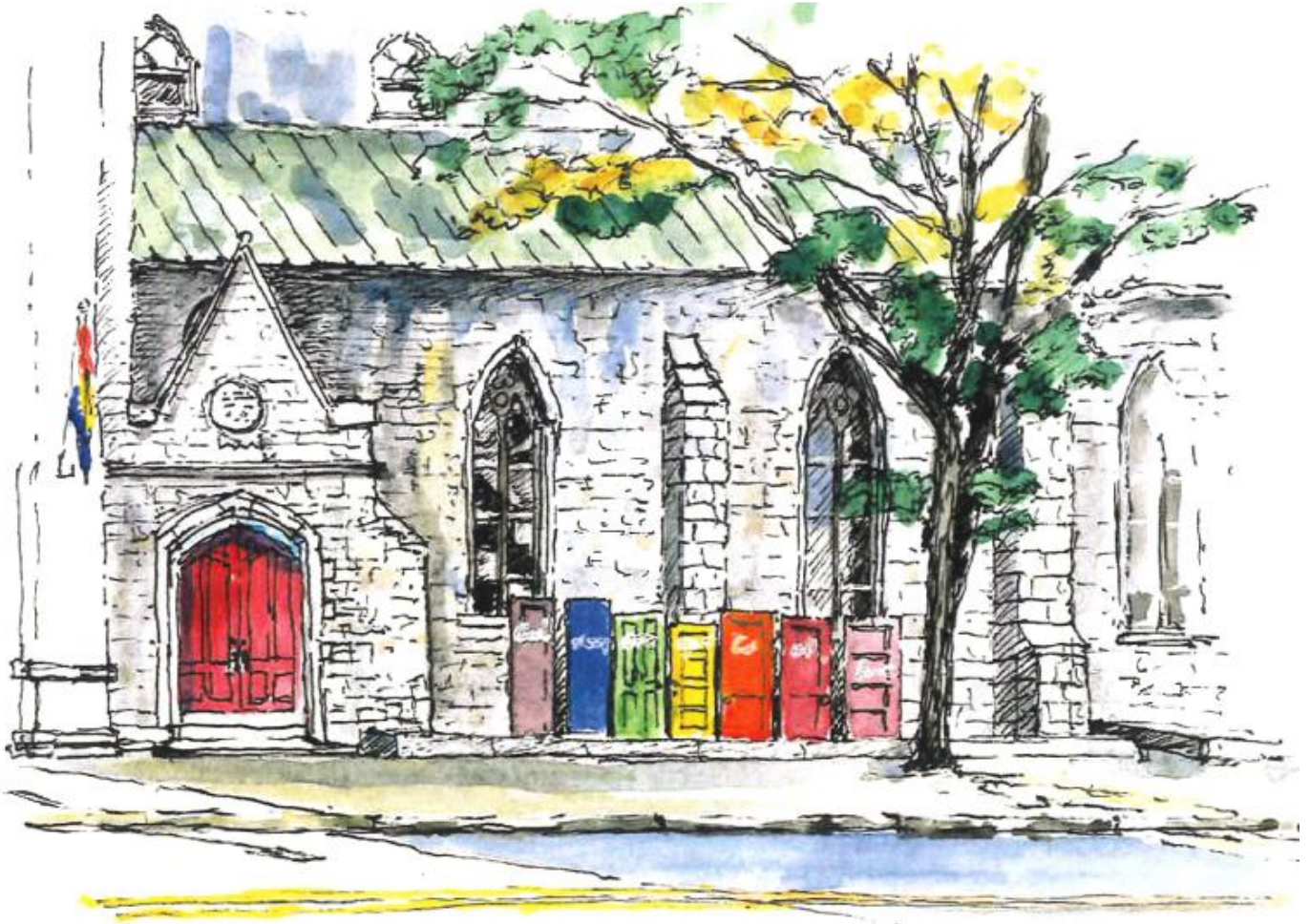




St. Paul's
Syracuse

The Downtown
Episcopal Church



"GOD'S DOORS ARE OPEN TO ALL. LOVE

W. ELKINS

DECEMBER 7, 2025
8:00 AM AND 10:00 AM
THE SECOND SUNDAY OF 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: *Nun komm der Heiden Heiland*, BWV 659
("Savior of the nations, come")

J. S. Bach (1685-1750)

The people are invited to stand.

HYMN 75 • "There's a voice in the wilderness crying"

Ascension

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" (v 3&4)

Veni, veni Emmanuel

COLLECT OF THE DAY

Celebrant The Lord be with you

People **And also with you.**

Celebrant Let us pray.

Merciful God, who sent your messengers the prophets to preach repentance and prepare the way for our salvation: Give us grace to heed their warnings and forsake our sins, that we may greet with joy the coming of Jesus Christ our Redeemer; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

All **Amen.**

Please be seated.

LESSON • Isaiah 11:1-10

Lector A reading from the Prophet Isaiah.

A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse,
and a branch shall grow out of his roots.

The spirit of the LORD shall rest on him,
the spirit of wisdom and understanding,
the spirit of counsel and might,
the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD.

His delight shall be in the fear of the LORD.

He shall not judge by what his eyes see,
or decide by what his ears hear;

but with righteousness he shall judge the poor,
and decide with equity for the meek of the earth;
he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth,
and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked.

Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist,
and faithfulness the belt around his loins.

The wolf shall live with the lamb,
the leopard shall lie down with the kid,

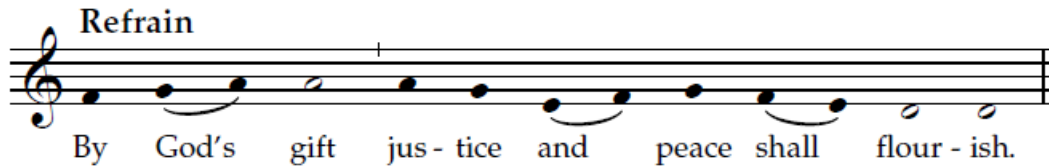
the calf and the lion and the fatling together,
 and a little child shall lead them.
 The cow and the bear shall graze,
 their young shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox.
 The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp,
 and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den.
 They will not hurt or destroy
 on all my holy mountain;
 for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the LORD
 as the waters cover the sea.
 On that day the root of Jesse shall stand as a signal to the peoples; the nations shall
 inquire of him, and his dwelling shall be glorious.
 Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.
Thanks be to God.

Lector
People

THE RESPONSE –

Psalm 72 *Deus, iudicium*

Mode 1



Give the King your justice, O God, and your righteousness to the King's Son; That he may rule your people righteously and the poor with justice; That the mountains may bring prosperity to the people, and the little hills bring righteousness. **Refrain**

He shall defend the needy among the people; he shall rescue the poor and crush the oppressor. He shall live as long as the sun and moon endure, from one generation to another. He shall come down like rain upon the mown field, like showers that water the earth. **Refrain**

In his time shall the righteous flourish; there shall be abundance of peace till the moon shall be no more. **Refrain**

Blessed be the Lord GOD, the God of Israel, who alone does wondrous deeds! And blessed be his glorious Name for ever! and may all the earth be filled with his glory. Amen. Amen. **Refrain**

EPISTLE • Romans 15:4-13

Lector

A reading from the letter to the Colossians.

Whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, so that by steadfastness and by the encouragement of the scriptures we might have hope. May the God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in harmony with one another, in accordance with Christ Jesus, so that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Welcome one another, therefore, just as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God. For I tell you that Christ has become a servant of the circumcised on behalf of the truth of God in order that he might confirm the promises given to the patriarchs, and in order that the Gentiles might glorify God for his mercy. As it is written,

"Therefore I will confess you among the Gentiles,
 and sing praises to your name";

and again he says,

"Rejoice, O Gentiles, with his people";
 and again,
 "Praise the Lord, all you Gentiles,
 and let all the peoples praise him";
 and again Isaiah says,
 "The root of Jesse shall come,
 the one who rises to rule the Gentiles;
 in him the Gentiles shall hope."

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may
 abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

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

Lector
People

Thanks be to God.

The people are invited to stand.

GRADUAL HYMN 723 • "Isaiah the prophet has written of old"

Samanthra



1. I - sa - iah the proph - et has writ - ten of old how
 2. Yet na - tions still prey on the meek of the world. And

God's earth - ly king - dom shall come. In - stead of the thorn tree the
 con - flict turns par - ent from child. Your peo - ple de - spoil all the

fir tree shall grow; the wolf shall lie down with the lamb. The
 sweet - ness of earth; the brier and the thorn grow wild. Lord,

moun - tains and hills shall break forth in - to song, The
 has - ten to bring in your king - dom on earth, when



HOLY GOSPEL • Matthew 3:1-12

Celebrant

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

People

Glory to you, Lord Christ.

Celebrant

In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near." This is the one of whom the prophet Isaiah spoke when he said,

"The voice of one crying out in the wilderness:

'Prepare the way of the Lord,
make his paths straight.'"

Now John wore clothing of camel's hair with a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. Then the people of Jerusalem and all Judea were going out to him, and all the region along the Jordan, and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins.

But when he saw many Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism, he said to them, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bear fruit worthy of repentance. Do not presume to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our ancestor'; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.

"I baptize you with water for repentance, but one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor and will gather his wheat into the granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire."

Celebrant

The Gospel of our Lord Jesus.

People

Praise to you, Lord Christ.

Please be seated.

SERMON

A brief silence follows the sermon.

The Rev. Philip Major

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

Spirit of wisdom and understanding, you have anointed Christ to judge with righteousness and guide your people in truth. Strengthen your Church throughout the world. We pray especially for Sara, Archbishop of Canterbury, Sean, our Presiding Bishop, Dede, our Bishop, Philip, our Rector, and all the people of St. Paul's. May we bear the fruits of your Spirit and become signs of your coming kingdom.

The people add their own prayers, silently or aloud.

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

God of justice, you care for the poor and defend the cause of the outcasts. Guide all who hold authority to rule with compassion, integrity, and humility. In a world of conflict, make leaders instruments of your peace.

The people add their own prayers, silently or aloud.

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

Root of Jesse, you draw the nations to yourself. Bring your healing where violence, hatred, and fear divide your children. Give us hope that is stronger than suspicion, and unity deeper than our differences.

The people add their own prayers, silently or aloud.

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

God of endurance and encouragement, teach us to live in harmony with one another. Bless this parish and the people of Syracuse. May our words and actions welcome all as Christ has welcomed us. Make our community a place where the wolf and the lamb may rest together, and where your peace is known.

The people add their own prayers, silently or aloud.

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

God of mercy, you care for the weak and rescue the poor when they cry to you. Bring comfort to all who are sick, and restore those who are spiritually weary. We pray especially for *n.* and those we name silently or aloud.

The people add their own prayers, silently or aloud.

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

God of eternal life, your saints now rejoice in the fullness of your kingdom. We remember those who have died and all who are grieving. We pray especially for *n.* and those we name silently or aloud.

The people add their own prayers, silently or aloud.

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 *Jesus Christ the Apple Tree*

Derek Homan (1931-2019)

The tree of life my soul hath seen, laden with fruit, and always green: the trees of nature fruitless be compared with Christ, the apple tree. His beauty doth all things excel: by faith I know, but ne'er can tell, the glory which I now can see in Jesus Christ the apple tree. For happiness I long have sought, and pleasure dearly I have bought: I missed of all; but now I see 'tis found in Christ the apple tree. I'm weary with my former toil, here I will sit and rest awhile: under the shadow I will be, of Jesus Christ, the apple tree. This fruit doth make my soul to thrive, it keeps my dying faith alive; which makes my soul in haste to be with Jesus Christ, the apple tree.

The people are invited to stand

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING, Eucharist 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:

8:00 **Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.**

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."

All

Therefore, according to his command, O Father

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.

Celebrant

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

THE LORD'S PRAYER

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 the singing of the Fraction Anthem.

FRACTION

8:00

Celebrant

Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

People

Therefore, let us keep the feast, Alleluia.

10:00 Hymnal S-154

From *New Plainsong*; David Hurd (b.1950)

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.

During the distribution of communion, Prayers for Healing and Wholeness may be offered at the Peace Altar.

COMMUNION HYMN • 54 “Savior of the nations, come!”

Nun komm, der Heiden Heiland

The People are invited to stand.

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 67 • “Comfort, comfort ye my people”

Psalm 42

DISMISSAL

People:

Thanks be to God. Alleluia! Alleluia!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

POSTLUDE • *Nun komm der Heiden Heiland*, BWV 661

Johann Sebastian Bach

(Cantus firmus in the Pedal)

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

Please Keep These People in Your Prayers:

Destany W., Anne D., and Stephanie B.

We remember those who have died in recent days.

The greens on the altar are given to the glory of God.

Our thanks today for the...

Altar Guild: Georgette & Tim Schmidt

Lay Reader: Unknown / Jim Doyle

Ushers: Amy Mangram / Anita & Robert Wagner

Flowers: Flower Guild

Announcements

- * St. Paul's Pastoral Care Team meets this morning in the Brewster Room at 11:30. The topic for this month's meeting is *Green Light for a Conversation*. All who are interested in Pastoral Care are welcome to join us!
- * You can read all the latest news and announcements from St. Paul's in the December issue of *The Courier*. Full-color print copies are available in the back of the Nave.
- * Annual Reports are due on Tuesday, December 16th. Please send the final version of your report to Judy in *Word* or another commonly used format at offices@stpaulsyr.org.

Understanding Episcopal Liturgy

#18. Why do we use purple as the color for Advent?

It was very expensive to create purple cloth in the ancient world. Purple cloth was most often worn by queens, kings, princes, and princesses. In some places, only members of the royal family were permitted to wear the color purple. So we wear purple stoles and cover the altar with purple cloth during Advent because we are preparing for the coming of our king, Christ Jesus.

*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 +*



**HEARING LOOP
INSTALLED**

Switch Hearing Aid to T-Coil

Officers

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

2025

Vestry & Team Leaders

2025: Matthieu van der Meer, Harry Lambright, Barbara Bell
2026: Jeanne Chu, Tim Cassavaw, DJ Igelsrud
2027: Willson Cummer, Joe Russo, Tim Simmons
Finance Committee Chairperson: David Ridings
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: Elizabeth Belden-Handler
Buildings & Grounds Chair: Bill Pitcher
Office Volunteers: Liz Handler, Kira Dirghalli, Betsy Elkins, Sandi Yingling

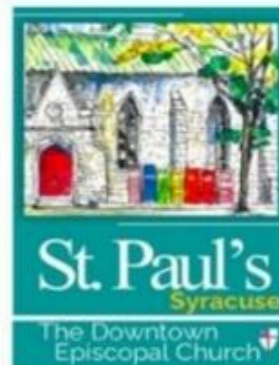
Staff

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



St. Paul's Episcopal Church

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