



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

PRELUDE – O Mensch, bewein dein Sünde gross

J.S. Bach (1685-1750)

THE ENTRANCE RITE

PROCESSIONAL HYMN – #401 The God of Abraham Praise

Leoni

THE OPENING ACCLAMATION

Celebrant Blessed be the God of our salvation:

People **Who bears our burdens and forgives our sins.**

The Celebrant may say

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.**

KYRIE – Missa Brevis, No. 4

Eleanor Daley (b.1955)

Lord, have mercy.
Christ, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy.

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

The Celebrant says to the people

Celebrant God be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Celebrant Let us pray.

O God, whose glory it is always to have mercy: Be gracious to all who have gone astray

from your ways, and bring them again with penitent hearts and steadfast faith to embrace and hold fast the unchangeable truth of your Word, Jesus Christ your Son; who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

All sit.

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

THE FIRST READING

Genesis 12:1-4a

Reader A reading from the Book of Genesis.

The Lord said to Abram, "Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you. I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you, and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and the one who curses you I will curse; and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed."

So Abram went, as the Lord had told him; and Lot went with him.

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

People **Thanks be to God**

PSALM 121 – *8am Read responsively; 10:15am chanted by the choir*

Plainsong

- 1 I lift up my eyes to the hills; *
from where is my help to come?
- 2 **My help comes from the Lord, ***
the maker of heaven and earth.
- 3 He will not let your foot be moved *
and he who watches over you will not fall asleep.
- 4 **Behold, he who keeps watch over Israel ***
shall neither slumber nor sleep;
- 5 The Lord himself watches over you; *
the Lord is your shade at your right hand,
- 6 **So that the sun shall not strike you by day, ***
nor the moon by night.

7 The Lord shall preserve you from all evil; *
it is he who shall keep you safe.

8 **The Lord shall watch over your going out and your coming in, *
from this time forth for evermore.**

THE EPISTLE

Romans 4:1-5, 13-17

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

What then are we to say was gained by Abraham, our ancestor according to the flesh? For if Abraham was justified by works, he has something to boast about, but not before God. For what does the scripture say? "Abraham believed God, and it was reckoned to him as righteousness." Now to one who works, wages are not reckoned as a gift but as something due. But to one who without works trusts him who justifies the ungodly, such faith is reckoned as righteousness.

For the promise that he would inherit the world did not come to Abraham or to his descendants through the law but through the righteousness of faith. If it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. For the law brings wrath; but where there is no law, neither is there violation.

For this reason it depends on faith, in order that the promise may rest on grace and be guaranteed to all his descendants, not only to the adherents of the law but also to those who share the faith of Abraham (for he is the father of all of us, as it is written, "I have made you the father of many nations") —in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist.

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

People **Thanks be to God**

THE SEQUENCE HYMN – #445 The Great Creator of the Worlds

Tallis' Ordinal

THE GOSPEL

John 3:1-17

All remain standing, as able.

The Holy Gospel of our Savior Jesus Christ according to John.

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

There was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. He came to Jesus by night and said to him, "Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God; for no

one can do these signs that you do apart from the presence of God.” Jesus answered him, “Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above.” Nicodemus said to him, “How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother’s womb and be born?” Jesus answered, “Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. Do not be astonished that I said to you, ‘You must be born from above.’ The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit.” Nicodemus said to him, “How can these things be?” Jesus answered him, “Are you a teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things?

“Very truly, I tell you, we speak of what we know and testify to what we have seen; yet you do not receive our testimony. If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things? No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

“For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

“Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.”

Reader The Gospel of our Savior.

People **Praise to you, Lord Christ**

THE SERMON

The Very Reverend Rebecca A. Barnes

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

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.**

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Intercessor: In this holy fast of Lent, let us pray to God who leads us through the wilderness and gives us water to drink, saying: *Lord, have mercy.*

For the Church: remembering especially Sarah, Archbishop of Canterbury; Sean our Presiding Bishop; and Stephen our Bishop Provisional, that we who walk with Jesus may always seek to share bread with the hungry and justice with the oppressed.

Lord, have mercy.

For this Cathedral community, that the prayer, fasting and almsgiving of Lent may bring forth a new springtime of faith in our lives. **Lord, have mercy.**

For peace in places of conflict and turmoil, and for all victims of violence and oppression, that God will watch over them and bring them safely to a new day when peace and justice will triumph. **Lord, have mercy.**

For all who must fast every day, for homeless children, refugees, and victims of war and natural disasters, that our fasting may make us more aware of them and our hearts more generous towards them. **Lord, have mercy.**

For all who are tempted, discouraged or in any need, remembering especially those commended to our prayers, Mariann & Tom, Elle & Reid, Vivian, Linda, Alex, Clark, Geri, Dominic, Lisa and family, Andrea, Byron, Chris, Joe, Lori, Larry, Carol, Renee, Sharon, Elaine, Anne, Jim, Judy, and Shirley, that all we do may show God's love and care for them. **Lord, have mercy.**

For all those who have died, remembering especially James, Nurul, and those whose anniversaries of death we mark this week, that they may rejoice forever in the garden of paradise. **Lord, have mercy.**

In the communion of Blessed Mary, the God-bearer, Blessed Paul, and all the saints, let us commend ourselves, and one another, to Christ our God. **To you, O Lord our God.**

Celebrant: Blessed are you, O Lord our God, who made us in your image. Hear our prayers and let each one find you mighty to save, forgiving us our sin and filling us with your abundant grace, through Jesus Christ our Savior, who with you and the Holy Spirit, lives and reigns, One God, forever and 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

Celebrant: 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, as able

Celebrant The peace of Christ be always with you.

People **And also with you.**

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

THE HOLY COMMUNION

OFFERTORY SENTENCE

BCP page 343-344

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 – I will lift up mine eyes

Leo Sowerby (1895-1968)

I will lift up mine eyes unto the hills: from whence cometh my help
My help cometh even from the Lord: who hath made heaven and earth
He will not suffer thy foot to be moved: and he that keepeth thee will not sleep
Behold, he that keepeth Israel: shall neither slumber nor sleep
The Lord himself is thy keeper: the Lord is thy defence upon thy right hand;
So that the sun shall not burn thee by day: neither the moon by night
The Lord shall preserve thee from all evil: yea, it is even he that shall keep thy soul
The Lord shall preserve thy going out, and thy coming in: from this time forth for evermore

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.

The People remain standing

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

Enriching Our Worship, Eucharistic Prayer I

The Celebrant, whether bishop or priest, faces them and sings or says

You delivered us from slavery, sustained us in the wilderness, and raised up prophets to renew your promise of salvation. Then, in the fullness of time, you sent your eternal Word, made mortal flesh in Jesus. Born into the human family, and dwelling among us, he revealed your glory.

Giving himself freely to death on the cross, he triumphed over evil, opening the way of freedom and life.

At the following words concerning the bread, the Celebrant is to hold it, or lay a hand upon it; and at the words concerning the cup, to hold or place a hand upon the cup and any other vessel containing wine to be consecrated.

On the night before he died for us, Our Savior Jesus Christ took bread, and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his friends, and said:

“Take, eat: This is my Body which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.”

As supper was ending, Jesus 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 poured out for you and for all for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me.”

THE MEMORIAL ACCLAMATION

S133

Celebrant

There - fore we pro - claim the mys - ter - y of faith:

Celebrant and People

Christ has died. Christ is ris - en. Christ will come a - gain.

The Celebrant continues

Remembering his death and resurrection, we now present to you from your creation this bread and this wine. By your Holy Spirit may they be for us the Body and Blood of our Savior Jesus Christ. Grant that we who share these gifts may be filled with the Holy Spirit and live as Christ's Body in the world. Bring us into the everlasting heritage of your daughters and sons, that with Blessed Mary the God Bearer, Blessed Paul and all your saints, past, present, and yet to come, we may praise your Name for ever. 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.

THE GREAT AMEN

S142

Musical notation for 'THE GREAT AMEN'. The first staff is labeled 'Celebrant' and the second staff is labeled 'People'. The lyrics 'A-men.' are written below the second staff. The melody is simple, using a single line with a key signature of one flat and a common time signature.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

S148

Musical notation for 'THE LORD'S PRAYER'. The first staff is labeled 'Celebrant' and the second staff is labeled 'Celebrant and People'. The lyrics are: 'As our Sa - vior Christ has taught us, we now pray, Our Fa - ther in hea - ven, hal - lowed be your Name, your king - dom come, your will be done, on earth as in hea - ven. Give us to - day our dai - ly bread. For - give us our sins as we for - give those who sin a - gainst us. Save us from the time of tri - al, and de - liv - er us from e - vil. For the king - dom, the power, and the glo - ry are yours, now and for ev - er. A - men.' The melody is simple, using a single line with a key signature of one flat and a common time signature.

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

The Celebrant breaks the consecrated Bread.

A period of silence is kept.

Then may be sung or said

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

Facing the people, the Celebrant says the following Invitation

The Gifts of God for the People of God.

and may add

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 at Saint Paul's. Communion will be distributed at the high altar and at the crossing; the people will be invited by row to come forward; you may return to your pew by the side aisles. Anyone needing assistance may indicate so to an usher and communion will be brought to you at the end. Receive bread hand open, palm up, and receive the chalice (wine) by drinking from the cup, or simply consume the bread only, which we consider full communion. We ask that you not intinct (dip) the bread into the wine. If you wish to intinct the minister of the Eucharist will do it for you.

Gluten-free bread is available; simply indicate your preference to the priest.

If you do not wish to receive communion, we invite you to come forward for a blessing. To show that you wish to receive a blessing, instead of the bread/wine, signal your desire by crossing your arms over your heart.

COMMUNION ANTHEM – God So Loved the World

John Stainer (1840-1901)

God so loved the world, that He gave His only-begotten Son,
that whoso believeth in Him should not perish,
but have everlasting life.
For God sent not His Son into the world to condemn the world;
but that the world through Him might be saved. Amen.

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

After Communion, the Celebrant says

Let us pray.

Celebrant and People

Eternal god, **you have graciously accepted us as living members of our Savior Jesus Christ, and you have fed us with spiritual food in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood. Send us now into the world in peace, and grant us strength and courage to love and serve you with gladness and singleness of heart; through Christ our Savior. Amen.**

GREETINGS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE PRAYER OVER THE PEOPLE

In Lent, in place of a seasonal blessing, a solemn Prayer over the People is used. When the Celebrant invites us to do so, we bow our heads, and pray in silence.

Celebrant Humble your heads before God.

Keep this your family, Lord, with your never-failing mercy, that relying solely on the help of your heavenly grace, they may be upheld by your divine protection; through Christ, our Lord. **Amen.**

CLOSING HYMN – #473 Lift High the Cross, the Love of Christ Proclaim

Crucifer

THE DISMISSAL

S174



Deacon *People*

Let us bless the Lord. Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE – Jesu, meine Freude

J.S. Bach (1685-1750)

CATHEDRAL LIFE | MARCH 1
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

Lent at St. Paul's

Center City Lent Series

Please note change in locations

A number of churches in the Central Erie Deanery will be coming together again this year for a joint Lenten study. This program will be in-person only (no hybrid).

This year's series will be *Unbound: Seeking the Freedom of God's Love*. Together, we

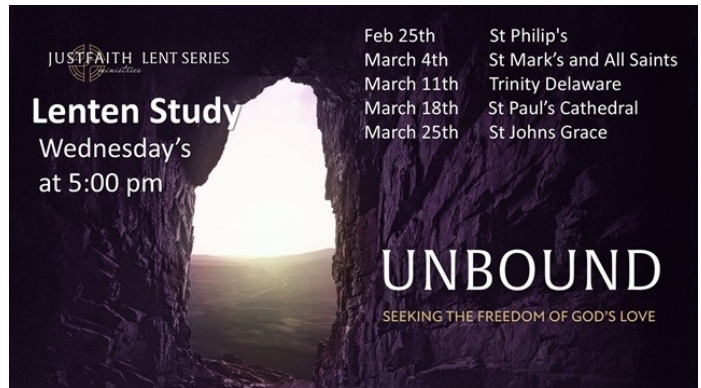
will follow Jesus through the wilderness and into the heart of the Empire. Along the way, we'll wrestle with what it means to be truly free: to remove our masks, reject false power, center the excluded, accept God's love, and choose life even in the shadow of darkness and despair. We'll meet characters like Nicodemus, the Samaritan woman at the well, the man born blind, and Lazarus, and explore how Jesus invites each of them – and us – to step into the light to claim life abundant.

We will meet on Wednesday evenings from 5-7pm, enjoy a light Lenten supper of soup and bread, and discuss the week's reflection from the series. The schedule is:

Feb 25	St. Philip's
March 4	St Mark and All Saints
March 11	Trinity, Delaware
March 25	St. Paul's Cathedral
April 1	St. John's Grace

St. Paul's Lenten Bible Study

On Tuesday evenings, Dean Rebecca will lead a study on the Gospel of John. The program will be on the Cathedral Zoom page from 7-8:30pm on 2/24, 3/3, 3/10, 3/17, 3/24, and a final session on Easter Tuesday, 4/7. We will look at an overview of the "Fourth Gospel" while giving greater attention to the readings that from the Gospel that are part of the Lenten and Holy Week Lectionary. (If you are unable to attend the Wednesday evening Center City Lent sessions in Buffalo, this will be a good alternative.) For more information, please contact Dean Rebecca at deanrebecca@spcbuffalo.org



2026 Holy Week and Easter Services at St. Pauls'

SUNDAY, MARCH 29

Sunday of the Passion: Palm Sunday

8:00am - Spoken Eucharist, Richmond Chapel

10:15am - Solemn Choral Eucharist

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 1

Wednesday in Holy Week

12:05pm - The Holy Eucharist with Healing, Oratory Chapel

THURSDAY, APRIL 2

Maundy Thursday

7:00pm - The Holy Eucharist with Foot Washing

The Night Watch to follow

FRIDAY, APRIL 3

Good Friday

12:05pm - Stations of the Cross

7:00pm - Liturgy of the Day

Confession will be available following the Liturgy

SATURDAY, APRIL 4

The Great Vigil of Easter

8:00pm

SUNDAY, APRIL 5

The Sunday of the Resurrection

10:15am - Festival Holy Eucharist with Choir & Brass Ensemble

Cathedral Communications

Each week, the Cathedral sends out an email by Constant Contact that contains our weekly newsletter, as well as the service leaflet and lessons for Sunday, and the livestream link. We also use this email list to notify the parish of special events, and cancellations.

When we had to postpone the Annual Meeting a couple weeks ago due to inclement weather, some members were unaware as they did not received an email. We regret that this happened, as we sent the email out at 10:30AM on Saturday, and also posted the information on the Cathedral Facebook and Instagram pages at 8:30AM. If you did not receive a notification, it may be that you haven't signed up for the weekly email, or your address may need to be updated. I encourage all of you to sign up for the weekly email, and also to check out our Facebook page which contains a lot of information about events at the Cathedral, as well as from across the church (FYI, you do not have to sign up for Facebook to look at the Cathedral page). To sign up for the weekly email, please go to the cathedral website (<https://www>).

spcbuffalo.org/) and click on the newsletter page. Should you need assistance, please contact Teresa Carter, Administrator at office@spcbuffalo.org

Also please note, there is a Cathedral calendar on the first page of our website. Click on the Google calendar for a listing of all current and upcoming events 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.

Prayer and Pastoral Care

We lift up the following in prayer especially Mariann and Tom, Roger, Elle & Reid, Vivian, Linda, Alex, 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 James, Nurul, and those whose anniversaries of death we mark this week. We pray for them and their loved ones who remember them.

ACROSS THE DIOCESE AND THE CHURCH

Letter from the Bishop: Temptation

Beloved in Christ,

A week ago, at the Transfiguration, we heard God repeat the words first spoken at Jesus' baptism: "This is my Son, the Beloved. Listen to him." This past Sunday, Jesus' baptismal identity was affirmed again. The temptations in the Lent 1 Gospel follow immediately upon Jesus' baptism, and they are aimed directly at his baptismal identity.

Reinhold Niebuhr, the 20th century Neo-orthodox theologian and public ethicist, noted that it is at the times of humanity's greatest achievements that sin creeps in. He was speaking particularly about nuclear research and the atom bomb. We have plumbed the secrets of the atom, and what have we produced? A horrifying weapon of mass destruction. Niebuhr thought that progressive theologians were weak in their understanding of how sin works in human beings. It is not the obvious vices that are the real problem: greed, gluttony, theft, murder – we're all pretty clear about those. Rather it is in the places of strength, where pride and self-righteousness creep in, that sin can take root.

So, with Jesus. The devil, who is perhaps a personification of human nature, says, "Well, Beloved of God, let me suggest some ways you can use your relationship." Feed the poor. Many of the poor in the Empire suffer from chronic hunger. You'll be a hero. Impress us with your invulnerability. If you feed the poor and show you are indestructible, Rome doesn't stand

a chance. Look, you can be the ruler of the whole world. Except, as Satan notes, if you do so, you will be worshipping me, not God.

So, too, with us. It's so easy to make what I do and what I want and need to be the focus for all my thinking and actions. So easy to make my perspective, my point of view, to be the guiding principle for decision-making. How difficult to make room for another focus, another perspective!

Jesus, in the security of his baptismal identity, keeps returning to God. It's not that bread is unimportant. We know that Jesus feeds the poor. It's just that life and bread come from God. And it's not that life should not continue eternally. It's simply that eternity belongs not only to Jesus, but to all through God. And it's not that the nations shouldn't be ruled by God. It's just that such glory should come, not through power, but by serving God. Jesus keeps directing Satan back to God, pushing him back to the one in whom he, Jesus, is rooted. He tries to turn Satan around, to repent of his pride and his power.

And that is perhaps a primary task for us in Lent: to take a look at those things that pump us up, the things that we feel we do well, and to ask if we are using our strengths and our gifts to serve God and our neighbors. Or are we making ourselves the center, taking care of business in a way that benefits ourselves and not the community around us?

The Good News for us is that we are embraced and held fast by Christ and our struggles take place in the frame of his love and grace. Perfection is beyond our grasp, but love and forgiveness cover us. The task we face is to place our needs and wants before God and to seek God's peace, to grow in faith and love. We need to know ourselves and how temptation affects us. And with that knowledge, we need to join Christ in serving God rather than only ourselves.

+Steve

Service of Reconciliation, Truth-telling and Healing

The Commission to Dismantle Racism & Discrimination invites you to join us Thursday, February 26 at 5pm for a virtual Service of Reconciliation, Truth-telling and Healing.

In these days when we witness fear, cruelty and inhumanity in our nation and globally, we come together in prayer for strength and resilience. All are welcome!

To join the virtual service, contact Susan Woods (Sew13@cornell.edu) for the zoom link.

LGBTQ+ Task Force Invites Survey Input

Episcopalians are invited to complete a 15- to 20-minute survey offered by the Task Force on LGBTQ+ Inclusion to help the church better understand how it honors the dignity of all people and where work remains to be done.

The 80th General Convention established the task force in 2022, charging it with conducting an audit of how The Episcopal Church has lived into its public commitments affirming the inclusion of LGBTQ+ people. A survey report will be shared with the 82nd General Convention in 2027.

Members across the church—those who are LGBTQ+ and those who are not—are encouraged to share about their experiences with pastoral care, sacramental access, representation in leadership, and institutional accountability by March 15.

TAKE THE SURVEY: <https://tinyurl.com/ycbk8wbu>

Our Little Roses, Honduran Luncheon

Calvary, Williamsville & Church of the Advent, Kenmore -
Join us on March 14 at Calvary to benefit the girls at Our Little Roses, Honduras.

Doors open at 11:30am for the Basket Raffle, 50/50, & Honduran sale items. Lunch begins at 1pm.

Tickets are \$30 each (pre-sale only and limited to 110 tickets). Call/text or Venmo to Kathy Barton at 716-534-1498 before March 1 to reserve. Please make checks payable to: Church of the Advent, with Honduran Luncheon in the memo line.



Do You Know?? A periodic article about things you may not know...

The Full Share

Do you know that approximately 80% of our diocesan budget is funded by congregations paying their Full Share? That means the overwhelming majority of what allows the Diocese to function — support clergy, resource congregations, form leaders, and sustain common ministry — comes directly from the faithful participation of our parishes.



Do you know that the Diocese pays a 15% Full Share to The Episcopal Church — while requesting only 13% from our congregations? The Diocese is not simply passing along an assessment; it is absorbing a portion of that cost as part of its commitment to the wider Church.

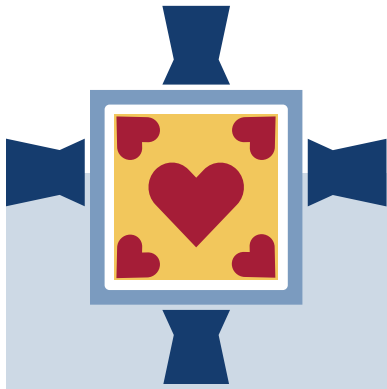
Do you know that the flat-tax Full Share model was voted on and adopted by the Diocesan Convention in 2012? This was not imposed externally; it was discerned and approved by the gathered leadership of the Diocese.

And do you know that Full Share is calculated by a clear, objective formula? It is based on the figures each congregation reports in its Parochial Report, specifically Line 3 (Plate and

Pledge) and Line 5 (Total Operating Income) on page 5 of the report. The numbers congregations submit determine the assessment — ensuring consistency and transparency across the Diocese.

Full Share is not a fee for services. It is a shared commitment — a tangible expression that we belong to one another and that our ministry is larger than any single congregation.

More to come in future editions of Do You Know?



Plenty Good Room

A Lenten Reflection

Questions for Reflection:

What most often stands in your way to sharing your gifts more freely and abundantly?



J. Davey Gerhard is the Executive Director of TENS and believes in God's all-

inclusive invitation to find Love when we are gathered together. He lives, works, and worships in San Francisco, California.



THE EPISCOPAL
NETWORK FOR
STEWARDSHIP

Lent is a season of turning – turning back to God, turning away from fear, scarcity, and selfishness, and opening our hearts to be remade in love. Through prayer, fasting, and almsgiving, the Church invites us to remember that we are dust, yes, but dust that God has shaped for holy purposes.

The spiritual Plenty Good Room reminds us that God's kingdom is wide and welcoming: "plenty good room in my Father's kingdom, just choose your seat and sit down." Lent asks us: what keeps us from taking our place at God's table? What burdens, anxieties, or false stories of scarcity do we need to lay down in order to sit freely in God's grace?

We live in a world that tells us constantly there is not enough. Not enough money to go around. Not enough time to spare. Not enough compassion to share. Lent unmask this lie and offers a radical truth: with God, there is always enough. The discipline of Lent – simplifying, giving, praying – is not meant to reduce us, but to remind us that abundance flows from God, not from hoarding or fear.

Each act of generosity we make – whether giving to the poor, serving our neighbor, or pledging support for the mission of the church – becomes a way of dismantling the systems of scarcity. Generosity begets generosity. When we share what we have, no matter how small it may seem, God multiplies it for the sake of the kingdom.

During Lent, we journey with Christ into the wilderness, where he resists the temptation to grasp for power and instead embraces trust in God's abundance. We walk the road to the cross, where Jesus gives everything for the sake of love. And in that sacrifice, we discover once again that God has already made plenty good room for each of us.

This Lent, may we give generously, pray fervently, and live boldly into the abundance of God's kingdom. There is plenty good room – for repentance, for transformation, for new life.

"And God is able to provide you with every blessing in abundance, so that by always having enough of everything, you may share abundantly in every good work." – 2 Corinthians 9:8 TENS.org

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

Kathy Reiss, Delwyn Milander; Altar Guild
Frank Smigelsky, Robert Ludwig; Ushers
Kathy Reiss; Coffee Hour Host
Kourosh Karami; Livestream Coordinator

Valerie Thomas, Judith Elliott, Michael Bonilla; Readers
Valerie Thomas, Delwyn Milander; Intercessors
Evelyn Smigelsky; Eucharistic Minister

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

The Very Reverend Rebecca A. Barnes; Celebrant and Preacher

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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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