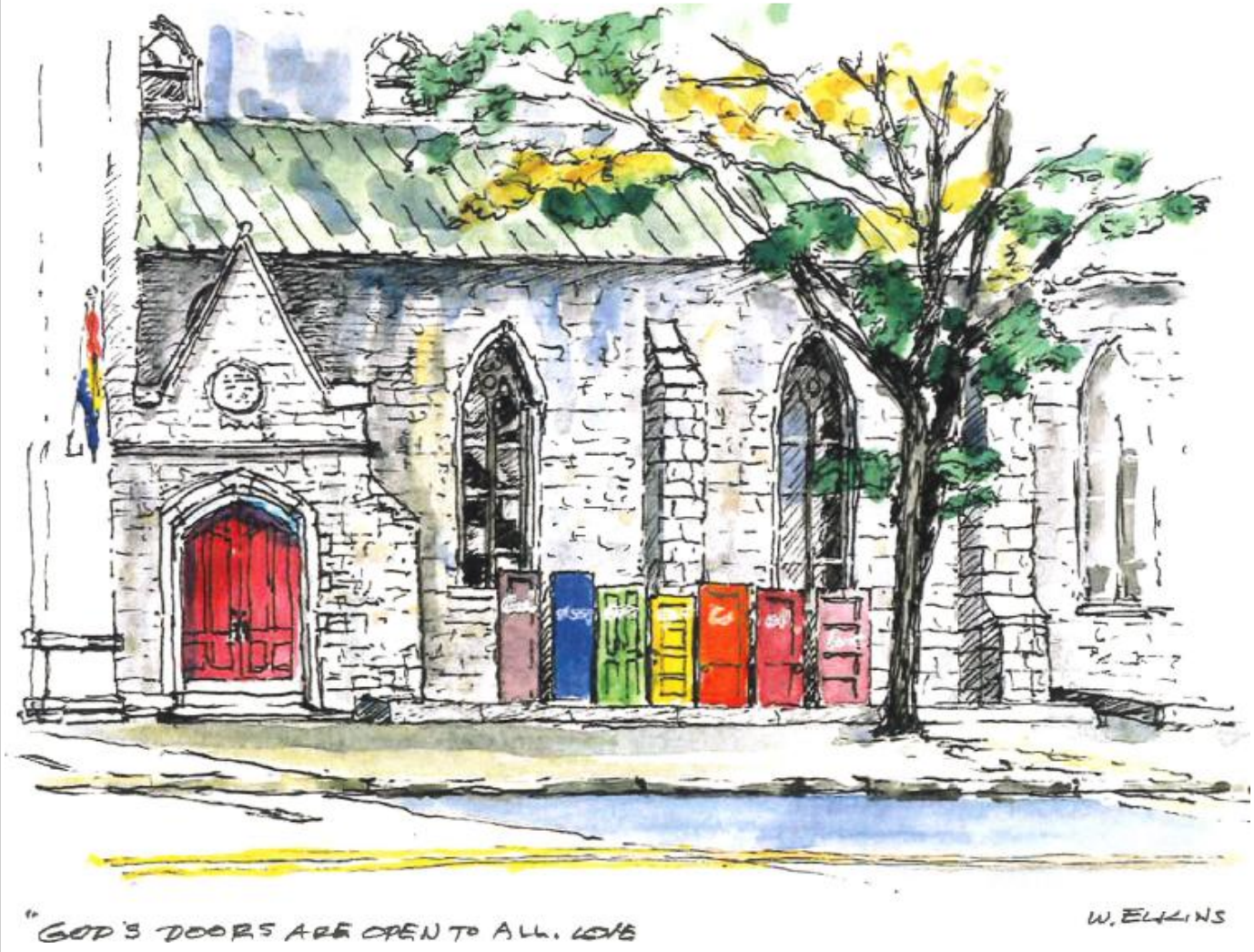
St. Paul's
Syracuse
The Downtown Episcopal Church




# November 8, 2026
# 10:00 am
# The Twenty-Fourth Sunday after Pentecost

# 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.*

**PRELUDE:** *Andante espressivo* Percy Whitlock (1903-1946)
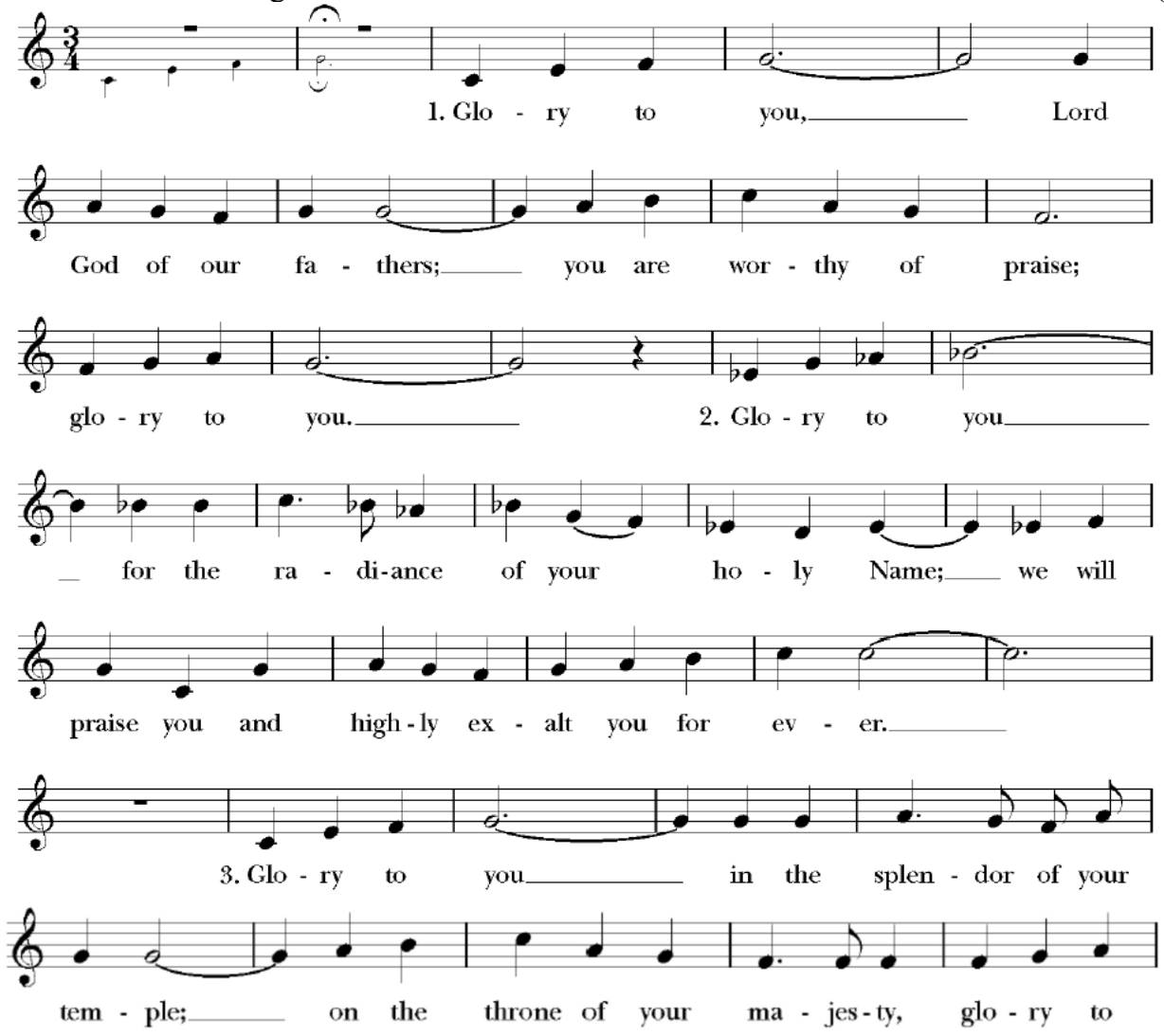
*The people are invited to stand.*
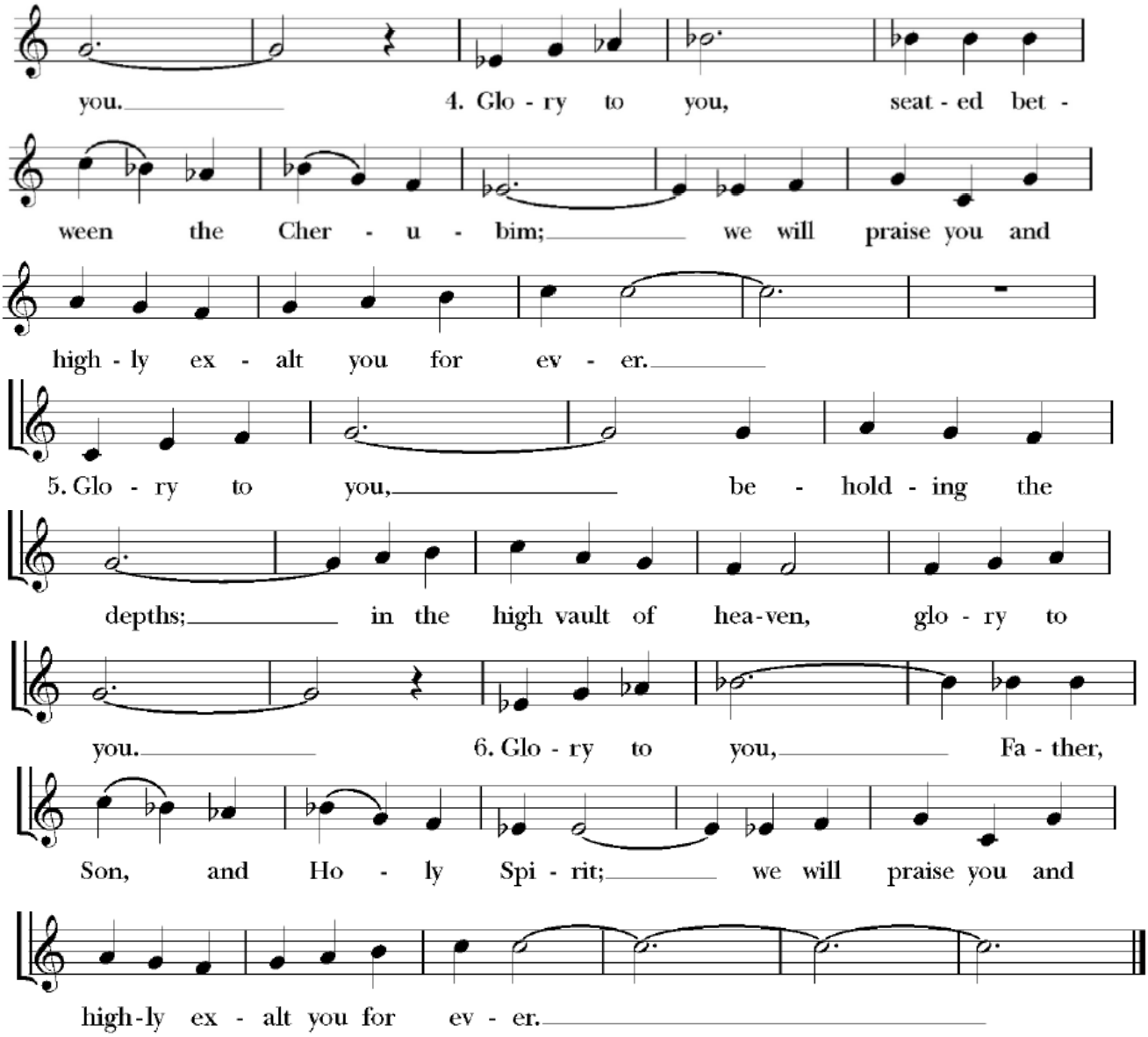
**HYMN 436** • "Lift up your heads, ye mighty gates" *Truro*

# LITURGY OF THE WORD

*Celebrant* † Blessed be the one, holy, and living God:
*People* **Glory to God for ever and ever.**

**CANTICAL S-236** • A Song of Praise *Benedictus es Domine* John Rutter (b.1945)






## COLLECT OF THE DAY

*Celebrant* The Lord be with you
*People* **And also with you.**
*Celebrant* Let us pray.
Holy God, whose fire of love never goes out: free us from the fear of scarcity that keeps us out of love's own feast; renew our trust in your abundance which knows no death and keeps no count; through Jesus Christ, the light of the world.
*All* **Amen**.

*Please be seated.*

## LESSON • Joshua 24:1–3a, 14–25

*Lector* A reading from the Book of Joshua.
Joshua gathered all the tribes of Israel to Shechem, and summoned the elders, the heads, the judges, and the officers of Israel; and they presented themselves before God. And Joshua said to all the people, "Thus says the Lord, the God of Israel: Long ago your ancestors—Terah and his sons Abraham and Nahor—lived beyond the Euphrates and served other gods.

Then I took your father Abraham from beyond the River and led him through all the land of Canaan and made his offspring many.
"Now therefore revere the Lord, and serve him in sincerity and in faithfulness; put away the gods that your ancestors served beyond the River and in Egypt, and serve the Lord. Now if you are unwilling to serve the Lord, choose this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your ancestors served in the region beyond the River or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you are living; but as for me and my household, we will serve the Lord."
Then the people answered, "Far be it from us that we should forsake the Lord to serve other gods; for it is the Lord our God who brought us and our ancestors up from the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery, and who did those great signs in our sight. He protected us along all the way that we went, and among all the peoples through whom we passed; and the Lord drove out before us all the peoples, the Amorites who lived in the land. Therefore we also will serve the Lord, for he is our God."
But Joshua said to the people, "You cannot serve the Lord, for he is a holy God. He is a jealous God; he will not forgive your transgressions or your sins. If you forsake the Lord and serve foreign gods, then he will turn and do you harm, and consume you, after having done you good." And the people said to Joshua, "No, we will serve the Lord!" Then Joshua said to the people, "You are witnesses against yourselves that you have chosen the Lord, to serve him." And they said, "We are witnesses." He said, "Then put away the foreign gods that are among you, and incline your hearts to the Lord, the God of Israel." The people said to Joshua, "The Lord our God we will serve, and him we will obey." So Joshua made a covenant with the people that day, and made statutes and ordinances for them at Shechem.

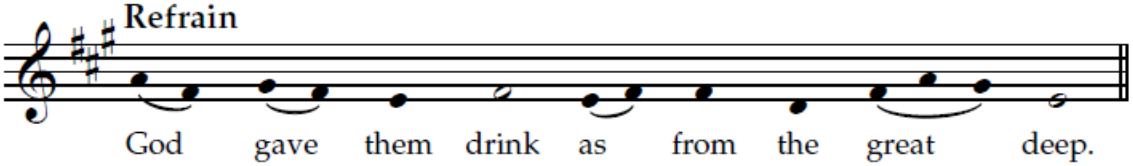
*Lector* Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

*People* **Thanks be to God.**

## THE RESPONSE

## Psalm 78:1–7

*The Refrain is first sung by the Choir and repeated by All, and then as indicated.*




Hear my teaching, O my people; incline your ears to the words of my mouth. I will open my mouth in a parable; I will declare the mysteries of ancient times. ***Refrain***

That which we have heard and known, and what our forefathers have told us, we will not hide from their children. We will recount to generations to come the praiseworthy deeds and the power of the Lord, and the wonderful works he has done. ***Refrain***

He gave his decrees to Jacob and established a law for Israel, which he commanded them to teach their children; That the generations to come might know, and the children yet unborn; that they in their turn might tell it to their children; So that they might put their trust in God, and not forget the deeds of God, but keep his commandments; ***Refrain***

## EPISTLE • 1 Thessalonians 4:13–18

*Lector* A reading from Paul's first letter to the Thessalonians.
We do not want you to be uninformed, brothers and sisters, about those who have died, so that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope. For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have died. For this

we declare to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will by no means precede those who have died. For the Lord himself, with a cry of command, with the archangel's call and with the sound of God's trumpet, will descend from heaven, and the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up in the clouds together with them to meet the Lord in the air; and so we will be with the Lord forever. Therefore encourage one another with these words.

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

*People* **Thanks be to God.**

*The people are invited to stand.*

**GRADUAL HYMN 656** • "Blest are the pure in heart" *Franconia*

*Please remain standing.*

**HOLY GOSPEL** • Matthew 25:1–13

*Celebrant* The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, according to Matthew.

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

*Celebrant* Jesus said, "Then the kingdom of heaven will be like this. Ten bridesmaids took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. Five of them were foolish, and five were wise. When the foolish took their lamps, they took no oil with them; but the wise took flasks of oil with their lamps. As the bridegroom was delayed, all of them became drowsy and slept. But at midnight there was a shout, 'Look! Here is the bridegroom! Come out to meet him.' Then all those bridesmaids got up and trimmed their lamps. The foolish said to the wise, 'Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.' But the wise replied, 'No! there will not be enough for you and for us; you had better go to the dealers and buy some for yourselves.' And while they went to buy it, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went with him into the wedding banquet; and the door was shut. Later the other bridesmaids came also, saying, 'Lord, lord, open to us.' But he replied, 'Truly I tell you, I do not know you.' Keep awake therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour."

*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

Remembering that scripture tells us we are to encourage one another and build each other up, we offer these prayers today.

We pray for leaders in our church, our city, our country and throughout the world. May all who are chosen to lead do so with integrity, honesty, and love, putting aside personal interests and gain to work for the common good and justice for everyone.

Lord in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

We pray for the many needs of your people in our community, our country and throughout the world: the housing insecure, those who are hungry, immigrants uncertain of their future, those affected by war and climate change. We remember particularly our neighbors at the YMCA Senior Apartments, our partners in *A Tiny Home for Good*, and those we serve at *The Samaritan Center* or through *The Open Pantry*.

Lord in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

We pray for this fragile earth, our home for just a short time. May we be better stewards of the resources we have been given so that those who follow will be able to live and thrive.

Lord in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

We pray for those who are sick or in any kind of trouble, and those who care for them. We remember especially *n.* and others we name, silently or aloud.

*The people add their own prayers, silently or aloud.*

Lord in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

We remember those who have died and those who miss their physical presence. We remember especially *n.* and those we name either silently or aloud.

*The people add their own prayers, silently or aloud.*

Lord in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

Finally, amid anxiety, uncertainties, and grief, let us remember to be grateful for all that is good in our lives and for all that we have. Let us give thanks for the bountiful harvest of this season, beautiful weather, family and friends who sustain us daily.

Lord 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.**
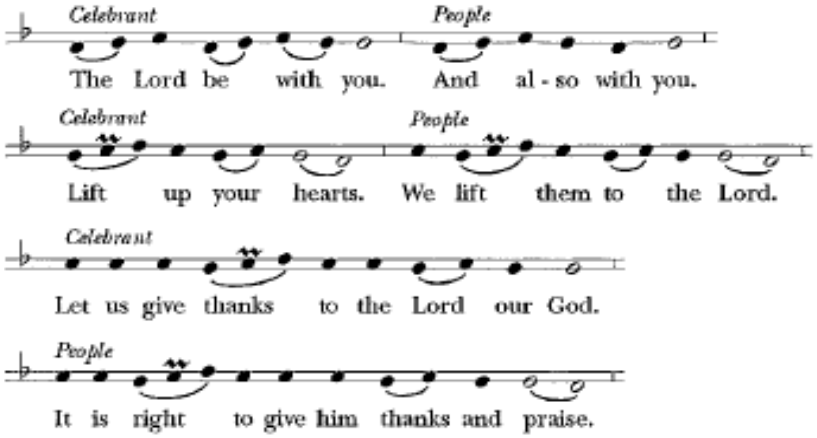
*The People are invited to sit.*

**AN ANTHEM:** Percy Whitlock (1903-1946)

*Sing praise to God who reigns above, the God of all creation, the God of power, the God of love, the God of our salvation; with healing balm my soul he fills, and every faithless murmur stills; to God all praise and glory! What God's almighty power hath made His gracious mercy keepeth; by morning glow or evening shade his watchful eye ne'er sleepeth; within the kingdom of his might all is just, and all is right; to God all power and glory! Then all my joyful way along I sing aloud thy praises, that all may hear the grateful song my voice unwearied raises; be joyful in the Lord, my heart! Both soul and body bear your part! To God, all praise and glory!*

*The people are invited to stand.*

**THE GREAT THANKSGIVING**, The Eucharistic Prayer is from the Church of South India




*Celebrant* Truly it is right and good to glorify you at all times and in all places, by offering you our thanksgiving O Lord. You spoke and the light shattered darkness, order arose from confusion. You breathed into the dust of the earth and we were formed in your image.

Through your Holy Spirit you brood over the chaos we create, mothering us and shaping a new creation. You enlighten everyone coming into the world. You inspire prophetic voices to speak the right word at the right time. You liberate, equip and commission your people for the continuance of your mission to make everything new.

In Christ Jesus you came to us while we wandered. He met us as a refugee, a threatened child. He called us by name to leave what is comfortable to be his disciples and friends. By his death he destroyed the power of death. By his resurrection he opened the way of eternal life.

Therefore, with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we proclaim your glory:

**SANCTUS AND BENEDICTUS**

Hymnal S-129 Robert Powell (1932-2025)

*Celebrant* Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night in which he was betrayed, took the bread and when he had given thanks to you, broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take, eat. This is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.

In the same way after supper, he took the cup and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them saying: Drink this, all of you: this is my blood of the new covenant, which is shed for you and for all for the forgiveness of sins. Do this in remembrance of me.

*All* **Lord, we commemorate your death on the cross, we celebrate your resurrection, and we await your coming.**

*Celebrant* † Eternal God, let your Holy Spirit move in power over us and over these gifts of bread and wine, that they may be the communion of the body and blood of Christ, and that we may become one in him.

May his coming in glory find us ever watchful in prayer, strong in love, and faithful in the breaking of the bread. Then, at last, all peoples will be free, all divisions healed, and with your whole creation, we will sing your praise, through your Son, Jesus Christ.

Through Christ, and with Christ, and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honor are yours, almighty God, for ever and ever.

*All* **Amen.**

*Celebrant* As our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

## THE LORD'S PRAYER

*All* **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 trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.**

## THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

*The breaking of the bread may be seen as the culminating activity of our worship. It is the ritual action symbolizing the activity whereby God emptied Godself of divine power for 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-155 Gerald Near (b.1942)

*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 324 •** "Let all mortal flesh keep silence" *Picardy*

*The People are invited to stand.*

## 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 690 •** "Guide me, O thou great Jehovah" *Cwm Rhondda*

## DISMISSAL

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

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**POSTLUDE •** *Alla Marcia* John Ireland (1879-1962)

*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:***
Hillary B., Destany W., Jeanne A., and Denise D.

We remember those who have died in recent days: Don D.

The decorations on the altar today are given to the glory of God.

***Our thanks today for the…***
**Altar Guild:** Joe Russo, Anita Wagner
**Lay Readers:** Robert Wagner, Willson Cummer
**Ushers:** Joe Russo, Heather Lavender
**Flowers:** Liz Handler, Betsy Elkins
**Lay Eucharistic Ministers:** Jim Doyle, Tiffany Miner

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

* Join us in the Brewster Room this morning at 11:30, as we welcome the program director of the Center of Healthy Aging from Interfaith Works. Healthy Aging promotes activity, socialization, and lifelong learning, helping older adults to live well and age with dignity.

* The next event in St. Paul's Bicentennial Year Celebration will be a concert by the Syracuse Orchestra, presented at St. Paul's, this afternoon at 3 p.m. Purchase your tickets at the door or at syracuseorchestra.org.

* Today is the last day to purchase your Christmas Wreath from the Friends of Music. Please provide cash or check to cover the cost of your wreath.

* Sunday, November 15th is the deadline for articles for the December issue of The Courier. Please send your article to Judy at jmcadoo@stpaulsyr.org.

* Andrew Lunetta, Executive Director of A Tiny Home for Good, has been named as a CNN Hero of the Year. You can support A Tiny Home for Good by voting for Andrew in the CNN poll. Follow the link below to cast your vote for Andrew and A Tiny Home for Good.

* St. Paul's Vestry makes all of the most important decisions for our parish! On January 31st, St. Paul's will hold our 2027 Annual Meeting. Among other business, our members (that means you) will elect three members to serve on St. Paul's Vestry. During the month of November the Nominations Committee of the Vestry is receiving your suggestions for nominees to serve on the Vestry. Please share your suggestions with Joe Russo, Jr. Warden, and chair of the Nominations Committee.






**HEARING LOOP INSTALLED**
Switch Hearing Aid to T-Coil

*Understanding Episcopal Liturgy*

*#47a: What is the reason the priest and eucharistic ministers make the sign of the cross near the end of the eucharistic prayer?*

Making the sign of the cross is an outward, physical act that reminds us of God's inward, invisible movement in our lives. The priest, and many of our members, use their first and second fingers to touch their forehead, chest, left shoulder, then right shoulder, outlining four points of the cross on themselves during worship.

You will notice the priest and other members of the congregation make the sign of the cross each Sunday near the end of the Eucharistic Prayer. At this time the priest says words praying for the Holy Spirit to come upon God's people. "We offer our lives back to you for your

blessing. Send your Holy Spirit upon us..." This paragraph of the prayer is called 'The Invocation', as we are vocalizing or calling for the Holy Spirit to be active in our lives.

There are several other places in the liturgy where some of our members make the sign of the cross. We have marked two of the common places in our leaflet: at the Opening Acclamation and at the Absolution (just after the Prayer of Confession).

*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

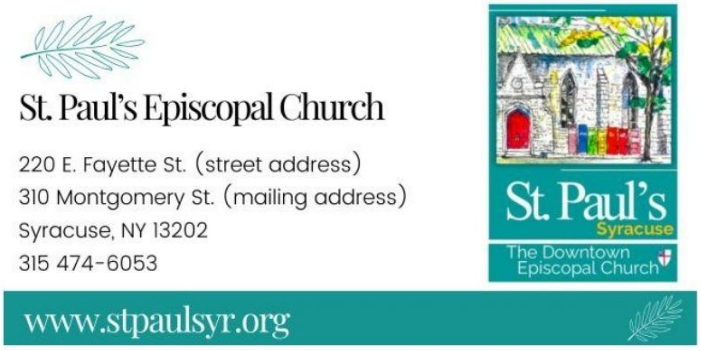
Senior Warden: Ieva Doyle
Junior Warden: Joe Russo
Treasurer: Doug Mouncey
Assistant Treasurer: Sandi Yingling
Clerk of the Vestry: Anita Wagner

# 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.