

May 24, 2020
Virtual Worship

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

PRELUDE	<i>My Tribute (To God Be the Glory)</i> Brendan Henry, piano	Andrae Crouch
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CHIMES

INTROIT	<i>All My Hope on God Is Founded</i> Chancel Choir	Herbert Howells
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WELCOME		Sarah Garcia
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* CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Bless God, everyone! Bless God's holy name!

All: Bless God, and remember all the good things God has done.

One: God forgives our sins and heals our diseases.

All: As high as heaven is above the earth, so great is God's love for us.

One: God is gracious and merciful and full of faithful love.

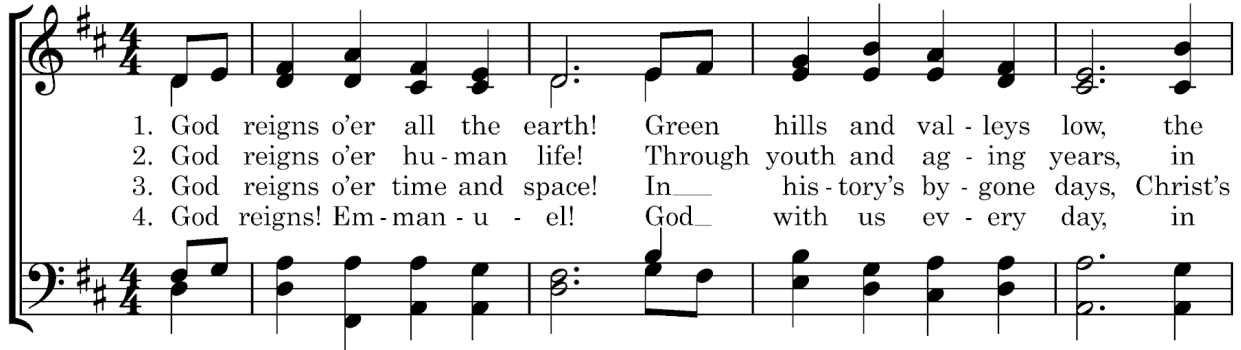
All: Bless God, everyone! Bless God's holy name!

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

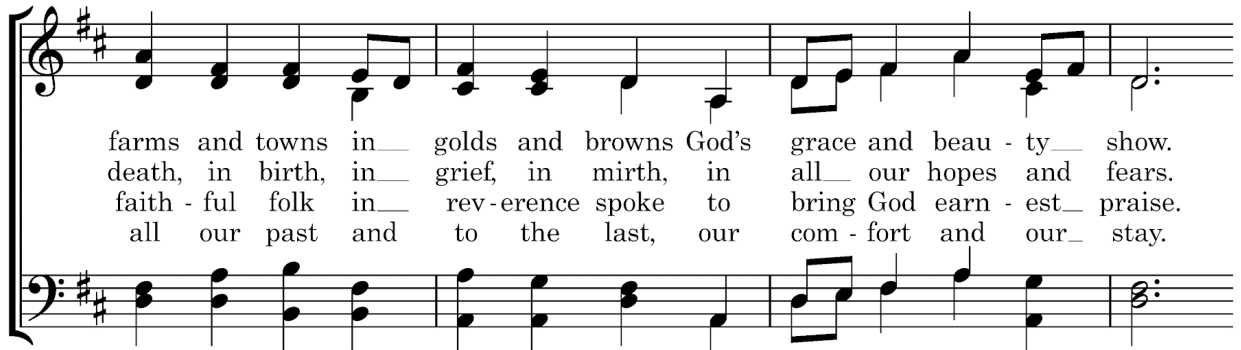
* HYMN

God Reigns O'er All the Earth

Led by Joe JaQuay



1. God reigns o'er all the earth! Green hills and val - leys low, the
2. God reigns o'er hu - man life! Through youth and ag - ing years, in
3. God reigns o'er time and space! In his - tory's by - gone days, Christ's
4. God reigns! Em - man - u - el! God with us ev - ery day, in



farms and towns in golds and browns God's grace and beau - ty show.
death, in birth, in grief, in mirth, in all our hopes and fears.
faith - ful folk in rev - erence spoke to bring God earn - est praise.
all our past and to the last, our com - fort and our stay.



God reigns o'er all the earth! Stone banks and spread - ing plains,
God reigns o'er hu - man life! Our in - spi - ra - tion still.
God reigns o'er time and space! O'er gal - ax - y and sun,
God reigns! Em - man - u - el! Let praise to Christ be sung!



in rain - bow hues— reds, yel - lows, blues— of streams and coun - try lanes.
Through all our schemes, in all our dreams, we see God's reign - ing will.
through time - less years the cos - mos hears the heaven - ly mus - ic run.
God's pres - ence here makes all things dear. Let joy - ful bells be rung!

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent, for the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us; that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways, to the glory of your Name. Amen.

MOMENT OF SILENT PRAYER

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

THE BIBLICAL WORD FOR THIS DAY

Gerald Wilk

Acts 1:1-14

In the first book, Theophilus, I wrote about all that Jesus did and taught from the beginning until the day when he was taken up to heaven, after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom he had chosen. After his suffering he presented himself alive to them by many convincing proofs, appearing to them during forty days and speaking about the kingdom of God. While staying with them, he ordered them not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait there for the promise of the Father. "This," he said, "is what you have heard from me; for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now."

So when they had come together, they asked him, "Lord, is this the time when you will restore the kingdom to Israel?" He replied, "It is not for you to know the times or periods that the Father has set by his own authority. But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." When he had said this, as they were watching, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. While he was going and they were gazing up toward heaven, suddenly two men in white robes stood by them. They said, "Men of Galilee, why do you

stand looking up toward heaven? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven.”

Then they returned to Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is near Jerusalem, a quarter mile away. When they had entered the city, they went to the room upstairs where they were staying, Peter, and John, and James, and Andrew, Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew, James son of Alphaeus, and Simon the Zealot, and Judas son of James. All these were constantly devoting themselves to prayer, together with certain women, including Mary the mother of Jesus, as well as his brothers.

* 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	“What Are We Waiting For?”	Jeff Carlson
MEDITATION	<i>Prelude, Op. 13, No. 3</i> Kevin Dzierzawski, piano	A. Scriabin
OFFERTORY	<i>Lift Thine Eyes</i> from <u>Elijah</u> Virtual Chancel Choir	Felix Mendelssohn

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

* FESTIVAL DOXOLOGY

Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise God all creatures here be - low;
Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia! Praise God a - bove, ye heav'n - ly host:
Cre - a - tor, Christ, and Ho - ly Ghost; Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia,
Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia! A - men.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Matt Fitzgerald

THE LORD'S PRAYER

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.
Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread,
and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever.
Amen.**

* HYMN

Great Is Thy Faithfulness

Led by Karin Magnuson



1. Great is Thy faith - ful - ness, O God, Cre - a - tor,
2. Sum - mer and win - ter; and spring - time and har - vest,
3. Par - don for sin and a peace that en - dur - eth,



There is no shad - ow of turn - ing with Thee;
Sun, moon, and stars in their cours - es a - bove
Thy own dear pres - ence to cheer and to guide;



Thou chang - est not, Thy com - pas - sions they fail not;
Join with all na - ture in man - i - fold wit - ness
Strength for to - day and bright hope for to - mor - row,



As Thou hast been Thou for - ev - er wilt be.
To Thy great faith - ful - ness, mer - cy, and love.
Bless - ings all mine, with ten thou - sand be - side!



Great is Thy faith - ful - ness! Great is Thy faith - ful - ness! Morn - ing by



morn - ing new mer - cies I see; All I have need - ed Thy



hand hath pro - vid - ed— Great is Thy faith - ful - ness, Lord, un - to me!

* BENEDICTION

* BENEDICTION RESPONSE

A - men, A - men, A - - - men.

POSTLUDE

Fugue in D Minor Op. 37 No. 3
Kevin Dzierzawski, organ

Felix Mendelssohn

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. CST on St. Pauls website, spucc.org/streaming

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

*SUNDAY SCHOOL is now on Zoom for all age groups!
Email Pastor Sarah for more info, sgarcia@spucc.org
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*

*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.*

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.

- May 24 Ashley Williams
- May 25 Carlos Cata, Karen Rieck, Rebecca Fayhee, Robert Montgomery
- May 26 Karen Brach, Mary Kay Campbell, Ryan Gillmore, Thomas Iversen
- May 27 Graham Roark, Kim Riley, Libby Braband, Norman Beck
- May 28 Alayna McMillen, Christine Terborg, Kim Beck, Nancy Curotto,
Tyler Holland
- May 29 Alexandra Beck, Jennifer Byrne, Kate Mahon, Larry Kearns
- May 30 Angela Miller, James Grayson Charlton, Leo Patton, Margaret Palm

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 25, 27**

600 W. Fullerton: Lunch at 12:30 p.m. - **May 28**

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.

SIX-WEEK SHORT CIRCLES

Short Circles are Saint Pauls' weekly scripture and prayer groups. Current groups will continue. New groups are forming and will begin this week! To sign up for a new group, email Pastor Matt at mfitzgerald@spucc.org.

CHILDREN'S SUNDAY WORSHIP JUNE 7

If you would like your child to be part of worship on June 7th, please contact Pastor Sarah at sgarcia@spucc.org. There are opportunities for children of every age.

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.

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!

- Sunday Worship streams at 10 a.m. CST on St. Pauls Website at spucc.org/streaming. Join members and friends in our lively comment section to say "Hello!"
- Coffee Hour is on Facebook Live right after Sunday Worship.
- 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 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.

MAY 27 - 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 28 SHIFTING ANXIETY GROUP EXERCISE - 6 p.m., Zoom

Have you been experiencing increased anxiety? Kelli Fitzgerald will be facilitating an exercise to help shift intense anxiety and worry. It will offer a helpful way to think about anxiety that can be lasting. RSVP to Kelli for the Zoom link: contactkfitz@gmail.com.

MAY 28 - 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.

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 – Our weekly, 7pm, Wednesday 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.

- Bruce Voice at the death of his Uncle Clifford.
- Mary Train, recovering from a broken wrist.
- 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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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.