treated for an infection in his leg.
- Cameron and his family, family friends of Juanita Barlow, managing his brain damage after an accident.
- Bob and Cheryl Kuba as they are challenged by some significant health issues.
- Mary Frances Winking's parents facing health and quality of life obstacles.
- Carole Crowley, recovering from a stroke.

Prayer, Support, Mental Health Resources

Even when you walk through the valley of shadows, God is with you. If you or someone you love is feeling completely alone or like life doesn't matter, reach out for help. Help is available for every kind of issue. Contact one of the pastors today for support, referrals, and information that can help you and your loved ones.

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 people.

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 178 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.

Senior Pastor Matt Fitzgerald, mfitzgerald@spucc.org
Associate Pastor Jeff Carlson, jcarlson@spucc.org
Pastoral Associate Benny VanDerburgh, bvanderburgh@spucc.org
Pastor Emeritus Tom Henry, emeritushenry@gmail.com

For a complete list of St. Pauls Staff, Governance, and Lay Leadership
Please visit www.spucc.org/contact

St. Pauls United Church of Christ
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WELCOME TO SAINT PAULS UCC!

Welcome to those whose hearts are on fire with faith,
and to those who bring their doubt inside our doors.

Welcome to our first time guests and
our longtime members.

Welcome to single people, tiny children,
grandparents and families of all configurations.

Welcome to those who rejoice and to those who grieve.

Welcome to each and to everyone.

We are an Open and Affirming church.

We welcome all.

We are blessed by your presence and
we are glad you are here.