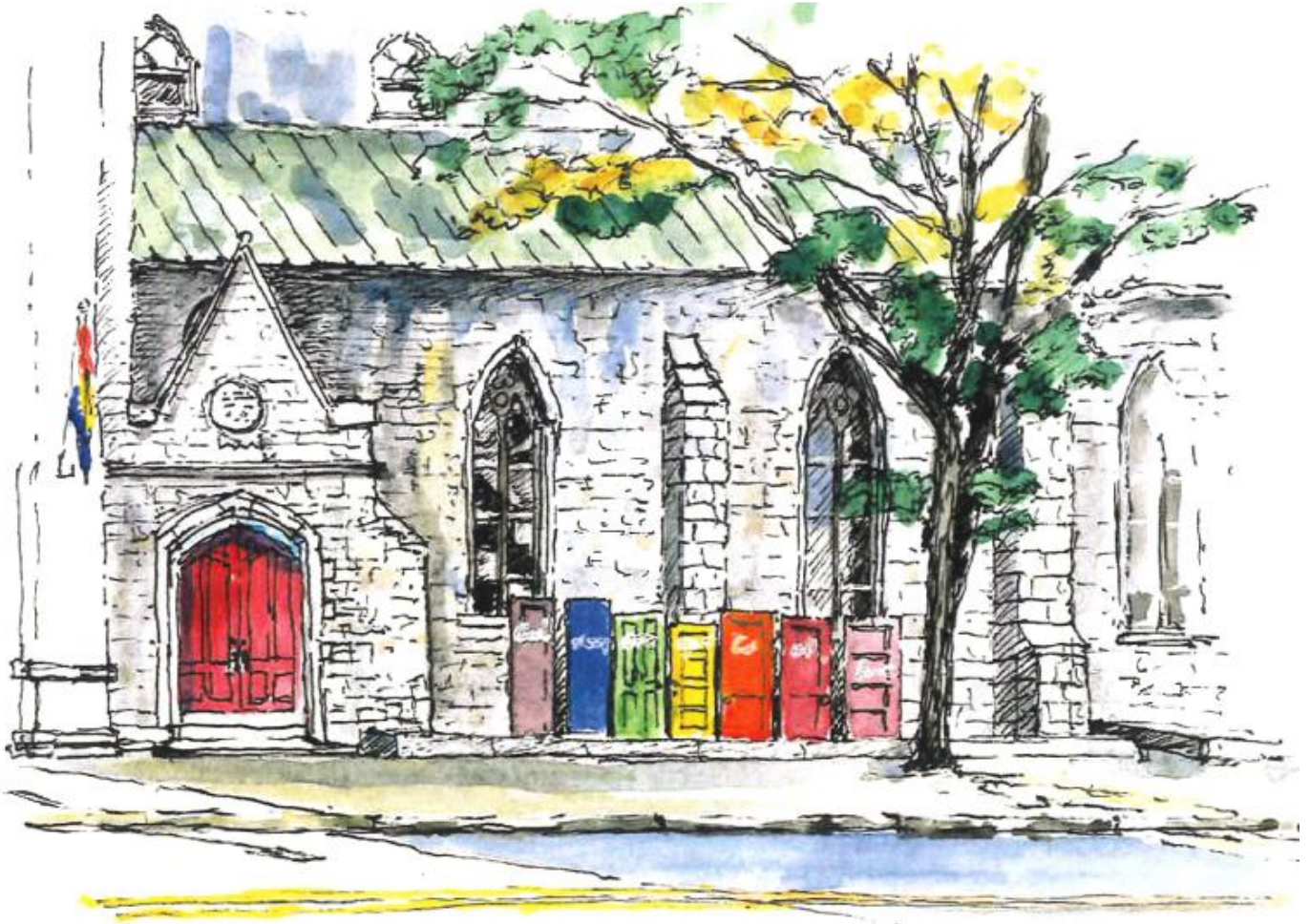




St. Paul's
Syracuse

The Downtown
Episcopal Church



"GOD'S DOORS ARE OPEN TO ALL. LOVE

W. ELKINS

FEBRUARY 22, 2026
THE FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT
10 A.M.

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

LITURGY OF THE WORD

ORGAN VOLUNTARY • *Wer nur den lieben Gott*, S. 647

Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750)

("If thou but trust God to guide thee" - Hymn 635)

The people are invited to stand

HYMN 688 • "A mighty fortress is our God"

Ein feste Burg

Celebrant

† Blessed be the God of salvation:

People

Who bears our burdens and forgives our sins.

CANTICLE • "Sing praises, all you peoples" (*Sung three times*)

Jacques Berthier (1923-1994)

Lau - da - te om - nes gen - tes, lau - da - te Do - mi - num. Lau -
Sing prais - es, all you peo - ples, sing prais - es to the Lord. Sing

da - te om - nes gen - tes, lau - da - te Do - mi - num! Lau -
prais - es, all you peo - ples, sing prais - es to the Lord! Sing

fine

COLLECT OF THE DAY

Celebrant

The Lord be with you

People

And also with you.

Celebrant

Let us pray.

Almighty God, whose blessed Son was led by the Spirit to be tempted by Satan: Come quickly to help us who are assaulted by many temptations; and, as you know the weaknesses of each of us, let each one find you mighty to save; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

All

Amen.

Please be seated

THE LESSON • Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-7

Lector

A reading from the Book of Genesis.

The LORD God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to till it and keep it. And the LORD God commanded the man, "You may freely eat of every tree of the

garden; but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall die.”

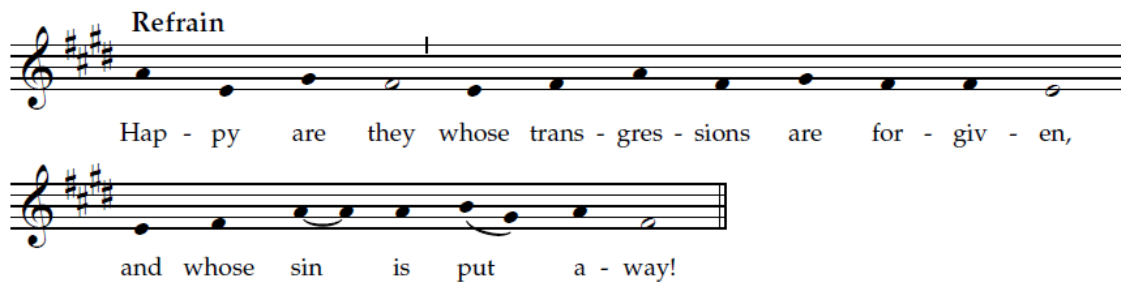
Now the serpent was more crafty than any other wild animal that the LORD God had made. He said to the woman, “Did God say, ‘You shall not eat from any tree in the garden’?” The woman said to the serpent, “We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden; but God said, ‘You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the middle of the garden, nor shall you touch it, or you shall die.’” But the serpent said to the woman, “You will not die; for God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.” So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate; and she also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate. Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made loincloths for themselves.

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

THE RESPONSE

Psalm 32

Beati quorum



- 1 Happy are they whose transgressions are forgiven, *
and whose sin is put away!
- 2 Happy are they to whom the LORD imputes no guilt, *
and in whose spirit there is no guile! **Refrain**
- 3 While I held my tongue, my bones withered away, *
because of my groaning all day long.
- 4 For your hand was heavy upon me day and night; *
my moisture was dried up as in the heat of summer. **Refrain**
- 5 Then I acknowledged my sin to you, *
and did not conceal my guilt.
- 6 I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the LORD." *
Then you forgave me the guilt of my sin.
- 7 Therefore all the faithful will make their prayers to you in time of trouble; *
when the great waters overflow, they shall not reach them.
- 8 You are my hiding-place;
you preserve me from trouble; *
you surround me with shouts of deliverance. **Refrain**
- 9 "I will instruct you and teach you in the way that you should go; *
I will guide you with my eye. **Refrain**

- 11 Great are the tribulations of the wicked; *
 but mercy embraces those who trust in the LORD.
 12 Be glad, you righteous, and rejoice in the LORD; *
 shout for joy, all who are true of heart. **Refrain**

THE EPISTLE • 2 Romans 5:12-19

Lector A reading from Paul's letter to the Romans.
 As sin came into the world through one man, and death came through sin, and so death spread to all because all have sinned-- sin was indeed in the world before the law, but sin is not reckoned when there is no law. Yet death exercised dominion from Adam to Moses, even over those whose sins were not like the transgression of Adam, who is a type of the one who was to come.

But the free gift is not like the trespass. For if the many died through the one man's trespass, much more surely have the grace of God and the free gift in the grace of the one man, Jesus Christ, abounded for the many. And the free gift is not like the effect of the one man's sin. For the judgment following one trespass brought condemnation, but the free gift following many trespasses brings justification. If, because of the one man's trespass, death exercised dominion through that one, much more surely will those who receive the abundance of grace and the free gift of righteousness exercise dominion in life through the one man, Jesus Christ.

Therefore just as one man's trespass led to condemnation for all, so one man's act of righteousness leads to justification and life for all. For just as by the one man's disobedience the many were made sinners, so by the one man's obedience the many will be made righteous.

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

The people are invited to stand

GRADUAL HYMN 635 • "If thou but trust God to guide thee"

Wer nur den lieben Gott

Please remain standing

THE HOLY GOSPEL • Matthew 4:1-11

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

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

Celebrant Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. He fasted forty days and forty nights, and afterwards he was famished. The tempter came and said to him, "If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread." But he answered, "It is written,

'One does not live by bread alone,

but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.'"

Then the devil took him to the holy city and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple, saying to him, "If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down; for it is written,

'He will command his angels concerning you,'

and 'On their hands they will bear you up,

so that you will not dash your foot against a stone.'"

Jesus said to him, "Again it is written, 'Do not put the Lord your God to the test.'"

Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendor; and he said to him, "All these I will give you, if you

will fall down and worship me.” Jesus said to him, “Away with you, Satan! for it is written,

‘Worship the Lord your God,
and serve only him.’”

Then the devil left him, and suddenly angels came and waited on him.

Celebrant
People

The Gospel of the Lord

Praise to you, Lord Christ.

Please be seated.

SERMON RESISTANCE AND TRANSFORMATION, PART 2

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

Let all people, no matter where they live, or the creator they believe in, follow your commandment to love one another.

The people add their own prayers, silently or aloud.

Our help comes from the Lord: **The maker of heaven and earth.**

Let our government leaders work to satisfy those in need.

Let our faith leaders provide us with the spiritual nourishment we require.

The people add their own prayers, silently or aloud.

Our help comes from the Lord: **The maker of heaven and earth.**

Let us appreciate the blessings of the earth and faithfully till it and keep it.

The people add their own prayers, silently or aloud.

Our help comes from the Lord: **The maker of heaven and earth.**

Show us the path to peace for all nations and a just resolution to the conflicts in the Middle East, Africa, and Ukraine.

The people add their own prayers, silently or aloud.

Our help comes from the Lord: **The maker of heaven and earth.**

Show us the face of the hungry, the homeless, and the suffering, and how best to provide comfort.

We pray especially for *n.*, and those we name silently or aloud.

The people add their own prayers, silently or aloud.

Our help comes from the Lord: **The maker of heaven and earth.**

Show us how to console the grieving. Let angels come and wait on those who have been taken from us.

We pray for those who have died, especially *n.*, and those we name silently or aloud.

The people add their own prayers, silently or aloud.

Our help comes from the Lord: **The maker of heaven and earth.**

The Celebrant adds a concluding prayer.

CONFESSION

The people are invited to sit / kneel.

Officiant
All

Let us confess our sins to God.

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

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.**

The People are invited to sit.

AN ANTHEM

English Traditional Tune
Arr. by John Brian McAnuff (b.1936)

This is the truth sent from above, the truth of God the God of love, therefore don't turn me from your door, but hearken all both rich and poor. The first thing which I do relate is that our God did man create; the next thing which to you I'll tell is woman was made with man to dwell. Thus we were heirs to endless woes, till God the Lord did interpose; and so a promise soon did run, he would redeem us by his Son. Thus at the season of the year, our blest Redeemer did appear; he here did live, and here did preach, and many, many thousands he did teach. Thus he in love to us behaved, to show us how we must be saved; and if you want to know the way, be pleased to hear what he did say. This is the truth sent from above, praise God for all his love.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING, Eucharist Prayer C

Celebrant The Lord be with you. *People* And al - so with you.

Celebrant Lift up your hearts. *People* We lift them to the Lord.

Celebrant Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People It is right to give him thanks and praise.

Celebrant God of all power, Ruler of the Universe, you are worthy of glory and praise.

People **Glory to you for ever and ever.**

Celebrant At your command all things came to be: the vast expanse of interstellar space, galaxies, suns, the planets in their courses, and this fragile earth, our island home.

People **By your will they were created and have their being.**

Celebrant From the primal elements you brought forth the human race, and blessed us with memory, reason, and skill. You made us the rulers of creation. But we turned against you, and betrayed your trust; and we turned against one another.

People **Have mercy, Lord, for we are sinners in your sight.**

Celebrant

Again and again, you called us to return. Through prophets and sages you revealed your righteous Law. And in the fullness of time you sent your only Son, born of a woman, to fulfill your Law, to open for us the way of freedom and peace.

People

By his blood, he reconciled us. By his wounds, we are healed.

Celebrant

And therefore we praise you, joining with the heavenly chorus, with prophets, apostles, and martyrs, and with all those in every generation who have looked to you in hope, to proclaim with them your glory, in their unending hymn:

SANCTUS AND BENEDICTUS

William Bradley Roberts (b.1947)

The musical score is written for a choir or congregation, featuring a soprano line (treble clef) and a bass line (bass clef). The key signature is one sharp (F#), and the time signature is 3/4. The lyrics are: "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. Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san-na in the high - est." The score consists of five systems of music, each with a vocal line and a piano accompaniment line. The piano accompaniment is written in a simple, harmonic style, often using chords and single notes. The vocal line is written in a simple, melodic style, often using whole and half notes. The lyrics are written below the vocal line, with hyphens indicating syllables that span across notes.

Celebrant

And so, Father, we who have been redeemed by him, and made a new people by water and the Spirit, now bring before you these gifts. Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ our Lord.

On the night he was betrayed he took bread, said the blessing, broke the bread, and gave it to his friends, 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, gave thanks, 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."

Remembering now his work of redemption, and offering to you this sacrifice of thanksgiving,

All

We celebrate his death and resurrection, as we await the day of his coming.

Celebrant

Lord God of our Fathers and Mothers: God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob; God of Sarah, Ruth and Mary, God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ: Open our eyes to see your hand at work in the world about us. Deliver us from the presumption of coming to this Table for solace only, and not for strength; for pardon only, and not for renewal. Let the grace of this Holy Communion make us one body, one spirit in Christ, that we may worthily serve the world in his name.

All

Risen Lord, be known to us in the breaking of the Bread.

Celebrant

Accept these prayers and praises, Father, through Jesus Christ our great High Priest, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, your Church gives honor, glory, and worship, from generation to generation.

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

The breaking of the bread symbolizes 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 saying the Fraction Anthem.

FRACTION ANTHEM

Hymnal S-161

from New Plainsong, David Hurd (b. 1950)

The letter 'S' before a music selection indicates it will be found in the front section of the hymnal, known as the Service Music.

The people are invited to be seated.

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. Gluten-free wafers are available. Please ask the communion minister. The sacrament of communion is complete if the bread or wine is received; it is not necessary to receive both.

COMMUNION ANTHEM

Herbert Howells (1892-1983)

Like as the hart desireth the water-brooks, so longeth my soul after thee, O God. My soul is athirst for God, yea, even for the living God: when shall I come to appear before the presence of God? My tears have been my meat day and night, while they daily say unto me, Where is now thy God? My tears have been my meat day and night.

COMMUNION HYMN 325 • “Let us break bread together ”

Let us break bread

The People are invited to stand.

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

Officiant
All

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.

BLESSING

HYMN 449 • “O love, how deep, how broad, how high”

Deo gracias

ANNOUNCEMENTS

DISMISSAL

People: **Thanks be to God.**

ORGAN VOLUNTARY • *Voluntary*

Flor Peeters (1883-1973)

Please Keep These People in Your Prayers

Destany W., Sandi Y., Sylvia L., Patty G., Barbara B., Margie H. and Christian M.

For those who have died:

Our thanks today for the...

Altar Guild: Ellyn Hass & Sue Stinson

Lay Readers: Robert Wagner

Ushers: Amy Mangram with Derina Samuel & Roy Thomas

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Prayers of the People were written by St. Paul's prayer leaders.

The Collect of the Day is taken from “Prayers for an Inclusive Church, 2009.”

Announcements

- * Our Lent *SPC Readers* Group begins tomorrow, February 23rd. Our book for Lent is *Life Together* by Dietrich Bonhoeffer. Please contact Fr. Philip or Georgette Schmidt for more information.
- * Each Wednesday in Lent our lay leaders will host a Noonday Prayer worship service in the Chancel at 12:10. Please enter through the Parking Lot door.
- * This week's Noonday Prayer service will be followed by a soup lunch in the Brewster Room.
- * During the first week in March the floors in the Hansen and Brewster Rooms will be refinished. From March 2nd-6th, access to the Parish House, aside from the Choir Room, will be restricted.
- * We have a few extra folding chairs to give away. Please feel free to take one or two from the back of the nave. (Not from the dining room)

Understanding Episcopal Liturgy

#26. Why don't we use the word 'Alleluia' in worship during Lent?

The Book of Common Prayer instructs us to omit the word 'Alleluia' from our liturgy during Lent. (See p. 364.) We do this in order to nudge our liturgy in a more reflective, contemplative direction.

As with many other aspects of our liturgical calendar, it helps us to have seasons of absence in order to appreciate the meaning and importance of different parts of the liturgy.

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

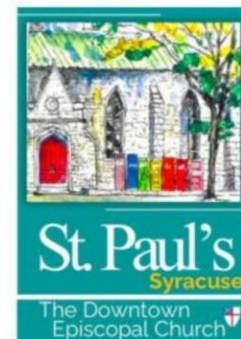
Staff

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



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