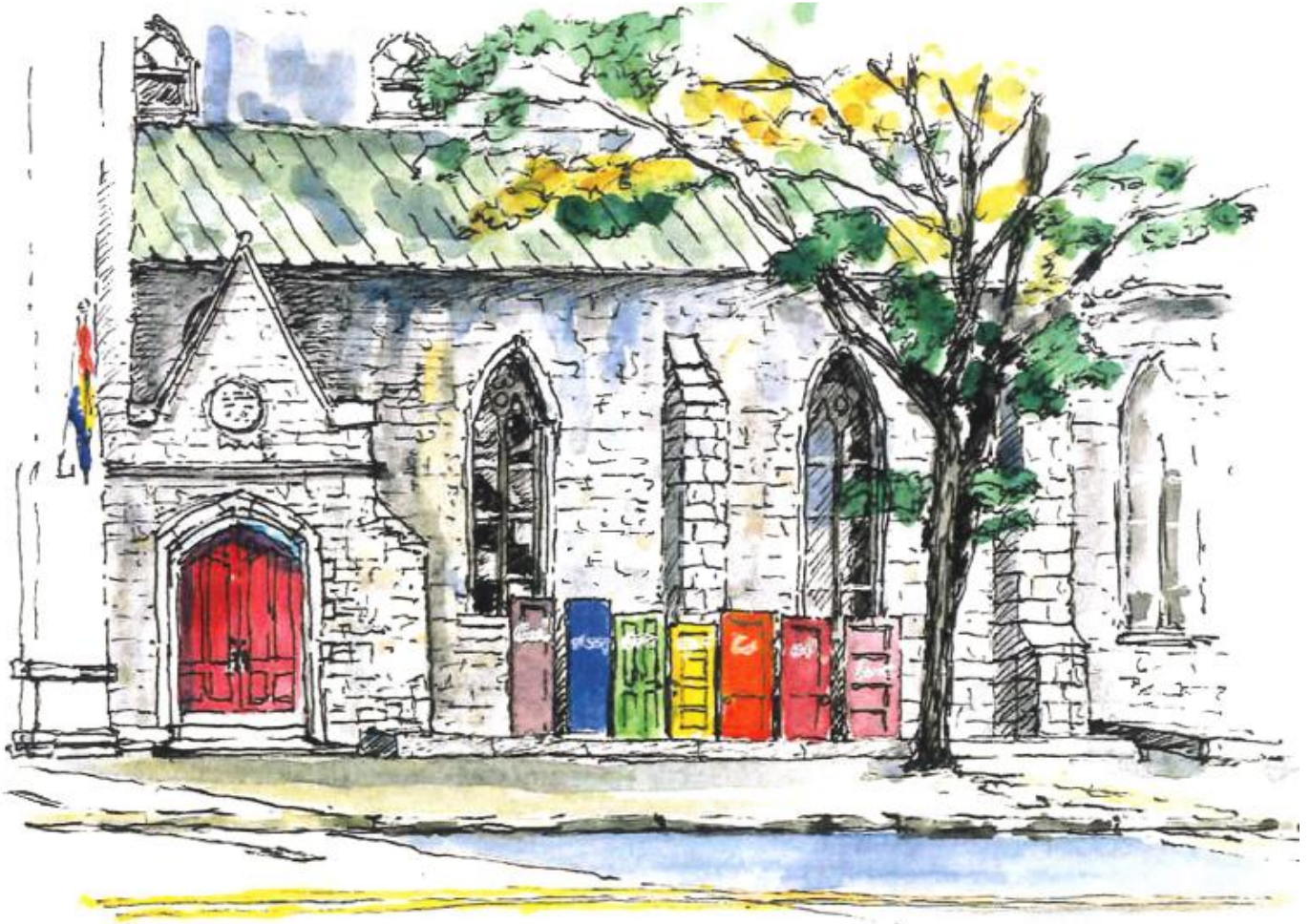




St. Paul's
Syracuse

The Downtown
Episcopal Church



"GOD'S DOORS ARE OPEN TO ALL. LOVE

W. ELKINS

NOVEMBER 30, 2025
10:00 AM
THE FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT



Understanding Episcopal Liturgy

#22. What is the reason we are saying this new form of The Lord's Prayer?

For the past six months we have been using an older form of *The Lord's Prayer*. The old form is almost identical to the language found in the King James Bible of 1611.

Our use of *The Lord's Prayer* is based on the version found in Matthew 6. There are several newer versions of *The Lord's Prayer* in a variety of Bible translations. For the next several months we will be using a newer, more literal translation based on the *New Revised Standard Version* (NRSV) and found in the 1979 *Book of Common Prayer* (page 364).

Even though the newer form of *The Lord's Prayer* is less familiar and requires more effort for some of us, we have two good reasons for learning it and using it in our worship services. First, it corrects a poor translation of the Greek word *peirasmós*, which was translated in 1611 with the phrase 'Lead us not into temptation.'. *Peirasmós* is correctly understood as a time of challenge or trial. So the newer translation of *The Lord's Prayer* uses the phrase 'Save us from the time of trial.' There is a change in meaning which is important.

Second, the newer translation (which is more than 40 years old) was affirmed by religious leaders and scholars from many different Christian traditions, including Episcopalian, Lutheran, Methodist, Presbyterian, and Roman Catholic Christians. By using the newer form of *The Lord's Prayer* we are taking a step towards being more welcoming to those who come from diverse Christian traditions.

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 +

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)
("Sleepers, wake! A voice astounds us")

The people are invited to stand.

HYMN 68 • "Rejoice! Rejoice, believers"

Llangloffan

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 1&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 2:1-5

Lector A reading from the Prophet Isaiah.

The word that Isaiah son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem.

In days to come

the mountain of the LORD's house
shall be established as the highest of the mountains,
and shall be raised above the hills;
all the nations shall stream to it.

Many peoples shall come and say,
'Come, let us go up to the mountain of the LORD,
to the house of the God of Jacob;
that he may teach us his ways
and that we may walk in his paths.'

For out of Zion shall go forth instruction,
and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem.

He shall judge between the nations,
and shall arbitrate for many peoples;

they shall beat their swords into ploughshares,
and their spears into pruning-hooks;
nation shall not lift up sword against nation,
neither shall they learn war any more.

O house of Jacob,
come, let us walk
in the light of the LORD!

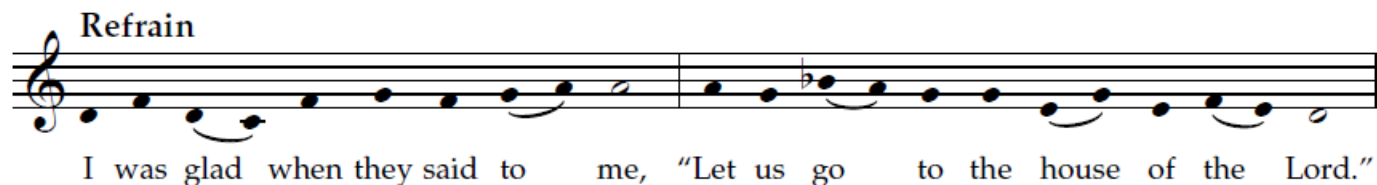
Lector Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

People **Thanks be to God.**

THE RESPONSE –

Psalm 122 *Laetatus sum*

Mode 1



I was glad when they said to me, "Let us go to the house of the LORD." Now our feet are standing within your gates, O Jerusalem. **Refrain**

Jerusalem is built as a city that is at unity with itself; To which the tribes go up, the tribes of the LORD, the assembly of Israel, to praise the Name of the LORD. For there are the thrones of judgment, the thrones of the house of David. **Refrain**

Pray for the peace of Jerusalem: "May they prosper who love you. Peace be within your walls and quietness within your towers. **Refrain**

For my brethren and companions' sake, I pray for your prosperity. Because of the house of the LORD our God, I will seek to do you good." **Refrain**

EPISTLE • Romans 13:11-14

Lector A reading from the letter to the Colossians.

Owe no one anything, except to love one another; for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law. The commandments, 'You shall not commit adultery; You shall not murder; You shall not steal; You shall not covet'; and any other commandment, are summed up in this word, 'Love your neighbour as yourself.' Love does no wrong to a neighbour; therefore, love is the fulfilling of the law.

Besides this, you know what time it is, how it is now the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; the night is far gone, the day is near. Let us then lay aside the works of darkness and put on the armour of light; let us live honourably as in the day, not in reveling and drunkenness, not in debauchery and licentiousness, not in quarrelling and jealousy. Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

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

People **Thanks be to God.**

The people are invited to stand.

GRADUAL HYMN 617 • "Eternal Ruler of the ceaseless round"

Song 1

HOLY GOSPEL • Matthew 24:36-44

Celebrant

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

People

Glory to you, Lord Christ.

Celebrant

Jesus said to the disciples, “But about that day and hour no one knows, neither the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. For as the days of Noah were, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. For as in those days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day Noah entered the ark, and they knew nothing until the flood came and swept them all away, so too will be the coming of the Son of Man. Then two will be in the field; one will be taken and one will be left. Two women will be grinding meal together; one will be taken and one will be left. Keep awake therefore, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming. But understand this: if the owner of the house had known in what part of the night the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake and would not have let his house be broken into. Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an unexpected 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

We pray for the Church and the world.

Let us walk in the light of the Lord.

As Isaiah saw the nations streaming toward Your holy mountain, we long for a world where swords are beaten into plowshares and spears into pruning hooks.

The people add their own prayers, silently or aloud.

Awaken us from sleep and clothe us in the armor of light.

Let us walk in the light of the Lord.

We pray for Your holy Church, for Sara, the Archbishop of Canterbury, Sean, our Presiding Bishop, Dede, our Bishop, Philip, our Rector; and for all the people of St. Paul's.

The people add their own prayers, silently or aloud.

Lead us in the light and love of Christ.

Let us walk in the light of the Lord.

We pray for the leaders of all nations, and for all who hold authority; May they work toward peace on Earth and seek the common good.

The people add their own prayers, silently or aloud.

Guide us in the ways of justice, truth, and mercy.

Let us walk in the light of the Lord.

We pray for the city of Syracuse and all who live and work here. May there be peace within our neighborhoods.

The people add their own prayers, silently or aloud.

Strengthen us to serve and care for one another.

Let us walk in the light of the Lord.

We pray for the good earth which You have given us, and for the wisdom and will to be faithful stewards of it.

The people add their own prayers, silently or aloud.

Teach us to live in reverence for Your creation.

Let us walk in the light of the Lord.

We remember the poor, the lonely, and the outcast, and all who face hardship and injustice. We pray for the sick, the infirm, and all who suffer in body, mind, or spirit, especially *n.* and those we name silently or aloud.

The people add their own prayers, silently or aloud.

Give us hope and courage in times of trial.

Let us walk in the light of the Lord.

We commend to Your care all who have died, especially *n.* and we pray for those who mourn, that they may be comforted.

The people add their own prayers, silently or aloud.

May the souls of the departed rest in peace and rise again in glory.

Let us walk in the light of the Lord.

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
People

The peace of the Lord be always with you.
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
People

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

The People are invited to sit.

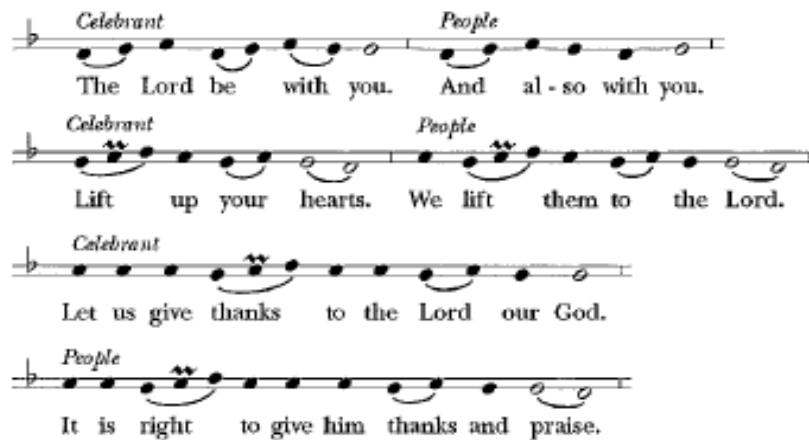
AN ANTHEM

Spiritual, arr. H. T. Burleigh (1866-1949)

My Lord what a morning, when the stars begin to fall. Done quit all my worldly ways, join that heavenly band, Oh! my Lord what a morning...

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:

10:00 Hymnal S-124

David Hurd (b.1950)

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

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 • 497 “How bright appears the Morning Star”

Wie schön leuchtet

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 61 • “Sleepers, wake! A voice astounds us”

Wachet auf

DISMISSAL

People:

Thanks be to God. Alleluia! Alleluia!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

POSTLUDE • Chorale Prelude on *Wie schön leuchtet*

Johann Pachelbel (1653-1706)

Please Keep These People in Your Prayers:

Destany W. and Anne D.

We remember those who have died in recent days.

The greens on the altar are given to the glory of God, and in memory of the Rev. George Dirghalli, born this day.

Our thanks today for the...

Altar Guild: Fr. Philip

Lay Reader: Anita Wagner

Ushers: Joseph Von Souder

Flowers: Tim Cassavaw & Jim Potts

Announcements

* Join us this afternoon at 4 p.m. for Advent Lessons & Carols, led by St. Paul's Choir and Choirmaster Jim Potts.

* Our nominations committee continues to collect suggestions for nominees for the 2026 Class of St. Paul's Vestry. Please speak with Ieva Doyle, our Jr. Warden, for more information.

* St. Paul's Pastoral Care Team meets next Sunday, December 7th 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.

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 Cumber, 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

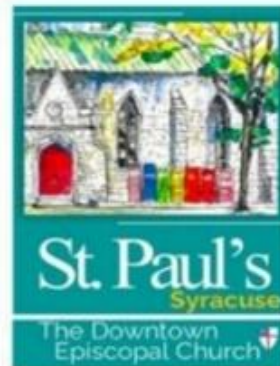
Staff

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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