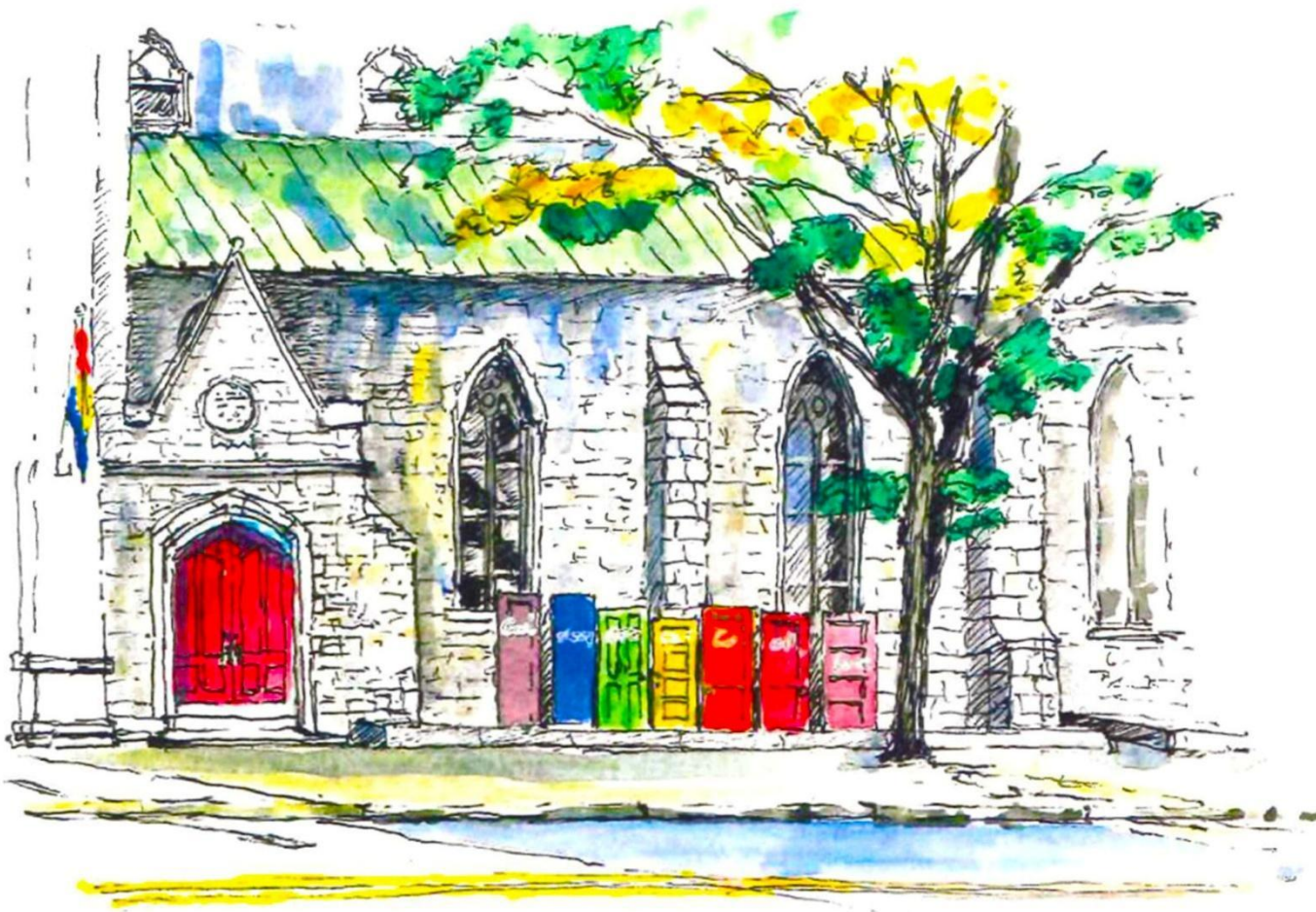


St. Paul's  
Syracuse

The Downtown  
Episcopal Church



"GOD'S DOORS ARE OPEN TO ALL. LOVE  
9.19.19

W. ELKINS

MAY 17, 2026  
THE SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER  
10 A.M.

## *Understanding Episcopal Liturgy*

### *#13. What is the reason the Gospel is read from the center of the Nave?*

*As is often the case, there is a historical answer to this question, and a simple, more spiritual answer. The simple answer is that the story of Jesus and the teachings of Jesus are most important for us. The Gospel Book is processed into the center of the nave and read in the midst of the congregation as a symbol of the central role the Gospels play in our lives. We receive the Gospel Book into the center of the congregation in the manner of receiving a great gift. This is the foundation for everything else, and we receive it wholeheartedly.*

*Many centuries ago, the pulpit was located near the center of the nave. Since there were no electrical amplification systems at the time, it was much more practical for the sermon to be preached from the center of the nave. By the 4th century it had become near universal practice for the Gospel to be read by the deacon (or in the absence of a deacon, by a priest). Then the preacher would preach the sermon from the same location, the pulpit in the center of the nave. Immediately before the reading of the Gospel, the Gospel Book was carried from the altar to the pulpit. This procession included acolytes carrying torches or lanterns that brought more light for reading the Gospel. During high holy days our Gospel processions recall this ancient tradition by including torch bearers.*

*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](mailto:revmajor@stpaulsyr.org).*

*Fr. Philip +*

#### **Announcements:**

\* St. Paul's will celebrate the 200th anniversary of the date of the incorporation of our parish, with a Worship Service and Dinner, Friday, May 22nd, beginning at 5 p.m. Please speak with Ieva Doyle, our Senior Warden, if you don't have a ticket for the dinner.

\* The deadline for articles for the June edition of *The Courier* is today, May 17th, at midnight.

\* Join us Sunday, May 31st at 11:30 for an historical lecture and presentation about Arria Huntington, the daughter of the first bishop of the Diocese of Central New York, Bishop Huntington. Arria Huntington was the first woman elected to hold a public office in Syracuse, NY.

# ORDER OF SERVICE

**ORGAN VOLUNTARY** • *Liebster Jesu, wir sind hier* BWV 731 Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750)  
("Bessed Jesu, at Thy word")

*The people are invited to stand.*

**HYMN 529** • "In Christ there is no East or West"

*McKee*

## LITURGY OF THE WORD

*Celebrant* Alleluia. Christ is risen.

*People* **The Lord has risen indeed. Alleluia.**

**CANTICLE** •

*Festival Canticle*

*Antiphon*

This is the feast of vic-tory for our God.

Al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia!

3 Sing with all the peo-ple of God, and

3 join in the hymn of all cre-a-tion. [Ant.]

## COLLECT OF THE DAY

*Celebrant* The Lord be with you

*People* **And also with you.**

*Celebrant* Let us pray.

O God, the King of glory, you have exalted your only Son Jesus Christ with great triumph to your kingdom in heaven: Do not leave us comfortless, but send us your Holy Spirit to strengthen us, and exalt us to that place where our Savior Christ has gone before; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, in glory everlasting.

*All* **Amen.**

*Please be seated.*

**LESSON • Acts 1:6-14**

*Lector*

A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

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

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

*Lector*

Hear what the Spirit is saying to God’s people.

*People*

**Thanks be to God.**

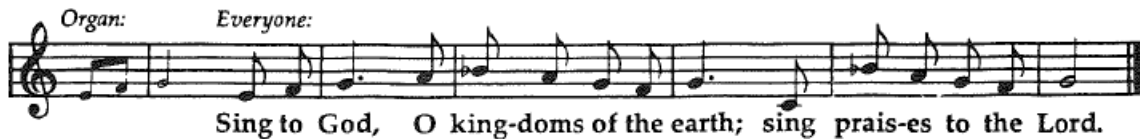
**THE RESPONSE**

**PSALM • 68:4-5, 7-8, 17-18**

*Exsurgat Deus*

Peter Hallock (1924-2014)

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



Sing to God, sing praises to his Name; exalt him who rides upon the heavens; YAHWEH is his Name, rejoice before him! Father of orphans, defender of widows, God in his holy habitation! **Antiphon**

O God, when you went forth before your people, when you marched through the wilderness, The earth shook, and the skies poured down rain, at the presence of God, the God of Sinai, at the presence of God, the God of Israel. **Antiphon**

The chariots of God are twenty thousand, even thousands of thousands; the Lord comes in holiness from Sinai. You have gone up on high and led captivity captive; you have received gifts even from your enemies, that the Lord God might dwell among them. **Antiphon**

**EPISTLE • 1 Peter 4:12-14; 5:6-11**

*Lector*

A reading from the first letter of Peter.

Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery ordeal that is taking place among you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you. But rejoice insofar as you are sharing Christ's sufferings, so that you may also be glad and shout for joy when his glory is revealed. If you are reviled for the name of Christ, you are blessed, because the spirit of glory, which is the Spirit of God, is resting on you.

Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, so that he may exalt you in due time. Cast all your anxiety on him, because he cares for you. Discipline yourselves, keep alert. Like a roaring lion your adversary the devil prowls around, looking for someone to devour. Resist him, steadfast in your faith, for you know that your brothers and sisters in all the world are undergoing the same kinds of suffering. And after you have suffered for a little while, the God of all grace, who has called you to his eternal glory in Christ, will himself restore, support, strengthen, and establish you. To him be the power forever and ever. Amen.

*Lector*

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

*People*

**Thanks be to God.**

*The people are invited to stand.*

**GRADUAL HYMN 513 • “Like the murmur of the dove’s song”**

*Bridegroom*

*Please remain standing.*

**HOLY GOSPEL • John 17:1-11**

*Celebrant*

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

*People*

**Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

*Celebrant*

Jesus looked up to heaven and said, “Father, the hour has come; glorify your Son so that the Son may glorify you, since you have given him authority over all people, to give eternal life to all whom you have given him. And this is eternal life, that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent. I glorified you on earth by finishing the work that you gave me to do. So now, Father, glorify me in your own presence with the glory that I had in your presence before the world existed.

”I have made your name known to those whom you gave me from the world. They were yours, and you gave them to me, and they have kept your word. Now they know that everything you have given me is from you; for the words that you gave to me I have given to them, and they have received them and know in truth that I came from you; and they have believed that you sent me. I am asking on their behalf; I am not asking on behalf of the world, but on behalf of those whom you gave me, because they are yours. All mine are yours, and yours are mine; and I have been glorified in them. And now I am no longer in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, protect them in your name that you have given me, so that they may be one, as we are one.”

*Celebrant*

The Gospel of the Lord.

*People*

**Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

*The people are invited to 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**

Gracious God, you have called your Church to be witnesses to the ends of the earth: send your Holy Spirit upon us, that we may be faithful in prayer, steadfast in hope, and brave in proclaiming your love.

We pray for the Church: For Sean, our Presiding Bishop, Dede, our Bishop, Philip, our Rector; and for all the people of Saint Paul’s. Unite us as one body, that we may glorify you in everything we do.

*A period of silence is kept.*

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

Loving God, father of orphans, defender of widows, and protector of all in need: we pray for the people of Syracuse. Bless our neighborhoods, guide those in authority, and strengthen all who work for justice, peace, and the common good. Make us attentive to one another, and generous in service to each other.

*A period of silence is kept.*

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

Creator of Heaven and earth, you ride upon the heavens and renew the weary land. We pray for our fragile planet. Grant wisdom and humility to those who steward its resources, and inspire us to care for your creation with reverence and love.

*A period of silence is kept.*

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

Compassionate God, you care for us and invite us to cast all our anxieties upon you: we pray for those who suffer in body, mind, or spirit. Surround them with your healing presence, and give courage and strength to those who care for them. We pray for *n.*, and those we name silently or aloud.

*A period of silence is kept.*

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

Eternal God, in whom all live and have their being: we commend to your mercy all who have died. Receive them into your everlasting arms, and bring us with them into the fullness of your eternal life. We pray especially for *n.*, and for those we name silently, or aloud.

*A period of silence is kept.*

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

*The Celebrant adds a concluding prayer.*

*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.*



*The people are invited to stand as the offering is brought forward*

*Celebrant*            All things come of Thee, O Lord.

*People*                **And of thine own have we given thee.**

*Please be seated.*

## **ANTHEM •**

Everitt Titcomb (1884-1968)

*I will not leave you comfortless, I will come to you yet again: Alleluia. And your heart shall be joyful.  
Alleluia.*





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

**ORGAN VOLUNTARY • Procession**

C.S.Lang (b.1953)

*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.*

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***Please Keep These People in Your Prayers:***

Destany W., Mary S., Marilyn A., Jenny T. and Vince P.

We remember those who have died in recent days: Ann Davis

The flowers today are given to the glory of God in honor of St. Paul's Bicentennial Celebration.

***Our thanks today for the...***

**Altar Guild:** Georgette & Tim Schmidt

**Lay Readers:** Robert Wagner and Derina Samuel

**Ushers:** Barbara Morgan and Jean Stanton

**Flowers:** Marion Greenhalgh



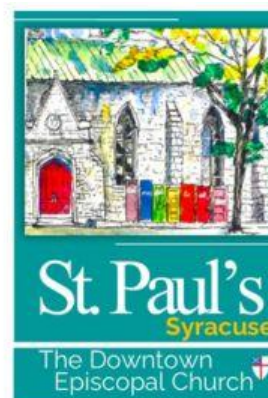
## St. Paul's Episcopal Church

220 E. Fayette St. (street address)

310 Montgomery St. (mailing address)

Syracuse, NY 13202

315 474-6053



[www.stpaulsyr.org](http://www.stpaulsyr.org)





www.stpaulsyr.org

ST. PAUL'S CELEBRATES 200 YEARS

# Bicentennial DINNER

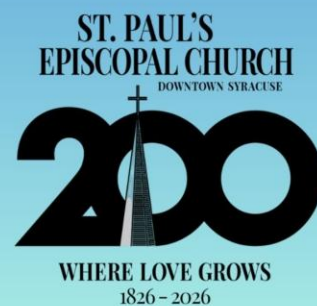
Worship • Fellowship • Dinner & Program

Please join us for a Bicentennial Dinner celebrating the very day, 200 years ago, when leaders of our emerging congregation signed incorporation documents.

**FRIDAY MAY 22**  
**5:00 P.M.**

\$25 per person

Tickets available during Sunday  
coffee hour beginning  
April 12 from Ieva Doyle.  
Contact Ieva at 315 278-5807  
Email: [ieva.doyle@gmail.com](mailto:ieva.doyle@gmail.com)  
Get your tickets by May 10!



220 East Fayette St. Downtown Syracuse

St. Paul's Episcopal Church  
WHERE LOVE GROWS

Celebrating  
200 Years



**Bicentennial Events for 2026**  
with more to come in 2027

### Bicentennial Celebration

Commemorations, celebratory worship and reception

**Community events you could attend beforehand:**

- *Open Up Downtown*, various locations, 10:00 am-3:00 pm, sponsored by Downtown Committee of Syracuse
- *Sacred Sites Open House*, 1:00-2:00 pm at St. Paul's, in collaboration with New York Landmarks Conservancy

**SATURDAY**  
**MAY 16 3:00 PM**

**MAY**  
**22**  
**5:00 PM**

**Bicentennial Dinner**  
on 1826 founding date of St. Paul's  
Church Syracuse

Worship, fellowship, dinner  
and program

**MAY**  
**31**  
**11:30 AM**

**Legacy of Arria  
Huntington**

Social activist daughter of  
Bishop of CNY, who led St. Paul's  
in 1872. Presenter: Catherine  
Baratta, PhD

**JUL**  
**4**  
**11:00 AM**

**Celebrating Our  
Country's  
Semiquincentennial  
and our Church's Bicentennial**  
Celebratory worship service

**AUG**  
**TBA**

**Neighborhood  
Picnic**

Pop up event on E. Fayette  
Street sidewalk,  
weather-dependent

**SEP**  
**13**  
**11:30 AM**

**The Erie Canal: The  
Ditch that Changed  
America**

Presenter: Derrick Pratt,  
Erie Canal Museum

**SEP**  
**27**  
**4:00 PM**

**Organ Recital by  
Jeremy Filsell**

Former organist & choirmaster  
of St. Thomas Church, Fifth Ave,  
NYC, performs in Downtown  
Organ Crawl

**OCT**  
**18**  
**4:00 PM**

**Hohenfels  
Trombone Quartet**

Performing works from silent  
films, classical arrangements,  
fun songs and more

**NOV**  
**8**  
**3:00 PM**

**Syracuse Orchestra  
Bicentennial Concert**

Featuring St. Paul's Suite  
by Gustav Holst



[www.stpaulsyr.org](http://www.stpaulsyr.org)

220 East Fayette St.  
Downtown Syracuse

