

# Choral Evensong

The Seventh Sunday of Easter: Sunday after Ascension Day  
Sunday, May 17, 2026 | 4 p.m.

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**W**elcome to St. Paul's. We're glad you're here. When Thomas Cranmer penned the first Book of Common Prayer in 1549, he combined all of the hourly monastic prayer services into two daily services, Morning Prayer and Evening Prayer. Sung Evening Prayer, or Choral Evensong, is a service of light, music, prayer, and meditation.

The liturgy has adapted through the ages with its earliest roots in our common Jewish heritage. Its premise is one of praying to God at the close of the day—giving thanks for the day that has passed and seeking protection for the night that is to come. The service falls into three main parts: Opening prayers and singing of the Psalms (Preces and Psalter); readings from Holy Scripture – usually one from the Hebrew texts, and one from the Gospels – interspersed with ancient songs of the church (the Magnificat, or Song of Mary, and the Nunc dimittis, or Song of Simeon); and prayers of thanksgiving and protection (Lesser Litany and Lord's Prayer, Responses, collects, and spoken intercessions).

In general, the choir leads the prayers of the faithful, directing the worshipper through the liturgy not as a bystander, but as a participant through meditation, listening, and hearty participation in the hymn singing and congregational responses.

*The People's responses are in **bold**.*

## OPENING VOLUNTARY

Air

Gerre Hancock  
(1934–2012)

## INTROIT

*Ascendit Deus*

Giovanni Pierluigi da Palestrina  
(1525/6–1594)

*Ascendit Deus in jubilatione, et Dominus in voce tubae. Alleluja.*

God is ascended with jubilee, and the Lord with the sound of trumpet. Alleluia.

—Psalm 47:5

*Stand in body or spirit as the Choir and Clergy enter.*

## PRECES

Gabriel Jackson  
(b. 1962)

*Precentor* O Lord, open thou our lips.

*Choir* And our mouth shall show forth thy praise.

*Precentor* O God, make speed to save us.

*Choir* O Lord, make haste to help us.

*Precentor* Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;

*Choir* As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

*Precentor* Praise ye the Lord.

*Choir* The Lord's name be praised.

## OFFICE HYMN

Light of gladness, shining radiance

*Cross of Jesus*

1. Light of glad - ness, shin - ing ra - diance Of the heaven - ly Fa - ther's face:  
 2. As the day draws near its end - ing Sun - light dims with fad - ing rays;  
 3. Son of God, the world's re - deem - er, End - less prais - es are your due;

Je - sus Christ, we greet you, bless you, Ho - ly Lord of sav - ing grace.  
 To the Fa - ther, Son and Spir - it Now we sing our song of praise.  
 Lord of life, may all cre - a - tion Bring its joy - ful thanks to you.

## WELCOME

*Please be seated as the Choir chants the psalm.*

PSALM 46 (Coverdale translation)

*Deus noster refugium*chant: Benjamin Hutto  
(1947–2015)

- 1 God is our hope and strength : a very present help in trouble.
- 2 Therefore will we not fear, though the earth be moved : and though the hills be carried into the midst of the sea;
- 3 Though the waters thereof rage and swell : and though the mountains shake at the tempest of the same.
- 4 The rivers of the flood thereof shall make glad the city of God : the holy place of the tabernacle of the most Highest.
- 5 God is in the midst of her, therefore shall she not be removed : God shall help her, and that right early.
- 6 The heathen make much ado, and the kingdoms are moved :  
 but God hath shewed his voice, and the earth shall melt away.
- 7 The Lord of hosts is with us : the God of Jacob is our refuge.
- 8 O come hither, and behold the works of the Lord : what destruction he hath brought upon the earth.
- 9 He maketh wars to cease in all the world :  
 he breaketh the bow, and knappeth the spear in sunder, and burneth the chariots in the fire.
- 10 Be still then, and know that I am God : I will be exalted among the heathen, and I will be exalted in the earth.
- 11 The Lord of hosts is with us : the God of Jacob is our refuge.

Glory be to the Father, : and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;  
 As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be : world without end. Amen.

## FIRST READING

Ezekiel 3:16–27

At the end of seven days, the word of the LORD came to me: Mortal, I have made you a sentinel for the house of Israel; whenever you hear a word from my mouth, you shall give them warning from me. If I say to the wicked, ‘You shall surely die’, and you give them no warning, and do not speak to warn the wicked from their wicked way, in order to save their life, those wicked persons shall die for their iniquity; but their blood I will require at your hand. But if you warn the wicked, and they do not turn from their wickedness, or from their wicked way, they shall die for their iniquity; but you will have saved your life. Again, if the righteous turn from their righteousness and commit iniquity, and I lay a stumbling-block before them, they shall die; because you have not warned them, they shall die for their sin, and their righteous deeds that they have done shall not be remembered; but their blood I will require at your hand. If, however, you warn the righteous not to sin, and they do not sin, they shall surely live, because they took warning; and you will have saved your life.

Then the hand of the LORD was upon me there; and he said to me, Rise up, go out into the valley, and there I will speak with you. So I rose up and went out into the valley; and the glory of the LORD stood there, like the glory that I had seen by the river Chebar; and I fell on my face. The spirit entered into me, and set me on my feet; and he spoke with me and said to me: Go, shut yourself inside your house. As for you, mortal, cords shall be placed on you, and you shall be bound with them, so that you cannot go out among the people; and I will make your tongue cling to the roof of your mouth, so that you shall be speechless and unable to reprove them; for they are a rebellious house. But when I speak with you, I will open your mouth, and you shall say to them, ‘Thus says the Lord GOD’; let those who will hear, hear; and let those who refuse to hear, refuse; for they are a rebellious house.

Here ends the Reading.

THE MAGNIFICAT *Stand*

Evening Service in E Major

Sydney Watson  
(1903–1991)

MY soul doth magnify the Lord, and my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Savior. For he hath regarded the lowliness of his handmaiden. For behold from henceforth all generations shall call me blessed. For he that is mighty hath magnified me, and holy is his Name. And his mercy is on them that fear him throughout all generations. He hath showed strength with his arm; he hath scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts. He hath put down the mighty from their seat, and hath exalted the humble and meek. He hath filled the hungry with good things, and the rich he hath sent empty away. He remembering his mercy hath holpen his servant Israel, as he promised to our forefathers, Abraham and his seed for ever.

Glory be to the Father, *Et c.*

As it was in the beginning, *Et c.*

You have not come to something that can be touched, a blazing fire, and darkness, and gloom, and a tempest, and the sound of a trumpet, and a voice whose words made the hearers beg that not another word be spoken to them. (For they could not endure the order that was given, ‘If even an animal touches the mountain, it shall be stoned to death.’ Indeed, so terrifying was the sight that Moses said, ‘I tremble with fear.’) But you have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to innumerable angels in festal gathering, and to the assembly of the firstborn who are enrolled in heaven, and to God the judge of all, and to the spirits of the righteous made perfect, and to Jesus, the mediator of a new covenant, and to the sprinkled blood that speaks a better word than the blood of Abel.

See that you do not refuse the one who is speaking; for if they did not escape when they refused the one who warned them on earth, how much less will we escape if we reject the one who warns from heaven! At that time his voice shook the earth; but now he has promised, ‘Yet once more I will shake not only the earth but also the heaven.’ This phrase ‘Yet once more’ indicates the removal of what is shaken—that is, created things—so that what cannot be shaken may remain. Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, let us give thanks, by which we offer to God an acceptable worship with reverence and awe; for indeed our God is a consuming fire.

Here ends the Reading.

THE NUNC DIMITTIS *Stand*

Watson

LORD, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace, according to thy word; For mine eyes have seen thy salvation, which thou hast prepared before the face of all people, To be a light to lighten the Gentiles, and to be the glory of thy people Israel.

Glory be to the Father, *℟̄c.*

As it was in the beginning, *℟̄c.*

## THE APOSTLES’ CREED

**I BELIEVE IN GOD, the Father almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth;  
And in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord;  
who was conceived by the Holy Ghost,  
born of the Virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, dead, and buried.  
He descended into hell.  
The third day he rose again from the dead.  
He ascended into heaven,  
and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father almighty.  
From thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.  
I believe in the Holy Ghost,  
the holy catholic Church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

## THE PRAYERS

*Precentor* The Lord be with you.

*Choir* And with thy spirit.

*Precentor* Let us pray.

*Please kneel or be seated during the slight pause. Then the Choir will sing the Lord's Prayer.*

Lord, have mercy upon us. Christ, have mercy upon us. Lord, have mercy upon us.

OUR FATHER, which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy Name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, As it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, As we forgive them that trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, But deliver us from evil. Amen.

*Precentor* O Lord, show thy mercy upon us.

*Choir* And grant us thy salvation.

*Precentor* O Lord, save the State.

*Choir* And mercifully hear us when we call upon thee.

*Precentor* Endue thy Ministers with righteousness.

*Choir* And make thy chosen people joyful.

*Precentor* O Lord, save thy people.

*Choir* And bless thine inheritance.

*Precentor* Give peace in our time, O Lord.

*Choir* Because there is none other that fighteth for us, but only thou, O God.

*Precentor* O God, make clean our hearts within us.

*Choir* And take not thy Holy Spirit from us.

## THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

O God, the King of glory, who hast exalted thine only Son Jesus Christ with great triumph unto thy kingdom in heaven: We beseech thee, leave us not comfortless, but send to us thine Holy Ghost to comfort us, and exalt us unto the same place whither our Savior Christ is gone before; who liveth and reigneth with thee and the same Holy Ghost, one God, world without end.

**Amen.**

## THE COLLECT FOR PEACE

O God, from whom all holy desires, all good counsels, and all just works do proceed; Give unto thy servants that peace which the world cannot give; that our hearts may be set to obey thy commandments, and also that by thee, we, being defended from the fear of our enemies, may pass our time in rest and quietness; through the merits of Jesus Christ our Savior.

**Amen.**

## THE COLLECT FOR AID AGAINST ALL PERILS

Lighten our darkness, we beseech thee, O Lord; and by thy great mercy defend us from all perils and dangers of this night; for the love of thy only Son, our Savior, Jesus Christ.

**Amen.**

Jamie Felix-Toll, Carolyn Hoff, Abigail Hakel-Garcia, John McElliott, David Root, *soloists*

## I.

Without arms or charm of culture,  
Persons of no importance  
From an unimportant Province,  
They did as the Spirit bid,  
Went forth into a joyless world  
Of swords and rhetoric  
To bring it joy.

When they heard the Word, some demurred, some mocked, some were shocked: but many were stirred and the Word spread. Lives long dead were quickened to life; the sick were healed by the Truth revealed; released into peace from the gin of old sin, men forgot themselves in the glory of the story told by the Twelve.

Then the Dark Lord, adored by this world, perceived the threat of the Light to his might. From his throne he spoke to his own. The loud crowd, the sedate engines of State, were moved by his will to kill. It was done. One by one, they were caught, tortured, and slain.

## II.

O Lord, my God,  
Though I forsake thee  
Forsake me not,  
But guide me as I walk  
Through the valley of mistrust,  
And let the cry of my disbelieving absence  
Come unto thee,  
Thou who declared unto Moses:  
“I shall be there”.

## III.

Children play about the ancestral graves, for the dead no longer walk.  
Excellent still in their splendour are the antique statues: but can do neither good nor evil.  
Beautiful still are the starry heavens but our fate is not written there.  
Holy still is speech, but there is no sacred tongue: the Truth may be told in all.  
Twelve as the winds and the months are those who taught us these things:  
    envisaging each in an oval glory, let us praise them all with a merry noise.

—W.H. Auden (1907–1973)

## PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

## A PRAYER OF ST. CHRYSOSTOM

ALMIGHTY GOD, who hast given us grace at this time with one accord to make our common supplications unto thee; and dost promise, that when two or three are gathered together in thy Name thou wilt grant their requests; Fulfill now, O Lord, the desires and petitions of thy servants, as may be most expedient for them; granting us in this world knowledge of thy truth, and in the world to come life everlasting. Amen.

## NOTICES

### THE GRACE *Stand as able*

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Ghost, be with us all evermore. Amen.

### HYMN

How shall I sing that majesty

*Coe fen*

*During the singing of the hymn, an offering will be collected.*

*All donations go to support the Choir's 2028 residency at Exeter Cathedral, U.K. Thank you for your generosity.*



1. How shall I sing that maj - es - ty which an - gels do ad - mire?
2. Thy bright-ness un - to them ap - pears, while I thy foot - steps trace;
3. En - light - en with faith's light my heart, in - flame it with love's fire,
4. How great a be - ing, Lord, is thine, which doth all be - ings keep!



Let dust in dust and si - lence lie; sing, sing, ye heav - enly choir.  
a sound of God comes to my ears, but they be - hold thy face:  
then shall I sing and take my part with that ce - les - tial choir.  
Thy know-ledge is the on - ly line to sound so vast a deep:



Thou - sands of thou - sands stand a - round thy throne, O God most high;  
I shall, I fear, be dark and cold, with all my fire and light;  
They sing, be - cause thou art their sun; Lord, send a beam on me;  
thou art a sea with - out a shore, a sun with - out a sphere;



ten thou - sand times ten thou - sand sound thy praise; but who am I?  
yet when thou dost ac - cept their gold, Lord, treas - ure up my mite.  
for where heaven is but once be - gun, there al - le - lu - ias be.  
thy time is now and ev - er - more, thy place is eve - ry - where.

## CLOSING VOLUNTARY

Tonstuck No. 1

Niels Gade  
(1817–1890)

*During the closing voluntary, the Choir and Clergy depart.*

*Please remain standing until the procession has exited the door, and then be seated for the remainder of the organ Voluntary.*

*Please join us for a festive reception in Tucker Hall.*

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## PARTICIPANTS IN TODAY'S SERVICE

<i>Officiant</i>	The Rev'd T.J. Freeman	<i>Lectors</i>	Sarah-Theresa Murakami Jim Nicks
<i>Precentor</i>	Bradley Upham	<i>Crucifer</i>	Sarah-Theresa Murakami
<i>Senior Choir</i>	Kevin Jones, <i>director</i>	<i>Ushers</i>	Joe Bellissimo, Jim Nicks
<i>Organist</i>	Todd Wilson	<i>Livestream Operator</i>	Andrea C. Turner

## SENIOR CHOIR

*Sopranos* Nell Davidson, Celia Doherty, Kelsey Ferguson, Susan Gray, \*Abigail Hakel-Garcia, °Carolyn Hoff, Hannah Osborn, Liz Rodems, \*\*Val Sibila, \*Emily Stauch, Molly Urban

*Altos* Kari Collier, Bonnie Gunzenhauser, \*Jamie Ivancic, Amanda Matthews, \*John McElliott, Story Rhinehart Cadiz, Michele Smolin, Meg Weingart, \*\*Xiaoge Zhang

*Tenors* Jason Chance, Jim Pintner, \*David Root, \*Bradley Upham

*Basses* David Aloï, Brett Balika, Jon Bolena, \*Jamie Felix-Toll, \*Joel Kincannon, \*\*Matthew Garvey, Matt Hartley, \*\*Anderson Rambler

*\*Denotes section leaders*

*\*\*Denotes choral scholars*

*°Sacred Music Intern*

# Coming Up

## Summer Carillon Festival

Sundays June 7, 14, and 28, 6 p.m.

Join us for a 45-minute carillon concert on the front lawn of St. Paul's. Bring a blanket, lawn chair, and picnic to enjoy the beauty of St. Paul's 47-bell carillon on a summer evening. *This year's festival is dedicated to the memory of David Osburn, Jr.* Recitalists this year are:

June 7 - Julie Zhu

June 14 - Adam Lenhart

June 28 - Hunter Peterson

Complete information on all concerts may be found at  
[StPaulsCLE.org/Concerts](http://StPaulsCLE.org/Concerts)

*Watch the website for the announcement of the 2026–2027 season in mid-July.*

# Program Notes

The musical centerpiece of today's liturgy is the festival anthem, "The Twelve," composed in 1965 by Sir William Walton with text by W.H. Auden. Both text and music were commissioned by the Dean of Christ Church Cathedral, Oxford, Cuthbert Simpson. Walton and Auden, both graduates of Oxford, were engaged to create a new work for Christ Church Cathedral's famous choir. The piece was first sung on May 16, 1965 – 61 years and one day ago. It was conducted by then organist/music director of the Cathedral Sydney Watson, who is the composer of the canticle settings we offer this afternoon.

Although Walton's choral output is small, his works capture the essence of British music of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Nearly every one of his works is difficult to sing, yet highly rewarding for chorister and listener alike. His harmonic style is unique and unmistakable. Poetry and word painting are at the heart of his compositions making for brilliant collaborative works of art.

The anthem begins with a flourish of activity first from the organ and then from the solo baritone ("Without arms or charm of culture..."). The scene is set quickly and erupts magnificently to the chorus. After the first of many virtuosic outbursts by the organ, the action of the story at hand begins ("When they heard the word..."). A brief exposition ensues and the story turns abruptly toward the demise of the twelve apostles ("Then the dark Lord...").

The second part of the anthem is introspective and explores the themes of grief and loss on a deeply personal level through a treble duet ("O Lord my God, though I forsake thee, forsake me not..."). As the third section of the poem merges into what came before, Auden chooses his words carefully and delivers them minimalistically leading us to the heart of the matter: "...the Truth may be told in all."

The apex of the piece is a four-voice fugue that moves like the winds of the Spirit and culminates in a celebration of the lives and works of the apostles. "Let us praise them all with a merry noise." Indeed.

## Permissions

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# Friends of Music

*THANK YOU for supporting musical events through the Friends of Music of St. Paul's Church. Through these donors' generosity we can offer programs that feature our outstanding organs and choirs, and that offer the congregation at St. Paul's and the greater Cleveland community both musical variety and excellence.*

## Gabriel (\$1,000+)

Anonymous (2)  
John Barone\*  
Catherine Scallen and Bob Brown  
Laurie and Bill Buss  
Bill Conway  
Peter Crisafulli\*  
Ernie and Terrilee Petrey

## Archangel (\$500-\$999)

Susan Barkett, *in memory of Bob Barkett*  
John and Susan Blackwell\*  
Eleanor Davidson, *in memory of John Miner, MD*  
John M. Krogness\*  
Dorothy Kuhn  
The Rev. Jeanne Leinbach  
Michael Lyford and Sonja Rajki  
John and Yuri McElliott  
Brian and Cindy Murphy  
Jim and Janet Reuter  
Michele Smolin, *in celebration of Dmitry Smolin*  
Richard and Dorothy Stevens, *in memory of Ed Stevens*  
Sonja Tausch, Benjamin Tausch and Anne McPartlan  
Marijim and Jess Thoene\*  
Stephen Wood

## Seraph (\$250-\$499)

Gert and Homer Chisholm, *in memory of Ed Stevens*  
Alex Dimitrief, *in memory of Ed Stevens*  
Ross Duffin and Bev Simmons  
Dagmar and Ted Fellowes  
Claudia and David Fulton  
Scott and Susan Gray  
Jim Gray and Julie Micheletti  
Louise and Jay Greenspan  
Linda and Jim Heller\*  
Don Horisberger\*  
Donald Jackson  
Mike Knoblauch  
Elizabeth Mann  
Jay and Arlene Mann

Lynda Mayer  
Lisle Merriman\*, *in honor of Kevin Jones*  
Henry Ott-Hansen  
Sarah Ott-Hansen  
Theodore V. Parran  
Jim Pintner  
Jim Ptacek  
Bruce and Virginia Taylor\*  
Joseph and Ellen Thomas  
Greg and Sharon Watts  
Sam and Meg Weingart

## Cherub (\$100-\$249)

David and Katherine Aloï  
Lloyd and Lois Bell  
Gwendolyn J. Bennett  
Brenda Burton  
Richard Candee\*  
Charles Carr  
Jason Chance  
Marcia Corrado\*  
Elizabeth Daley, *in memory of Ed Stevens*  
Suzanne DeBrosse  
Lee and Rick Deininger  
Greg and EB Donley  
Carol C. Engler  
John and Katharine Ewing  
Leigh and Andy Fabens  
Kevin Geraci  
David Gilson and Suzanne G. Harrington  
Norma Horswell  
Laura, Andrew, Abigail and Ben Howell  
Ludmila Hyvnar  
Fern Jennings  
Gretchen Larson\*, *in memory of Ed Stevens*  
George Leggiero, *in honor of David Osburn*  
William and Margaret Limkemann  
Scott Mack\*  
Susan B. Macy  
Steven and Carolyn Mawhorter

# Friends of Music

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David and Pam O'Halloran  
Eric and Cathy Paetz  
Lisa Carr Payne  
Laura Peterson  
Bill and Pat Phillips, *in memory of Jack Phillips*  
Bill and Sandra Powel  
Susan and Jeff Quill  
Ginger and Lamar Ratcliffe  
David Raymond  
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Susan Rubel  
Pete and Laurie Scriven\*, *in memory of Ed Stevens*  
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John Yang  
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Cathy Albers, *in memory of Ed Stevens*  
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Michael and Jan Devereaux, *in memory of Ed Stevens*  
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Pamela L. Gorski, *in memory of David Osburn*  
Etnah M. Jermar\*  
Peter and Jan Jones  
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Mari Reive  
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Katarzyna Smith  
Jenni Thomas  
Fred and Christine Weed  
Valerie Wilson  
Joe Wilson-Ballonoff  
Timothy Wutrich  
Friend (\$1-\$49)  
Anonymous  
Donald Burck  
Story Cadiz  
Kari Britt Collier  
Sharon Rebmann  
Nancy Sherwin  
J. Shorey and Sharon Herene  
Guy Thellian  
Andrea Turner  
Chuck and Pat Williams

\* *In memory/honor/thanksgiving of Karel Paukert.*  
*This list is accurate as of May 8, 2026.*  
*If you notice a discrepancy, contact Jenni Thomas*  
*([jthomas@stpaulscl.org](mailto:jthomas@stpaulscl.org)) right away.*

# Friends of Music

St. Paul's is thrilled to be able to offer such a wonderful menu of great concerts, meaningful music, and inspiring artists. This year we continue to categorize Concert offerings into Great Performances, Choral Evensong, Music in Liturgy, and the summer Carillon Festival. Concert offerings at St. Paul's occur largely outside the operating budget and require annual financial support.

I hope that you will help us continue these successes in years to come, but especially this season, by becoming a donor to the Friends of Music at St. Paul's. Its fund, now renamed the Karel Paukert Memorial Music Fund, sponsors all of these amazing events. It is only through the generosity of thousands of concertgoers and supporters over the years that we are able to take on such ambitious programming. Join us in honoring Karel's musical legacy by becoming a Friend of Music. Your gifts help ensure the continuation of excellence in music at St. Paul's for years to come.



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[StPaulsCLE.org/music/friendsofmusic](http://StPaulsCLE.org/music/friendsofmusic).

Or send a check (write "Friends of Music" in the memo line) to:

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