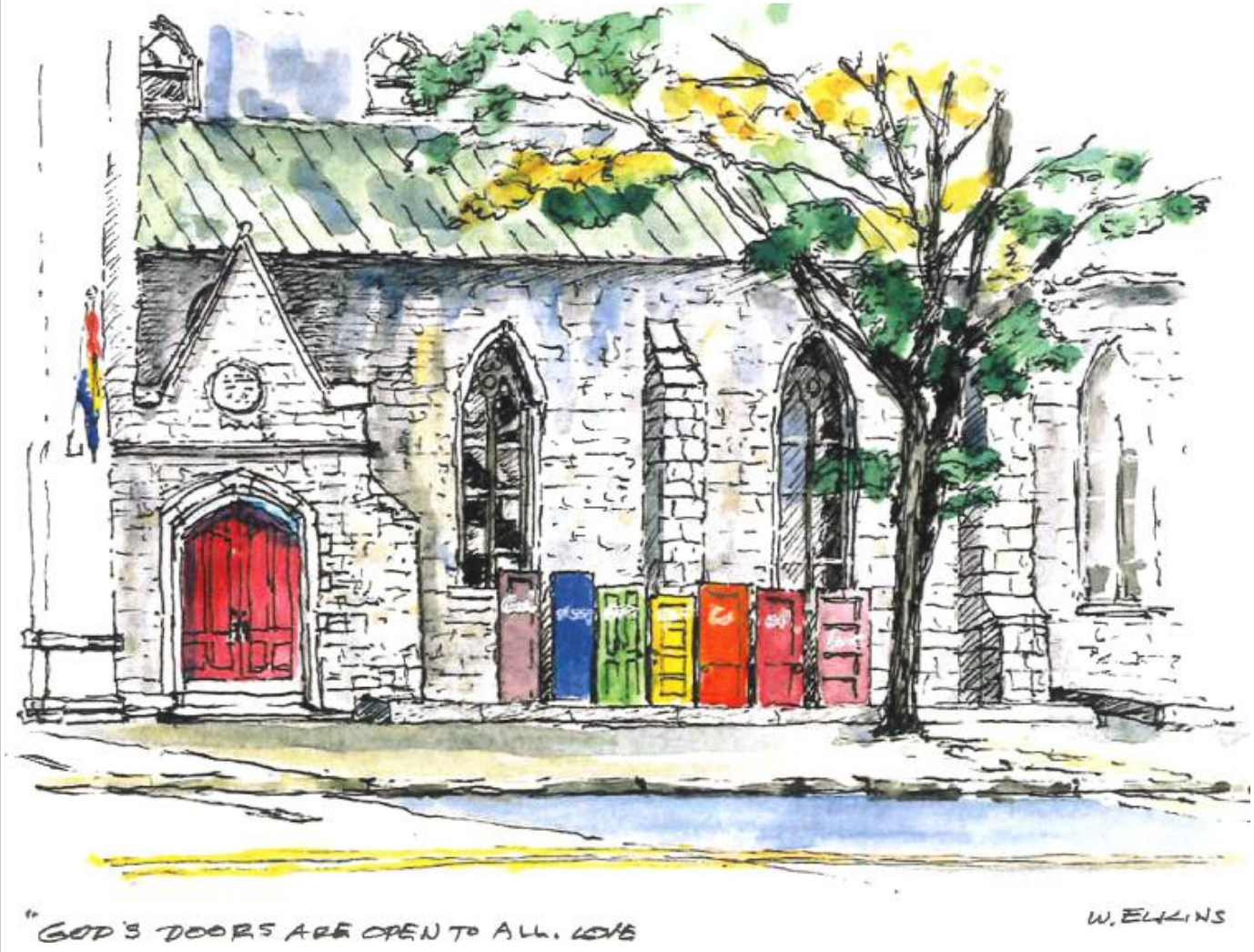
St. Paul's
Syracuse
The Downtown Episcopal Church



November 29, 2026
10:00 am
First Sunday in Advent

ORDER OF SERVICE

Our morning worship begins with the first note of the organ prelude and your silent prayers. Please refrain from conversations during this time.

ORGAN VOLUNTARY: Chorale Prelude on *Wachet auf, ruft uns die Stimme* J. S. Bach (1685-1750)
(Cantus firmus in the Tenor)

The people are invited to stand.

HYMN 61 • "Sleepers, wake!" A voice astounds us *Wachet Auf*

LITURGY OF THE WORD

Celebrant † Blessed are you, holy, and living One:
People **You come to your people and set them free.**

CANTICLE: HYMN 56 • "O come, O come, Emmanuel" (verses 1 and 2) *Veni, Veni, Emmanuel*

COLLECT OF THE DAY

Celebrant The Lord be with you
People **And also with you.**
Celebrant Let us pray.
Almighty God, give us grace to cast away the works of darkness, and put on the armor of light, now in the time of this mortal life in which your Son Jesus Christ came to visit us in great humility; that in the last day, when he shall come again in his glorious majesty to judge both the living and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through him who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.
All **Amen**.

Please be seated.

LESSON • Isaiah 64:1–9

Lector A reading from the Prophet Isaiah.
O that you would tear open the heavens and come down,
so that the mountains would quake at your presence—
as when fire kindles brushwood
and the fire causes water to boil—
to make your name known to your adversaries,
so that the nations might tremble at your presence!
When you did awesome deeds that we did not expect,
you came down, the mountains quaked at your presence.
From ages past no one has heard,
no ear has perceived,
no eye has seen any God besides you,
who works for those who wait for him.
You meet those who gladly do right,
those who remember you in your ways.
But you were angry, and we sinned;
because you hid yourself we transgressed.
We have all become like one who is unclean,
and all our righteous deeds are like a filthy cloth.

We all fade like a leaf,
and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away.
There is no one who calls on your name,
or attempts to take hold of you;
for you have hidden your face from us,
and have delivered us into the hand of our iniquity.
Yet, O Lord, you are our Father;
we are the clay, and you are our potter;
we are all the work of your hand.
Do not be exceedingly angry, O Lord,
and do not remember iniquity forever.
Now consider, we are all your people.\

Lector Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.
People **Thanks be to God.**

THE RESPONSE

Psalm 80:1–7, 16–1 • *Que Regis Israel*

1 Hear, O Shepherd of Israel, leading Joseph like a flock; *
shine forth, you that are enthroned upon the cherubim.
2 In the presence of Ephraim, Benjamin, and Manasseh, *
stir up your strength and come to help us.
3 Restore us, O God of hosts; *
show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.
4 O Lord God of hosts, *
how long will you be angered
despite the prayers of your people?
5 You have fed them with the bread of tears; *
you have given them bowls of tears to drink.
6 You have made us the derision of our neighbors, *
and our enemies laugh us to scorn.
7 Restore us, O God of hosts; *
show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.
16 Let your hand be upon the man of your right hand, *
the son of man you have made so strong for yourself.
17 And so will we never turn away from you; *
give us life, that we may call upon your Name.
18 Restore us, O Lord God of hosts; *
show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.

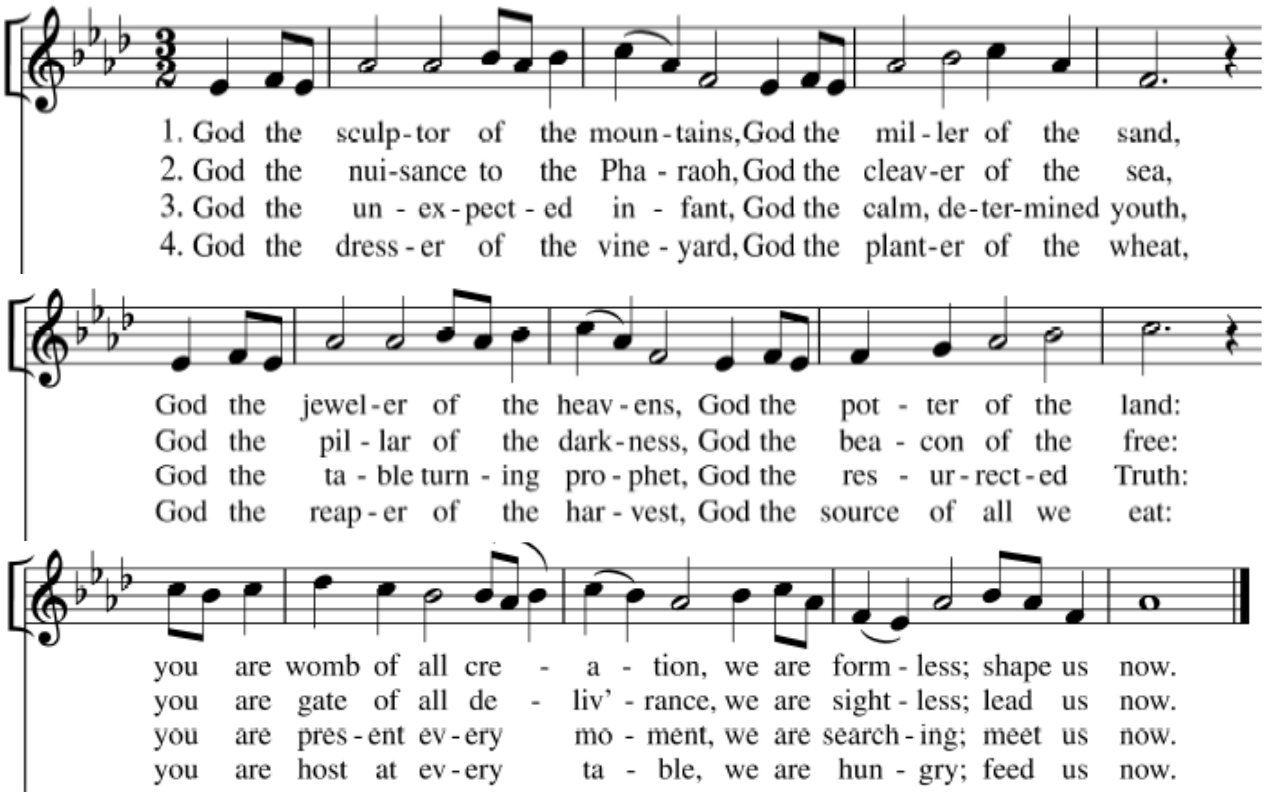
EPISTLE • 1 Corinthians 1:3–9

Lector A reading from Paul's first letter to the Corinthians.
Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that has been given you in Christ Jesus, for in every way you have been enriched in him, in speech and knowledge of every kind— just as the testimony of Christ has been strengthened among you— so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ. He will also strengthen you to the end, so that you may be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. God is faithful; by him you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Lector Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.
People **Thanks be to God.**

The people are invited to stand.

GRADUAL HYMN 746 • "God the Sculptor of the mountains" *Sandria*



Please remain standing.

HOLY GOSPEL • Mark 13:14–37

Celebrant The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, according to Mark.
People **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**
Celebrant Jesus said, "But when you see the desolating sacrilege set up where it ought not to be (let the reader understand), then those in Judea must flee to the mountains; the one on the housetop must not go down or enter to take anything from the house; the one in the field must not turn back to get a coat. Woe to those who are pregnant and to those who are nursing infants in those days! Pray that it may not be in winter. For in those days there will be suffering, such as has not been from the beginning of the creation that God created until now and never will be. And if the Lord had not cut short those days, no one would be saved, but for the sake of the elect, whom he chose, he has cut short those days. And if anyone says to you at that time, 'Look! Here is the Messiah!' or 'Look! There he is!'—do not believe it. False messiahs and false prophets will appear and produce signs and wonders, to lead astray, if possible, the elect. But be alert; I have already told you everything.

But in those days, after that suffering, the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light, and the stars will be falling from heaven, and the powers in the heavens will be shaken. Then they will see 'the Son of Man coming in clouds' with great power and glory. Then he will send out the angels, and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven.

From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near. So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that he is near, at the very gates. Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all these things have taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. Beware, keep alert; for you do not know when the time will come. It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his slaves in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to be on the watch. Therefore, keep awake—for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or at dawn, or else he may find you asleep when he comes suddenly. And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake."

Celebrant The Gospel of our Lord Jesus.

People **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

Please be seated.

SERMON The Rev. Philip Major

A brief silence follows the sermon.

The people are invited to stand.

NICENE CREED

The word "creed" comes from the Latin credo, translated here as "we believe." Credo is not simply belief in accurate propositions, but more deeply a sense of relationship or trust–an alternate translation might be "we give our heart," "we trust," "we rely upon." Developed in the fourth century as a means of unifying a divided church, the Nicene Creed has been used by Christians in worship for almost two thousand years, and connects us to our ancient ancestors in the Communion of Saints. The Creed is used in worship not because it comprises a list of doctrinal statements one must affirm in order to be considered a Christian, but rather as a song of praise and confidence in the Holy Trinity: God in three persons who creates, redeems and sanctifies a holy people.

All

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.
We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God,
begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father.
Through him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven:
by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary,
and was made man.
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures;
he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.
We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son.
With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified.
He has spoken through the Prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Please remain standing.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Loving and merciful God, in this season of Advent, as we remember the birth of your Son and anticipate his glorious return, we humbly ask you to hear our heartfelt prayers.

Just as you sent John the Baptizer to prepare the way of the Lord, inspire us to repent of anything that holds us back from fully loving and serving you. For you are the potter, and we are the clay; form us and mold us so that we can be vessels of hope, faith, and love.
A brief silence is kept.
O God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer**.

We pray for all nations of the world. Wherever there may be valleys of despair, mountains of pride, and rough places of injustice, bring your healing and lasting peace. Instill in all peoples a commitment to care for the earth so that future generations may thrive.
A brief silence is kept.
O God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer**.

You bring unending comfort. You feed your flock like a shepherd and gather the lambs into your arms. We pray for those who are ill or suffering or in distress of any kind, *especially n.* Heal all injuries and settle all wrongs. Bring solace to those who are lonely or grieving the loss of loved ones *especially n*.
A brief silence is kept.
O God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for the Church Universal, for all who serve and minister in the name of Christ. Bless the work of Sean, our Presiding Bishop; DeDe, our Bishop; Philip, our Rector; and the community of St. Paul's Church. May all be beacons of your light, casting away darkness in all its forms.
A brief silence is kept.
O God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Be with us in our waiting, and renew our trust in you.
A brief silence is kept.
O God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**
The Celebrant adds a concluding prayer.

CONFESSION

The people are invited to sit / kneel.

Officiant Let us confess our sins to God.

All **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.**

ABSOLUTION

Officiant † 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.

All **Amen.**

The people are invited to stand.

THE PEACE

Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People **And also with you.**

LITURGY OF THE TABLE

The bread and wine for communion and the offering plates are brought forward at the beginning of the offertory.

OFFERTORY

*At the Offertory, we return thanks for God's blessings in our lives and invite you to place your contribution in the offering plate in the main aisle or give by texting **73256** entering **stpaulsyr** (all lower case) and the amount you want to give.*

Celebrant All things come of Thee, O Lord.
People **And of thine own have we given thee.**

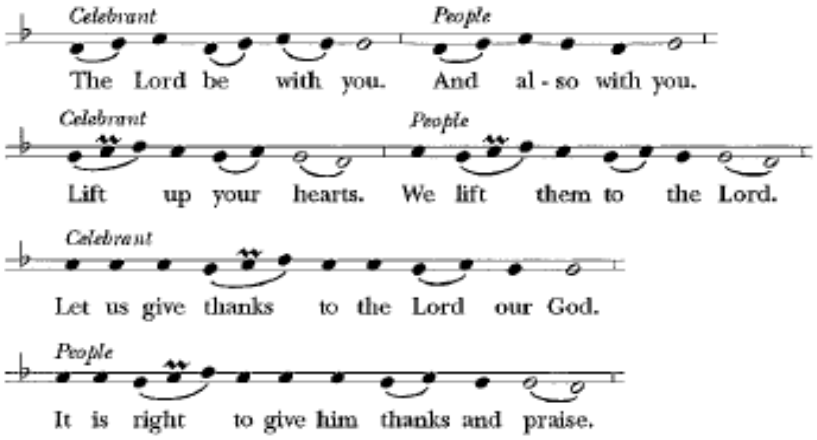
The People are invited to sit.

AN ANTHEM: David H. Williams (1919-2002)

Lo! he comes, with clouds descending, Once for favored sinners slain; Thousand, thousand saints attending Swell the triumph of his train: Alleluia! alleluia! alleluia! Christ the Lord appears on earth to reign. Every eye shall now behold him, Robed in dreadful majesty; Those who set at nought and sold him, Pierced, and nailed him to the tree, Deeply wailing, deeply wailing, deeply wailing, Shall the true Messiah see. The dear tokens of His passion Still His dazzling body bears; Cause of endless exultation To His ransomed worshippers; With what rapture, with what rapture, with what rapture Gaze we on those glorious scars! Yea, amen! let all adore thee, High on thine eternal throne; Savior, take the power and glory; Claim the kingdom for thine own: Alleluia! Alleluia! Thou shalt reign, and thou alone. Amen.

The people are invited to stand.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING, Eucharistic Prayer B



Celebrant It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth… Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who forever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

SANCTUS AND BENEDICTUS

Hymnal S-130 Franz Schubert (1797-1828), arr. Richard Proulx

Celebrant We give thanks to you, O God, for the goodness and love which you have made known to us in creation; in the calling of Israel to be your people; in your Word spoken through

the prophets; and above all in the Word made flesh, Jesus, your Son. For in these last days you sent him to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary, to be the Savior and Redeemer of the world. In him, you have delivered us from evil, and made us worthy to stand before you. In him, you have brought us out of error into truth, out of sin into righteousness, out of death into life.

On the night before he died for us, 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, according to his command, O Father:

All **We remember his death,**
We proclaim his resurrection,
We await his coming in glory;

Celebrant And we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, O Lord of all; presenting to you, from your creation, this bread and this wine.

† We pray you, gracious God, to send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Sacrament of the Body of Christ and his Blood of the new Covenant. Unite us to your Son in his sacrifice, that we may be acceptable through him, being sanctified by the Holy Spirit. In the fullness of time, put all things in subjection under your Christ, and bring us to that heavenly country where, with all your saints, we may enter the everlasting heritage of your sons and daughters; through Jesus Christ our Lord, the firstborn of all creation, the head of the Church, and the author of our salvation.

By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever.

All **Amen.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

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

All **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

In the breaking of the bread we remember that God emptied Godself of divine power for the purpose of reconciling Godself with us. We have no words to accurately describe this divine activity, thus a period of 10–15 seconds of silence is kept following the breaking of the bread and before the singing of the Fraction Anthem.

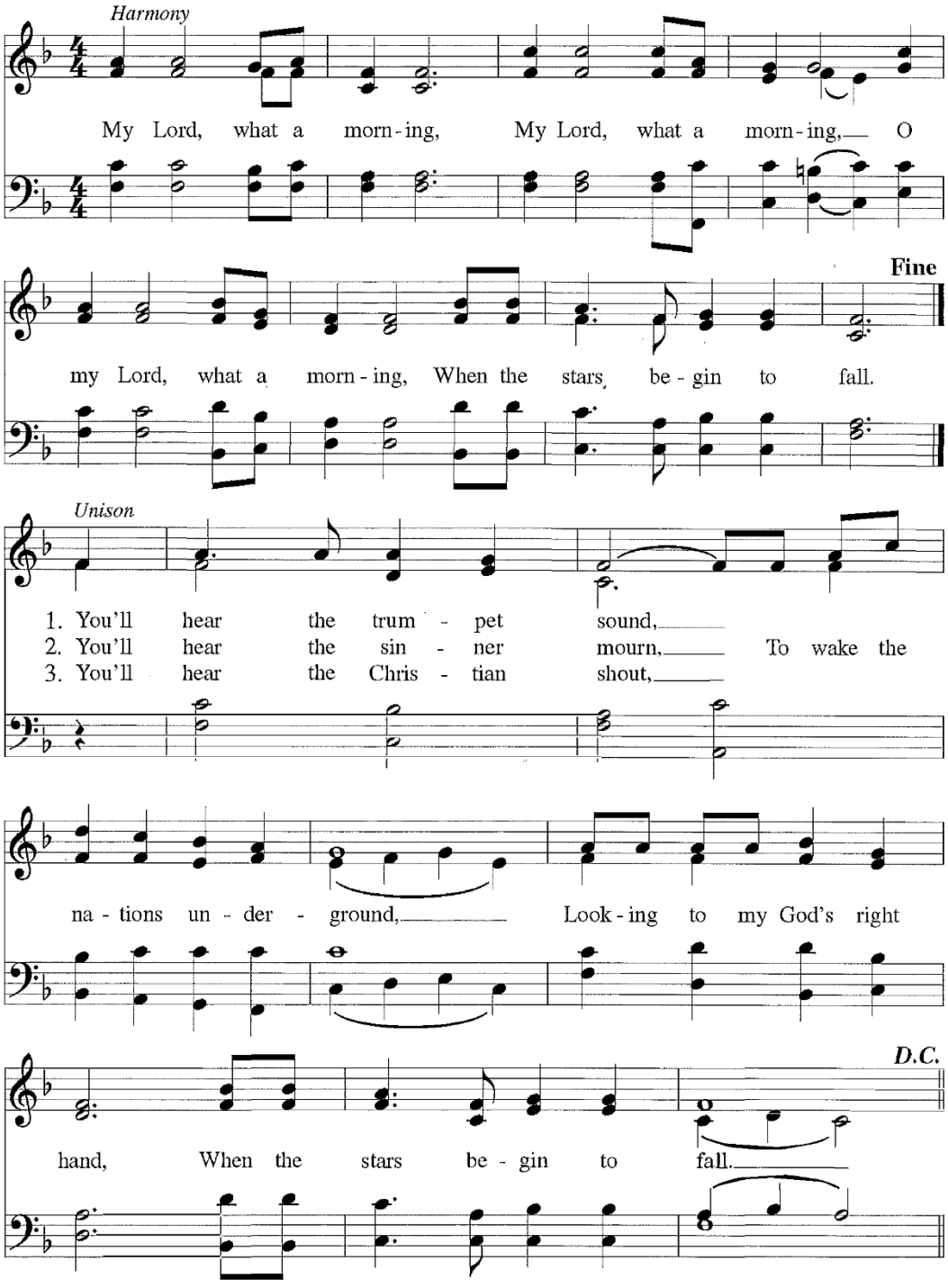
FRACTION ANTHEM

Hymnal S-164 Franz Schubert

You are invited to consume the consecrated bread immediately after you receive it. If you choose to receive the wine, drink directly from the cup. The sacrament of communion is complete if the bread or wine is received; it is not necessary to receive both. Prayers for healing are offered at the Peace Altar.

The People are invited to sit.

COMMUNION HYMN (LEVAS) 13 • "My Lord, what a morning" *Negro Spiritual*



POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

Officiant Let us pray.

All **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.

BLESSING

HYMN 636 • "How firm a foundation, ye saints of the Lord" *Foundation*

DISMISSAL

People: **Thanks be to God. Alleluia! Alleluia!**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

POSTLUDE • Chorale Prelude on *Wachet auf, ruft uns die Stimme* Johann Gottfried Walther (1684-1748)

Any music reprinted in the leaflet and streamed is under ©OneLicense A-72637
Prayers of the People were written by St. Paul's prayer leaders.

Please Keep These People in Your Prayers:

Jeanne A. and Destany W.

The decorations on the altar today are given to the glory of God and in memory of the Rev. S. George Dirghalli's birthday.

Our thanks today for the…

Altar Guild: Georgette & Tim Schmidt
Ushers: Roy Thomas & Derina Samuel
Flowers: Marion Greenhalgh
Lay Eucharistic Ministers: Matthieu van der Meer, Jeanne Chu

ANNOUNCEMENTS

* St. Paul's has been here, in the center of Syracuse, for 200 years. There has never been a more important time for us to be sharing the love of God than right now. Your pledge for 2027 will help us continue our ministries and partnerships for another year! If you did not receive a pledge card and stewardship materials in the mail, please ask one of the ushers for more information about making a pledge

.* It's the first Sunday of Advent! Join us for an Advent Lessons & Carols service today at 4 p.m.

* Andrew Lunetta, Executive Director of A Tiny Home for Good, has been named as a CNN Hero of the Year. Today is the last day to vote for Andrew in the CNN poll.

* Fr. Philip will be out of the office this week. In case of a pastoral emergency please contact one of the wardens.

* Annual reports are due on December 13th. If you are leading a team, a committee, or a ministry at St. Paul's please send your Annual Report to Judy at jmcadoo@stpaulsyr.org.

* The December issue of *The Courier* has been published. You can learn all about recent and upcoming activities at St. Paul's by reading *The Courier* at our website, or pick up a print copy in the back of the nave.





#29 Where do the Prayers of the People come from? It seems like they change every two or three weeks. Why?

At St. Paul's our 'Prayers of the People' are written by members of our congregation. Using the scripture readings for Sunday worship as one source of inspiration, our prayer writers create prayers to be used alongside those scripture readings. The Prayers of the People are crafted in accordance with several sets of guidelines, including those found on page 383 of the Book of Common Prayer.

Since they are written by our members, just a week or two before they will be used in worship, our Prayers of the People incorporate the concerns and language of prayer used by our members. This is exactly what the editors of the 1979 Book of Common Prayer were hoping would happen.

Our prayer writers devote several hours of reading, writing, and reflection to the task of writing the Prayers of the People. We are blessed to have nine faithful individuals who take on this sacred task: Anita Wagner, Joseph von Souder, Laurie Sanderson, Joe Russo, David Morgan, Joe Moorman, Betsy Elkins, Jim Doyle, and Tom Cantwell.

If you have a question about something in our liturgy, I will be happy to answer it. Please ask in person, or send an email to me at revmajor@stpaulsyr.org.

Fr. Philip +

Officers

2026

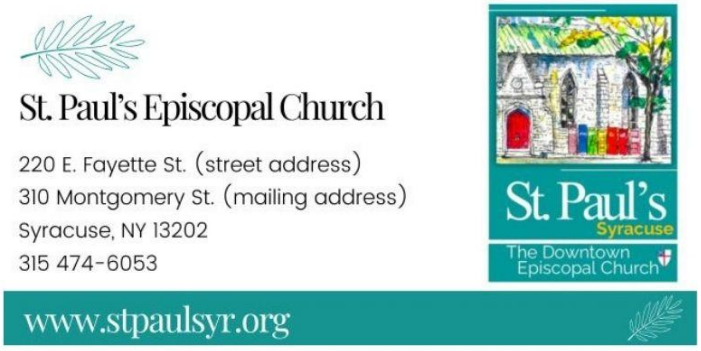
Senior Warden: Ieva Doyle
Junior Warden: Joe Russo
Treasurer: Doug Mouncey
Assistant Treasurer: Sandi Yingling
Clerk of the Vestry: Anita Wagner

Vestry & Team Leaders

2026: Jeanne Chu, Tim Cassavaw, DJ Igelsrud
2027: Willson Cummer, Isiah Lavender, Tim Simmons
2028: Joseph von Souder, Amy Mangram, Catherine Gerard
Finance Committee Chairperson: Joe Moorman
Children's Ministry Leader: Jeanne Avery
Worship Ministry Team Convener: Laurie Sanderson
Formation Ministry Team Convener: Jeanne Avery
Mission & Service Team Convener: Betsy Elkins
Community Fellowship Min. Convener: Liz Handler
Buildings & Grounds Chair: Bill Pitcher
Office Volunteers: Liz Handler, Kira Dirghalli, Betsy Elkins, Sandi Yingling

Staff

Bishop of Central NY: The Right Reverend Dr. DeDe Duncan Probe
The Ministers of St. Paul's: The entire congregation!
Rector of St. Paul's: The Reverend Philip Major
Organist & Choirmaster: James L. Potts
Operations Manager: Judy McAdoo-Pelton
Parish Assistant (Volunteer): Doug Mouncey
Custodian: Nicole Steele
Technology Specialist: Mark King
Security: Derek Lane



Church office hours Mondays, Tuesdays, & Wednesdays 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.