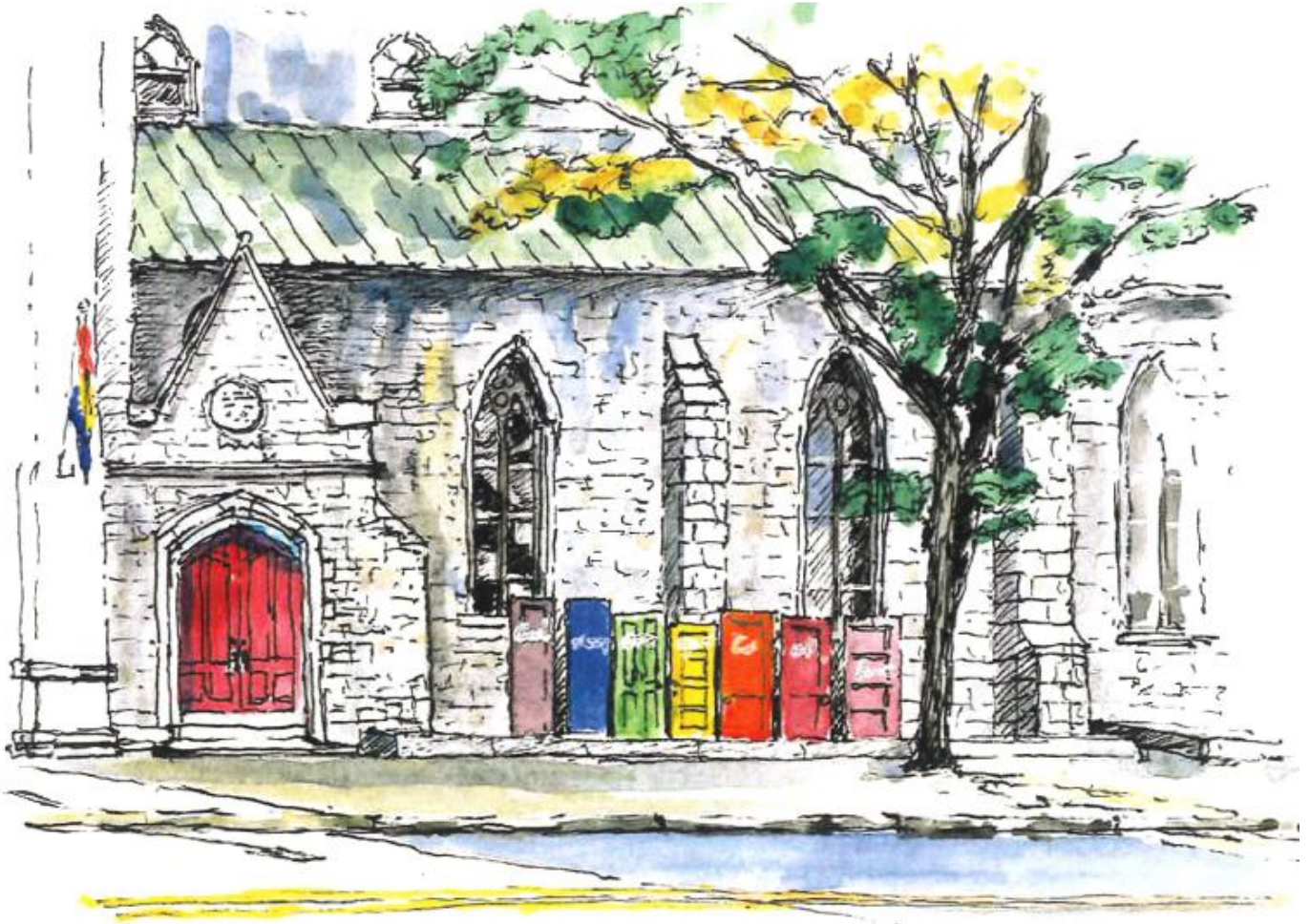




St. Paul's
Syracuse

The Downtown
Episcopal Church



"GOD'S DOORS ARE OPEN TO ALL. LOVE

W. ELKINS

FEBRUARY 15, 2026
THE LAST SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY
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 • *Liebster Jesu, wir sind hier*, BWV 731 Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750)

The people are invited to stand

HYMN 629 • “We limit not the truth of God”

Halifax

Celebrant Blessed be the one, holy and living God.

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

CANTICLE 12: A Song of Creation – *Benedicite, omnia opera Domini*

Verses 1, 3 & 4

1. O all ye works of God now come to
2. O sun and moon and stars of heav'n your
3. O heat and cold, O night and day, O
4. O earth and sea, O all that live in
5. O let his peo - ple bless the Lord like

thank him and a - dore; O an - gels sing and
end - less praise out - pour; O chang - ing sea - sons,
storms and thund - er's roar, O fields and for - ests,
wa - ter or on shore, O men and wo - men
right - eous souls of yore; let those of ho - ly,

1.- 4.

bless the Lord and praise him ev - er - more.
 bless the Lord and praise him ev - er - more.
 bless the Lord and praise him ev - er - more.
 bless the Lord and praise him ev - er - more.
 hum - ble heart come praise him ev - er - more.

5.

ev - er - more.

COLLECT OF THE DAY

Celebrant

The Lord be with you

People

And also with you.

Celebrant

Let us pray.

O God, who before the passion of your only begotten Son revealed his glory upon the holy mountain: Grant to us that we, beholding by faith the light of his countenance, may be strengthened to bear our cross, and be changed into his likeness from glory to glory; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

All

Amen.

Please be seated

THE LESSON • Exodus 24:12-18

Lector

A reading from the book of Exodus.

The LORD said to Moses, "Come up to me on the mountain, and wait there; and I will give you the tablets of stone, with the law and the commandment, which I have written for their instruction." So Moses set out with his assistant Joshua, and Moses went up into the mountain of God. To the elders he had said, "Wait here for us, until we come to you again; for Aaron and Hur are with you; whoever has a dispute may go to them."

Then Moses went up on the mountain, and the cloud covered the mountain. The glory of the LORD settled on Mount Sinai, and the cloud covered it for six days; on the seventh day he called to Moses out of the cloud. Now the appearance of the glory of the LORD was like a devouring fire on the top of the mountain in the sight of the people

of Israel. Moses entered the cloud, and went up on the mountain. Moses was on the mountain for forty days and forty nights.

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

THE RESPONSE

Psalm 2 *Quare fremuerunt gentes?*

- 1 Why are the nations in an uproar? *
Why do the peoples mutter empty threats?
- 2 Why do the kings of the earth rise up in revolt,
and the princes plot together, *
against the LORD and against his Anointed?
- 3 "Let us break their yoke," they say; *
"let us cast off their bonds from us."
- 4 He whose throne is in heaven is laughing; *
the Lord has them in derision.
- 5 Then he speaks to them in his wrath, *
and his rage fills them with terror.
- 6 "I myself have set my king *
upon my holy hill of Zion."
- 7 Let me announce the decree of the LORD: *
he said to me, "You are my Son;
this day have I begotten you.
- 8 Ask of me, and I will give you the nations for your inheritance *
and the ends of the earth for your possession.
- 9 You shall crush them with an iron rod *
and shatter them like a piece of pottery."
- 10 And now, you kings, be wise; *
be warned, you rulers of the earth.
- 11 Submit to the LORD with fear, *
and with trembling bow before him;
- 12 Lest he be angry and you perish; *
for his wrath is quickly kindled.
- 13 Happy are they all *
who take refuge in him!

THE EPISTLE • 2 Peter 1:16-21

Lector A reading from the second book of Peter.
We did not follow cleverly devised myths when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but we had been eyewitnesses of his majesty. For he received honor and glory from God the Father when that voice was conveyed to him by the Majestic Glory, saying, "This is my Son, my Beloved, with whom I am well pleased." We ourselves heard this voice come from heaven, while we were with him on the holy mountain.

So we have the prophetic message more fully confirmed. You will do well to be attentive to this as to a lamp shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts. First of all you must understand this, that no prophecy of scripture is a matter of one's own interpretation, because no prophecy

ever came by human will, but men and women moved by the Holy Spirit spoke from God.

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

The people are invited to stand

GRADUAL HYMN 698 • "Eternal Spirit of the living Christ"

Flentge

Please remain standing

THE HOLY GOSPEL • Matthew 17:1-9

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

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

Celebrant Six days later, Jesus took with him Peter and James and his brother John and led them up a high mountain, by themselves. And he was transfigured before them, and his face shone like the sun, and his clothes became dazzling white. Suddenly there appeared to them Moses and Elijah, talking with him. Then Peter said to Jesus, "Lord, it is good for us to be here; if you wish, I will make three dwellings here, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah." While he was still speaking, suddenly a bright cloud overshadowed them, and from the cloud a voice said, "This is my Son, the Beloved; with him I am well pleased; listen to him!" When the disciples heard this, they fell to the ground and were overcome by fear. But Jesus came and touched them, saying, "Get up and do not be afraid." And when they looked up, they saw no one except Jesus himself alone.

As they were coming down the mountain, Jesus ordered them, "Tell no one about the vision until after the Son of Man has been raised from the dead."

Celebrant The Gospel of the Lord
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

Eternal God, we come to you on the mountaintop to experience your glory. You come to us in the valleys. We meet you in gladness as you enter our world, our lives. In our worship, encourage us on our journey as we strive to reflect your Kingdom in the world.

The people add their own prayers, silently or aloud.

Lord in Your mercy: **Hear our prayer.**

We pray for Christians everywhere who are being persecuted because of the light they bring. Give them strength to endure the hardships they are undergoing and the peace and hope of Christ as they battle on.

The people add their own prayers, silently or aloud.

Lord in Your mercy: **Hear our prayer.**

Almighty God, look with favor on your church, proclaiming your beloved Son to the world. May your church be renewed in holiness that we may reflect your glory. We pray for Sean, our Presiding Bishop, DeDe, our Bishop, Philip our Rector and for all who worship and serve at St. Paul's.

The people add their own prayers, silently or aloud.

Lord in Your mercy: **Hear our prayer.**

We pray that Christ may reveal his gracious presence to all who suffer. We pray for all who are sick or in need, especially *n.* and everyone else whose needs we hold in our hearts.

The people add their own prayers, silently or aloud.

Lord in Your mercy: **Hear our prayer.**

We pray for those of our families and friends who have passed, especially *n.* and those whose names have been forgotten. May they see God face-to-face and share in the glory of the Transfiguration.

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

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

Craig Philips (b.1962)

O burning mountain, O chosen sun, O perfect moon, O fathomless well, O unattainable height, O unattainable light, O clearness beyond all measure, O wisdom without end, O mercy without all limit, O strength beyond resistance, O crown of all majesty, All creation humbly sings your praise: Bright stars, high mountains, Depths of the seas, rushing waters, All these break into song at heaven's proclamation: This is my Son, my beloved, My chosen One. Alleluia!

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING, Eucharistic Prayer 2 from *Enriching our Worship*



Celebrant

We praise you and we bless you, holy and gracious God, source of life abundant. From before time you made ready the creation. Your Spirit moved over the deep and brought all things into being: sun, moon, and stars; earth, winds, and waters; and every living thing. You made us in your image, and taught us to walk in your ways. But we rebelled against you, and wandered far away; and yet, as a mother cares for her children, you would not forget us. Time and again you called us to live in the fullness of your love. And so this day we join with Saints and Angels in the chorus of praise that rings through eternity, lifting our voices to magnify you as we sing (say)

SANCTUS AND BENEDICTUS

Hymnal S-130

Franz Schubert (1797-1828)

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

Celebrant

Glory and honor and praise to you, holy and living God.

To deliver us from the power of sin and death and to reveal the riches of your grace, you looked with favor upon Mary, your willing servant, that she might conceive and bear a son, Jesus the holy child of God.

Living among us, Jesus loved us. He broke bread with outcasts and sinners, healed the sick, and proclaimed good news to the poor. He yearned to draw all the world to himself yet we were heedless of his call to walk in love.

Then the time came for him to complete upon the cross the sacrifice of his life, and to be glorified by you. On the night before he died for us, Jesus was at table with his friends. He took bread, gave thanks to you, broke it, and gave it to them, and said: "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

As supper was ending, Jesus took the cup of wine. Again he gave thanks to you, gave it to them, and said: "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is poured out for you and for all for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Now gathered at your table, O God of all creation, and remembering Christ crucified and risen, who was and is and is to come, we offer to you our gifts of bread and wine, and ourselves, a living sacrifice.

Pour out your Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Body and blood of Christ. Breathe your Spirit over the whole earth and make us your new creation, the Body of Christ given for the world you have made.

In the fullness of time bring us, with (— and) all your saints, from every tribe and language and people and nation, to feast at the banquet prepared from the foundation of the world.

Through Christ and with Christ and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, to you be honor, glory, and praise, for ever and ever.

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-164

Franz Schubert (1797-1828)

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

T. Frederick H. Candlyn (1892-1964)

Thee we adore, O hidden Saviour, Thee, who in thy sacrament art pleased to be; both flesh and spirit in Thy presence fail. Yet here Thy presence we devoutly hail. O blest memorial of our dying Lord, who living bread to men doth here afford! O may our souls for ever feed on Thee, and Thou, O Christ, forever precious be. Fountain of goodness, Jesu, Lord and God, cleanse us, unclean, in Thy most cleansing flood; increase our faith and love, that we may know the hope and peace which from Thy presence flow. O Christ, whom now beneath a veil we see, may what we thirst for soon our portion be, to gaze on Thee unveiled, and see Thy face, the vision of Thy glory and Thy grace.

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 618 • “Ye watchers and ye holy ones”

Lasst uns erfreuen

ANNOUNCEMENTS

DISMISSAL

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

ORGAN VOLUNTARY • *Trumpet Tune*
(Homage to the 18th century)

David N. Johnson (1922-1987)

Please Keep These People in Your Prayers

Destany W., Sandi Y., Sylvia L., Patty G., Barbara Bell and Margie H.

For those who have died:

The altar flowers are given to the glory of God.

Our thanks today for the...

Altar Guild: Joe Russo & Anita Wagner

Lay Readers: Kira Lane

Ushers: Tim Cassavaw & Joe Russo

Flower Guild: Harriet Averill & Sandy Wiley

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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

- * This morning's Winter Clean-up has been cancelled! So many volunteers came to our Winter Clean-up Days this week, we finished early; all of the cleaning is finished!
- * St. Paul's Office and building will be closed Monday, February 16th for the President's Day holiday.
- * Tuesday, February 17th is Shrove Tuesday. Join us for worship at 5 p.m., and our Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper at 5:30 p.m. Please enter through the parking lot door.
- * Wednesday, February 18th is Ash Wednesday. Join us for worship at 8 a.m., noon, or 5:30 p.m. Please enter through the parking lot door. Please park only the spaces between the kitchen door and the new entry door.
- * Bring your donations of non-perishable food for *The Open Pantry* on Saturday, February 21st, from 10 a.m.- noon.
- *Today is the deadline for the March Courier. Please email articles to Judy at jmcadoo@stpaulsyr.org.

Understanding Episcopal Liturgy

#2 What is the reason the priest wears a white stole for the Feast of the Transfiguration, but then wears a purple stole during Advent, and green or red stoles at other times?

The priest wears a stole in the color that will match the event or the season. Each color points to one or more ideas about God or about God's work in the world:

Purple is the color of royalty, because it was the most expensive color to create in fabrics in the ancient world. We wear purple during Advent in expectation of the birth of the one we call the "Prince of Peace".

White is the color of joy. We wear white during the Christmas Season and during the Easter Season to express the joy of these seasons. We also wear white at baptisms to reflect the joy of welcoming a new person into the family of God. Most interestingly, we also wear white at funerals and memorial services because, though these times may be times of grief for us, we understand that those who have died are raised to a new life in Christ.

Green is the color of growth and new life. We wear green during the season following the Epiphany (January and sometimes February) and during the season following Pentecost (summer and fall months).

Red is the color of the Holy Spirit. We wear red for the day of Pentecost (which often falls in May). We also wear red during Holy Week as a reminder of Christ's sacrifice of his life on Good Friday.

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

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

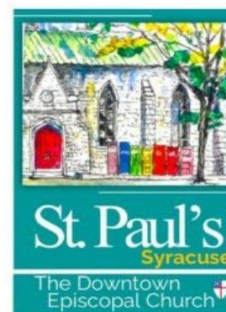
Staff

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



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

