

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

SUNG LITURGY OF THE DAY

Missa Resurrectionis by Gerre Hancock (1934-2012)

The Choir of St. Paul's Cathedral
Patricia Hills, Conductor
Peter Smith, Guest Organist

Hymns, in numerical order, are in the 1982 Hymnal; service music is listed on the service leaflet and may be found in the front of the 1982 Hymnal, with "S" before the number. "BCP" with a page number, refers to The Book of Common Prayer

PRELUDE – Organ Voluntary

THE ENTRANCE RITE

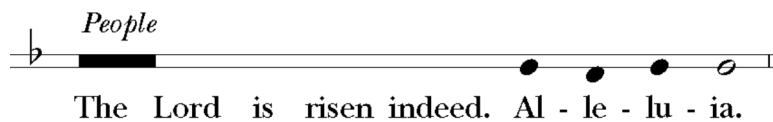
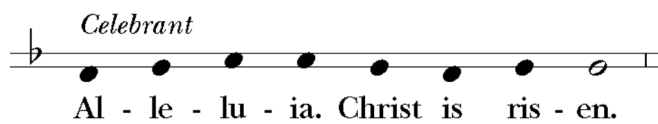
PROCESSIONAL HYMN – #518 Christ is Made the Sure Foundation

Westminster Abbey

All stand as the procession enters the nave.

THE OPENING ACCLAMATION

S78



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 GLORIA

Gerre Hancock (1934-2012)

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 The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Celebrant Let us pray.

Almighty God, whom truly to know is everlasting life: Grant us so perfectly to know your Son Jesus Christ to be the way, the truth, and the life, that we may steadfastly follow his steps in the way that leads to eternal life; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

Amen.

All sit

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

THE FIRST READING

Acts 7:55-60

Reader A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

Filled with the Holy Spirit, Stephen gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. "Look," he said, "I see the heavens opened and

the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God!" But they covered their ears, and with a loud shout all rushed together against him. Then they dragged him out of the city and began to stone him; and the witnesses laid their coats at the feet of a young man named Saul. While they were stoning Stephen, he prayed, "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit." Then he knelt down and cried out in a loud voice, "Lord, do not hold this sin against them." When he had said this, he died.

Reader The Word of the Lord.
People **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM 31:1-5, 15-16

Joseph Barnby (1838–1896)

8am Read responsively; 10:15am chanted by the choir

- 1 In you, O Lord, have I taken refuge;
 let me never be put to shame; *
 deliver me in your righteousness.

- 2 **Incline your ear to me; ***
 make haste to deliver me.

- 3 Be my strong rock, a castle to keep me safe,
 for you are my crag and my stronghold; *
 for the sake of your Name, lead me and guide me.

- 4 **Take me out of the net that they have secretly set for me, ***
 for you are my tower of strength.

- 5 Into your hands I commend my spirit, *
 for you have redeemed me,
 O Lord, O God of truth.

- 15 **My times are in your hand; ***
 rescue me from the hand of my enemies,
 and from those who persecute me.

- 16 Make your face to shine upon your servant, *
 and in your loving-kindness save me.

THE EPISTLE

1 Peter 2:2-10

Reader A reading from the First Letter of Peter.

Like newborn infants, long for the pure, spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow into salvation— if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good.

Come to him, a living stone, though rejected by mortals yet chosen and precious in God's sight, and like living stones, let yourselves be built into a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. For it stands in scripture:

"See, I am laying in Zion a stone,
a cornerstone chosen and precious;

and whoever believes in him will not be put to shame."

To you then who believe, he is precious; but for those who do not believe,

"The stone that the builders rejected
has become the very head of the corner",

and

"A stone that makes them stumble,
and a rock that makes them fall."

They stumble because they disobey the word, as they were destined to do.

But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's own people, in order that you may proclaim the mighty acts of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.

Once you were not a people,
but now you are God's people;
once you had not received mercy,
but now you have received mercy.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

THE SEQUENCE HYMN – #457 Thou Art the Way, to Thee Alone

St. James

All standing, as able.

THE HOLY GOSPEL

John 14:1-14

All remain standing, as able.

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

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

Jesus said, "Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father's house there are many dwelling places. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also. And you know the way to the place where I am going." Thomas said to him, "Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?" Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. If you know me, you will know my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him."

Philip said to him, "Lord, show us the Father, and we will be satisfied." Jesus said to him, "Have I been with you all this time, Philip, and you still do not know me? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, 'Show us the Father'? Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own; but the Father who dwells in me does his works. Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; but if you do not, then believe me because of the works themselves. Very truly, I tell you, the one who believes in me will also do the works that I do and, in fact, will do greater works than these, because I am going to the Father. I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If in my name you ask me for anything, I will do it."

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

THE SERMON

The Very Rev. Rebecca A. Barnes

THE NICENE CREED *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:
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 As a chosen people, a holy nation, and God's own beloved, let us offer our prayers on behalf of all in Jesus' name, saying, *Alleluia! Hear our prayer.*

For the Church: remembering especially Sarah, Archbishop of Canterbury; Sean our Presiding Bishop; Stephen, our Bishop Provisional; and for our Diocese as we reset our Bishop Search and Transition process, that like living stones built into a spiritual house, our ministries may be marked by prayer and service to those in need.

Alleluia! Hear our prayer.

For this Cathedral community, that together we may bear witness that Christ is indeed the way, the truth, and the life. **Alleluia! Hear our prayer.**

For leaders and legislators, that they may serve with wisdom, equity and compassion for the good of all. **Alleluia! Hear our prayer.**

For peace in the Middle East, Ukraine and all places of conflict, that tempest, turmoil and temptation may give way to a search for the common good and the building of bridges and not walls. **Alleluia! Hear our prayer.**

For all who work the earth, that they may use their skills wisely to feed the human family, and that God will give them favorable weather and an abundant harvest.

Alleluia! Hear our prayer.

For those who are ill, alone or afraid, remembering especially Jim, Bill, Kevin, John, Mariann & Tom, Alex, Clark, Chris, Joe, Lori, Larry, and those on the Cathedral Pastoral Care list, that in Christ they may find hope, strength and peace. **Alleluia! Hear our prayer.**

For those who have died, remembering especially Jeannette, and those whose anniversaries of death we mark this week, that they may be happy forever in God's house and in the place Jesus has prepared for them. **Alleluia! Hear our prayer.**

Lifting our voices with all creation, with Blessed Mary the God-bearer, Blessed Paul, and all the saints who have borne witness to the Risen Christ, let us offer ourselves and one another to the living God through Christ. **Alleluia! To you, O God, we give praise and glory.**

Celebrant Blessed are you, Holy One, who calls us to dwell with you in heaven. Hear the prayers we offer this day, and in the power of the Holy Spirit help us follow Christ who is the way, the truth and the life. Glory to the holy and undivided Trinity, one God, now and always and unto the ages of ages. **AMEN.**

THE PEACE

All stand.

Celebrant The peace of the Lord 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

Walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave 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 – Come My Way

Mark Schweizer (1956-2019)

Come, my Way, my Truth, my Life:
Such a way as gives us breath;
Such a truth as ends all strife,
Such a life as killeth death.

Come, my Light, my Feast, my Strength:
Such a light as shows a feast,
Such a feast as mends in length,
Such a strength as makes his guest.

Come, my Joy, my Love, my Heart:
Such a joy as none can move,
Such a love as none can part,
Such a heart as joys in love.

We acclaim you, holy Lord, glorious in power. Your mighty works reveal your wisdom and love. You formed us in your own image, giving the whole world into our care, so that, in obedience to you, our Creator, we might rule and serve all your creatures. When our disobedience took us far from you, you did not abandon us to the power of death. In your mercy you came to our help, so that in seeking you we might find you. Again and again you called us into covenant with you, and through the prophets you taught us to hope for salvation.

Father, you loved the world so much that in the fullness of time you sent your only Son to be our Savior. Incarnate by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, he lived as one of us, yet without sin. To the poor he proclaimed the good news of salvation; to prisoners, freedom; to the sorrowful, joy. To fulfill your purpose he gave himself up to death; and, rising from the grave, destroyed death, and made the whole creation new.

And, that we might live no longer for ourselves, but for him who died and rose for us, he sent the Holy Spirit, his own first gift for those who believe, to complete his work in the world, and to bring to fulfillment the sanctification of all.

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.

When the hour had come for him to be glorified by you, his heavenly Father, having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end; at supper with them he 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."

Father, we now celebrate this memorial of our redemption. Recalling Christ's death and his descent among the dead, proclaiming his resurrection and ascension to your right hand, awaiting his coming in glory; and offering to you, from the gifts you have given us, this bread and this cup, we praise you and we bless you.

Celebrant and People

Celebrant *All*

... we praise you and we bless you. We

praise you, we bless you, we give thanks to

you, and we pray to you, Lord our God.

Music: McNeil Robinson II (b. 1943). Copyright © 1984 Theodore Presser Co. Used by permission of the publisher.

The Celebrant continues

Lord, we pray that in your goodness and mercy your Holy Spirit may descend upon us, and upon these gifts, sanctifying them and showing them to be holy gifts for your holy people, the bread of life and the cup of salvation, the Body and Blood of your Son Jesus Christ.

Grant that all who share this bread and cup may become one body and one spirit, a living sacrifice in Christ, to the praise of your Name.

Remember, Lord, your one holy catholic and apostolic Church, redeemed by the blood of your Christ. Reveal its unity, guard its faith, and preserve it in peace.

Remember Sarah, Archbishop of Canterbury, Sean, our Presiding Bishop, Stephen, our Bishop Provisional and all who minister in your Church.

Remember all your people, and those who seek your truth.

Remember all who have died in the peace of Christ, and those whose faith is known to you alone; bring them into the place of eternal joy and light.

And grant that we may find our inheritance the Blessed Virgin Mary, with patriarchs, prophets, apostles, and martyrs, with Blessed Paul and all the saints who have found favor with you in ages past. We praise you in union with them and give you glory through your Son Jesus Christ our Lord.

Through Christ, and with Christ, and in Christ, all honor and glory are yours, Almighty God and Father, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, for ever and ever.

The Eucharistic prayer concludes with the Doxology, the People respond with the following

THE GREAT AMEN

S146



The Celebrant then continues

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

THE LORD'S PRAYER

S119

Musical notation for 'THE LORD'S PRAYER' in B-flat major, 4/4 time. The melody is spread across ten staves. The lyrics are: 'Our Fa - ther, who art in hea - ven, hal - low - ed be thy Name, thy king - dom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in hea - ven. Give us this day our dai - ly bread. And for - give us our tres - pas - ses, as we for - give those who tres - pass a - gainst us. And lead us not in - to temp - ta - tion, but de - liv - er us from e - vil. For thine is the king - dom, and the power, and the glo - ry, for ev - er and ev - er. A - men.'

Our Fa - ther, who art in hea - ven, hal - low - ed
be thy Name, thy king - dom come, thy will be done,
on earth as it is in hea - ven. Give us this day our
dai - ly bread. And for - give us our tres - pas - ses,
as we for - give those who tres - pass a - gainst us. And lead
us not in - to temp - ta - tion, but de - liv - er us
from e - vil. For thine is the king - dom, and the power,
and the glo - ry, for ev - er and ev - er. A - men.

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

The Celebrant breaks the consecrated Bread.

A period of silence is kept.

Then may be sung or said

Celebrant Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

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

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

The Celebrant says

The Gifts of God for the People of God.

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.

The Holy Communion is distributed under the forms of both Bread and Wine. In the interest of public health, the Cathedral does not practice intinction, that is, the dipping of the Bread into the Wine. It is the faith of the Church that Jesus gives himself in the Sacrament whether it is received in only one kind or both. Gluten-free Wafers are available; please make your need known to the minister.

It is our custom to receive the bread in the upturned palms of our hands, and eat it immediately. Those who wish to receive wine should partake by sipping directly from the chalice. Please use your hands, holding the base of the chalice, to gently assist the server in guiding the chalice to your lips.

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 chest.

AT THE MINISTRATION OF COMMUNION

O Taste and See

Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872–1958)

O taste and see how gracious the Lord is: blest is the man that trusteth in him.

O taste and see how gracious the Lord is: blest is the man that trusteth in him.

Blest is the man that trusteth in him.

Blest is the man that trusteth in him.

The man that trusteth in him.

After Communion, the Celebrant says

Let us pray.

Celebrant and People

Eternal God, heavenly Father, you have graciously accepted us as living members of your Son 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 Lord.

Amen.

GREETINGS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE EASTER BLESSING

The God of peace, who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus Christ, the great Shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant, make you perfect in every good work to do his will, working in you that which is well-pleasing in his sight; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you, and remain with you always. **Amen.**

THE FINAL HYMN – #432 O Praise ye the Lord!

Laudate Dominum

THE EASTER DISMISSAL

S175

Deacon

Let us go forth in the name of Christ, al - le - lu - ia,

al - le - lu - ia.

People

Thanks be to God, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

POSTLUDE – Organ Voluntary

CATHEDRAL LIFE | MAY 3
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

FIRST TUESDAY RETURNS

On May 5th we celebrate the First Tuesday of the month. Grab your favorite beverage, and sit back and enjoy some chit chat with old and new friends at the SPC Zoom Coffee Hour. One never knows what topic will come up. Join in with the Zoom link at SPCBuffalo.org anytime between 7:00 and 7:45 pm when there is no particular agenda. Compline begins at 7:45 and we adjourn by 8:00.

Announcement from the Dean and the Property Committee

Alleluia! Christ is risen! And...the long awaited refurbished ramp is finally finished. The only final touches that need to be completed are some cosmetic finishing and a railing, but the ramp is now usable, and the elevator is fully operational.

We know that this has been a problem for many and are so relieved that this much needed project has finally been completed.

We can't wait to welcome you back!

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.

Pastoral Care Ministry at St. Paul's

Two weeks ago, the Pastoral Care team met to pray and reflect on our shared ministry. It was also an opportunity to meet with Mother Liz Grohowski, who has recently been called to the Cathedral to serve in a limited capacity as Associate for Pastoral Care. Mother Liz will be taking care of the responsibilities previously covered by Mo. Barbara Price.

At our meeting, we made a decision to modify the Cathedral Prayer lists. Going forward, there will be a change in the intercessions that are offered during the Prayers of the People. Names



may be submitted for those who are in acute or critical need. Names will remain on the list for six weeks. Should you wish to have them remain on the list longer, that request may be made to the Dean. We will maintain a separate Pastoral Care prayer list for those who are homebound and in nursing homes, or may request ongoing prayer. This list will remain in the announcements and on the eNews, but individual names will not be included in the intercessions. We do ask that the entire congregation remember these beloved of our community in your prayers and join with us in praying for them. We hope that this will shorten the prayers while holding in our hearts and prayers, all those in need and absent from us.

In a Pastoral Emergency, please contact—The Very Reverend Rebecca A. Barnes, Dean at [646-533-1836](tel:646-533-1836)/e-mail at deanrebecca@spcbuffalo.org; or The Reverend Elizabeth Grohowski, [212-222-8109](tel:212-222-8109). If you, or a family member, are in the hospital, a healthcare facility, or are home bound and would like to have a visit from one of the clergy or a member of our Pastoral Care Committee, please contact the cathedral office at [716-855-0900](tel:716-855-0900) or at office@spcbuffalo.org. Due to the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act, commonly known as HIPAA, hospitals no longer automatically provide churches with names of admitted parishioners. If you or a family member are hospitalized or in a healthcare facility, you or someone acting on your behalf will need to notify the church to assure that proper pastoral care may be offered. St. Paul's complies with all HIPAA requirements and cannot provide personal information for sick or injured members without permission of the member or his or her close family member. Additionally, if you or a loved one are hospitalized or homebound and desire regular Eucharistic visitation, please notify the parish office. Eucharistic Visitations are customarily made once per month; weekly visits may be scheduled upon request.

– Dean Rebecca

SJAT Note

From Bill Siener for the Social Justice Action Team

There's a slight change of plans for the program on May 3 after worship. A last minute opportunity to screen the 40 minute documentary, "Ripples of Plastic" has come up. The documentary is about the impact of plastic pollution in the Great Lakes and adjacent waterways. It will be an opportunity to give a local context to our discussion of A Poison Like No Other on May 10. Jay Burney, and his friend and fellow environmentalist, John Whitney will present the documentary and lead a discussion afterwards.

SJAT Note

From Bill Siener for the Social Justice Action Team

This is a reminder that on May 9 OR 21, Buffalo-Niagara Waterkeeper is holding a Nurdle Patrol training. Nurdles are small plastic pellets, about the size of a lentil, used in plastics manufacturing. This plastic pollution has been found on the shorelines of several waterways within the Niagara River Watershed. In the training sessions at Gratwick Park in North Tonawanda, you'll learn more about nurdles and how to collect them. You only need to attend one of the sessions. Sessions are on Saturday, May 9 from 10-11 a.m. or Thursday, May 21.

From 5:30-6:30 p.m. You can register at the Buffalo-Niagara Waterkeeper website <https://bnwaterkeeper.org/nurdle-patrol/>

Parking at St. Paul's

Street parking is free on Saturdays and Sundays. There are also several nearby parking garages. We recommend:

- **Main Place Mall Parking** (221 Pearl St., Buffalo, NY 14202, <https://www.mainliberty.com/parking>) - This is our preferred garage for those coming to St. Paul's. We suggest that you use the entrance directly across from the Rath County Office Building, 166 Pearl, (you will notice the skywalk above) which is only a 1/2 block north of the Cathedral. Weekend parking is \$6 all day. Weekday rate: \$5 for 1 hr or less; \$7 for 3hr or less; \$12 full day. Accessibility: ADA-compliant spaces and elevator access available and 24/7 surveillance, well-lit areas, and patrolled security. EV Charging: Electric vehicle charging stations available.

Need help covering parking fees? We've got you covered! Bring your ticket from the Main Place Mall Parking with you. At the end of the service just see an usher for a voucher for your card. (If you can afford to pay, we kindly ask that you please leave this limited fund for those who can't, thank you!)

Additional ramps we suggest are:

- **Adam Ramp** (343 Washington St., Buffalo, NY 14202) - 1 1/2 blocks behind the Cathedral. Weekend parking is \$6 all day. Weekday rate: \$2.50 hr/ \$10 max.
- **93 Pearl Street Garage** (93 Pearl St. Buffalo, NY 14202) - A block south of the Cathedral. Daily Parking (Mon - Fri, 6 am - 6 pm) - \$10 Max

There are also several open/uncovered Premier Parking parking lots near the Cathedral. These require payment at a kiosk; fees are higher. Please note, when there are special events at Sahlen Field and the KeyBank Center, area lots charge Event Rates which are significantly more than daily rates.

Prayer and Pastoral Care

We lift up the following in prayer especially Jim, Bill, Kevin, John, Mariann & Tom, Elle & Reid, Alex, Clark, 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 Jeanette, 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

From Bishop Stephen Lane

Dear People of God,

This past Sunday I had the opportunity to view the service broadcast by Washington National Cathedral. If you've seen that service before, you know that the music is wonderful and the preaching is pretty darn good.

This past Sunday, Dean Randy Hollerith preached on Jesus as the sheepgate from the Gospel of John. In his sermon, he said something I think is very important. He asked, "Amidst all the voices claiming to speak for Jesus in our world, how do we know what Jesus truly wants?" He answered his question, "We read the words of Jesus in the Gospels." We know because Jesus tells us in Matthew, Mark, Luke and John.

I think that's a key thing for us to understand as Christians. We honor the whole of Scripture: the Law, the Prophets, the Psalms, the Wisdom literature, the Epistles. We consider Scripture to be inspired, to be the Word of God. We understand these sacred texts to be the means by which God has spoken to God's people through the ages. Yet, for Christians, the Gospels stand as paramount. In the Gospels we meet the Word made flesh, who is the standard by which the rest of Scripture is judged. It is Jesus' words – "Love God, love your neighbor." "Love one another as I have loved you." "Love your enemies." "Turn the other cheek." "Blessed are the peacemakers." – that inform our behavior in the world. We know what Jesus wants because Jesus tells us what he wants.

We Episcopalians are especially blessed in our incarnational theology, our belief that God is with us through the Spirit. Not only do we find Jesus in Scripture, but we find him in our midst as we meet together, as we break bread and share the cup. The words of Scripture are held in tension with the Word made flesh; Jesus as we meet him in the Gospels, and Jesus as we meet him in one another. The words we read must resonate with the Jesus we know.

Therefore, for us, faith is a dynamic exercise. With Jesus' words ringing in our ears, we confront the realities of our time and ask, what would Jesus have us do? What does Jesus tell us to do? How do we bring the love, the justice, the mercy of Jesus to bear on our situation?

You may have noticed that our President and the Pope have been having a bit of a conversation about this issue. The Pope has been critical of the US war with Iran. The President has responded that the Pope is wrong about Iran and about military strategy and should not speak about things he doesn't know. The Pope has responded that he is speaking of neither political or military strategy, but simply the Gospel words of Jesus. "Blessed are the peacemakers."

"An eye for an eye, and a tooth for a tooth" is found in Exodus 21:24. In its day that was a great advance in ethics, saying that retribution had to be proportional to the injury. It was not appropriate to wipe out a village in revenge for the murder of one person. In Matthew 5:38-39,

Jesus advances God's mercy even further: "You have heard that it was said, 'An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth.' But I say to you: Do not resist an evildoer. But if anyone strikes you on the right cheek, turn the other also..."

We may find it difficult to do as Jesus asks. It may confront us and challenge our behavior. We may argue that our context requires other actions. But we know what Jesus wants. And that's where we begin. May God enliven your own reflections.

Easter Blessings,
Bishop Steve

A Message from the Standing Committee about the Bishop Search Process

Dear Friends in Christ,

As published April 17th...We are entering a season of reset in our bishop search process.

This decision has not been made lightly. It comes from a growing recognition that, while much good work has already been achieved, the process itself needs strengthening—particularly in clarity, communication, shared expectations, and broad diocesan engagement. We believe this reset will allow us not simply to continue the work, but to do it well.

To read this letter in its entirety, please visit the BISHOP SEARCH PAGE of the Diocesan Website: [<https://episcopalwny.org/bishop-search/>]

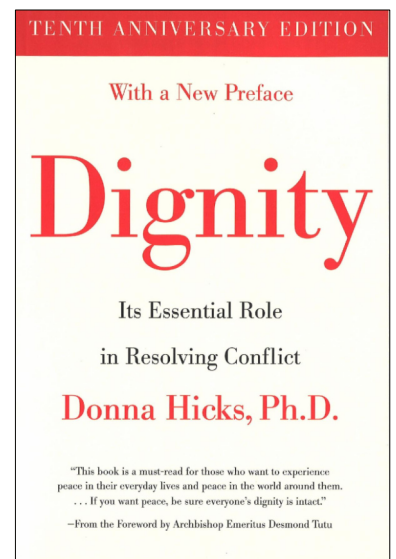
Dignity Book Study Schedule

I'm delighted so many have expressed an interest in being part of the study of *Dignity: Its Essential Role in Resolving Conflict*, by Donna Hicks, PhD. **Remember that the books you have reserved are available for pick up at the Diocesan Ministry Center between 9am and 4pm Monday through Thursdays.**

We will read the book together over the next four weeks, beginning this week. To aid in our reflection on the material, we will meet on Zoom for four Tuesdays, beginning **next Tuesday, April 28 at 7pm**, for one hour, and continuing on **May 5, 12, and 19 at 7pm each Tuesday evening.**

To register for one or more sessions, visit <https://tinyurl.com/yfvj4mfy>

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the session. Please keep this information for all future sessions.



The schedule for reading is as follows:

Week Two: The last five Essentials (May 5)

Week Three: The first five Temptations (May 12)

Week Four: The last five Temptations and the Conclusion (Healing Relationships) (May 19)

If you miss a session, they will be recorded, and viewing links will be provided each week in the newsletter.

If you are part of a parish group, you may have local sessions as well, and join the weekly Zooms. I will try to organize questions for discussion when we meet.

There are still books available. If you would like one, please be in touch with Canon Cathy Dempsey-Sims. *Please let Cathy know the email address of each participant so we may send them the zoom registration link.*

I look forward to our being part of this conversation with you.

Bishop Steve

CDRD Virtual Workshop Series with the Rev. Isaiah "Shaneequa" Brokenleg

What does it mean to be Two-Spirit and why are they given a revered role as healers and spiritual leaders? Episcopal Indigenous Ministries speak of "living in right relationship with humanity and all of creation." What is meant by the theology of relationship? Have you ever reflected on your personal theology of relationship?

The WNY & NWPA Commission to Dismantle Racism & Discrimination invites you to join us April 30 and May 28 from 7pm-8:30pm to explore these questions and more.

For more information, visit episcopalwny.org/dismantling-racism/

To register for the Virtual Workshop Series and receive a Zoom link, REGISTER HERE: <https://tinyurl.com/ybsj2xuc>

Virtual Workshop Series

THE REV. ISAIAH "SHANEEQUA" BROKENLEG

April 30, 2026
May 28, 2026
7:00 -8:30 PM

Register to Zoom

April 30 — Two-Spirit 101
May 28 — Developing Your Personal Theology: What is at the Core of Who You Are?

Scan to Register

WNY & NWPA Commission to Dismantle Racism and Discrimination

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.

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Kathy Reiss, Delwyn Milander; Altar Guild
Frank Smigelsky, Robert Ludwig; Ushers
Jessy Alexander, Judith Elliott; Coffee Hour Hosts
Thomas Heyer; Livestreaming Technician

Valerie Thomas, Judith Elliott, Jessy Alexander; Readers
Valerie Thomas, Delwyn Milander; Intercessors
Evelyn Smigelsky; Eucharistic Minister

The Choir of St. Paul's Cathedral
Patricia Hills; Conductor
Peter Smith; 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.

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