



Joy to the World!
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CHRISTMAS DAY

**CHURCH OF ST. PAUL & THE REDEEMER
DECEMBER 25, 2023 | 10:00 AM**

THE WORD OF GOD

Prelude

Weihnachts-Sonatine, Op. 251, No. 3.

Carl Reinecke (1824-1910).

Entrance Hymn

All sing

1. Once in roy - al Da - vid's cit - y stood a low - ly cat - tle shed,
2. He came down to earth from heav - en, who is God and Lord of all,
4. For he is our life - long pat - tern; dai - ly, when on earth he grew,
5. And our eyes at last shall see him, through his own re - deem - ing love;
6. Not in that poor low - ly sta - ble, with the ox - en stand - ing round,

1. where a moth - er laid her ba - by in a man - ger for his bed:
2. and his shel - ter was a sta - ble, and his cra - dle was a stall;
4. he was tempt - ed, scorned, re - ject - ed, tears and smiles like us he knew.
5. for that child who seemed so help - less is our Lord in heaven a - bove;
6. we shall see him; but in heav - en, where his saints his throne sur - round:

1. Mar - y was that moth - er mild, Je - sus Christ her lit - tle child.
2. with the poor, the scorned, the low - ly, lived on earth our Sa - vior ho - ly.
4. Thus he feels for all our sad - ness, and he shares in all our glad - ness.
5. and he leads his chil - dren on to the place where he is gone.
6. Christ, re - vealed to faith - ful eye, set at God's right hand on high.

The Hymnal 1982 #102 "Once in royal David's city"

Words: Cecil Frances Alexander (1818-1895).

Music: *Irby*, melody Henry John Gauntlett (1805-1876), harm. Arthur Henry Mann (1850-1929).

Welcome

+ Blessed be God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit, Mother of us all.

And blessed be God's kingdom, now and forever. Amen.

The Collect of the Day

God be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray.

Almighty God,

**you have given your only-begotten Son to take our nature upon him,
and to be born of a pure virgin:**

**Grant that we, who have been born again and made your children by adoption and grace,
may daily be renewed by your Holy Spirit;
through our Lord Jesus Christ, to whom, with you and the same Spirit,
be honor and glory, now and for ever.**

Please be seated.

The Lessons

First Reading

A reading from the prophet Isaiah.

Isaiah 52:7-10

How beautiful upon the mountains
are the feet of the messenger
who announces peace,
who brings good news,
who announces salvation,
who says to Zion, "Your God reigns."
Listen! Your sentinels lift up their voices,
together they sing for joy;
for in plain sight they see
the return of the LORD to Zion.

Break forth together into singing,
you ruins of Jerusalem;
for the LORD has comforted his people,
he has redeemed Jerusalem.
The LORD has bared his holy arm
before the eyes of all the nations;
and all the ends of the earth shall see
the salvation of our God.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 98 *Cantate Domino*

Let us read the psalm responsively by verse.

Sing to the LORD a new song,
for he has done marvelous things.

**With his right hand and his holy arm
has he won for himself the victory.**

The LORD has made known his victory;
his righteousness has he openly shown in the sight of the nations.

**He remembers his mercy and faithfulness to the house of Israel,
and all the ends of the earth have seen the victory of our God.**

Shout with joy to the LORD, all you lands;
lift up your voice, rejoice, and sing.

**Sing to the LORD with the harp,
with the harp and the voice of song.**

With trumpets and the sound of the horn
shout with joy before the King, the LORD.

**Let the sea make a noise and all that is in it,
the lands and those who dwell therein.**

Let the rivers clap their hands,
and let the hills ring out with joy before the LORD,
when he comes to judge the earth.

**In righteousness shall he judge the world
and the peoples with equity.**

Second Reading

A reading from Paul's letter to the Hebrews.

Hebrews 1:1-4

Long ago God spoke to our ancestors in many and various ways by the prophets, but in these last days he has spoken to us by a Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, through whom he also created the worlds. He is the reflection of God's glory and the exact imprint of God's very being, and he sustains all things by his powerful word. When he had made purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, having become as much superior to angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation

All sing.

1. There's a star in the east on _____ Christ - mas morn,
2. If you take good _____ heed to the an - gel's words,

1. Rise up shep-herd and fol-low, _____ It will lead to the place where the
2. Rise up shep-herd and fol-low, _____ You'll for - get your flocks, you'll for-

1. Christ was born, _____ Rise up shep-herd and fol - low. _____
 2. get your herds, _____ Rise up shep-herd and fol - low. _____

Harmony

Fol - low, fol - low, Rise up shep-herd and fol - low, _____

Fol - low the Star of Beth - le - hem, _____ Rise up shep-herd and fol - low. _____

Lift Every Voice and Sing II #24 "Rise up, shepherd"
 Words & Music: Traditional Negro spiritual.

Gospel Reading

At the + below, you are invited to trace a cross over your forehead, your mouth, and your heart.

+ The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, according to John.

John 1:1-14

Glory to you, Lord Christ.

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Christ.

Sermon

Today's Preacher: The Rev. KJ Oh, Priest Associate

Apostles' Creed

Please stand as able.

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.

**He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit
and born of the Virgin Mary.**

**He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.**

He descended to the dead.

On the third day he rose again.

He ascended into heaven,

and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,

the holy catholic Church,

the communion of saints,

the forgiveness of sins,

+ the resurrection of the body,

and the life everlasting. Amen.

Prayers of the People

With wonder and thanksgiving for Christ's coming into the world, we pray for the church, the life of the earth, and the whole human family.

The church in every land makes a joyful noise to herald your coming, O God. We give thanks for poets, musicians, and hymn writers who give voice to our praise, and for all who lead the church in worship.

Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

This day dawns with new hope for all living things. From ocean depths to mountain peaks, the earth rejoices. Inspire in us an urgent zeal to protect the planet and renew its resources.

Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Bring heavenly peace to this world, and grant us an end to armed conflict. Raise up leaders in every nation who will honor human rights and establish equal justice for all people. Give courage to all who speak out against oppression and advocate for the powerless.

Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Bless all who gather to worship on this holy day. Be present at our tables and celebrations, and watch over those who travel. Sustain the feeding ministries of this church, and all outreach ministries and food pantries that give generously to people in need.

Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Guard the lives of all who are in danger, especially those who work to protect others. Lead any who are in desperate circumstances to sanctuary, help, and safety. Grant rest to the weary, and soothe those who are troubled.

Lord, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

In Christ we have beheld your glory, full of grace and truth. We give thanks for those in every generation who reflect the light of Christ. May their witness shine forth in our time.

God of grace,

hear our prayer.

I invite you to offer your own intercessions and thanksgivings, ending each with "Lord, in your mercy."

Pondering the mystery of eternal love made flesh in Christ Jesus, we commend all for whom we pray to the mercy of God. **Amen.**

Prayers adapted from Sundays & Seasons: Prayers of Intercession for Christmas Day.

Confession and Absolution

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

God of all mercy,

**we confess that we have sinned against you,
opposing your will in our lives.**

**We have denied your goodness in each other,
in ourselves, and in the world you have created.**

**We repent of the evil that enslaves us,
the evil we have done, and the evil done on our behalf.**

**Forgive, restore, and strengthen us
through our Savior Jesus Christ,
that we may abide in your love
and serve only your will. Amen.**

Almighty God have mercy on you, + forgive you all your sins through the grace of Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. **Amen.**

Peace

The peace of Christ be always with you.

And also with you.

You are invited to greet those around you with the words "Peace be with you." Some announcements will be given; there's much more to find out in the front and back pages of this bulletin.

THE HOLY COMMUNION

Offertory

Kerstin Wellbery, violinist.

He Shall Feed His Flock from "The Messiah"

Georg Friedrich Händel (1685-1759), arr. Craig Duncan.

The Great Thanksgiving

All stand as the offering is brought to the altar.

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, God Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.

The Presider adds a proper preface.

Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name.

All sing.

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and might, heav'n _ and earth _ are
full _ of your glo - ry. Ho san - na in the high - est. Ho san - na in the
high - est. Bless'd is the one who comes _ in the name _ of the Lord.
the high - est,
Ho san - na in the high - est, _ Ho - san - na in the high - est. _____

Music: *A Community Mass*, Richard Proulx (b. 1937).

Text Source: Revised Order of Mass 2010.

Holy and gracious God: In your infinite love you made us for yourself, and, when we had fallen into sin and become subject to evil and death, you, in your mercy, sent Jesus Christ, your only and eternal Son, to share our human nature, to live and die as one of us, to reconcile us to you, the Creator of all. He stretched out his arms upon the cross, and offered himself, in obedience to your will, a perfect sacrifice for the whole world.

On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper he took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Therefore, we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, O God, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Recalling his death, resurrection, and ascension, we offer you these gifts. Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be for your people the Body and Blood of your Son, the holy food and drink of new and unending life in him. Sanctify us also that we may faithfully receive this holy Sacrament, and serve you in unity, constancy, and peace; and at the last day bring us with all your saints into the joy of your eternal kingdom.

All this we ask through your Son Jesus Christ: By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

The Book of Common Prayer, 1979, Eucharistic Prayer A.

As our Savior Christ has taught us, we now pray:

Our Father in heaven,

hallowed be your Name,

your kingdom come, your will be done,

on earth as in heaven.

Give us today our daily bread.

Forgive us our sins,

as we forgive those who sin against us.

Save us from the time of trial,

and deliver us from evil.

For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours,

now and for ever. Amen.

The Breaking of the Bread

Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.
Therefore let us keep the feast.

All sing, as indicated.

Oh thou that tell - est good ti-dings to Zi - on, Oh thou that tell - est good ti-dings to Je - ru-sa-lem:
Lift up your voice with strength, Lift it up don't be a - fraid. Be - hold your God.
A - rise, and shine, for the light of the world is come. Be - hold your God!

The musical score is written for voice and piano. It consists of three systems of music. Each system has a vocal line on a treble clef staff and a piano accompaniment on a bass clef staff. The key signature is three flats (B-flat, E-flat, A-flat) and the time signature is 6/8. The lyrics are written below the vocal line.

Lead Me, Guide Me #21 "Behold your God"

Words: Isaiah 40:9.

Music: Kenneth W. Louis, © 1985, Kenneth W. Louis.

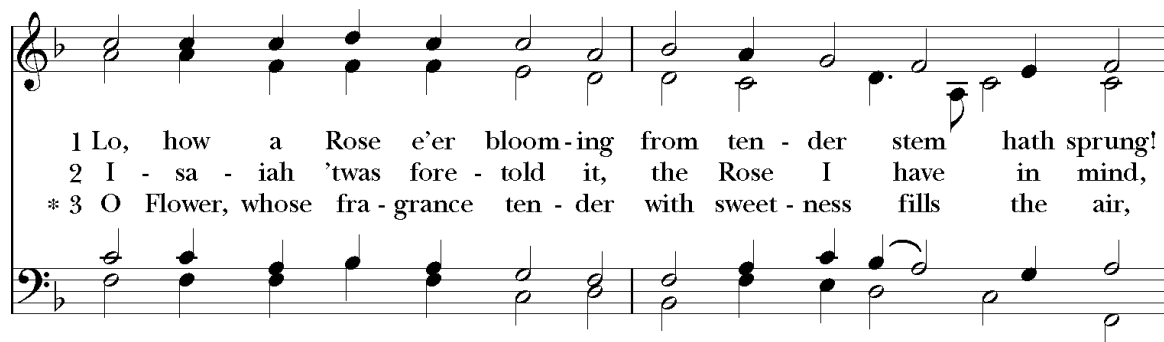
The gifts of God for the people of God.

All, without exception, are invited to receive communion. If you would like to receive communion at your seat, please let the ushers know. If you want gluten-free bread, tell the communion minister. If you would like a blessing in place of communion, cross your arms over your chest.

No matter whether or how you choose to receive the Eucharist, may this time in the service be one of contemplation and prayer, enabling you to draw nearer to the quiet presence of God.

Communion music begins on following page.

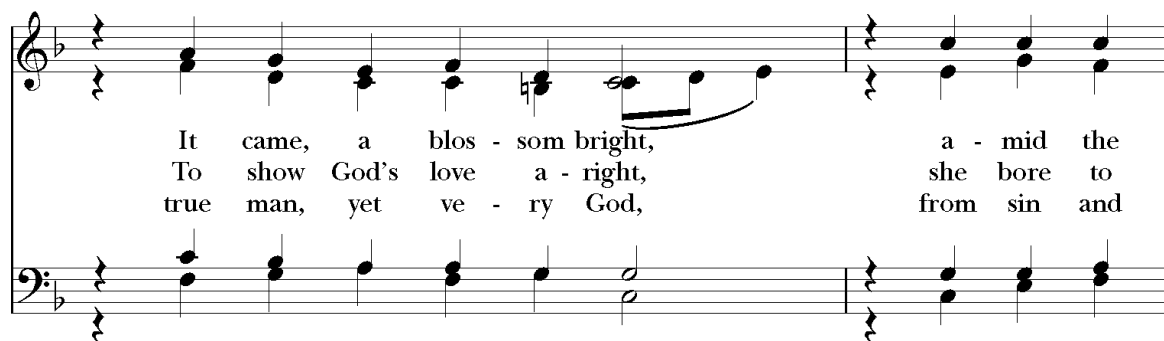
All sing.



1 Lo, how a Rose e'er bloom - ing from ten - der stem hath sprung!
2 I - sa - iah 'twas fore - told it, the Rose I have in mind,
* 3 O Flower, whose fra - grance ten - der with sweet - ness fills the air,



Of Jes - se's lin - eage com - ing as seers of old have sung.
with Ma - ry we be - hold it, the Vir - gin Mo - ther kind.
dis - pel in glo - rious splen - dor the dark - ness ev - ery - where;



It came, a blos - som bright, a - mid the
To show God's love a - right, she bore to
true man, yet ve - ry God, from sin and



cold of win - ter, when half spent was the night.
us a Sa - vior, when half spent was the night.
death now save us, and share our ev - ery load.

Hymnal 1982 #81 "Lo, how a rose e'er blooming"

Words: st. 1-2, German, 15th cent.; tr, Theodore Baker (1851-1934), St 3, Friedrich Layritz (1808-1859);

tr. Harriet Reynolds Krauth Spaeth (1845-1925); ver. Hymnal 1940.

Music: *Es ist ein Ros*, melody from *Alte Catholische Geistlich Kirchengesang*, 1599; harm. Michael Praetorius (1571-1621).

All sing.

1. O lit - tle town of Beth - le - hem, how still we see thee lie!
2. For Christ is born of Ma - ry; and gath - ered all a - bove,
3. How si - lent - ly, how si - lent - ly, the won - drous gift is given!
4. Where chil - dren pure and hap - py pray to the bles - sed Child,

1. A - bove thy deep and dream - less sleep the si - lent stars go by;
2. while mor - tals sleep, the an - gels keep their watch of won - dering love.
3. So God im - parts to hu - man hearts the bless - ings of his heaven.
4. where mi - se - ry cries out to thee, Son of the mo - ther mild;

1. yet in thy dark streets shin - eth the ev - er - last - ing Light;
2. O morn - ing stars, to - geth - er pro - claim the ho - ly birth!
3. No ear may hear his com - ing, but in this world of sin,
4. where char - it - y stands watch - ing and faith holds wide the door,

1. the hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee to - night.
2. and prais - es sing to God the King, and peace to men on earth.
3. where meek souls will re - ceive him, still the dear Christ en - ters in.
4. the dark night wakes, the glo - ry breaks, and Christ - mas comes once more.

The Hymnal 1982 #79 "O little town of Bethlehem"

Words: Phillips Brooks (1835-1893).

Music: St. Louis, Louis H. Redner (1831-1908).

Sending Forth

Please stand as able.

Let us pray.

**God of abundance, you have fed us with the bread of life and cup of salvation;
you have united us with Christ and one another;
and you have made us one with all your people in heaven and on earth.
Now send us forth in the power of your Spirit,
that we may proclaim your redeeming love to the world
and continue for ever in the risen life of Christ our Savior. Amen.**

The Presider blesses the people.

+ May Christ, who by his Incarnation gathered into one all things earthly and heavenly, fill you with his joy and peace; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, Mother of us all, be among you, and remain with you always. Amen.

Source: Book of Occasional Services 2018, Christmas Blessing.

All sing.

1 Good Chris - tian friends, re - joice with heart and soul and voice;
 2 Good Chris - tian friends, re - joice with heart and soul and voice;
 3 Good Chris - tian friends, re - joice with heart and soul and voice;

give ye heed to what we say: Je - sus Christ is born to - day;
 now ye hear of end - less bliss; Je - sus Christ was born for this!
 now ye need not fear the grave: Je - sus Christ was born to save!

ox and ass be - fore him bow, and he is in the man - ger now.
 He hath o - pened hea - ven's door, and we are blest for ev - er - more.
 Calls you one and calls you all to gain his ev - er - last - ing hall.

Christ is born to - day! Christ is born to - day!
 Christ was born for this! Christ was born for this!
 Christ was born to save! Christ was born to save!

Hymnal 1982 #107 "Good Christian friends, rejoice"
 Words: John Mason Neale (1818-1866), alt.
 Music: *In dulci jubilo*, German carol, 14th cent.; harm. Charles Winfred Douglas (1867-1944).

Dismissal

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord!

Thanks be to God!

Postlude

Personent hodie

Rebecca Groom te Velde (b. 1956).



Coming Up at SPR

New Year's Eve Worship

We will celebrate the first Sunday after Christmas on Sunday, December 31, with our usual two services of Holy Eucharist at 8:00 & 10:00 AM

Exhibition: Crèches from Around the World

Throughout Advent, Christmas, and Epiphany, SPR is hosting a global crèche exhibit in the Byllesby Room. Visit the exhibit through **Sunday, January 7**.

KidZone/Nursery Unstaffed on December 31

The KidZone will be unstaffed on Sunday, December 31. Adults are welcome to visit the nursery space with their children, and children are welcome in the sanctuary for worship.

Children & Youth on Break: December 31

There will be no children's chapel (during the 10:00 AM service) or children's/youth formation (after the service) on December 31. All children's & youth ministries will resume on January 7.

Vestry Nominations

SPR's vestry is the lay governing board of the church, which manages our resources and shapes our mission. In 2024, we will elect 3 new members. To nominate yourself or another SPR member for the vestry slate, contact the Rev. Catherine Healy (healy@sprchicago.org).

20s/30s Gift Swap

Members in their 20s and 30s are invited to join us on **Sunday, January 7, after the 10:00 service** in the Byllesby Room for a White Elephant gift swap and hangout. For the White Elephant, bring a wrapped fun/goofy gift, around \$5. Contact Julia (mcmillan013@gmail.com) with any questions.

Job Opportunity: Sexton @ SPR (12-15 hrs/week)

Do you know someone who would be a great fit for building management and maintenance at SPR? Contact the Rev. Catherine Healy: healy@sprchicago.org.

Adult Formation on break through January 7

Adult Formation is on a **holiday hiatus until Sunday, January 14**, when we will welcome composer/conductor Marques Garrett to talk about his work editing *The Oxford Anthology of Choral Music by Black Composers*.

Save the Date: Black History Month Guest Michelle Duster

On **Sunday, February 18, at 9:00 AM** in the parish hall, we will welcome author and Ida B. Wells descendant Michelle Duster to speak on the legacy of Black women in U.S. History. Invite your friends to this important event, sponsored by the 8:00 AM Black History Month team.

About This Week's Music

Today's **prelude** is a sonata by the German composer Carl Reinecke which blends themes from Bach's "Christmas Oratorio" and Handel's "Messiah" with traditional Christmas carols *Silent Night*, *Holy Night*, *Vom Himmel hoch* and *O du frohliche*. It was originally a work for solo piano, and was later adapted by the famed violinist and composer Hans Sitt, into the arrangement heard this morning. The **offertory** comes from Part 1 of Handel's "Messiah," which is often referred to as the "Christmas" portion of the three-part work. The hymn "Personent hodie" was first published in 1582, although the melody can be traced back to a 1360 manuscript. Rebecca Groom te Velde crafted the postlude on this hymn, whose original Latin text translates to "On this day earth shall ring / with the song children sing / to the Lord, Christ our King / born on earth to save us."

Save the Date: Residency with Marques Garrett

Please mark your calendars for **Saturday, January 13 and Sunday January 14**, when we welcome guest composer and conductor Marques Garrett to SPR. Marques is the editor of the *Oxford Book of Choral Music by Black Composers*, and will be in residency to teach many anthems from the anthology as part of a community-wide event at SPR, and will lead our music in our Sunday worship, in celebration of Martin Luther King, Jr. Weekend. For more information, and to register for the event, please visit www.sprchicago.org/garrett.

Serving Today

December 25, 2023 | 10:00 AM

Presider and Preacher: The Rev. KJ Oh

Deacon: The Rev. Jack Seymour

Music Leader: Mark Bilyeu

Violinist: Kerstin Wellbery

Children's Chapel Leader: Lindsey Strieter

Lectors: John Mulholland, Ian Murrell

Intercessor: Tom Irving

Chalice Ministers: Gail Williams, Tayo Adegoke

Ushers: Melissa McNeill

Vestry Greeter: Jason Evans

Staff

The Rev. Catherine E. Healy, *Rector*

The Rev. Barnabas E. Pusnur, *Associate Rector*

The Rev. Jack Seymour, *Deacon*

Mark Bilyeu, *Director of Music*

Megan Cather, *Children's Music Assistant*

Lindsey Strieter, *Director of Children's Formation*

The Rev. Roger Ferlo, *Priest Associate*

The Rev. KJ Oh, *Priest Associate*

Savannah Hegyi, Wesley Krist, Ian Murrell, &

Ariana Strahl, *Staff Singers*

Sabrina Foster, Ashley Lanfair, & Patricia Lanfair,

Nursery Teachers

Tony George, *Interim Sexton*

Vestry

Twila Jones, *Warden*

Baiju Markose, *Clerk*

Nicholas Bellomy

Jason Evans

Anne Harlan

Rebecca Luttrell

Celia Paris

Frances Spaltro, *Warden*

Tayo Adegoke, *Treasurer*

Joshua Daniel

Jonathan Foiles

Vicky Legge

Andrew Rostan

A Little About St. Paul & the Redeemer

Learn more about our ministries inside and outside the church walls at sprchicago.org, or contact a ministry leader to get started!

What kind of church is this?

St. Paul & the Redeemer (SPR) is a community that seeks to mirror the radical hospitality practiced by Jesus, holding together a progressive outlook and a rootedness in the Christian faith. We are woven of different races, economic statuses, cultural backgrounds, faith backgrounds, gender identities, and sexual orientations, and we are strengthened and enriched by each person's story and voice.

Let's Get Connected

Welcome! If you are new, tell us about yourself and get connected to what's happening at St. Paul & the Redeemer. Scan the code or visit sprchicago.org/new to complete a *Let's Get Connected* form.



Bulletin Rubrics

Throughout the bulletin, the congregation is invited to say all **bolded** text aloud. There are also times when it is customary to make the sign of the cross by touching your forehead, chest, left shoulder, and right shoulder. If you wish to do so, the + indicates that.

Giving to SPR

Every dollar you give to SPR goes toward our ministry to and with our community. You may place cash or a check in the offering plate, give online at sprchicago.org/give-online or scan this code. Thank you so much for your support of our church!



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