

(Please silence all cell-phones & digital devices until after the Service! Thank you.)

PRELUDE – How Brightly Beams the Morning Star (pt. 1)

Dietrich Buxtehude (1637-1707)

THE ENTRANCE RITE

PROCESSIONAL HYMN – #232 “By all your saints still striving”

Nyland

CALL TO ORDER

OPENING ACCLAMATION

The people standing, the Celebrant says

Celebrant



Bless-ed be the one, ho - ly and liv - ing God.

People



Glo - ry to God for ev - er and ev - er.

THE COLLECT FOR PURITY

Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name; through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

THE KYRIE – *Missa Brevis No. 4, Divinum Mysterium*

Healey Willan (1880-1968)

Kyrie eleison	Lord, have mercy.
Christe eleison	Christ, have mercy.
Kyrie eleson	Lord, have mercy.

THE GLORIA

S277

Glory to God in the highest,
and peace to his people on earth.

Lord God, heavenly King,
almighty God and Father,
we worship you, we give you thanks,
we praise you for your glory.
Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,
Lord God, Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world:
have mercy on us;
you are seated at the right hand of the Father:
receive our prayer.
For you alone are the Holy One,
you alone are the Lord,
you alone are the Most High,
Jesus Christ,
with the Holy Spirit,
in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

Celebrant: God be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Celebrant: Let us pray.

O God, by the preaching of your apostle Paul you have caused the light of the Gospel to shine throughout the world: Grant, we pray, that we, having his wonderful conversion in remembrance, may show ourselves thankful to you by following his holy teaching; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

THE WORD OF GOD

THE FIRST READING

Acts 26:9-21

Reader A reading from the Acts of the Apostles

Paul said to King Agrippa, "Indeed, I myself was convinced that I ought to do many things against the name of Jesus of Nazareth. And that is what I did in Jerusalem; with authority received from the chief priests, I not only locked up many of the saints in prison, but I also cast my vote against them when they were being condemned to death. By punishing them often in all the synagogues I tried to force them to blaspheme; and since I was so furiously enraged at them, I pursued them even to foreign cities.

"With this in mind, I was traveling to Damascus with the authority and commission of

the chief priests, when at midday along the road, your Excellency, I saw a light from heaven, brighter than the sun, shining around me and my companions. When we had all fallen to the ground, I heard a voice saying to me in the Hebrew language, 'Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting me? It hurts you to kick against the goads.' I asked, 'Who are you, Lord?' The Lord answered, 'I am Jesus whom you are persecuting. But get up and stand on your feet; for I have appeared to you for this purpose, to appoint you to serve and testify to the things in which you have seen me and to those in which I will appear to you. I will rescue you from your people and from the Gentiles-- to whom I am sending you to open their eyes so that they may turn from darkness to light and from the power of Satan to God, so that they may receive forgiveness of sins and a place among those who are sanctified by faith in me.'

"After that, King Agrippa, I was not disobedient to the heavenly vision, but declared first to those in Damascus, then in Jerusalem and throughout the countryside of Judea, and also to the Gentiles, that they should repent and turn to God and do deeds consistent with repentance. For this reason the Jews seized me in the temple and tried to kill me."

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

PSALM 67 – *Chanted by the choir*

Setting by Daniel Pinkham (1923-2006)

- 1 May God be merciful to us and bless us, *
 show us the light of his countenance and come to us.
- 2 Let your ways be known upon earth, *
 your saving health among all nations.
- 3 Let the peoples praise you, O God; *
 let all the peoples praise you.
- 4 Let the nations be glad and sing for joy, *
 for you judge the peoples with equity
 and guide all the nations upon earth.
- 5 Let the peoples praise you, O God; *
 let all the peoples praise you.
- 6 The earth has brought forth her increase; *
 may God, our own God, give us his blessing.
- 7 May God give us his blessing, *
 and may all the ends of the earth stand in awe of him.

Reader A reading from the Letter of St. Paul to the Galatians.

I want you to know, brothers and sisters, that the gospel that was proclaimed by me is not of human origin; for I did not receive it from a human source, nor was I taught it, but I received it through a revelation of Jesus Christ.

You have heard, no doubt, of my earlier life in Judaism. I was violently persecuting the church of God and was trying to destroy it. I advanced in Judaism beyond many among my people of the same age, for I was far more zealous for the traditions of my ancestors. But when God, who had set me apart before I was born and called me through his grace, was pleased to reveal his Son to me, so that I might proclaim him among the Gentiles, I did not confer with any human being, nor did I go up to Jerusalem to those who were already apostles before me, but I went away at once into Arabia, and afterwards I returned to Damascus.

Then after three years I did go up to Jerusalem to visit Cephas and stayed with him fifteen days; but I did not see any other apostle except James the Lord's brother. In what I am writing to you, before God, I do not lie! Then I went into the regions of Syria and Cilicia, and I was still unknown by sight to the churches of Judea that are in Christ; they only heard it said, "The one who formerly was persecuting us is now proclaiming the faith he once tried to destroy." And they glorified God because of me.

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

People **Thanks be to God**

THE SEQUENCE HYMN – #256 "A light from heaven shone around"

Cornish

THE GOSPEL

Matthew 10:16-22

Then, all standing, the Deacon or a Priest reads the Gospel, first saying

The Holy Gospel of our Savior Jesus Christ according to Matthew

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

Jesus said to the twelve, "See, I am sending you out like sheep into the midst of wolves; so be wise as serpents and innocent as doves. Beware of them, for they will hand you over to councils and flog you in their synagogues; and you will be dragged before governors and kings because of me, as a testimony to them and the Gentiles. When they hand you over, do not worry about how you are to speak or what you are to say; for what you are to say will be given to you at that time; for it is not you who speak, but the Spirit of your Father speaking through you. Brother will betray brother to death, and a father his child, and children will rise against parents and have them put to death; and you will be hated by all because of my name. But the one who endures to the end will be saved."

Reader The Gospel of the Lord.
People **Praise to you, Lord Christ**

THE SERMON

The Rt. Rev. Stephen Lane

THE NICENE CREED – *Spoken; All Stand, as able*

BCP page 358

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,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary
and became truly human.

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,
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
who 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.

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Intercessor In peace and in faith, let us offer our prayers to Christ Our God, saying,
"Christ, have mercy".

For the holy Church of God, that it may be filled with truth and love, and be found without
fault at the day of your coming, we pray to you, **Christ, have mercy.**

For Sarah, Archbishop of Canturbury-elect; Sean our Presiding Bishop; Stephen our Provisional Bishop; for all bishops and other ministers, and for all the holy people of God, we pray to you, **Christ, have mercy.**

For all who fear God and believe in you, Christ Jesus, that our divisions may cease, and that all may be one as you and the Father are one, we pray to you, **Christ, have mercy.**

For the mission of the Church, that in faithful witness it may preach the Gospel to the ends of the earth, we pray to you, **Christ, have mercy.**

For the peace of the world, that a spirit of respect and forbearance may grow among nations and peoples, we pray to you, **Christ, have mercy.**

For those in positions of public trust, especially our elected officials, that they may serve justice, and promote the dignity and freedom of every person, we pray to you, **Christ, have mercy.**

For all who live and work in this community, we pray to you, **Christ, have mercy.**

For a blessing upon all human labor, and for the right use of the riches of creation, that the world may be freed from poverty, famine, and disaster, we pray to you, **Christ, have mercy.**

For the poor, the persecuted, the sick, and all who suffer; for refugees, prisoners, and all who are in danger; that they may be relieved and protected, we pray to you, **Christ, have mercy.**

For this congregation as we celebrate our patronal feast and hold our Annual Meeting, that we may be delivered from hardness of heart, and show forth your glory in all that we do, **Christ, have mercy.**

For all who have commended themselves to our prayers; for our families, friends, and neighbors; that being freed from anxiety, they may live in joy, peace, and health, we pray to you, **Christ, have mercy.**

For all who have died in the communion of your Church, and those whose faith is known to you alone, that, with all the saints, they may have rest in that place where there is no pain or grief, but life eternal, we pray to you, **Christ, have mercy.**

Rejoicing in the fellowship of the ever-blessed Virgin Mary, blessed Paul, and all the saints, let us commend ourselves, and one another, and all our life to Christ our God.
To you, O Christ our God.

Silence

The Celebrant adds a concluding Collect, or the following Doxology

For yours is the majesty, O Father, Son, and Holy Spirit; yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory, now and for ever. **Amen.**

CONFESSION OF SIN

The Deacon or Celebrant says
Let us confess our sins to God.

Silence may be kept.

Minister and People

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.

The Bishop, when present, or the Priest, stands and says

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. **Amen.**

THE PEACE – *All stand.*

Celebrant The peace of Christ be always with you.
People **And also with you.**

Then the Ministers and People may greet one another in the name of Jesus Christ.

THE HOLY COMMUNION

OFFERTORY SENTENCE

BCP page 358

Walk in Love, as Christ loved us and give himself for us, an offering and sacrifice to God.

Representatives of the congregation bring the people's offerings of bread and wine, and money or other gifts, to the deacon or celebrant. The people stand while the offerings are presented and placed on the Altar.

OFFERTORY ANTHEM – Hodie, Paulus apostolus

Luca Marenzio (c. 1553-1599)

Hodie Paulus Apostolus, lumen orbis terrae,
inclinato capite Christi nomine martyrio coronatus est.
Alleluia.

Today the Apostle Paul, light of the world,
was crowned with martyrdom in the name of Christ.
Alleluia

The people remain standing. The Celebrant, whether bishop or priest, faces them and sings or says

SURSUM CORDA

E011

Celebrant *People*

The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.

Celebrant *People*

Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

Celebrant

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Then, facing the Holy Table, the Celebrant proceeds

All thanks and praise
are yours at all times and in all places,
our true and loving God;
through Jesus Christ, your eternal Word,
the Wisdom from on high by whom you created all things.
You laid the foundations of the world
and enclosed the sea when it burst out from the womb;
You brought forth all creatures of the earth
and gave breath to humankind.
Wondrous are you, Holy One of Blessing,
all you create is a sign of hope for our journey;
And so as the morning stars sing your praises
we join the heavenly beings and all creation
as we shout with joy:

THE SANCTUS – *Sung by the Choir*

Willan

Celebrant and People

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.

The people stand or kneel.

The Celebrant continues

Glory and honor are yours, Creator of all, your Word has never been silent; you called a people to yourself, as a light to the nations, you delivered them from bondage and led them to a land of promise. Of your grace, you gave Jesus to be human, to share our life, to proclaim the coming of your holy reign and give himself for us, a fragrant offering.

Through Jesus Christ our Redeemer, you have freed us from sin, brought us into your life, reconciled us to you, and restored us to the glory you intend for us.

We thank you that on the night before he died for us Jesus took bread, and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, gave it to his friends and said: "Take, eat, this is my Body, broken for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper Jesus took the cup of wine, said the blessing, gave it to his friends and said: "Drink this, all of you: this cup is the new Covenant in my Blood, poured out for you and for all for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me."

And so, remembering all that was done for us: the cross, the tomb, the resurrection and ascension, longing for Christ's coming in glory, and presenting to you these gifts your earth has formed and human hands have made, we acclaim you, O Christ:

THE MEMORIAL ACCLAMATION:

Dying You Destroyed Our Death, based on Divinum
Mysterium, 11th century, arr. By Rebecca A. Barnes+

Dy - ing you de - stroyed our death, _____ ris - ing you re - stored our life.

6
Christ Je - sus come in glo - ry. Je - sus come in glo - ry. _____

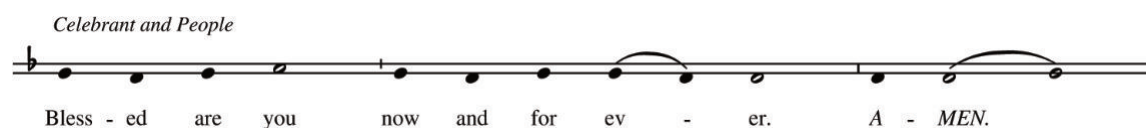
Send your Holy Spirit upon us and upon these gifts of bread and wine that they may be to us the Body and Blood of your Christ. Grant that we, burning with your Spirit's power, may be a people of hope, justice and love.

Giver of Life, draw us together in the Body of Christ, and in the fullness of time gather us with blessed Mary the God bearer, blessed Paul, and all your people into the joy of our true eternal home.

Through Christ and with Christ and in Christ, by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, we worship you our God and Creator in voices of unending praise.

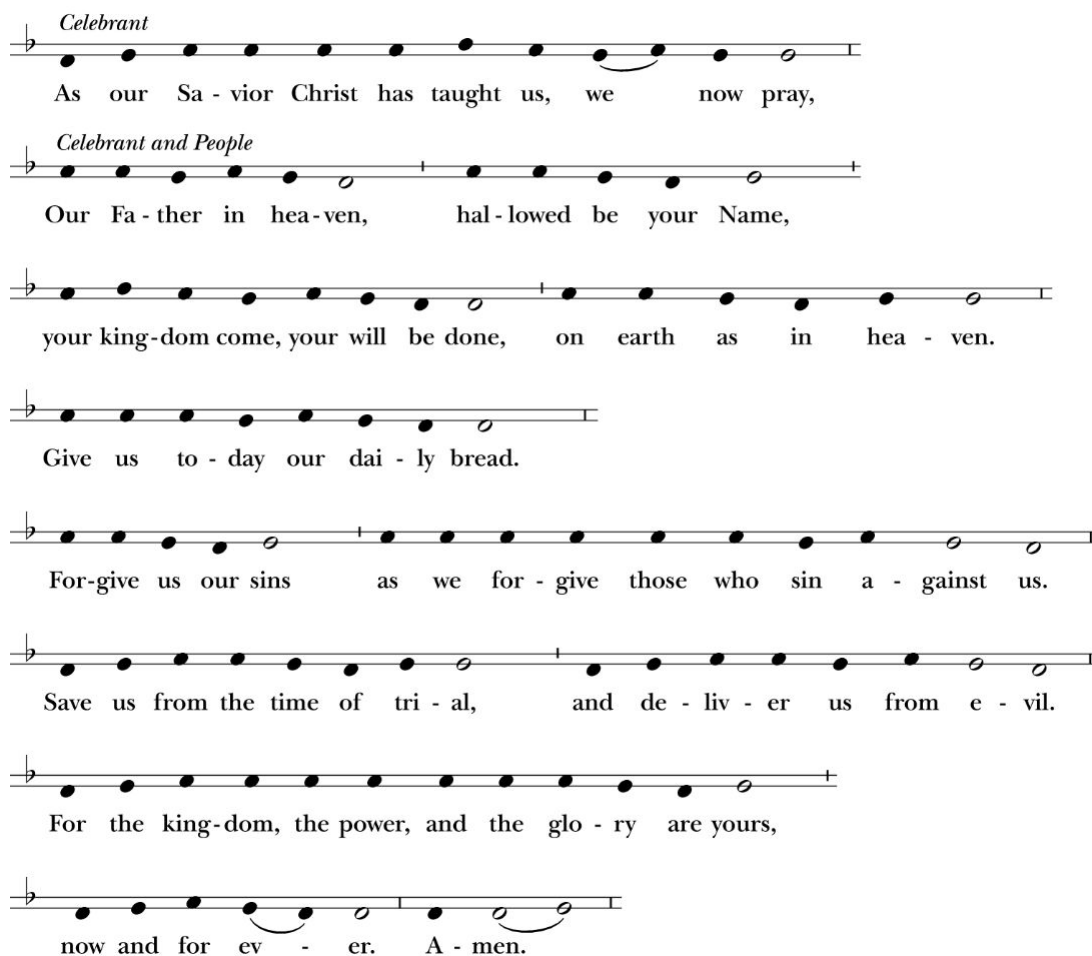
THE GREAT AMEN

EA09



THE LORD'S PRAYER

S148



Then may be sung or said

Celebrant Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

People **Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.**

THE FRACTION ANTHEM

Willan

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world:
have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world:
have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world:
grant us peace.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

BCP page 364

The Celebrant says

The Gifts of God for the People of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

We welcome all baptized persons, regardless of age or denomination, to receive communion here at Saint Paul's. If you do not wish to receive communion, we invite you to come forward to receive a blessing. To show that you wish to receive a blessing, please cross your arms across your chest.

COMMUNION ANTHEM – O Jesus, Joy of Loving Hearts

Allen Orton Gibbs (1910-1996)

O Jesus, joy of loving hearts,
the fount of life and our true light,
we seek the peace your love imparts,
and stand rejoicing in your sight.
Adoramus te, Domine.

For you our restless spirits yearn
where e'er our changing lot is cast;
glad when your presence we discern,
blest, when our faith can hold you fast.
Adoramus te, Domine.

O Jesus, ever with us stay;
make all our moments calm and bright;
oh, turn the dark of night away,
shed o'er the world your holy light.
Adoramus te, Domine.

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

In place of the usual postcommunion prayer, the following prayer is said

Let us pray.

Celebrant and People

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.**

GREETINGS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE EPISCOPAL BLESSING

Bishop Our help is in the Name of the Lord;

People **The maker of heaven and earth.**

Bishop Blessed be the Name of the Lord;

People **From this time forth for evermore.**

Bishop The blessing, mercy, and grace of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you for ever. **Amen.**

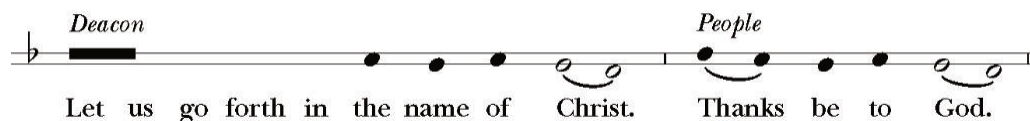
HYMN AT THE RETIRING PROCESSION

#530 "Spread, O spread, thou mighty word"

Gott sei Dank

DISMISSAL

S 174



After a brief break, the business portion of the Annual Meeting and potluck luncheon will commence in the Walker Room

ANNUAL MEETING

ELECTION OF VESTRY AND DELEGATES

COMMISSIONING OF NEW PARISH LEADERS

The newly elected and appointed leaders gather at the front of the altar.

Senior warden/other: On behalf of the congregation of St. Paul's, I present:

_____ for Warden of Vestry
_____ for Member of the Vestry
_____ for Member of the Vestry
_____ for Member of the Vestry
_____ for Member of the Vestry
_____ for Member of the Vestry
_____ for Clerk of the Vestry (non-voting)
_____ for Lay Delegate to Diocesan Convention
_____ for Lay Delegate to Diocesan Convention
_____ for Lay Delegate to Diocesan Convention
_____ for Alternate Lay Delegate to Diocesan Convention
_____ for Alternate Lay Delegate to Diocesan Convention

Dean: Have these leaders been elected by the congregation or appointed by the vestry in accordance with the bylaws of our congregation?

Senior warden/other: They have.

Dean: *(to the new leaders)* Do you commit yourselves to carry out the responsibilities of the office to which you have been appointed?

Leaders: I do.

Dean: Do you reaffirm your commitment to follow Christ and to serve this congregation in his name?

Leaders: I do.

Dean: *(to the congregation)* Will you do all in your power to support these leaders with your prayers, your honest yet gracious communication with them, and your willingness to help them carry out Christ's ministry in this church?

Congregation: We will.

Dean: In the name of this congregation I commission you for this work, and pledge you our prayers, encouragement, and support. May the Holy Spirit guide and strengthen you, that in this, and in all things, you may do God's will in the service of the kingdom of Christ.

Amen.

Let us pray. Almighty God, look with favor upon these persons who have now reaffirmed their commitment to follow Christ and to serve in his name. Give them courage, patience, and vision; and strengthen us all in our Christian vocation of witness to the world, and of service to others; through Jesus Christ our Lord. ***Amen.***

Source: The Rev. Linda Grenz is the publisher, CEO and founder of LeaderResources.

THE BLESSING AND DISMISSAL

CATHEDRAL LIFE | JANUARY 25
ST. PAUL'S CATHEDRAL – SPCBUFFALO.ORG

TODAY

- Bible Study – 9 a.m. lower level/Walker – coffee and discussion of scripture lessons for the week
- Coffee/Refreshments – after the 10:15 service, lower level/Walker

Warrant for the 2026 Annual Meeting

In accordance with the Religious Corporations Law of the State of New York (Consolidated Laws of New York, Chapter 51), and the by-laws governing the Corporation of St. Paul's Church in Buffalo, New York, notice is hereby given that the Annual Meeting of the church Parish will be held on the Third Sunday after the Epiphany, being Sunday, the 25th of January 2026 beginning with worship at 10:15 AM. The Meeting will take place in person in the Church.

At the meeting the following business will be transacted.

1. The Dean & Rector's Report will be presented.
2. The Treasurer's Report will be presented.
3. Committee Reports will be presented.
4. The Election of one (1) Warden for a two year term
5. The Election of three (3) Vestry members, each for a three year term.
6. The Election of two (2) Vestry members, each for a one year term to fill a vacant seat.
7. The transaction of any other business that may properly come before the meeting.

No action shall be taken at the Annual Meeting other than that set forth in this the Warrant for the meeting. According to the Canons of the Episcopal Diocese of Western New York and the by-laws of the Corporation, all adult members (eighteen years and older), who have been regular attendants at worship and contributors to its support for twelve months prior to the election shall be qualified to vote in the election.

The Very Rev. Rebecca A. Barnes
Dean and Rector

Christian Education and Formation at St. Paul's

Children's Christian Education: "Godly Play"

St. Paul's offers "Godly Play: is a Montessori-based program on Sundays at 10am in the Bishop Scaife Room on the lower level of the Cathedral. Making meaning through story, wonder, and play, the program nurtures spiritual lives by honoring the centrality, competency, and capacity of children.

Epiphany Centering Prayer Introductory Workshop

Centering Prayer is a receptive method of Christian silent prayer which deepens our relation-

ship with God, the Indwelling Presence ... a prayer in which we can experience God's presence within us, closer than breathing, closer than thinking, closer than consciousness itself. This method of prayer is both a relationship with God and a discipline to foster that relationship. A Centering Prayer Introductory workshop will be offered throughout the season of Epiphany beginning with a workshop on Saturday, January 10, 2026 from 10am - 3pm. Follow-up sessions designed for ongoing learning and group spiritual support will be held on January 17, 24, 31, February 7, and 14. The workshop will be by The Very Rev'd Rebecca Barnes, Dean, who is a commissioned presenter and facilitator trainer with Contemplative Outreach, Ltd.

Lent 2026 – Bible Study on the Gospel of John

More details will be available soon.

Absalom Jones Celebration at St. Paul's Cathedral

Join us for a celebration of Absalom Jones and Black History Month at St. Paul's Cathedral on Saturday, February 14 at 11AM. Holy Eucharist will be celebrated followed by a reception hosted by the Union of Black Episcopalians (UBE), Bishop Holly Chapter.

The guest preacher for the Euchaist will be The Rev. Canon Masud Ibn Syedullah, TSSF. Born into a family with a Christian mother and a Muslim father, Father Syedullah has a keen awareness and sensitivity for racial and interfaith concerns and helping Christians understand their call to be in positive relationship with people of other faiths and to work to end the ignorance, fear, and hatred done in the name of religion that fuels so much violence and destruction in today's world.

A special musical program featuring works by African-American composers will include: Behold, I Build a House for Baritone and Marimba by Adolphus Hailstork; Love Bade Me Welcome by David Hurd; The Righteous Cry Out by Rosephanye Powell; and Lena McLin's Eucharist of the Soul for the service music. Jaman Dunn-Danger, former Asst. Conductor of the Buffalo Philharmonic, professor at UB, and outstanding baritone will be our special musical guest.

A joint choir from across the Diocese is being assembled. If you are a singer, or your church choir wishes to be part of the festival choir under the direction of Jaman Dunn-Danger, please contact Patricia Hills, St. Paul's Cathedral Choir Director at hillspatterson@me.com, as soon as possible for more information.

The Absalom Jones celebration is co-sponsored by St. Paul's Cathedral; St. Philip's Church; The Union of Black Episcopalians (UBE), Bishop Holly Chapter; and the Commission to Dismantle Racism and Discrimination. Street parking is available; there are also several public parking lots near St. Paul's Cathedral, including a public parking garage under Main Place Mall, which is less than a block away.

We hope you will join us and invite others from your community to be part of this special day!

Episcopal Migration Ministries weekly webinar

Submitted by Kathy Reiss

Even though the Episcopal Church has withdrawn from refugee resettlement following the executive order regarding resettlement of Afrikaners, the Episcopal Church is still very actively responding to the needs of immigrants and refugees, especially in these perilous times for many immigrants. You are invited to join Episcopal Migration Ministries every Tuesday at 1 pm ET for a 30-minute call on the changing landscape of U.S. immigration, refugee, and migration policy. They share updates and resources and will be joined by the Office of Government Relations and the Chief Legal Officer, along with representatives from many dioceses who share their experiences. I try to attend as many Tuesdays as I can and find it very enlightening and encouraging. Register at Episcopal Migration Ministries.

SJAT Note: Best of 2025 Book and Media List

From Estelle Siener for the Social Justice Action Team

Happy New Year! Once again this year members of the Social Justice Team have looked back on their 2025 reading to compile a list of our “Best of . . .” Books and Media. The contributions below have inspired us this year. Please let us know what you are reading and watching!

Fiction

(Chris) ***The Known World*** by Edward P. Jones, a Pulitzer Prize-winning novel primarily about a black farmer and former slave in Virginia in the late antebellum period who must stay on the good side of the law. It took me to a very unfamiliar place.

(Estelle) ***One Day Everyone Will Always Have Been Against This*** by Omar El Akkad, journalist and writer. In this National Book Award winner, El Akkad specifically writes about the plight of the Palestinians in Gaza. But it's a call to action for us to speak out against injustice everywhere.

(Bill) ***The Parable of the Talents*** by Octavia E Butler, published in 1998, offers a chilling vision of what could be when, in the face of racial injustice, economic division and climate change, the nation elects authoritarian, Christian Nationalists to lead the country back to greatness. Can there be redemption?

(Gary) ***Uncle Tom's Cabin*** by Harriett Beecher Stowe. On rereading, this book remains remarkably relevant.

(Estelle) ***Playground*** by Richard Powers who again tackles big issues such as racial identity and the plight of our oceans with a strong cast of characters that grapple with technology.

(Chris) ***The Sympathizer*** by Viet Thanh Nguyen tells the story of the end of the Viet Nam war from a Vietnamese perspective. The characters are richly drawn and the story is engaging. While I found it difficult in some ways, it was also very rewarding.

(Estelle) ***Orbital*** by Samantha Harvey, a short book. Ride along in the International Space Station with six scientists as they pursue their experiments in space while gazing and musing in awe at the amazing planet Earth out their window!

Nonfiction

(Dean Rebecca) ***Reforesting Faith: What Trees Teach Us About the Nature of God and His Love for Us*** by Matthew Sleeth. Influential in evangelical circles the author, Matthew Sleeth has spoken about the biblical call to be good stewards of creation to audiences across the globe, including at the Washington National Cathedral. One of the reviews of this book by a former president of the Sierra Club stated, "Matthew again connects us to the essential: God, the planet, the Sabbath, a tree. God's breath that gave life to man is being shared daily by all that breathes, including trees. This reminder brings hope and enormous joy. Reforesting Faith is a must-read."

(Dean Rebecca) ***Mother Emanuel: Two Centuries of Race, Resistance, and Forgiveness in One Charleston Church***, by Kevin Sack. Just named one of the Top Ten books of 2025 by the New York Times. "Mother Emanuel" is a masterpiece in which Kevin Sack tells the story of Emanuel African Methodist Episcopal (A.M.E.) Church in Charleston, S.C., "the most historic Black church in the South's most historic city," now best known as the site of an egregious act of barbarism: the killing of nine congregants on June 17, 2015, by a white supremacist. This former NY Times and Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist explores Mother Emanuel AME Church's two-century history of racial justice, faith, and forgiveness, culminating in the 2015 tragic shooting and its aftermath.

(Dean Rebecca) ***Here Comes the Sun: A Last Chance for the Climate and a Fresh Chance for Civilization*** by Bill McKibben, acclaimed environmentalist. Although the fight for reduction in use of fossil fuels continues, he writes with hope in the increasing, indeed the spike in, affordable solar and wind powered energy.

(Chris) ***White Too Long*** by Robert P. Jones traces the legacies of white supremacy in the white Christian church. While the book has a slight emphasis on southern churches and the Southern Baptist Convention, the analysis goes well beyond that and includes examples from mainline and northern churches including the Episcopal Church. I found the book accessible and enlightening.

(Bob) ***The Violent Take It by Force: The Christian Movement That Is Threatening Our Democracy*** by Matthew Taylor: Taylor explores the New Apostolic Reformation from its inception in the work of a Fuller Seminary professor, to its immense networks of apostles and prophets, and its role in the January 6 riot. This vision of charismatic Christianity now animates millions, lured by Spirit-filled revival and visions of Christian supremacy.

(Bob) ***Democracy in Chains: The Deep History of the Radical Right's Stealth Plan for America*** by Nancy MacLean. Public Choice theory, devised by the Nobel Prize-winning political economist James M. Buchanan, has fundamental beliefs about fairness which differ radi-

cally from those that prevailed in the post-Depression era – notably in taxing high income people: 94% the max at the end of WWII vs. 37% currently. An important lesson in how American cultural values can change.

(Estelle) ***Turning to Birds: The Power of Beauty and Noticing*** by Lili Taylor. Yes, the actress Lili Taylor. A lovely book about her own step into the world of birding and how studying birds and just being in nature revives her soul.

Videos

(Estelle) ***Weathered*** by PBS Terra: an ongoing YouTube series of climate change started 5 years ago and updated regularly with the latest video posted one month ago.

Prayer and Pastoral Care

We lift up the following in prayer especially Reid, Vivian, Linda, Alex, Deacon Pitcher, Lex, Clark, Geri, Dominic, Lisa and family, Andrea, Byron, Chris, Joe, Lori, Larry, Carol, Renee, Sharon, Elaine, Anne, Jim, Judy, and Shirley We also remember all those who have died, especially Sally, and those whose anniversaries of death we mark this week. We pray for them and their loved ones who remember them.

New or visiting today? Everything you need to participate in worship is in this bulletin and the Hymnal in the pew (red or blue). We invite you to join in praying, singing, and responding, as you are comfortable.

Restrooms are located on the lower level. From the elevator, proceed through the double glass doors and look to your right for an accessible restroom. Additional restrooms are on the same level, to the left, near the kitchen.

Children are always welcome in worship and are invited to explore! Greeters can provide activity kits, available in the back of the church. Godly Play is also offered. For details: cathedral@spcbuffalo.org.

SERVING IN WORSHIP TODAY

Delwyn Milander, Katherine Woodard; Altar Guild
Judith Elliott, Kimberly O'Connell; Ushers
Evelyn Smigelsky; Coffee Hour Host
Kourosh Karami; Livestream Coordinator

Roger Woodard; Thurifer
Andrew Jacob; Crucifer
Kevin O'Neil, Sean Harkin; Torch Bearers
Michael Bonilla; Verger
Susan Hadden, Jessie Alexander; Readers
Alan Blackburn; Intercessor
Charles Casto Jr., David Jemmott; Eucharistic Ministers

The Choir of St. Paul's Cathedral
Patricia Hills; Conductor
Tim Socha; Guest Organist

The Very Reverend Rebecca A. Barnes; Dean and Assisting Clergy
The Rt. Rev. Stephen Lane, Provisional Bishop, Diocese of Western New York; Celebrant and Preacher

EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF WESTERN NEW YORK

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The people of St. Paul's Episcopal Cathedral strive to be a beacon of
God's love in Western New York through transformative worship, inclusive fellowship,
and active service in partnership with the wider community.

ST. PAUL'S EPISCOPAL CATHEDRAL

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