

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

SUNG LITURGY OF THE DAY

Mass in A minor by Harold Darke (1888- 1976)

The Choir of St. Paul's Cathedral
Patricia Hills, Conductor
Tim Socha, 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 – Fugue in B Minor

J.S. Bach (1685-1750)

THE ENTRANCE RITE

PROCESSIONAL HYMN – #518 Christ is made the sure foundation

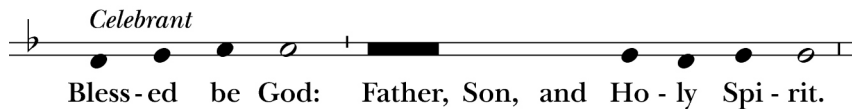
Westminster Abbey

All stand as the procession enters the nave.

THE OPENING ACCLAMATION

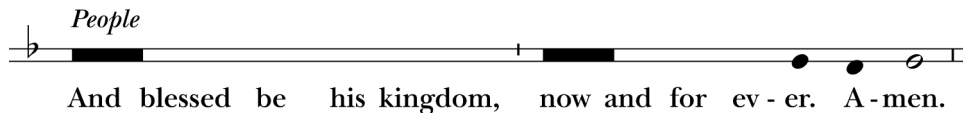
S76

Celebrant



Bless-ed be God: Father, Son, and Ho-ly Spi-rit.

People



And blessed be his kingdom, now and for ev-er. A-men.

Music: Ambrosian chant; adapt. Mason Martens (1933-1991). Copyright © 1971 Mason Martens.

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

Darke

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 and everlasting God, you are always more ready to hear than we to pray, and to give more than we either desire or deserve: Pour upon us the abundance of your mercy, forgiving us those things of which our conscience is afraid, and giving us those good things for which we are not worthy to ask, except through the merits and mediation of Jesus Christ our Savior; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

All sit

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

THE FIRST READING

Isaiah 5:1-7

Reader A reading from the Book of the Prophet Isaiah.

Let me sing for my beloved
my love-song concerning his vineyard:

My beloved had a vineyard
on a very fertile hill.

He dug it and cleared it of stones,
and planted it with choice vines;

he built a watchtower in the midst of it,
and hewed out a wine vat in it;

he expected it to yield grapes,
but it yielded wild grapes.

And now, inhabitants of Jerusalem
and people of Judah,

judge between me
and my vineyard.

What more was there to do for my vineyard
that I have not done in it?

When I expected it to yield grapes,
why did it yield wild grapes?

And now I will tell you
what I will do to my vineyard.

I will remove its hedge,
and it shall be devoured;

I will break down its wall,
and it shall be trampled down.

I will make it a waste;
it shall not be pruned or hoed,
and it shall be overgrown with briars and thorns;

I will also command the clouds
that they rain no rain upon it.

For the vineyard of the Lord of hosts
is the house of Israel,

and the people of Judah
are his pleasant planting;

he expected justice,
but saw bloodshed;

righteousness,
but heard a cry!

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

PSALM 80:7-14

Setting by Henry Walford Davies (1869 – 1941)

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

- 7 Restore us, O God of hosts; *
 show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.
- 8 **You have brought a vine out of Egypt; *
 you cast out the nations and planted it.**
- 9 You prepared the ground for it; *
 it took root and filled the land.
- 10 **The mountains were covered by its shadow *
 and the towering cedar trees by its boughs.**
- 11 You stretched out its tendrils to the Sea *
 and its branches to the River.
- 12 **Why have you broken down its wall, *
 so that all who pass by pluck off its grapes?**
- 13 The wild boar of the forest has ravaged it, *
 and the beasts of the field have grazed upon it.
- 14 **Turn now, O God of hosts, look down from heaven;
 behold and tend this vine; *
 preserve what your right hand has planted.**

Reader A reading from the Letter of Paul to the Philippians.

If anyone else has reason to be confident in the flesh, I have more: circumcised on the eighth day, a member of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew born of Hebrews; as to the law, a Pharisee; as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to righteousness under the law, blameless.

Yet whatever gains I had, these I have come to regard as loss because of Christ. More than that, I regard everything as loss because of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things, and I regard them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but one that comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God based on faith. I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the sharing of his sufferings by becoming like him in his death, if somehow I may attain the resurrection from the dead.

Not that I have already obtained this or have already reached the goal; but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own. Beloved, I do not consider that I have made it my own; but this one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal for the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

THE SEQUENCE HYMN – #546 Awake, my soul stretch every nerve

Siroe

All standing, as able.

THE HOLY GOSPEL

Matthew 21:23-32

All remain standing, as able.

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

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

Jesus said, "Listen to another parable. There was a landowner who planted a vineyard, put a fence around it, dug a wine press in it, and built a watchtower. Then he leased it to tenants and went to another country. When the harvest time had come, he sent his slaves to the tenants to collect his produce. But the tenants seized his slaves and beat one, killed another, and stoned another. Again he sent other slaves, more than the first; and they treated them in the same way. Finally he sent his son to them, saying, 'They will respect

my son.' But when the tenants saw the son, they said to themselves, 'This is the heir; come, let us kill him and get his inheritance.' So they seized him, threw him out of the vineyard, and killed him. Now when the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those tenants?" They said to him, "He will put those wretches to a miserable death, and lease the vineyard to other tenants who will give him the produce at the harvest time."

Jesus said to them, "Have you never read in the scriptures:
'The stone that the builders rejected
has become the cornerstone;
this was the Lord's doing,
and it is amazing in our eyes'?"

Therefore I tell you, the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people that produces the fruits of the kingdom. The one who falls on this stone will be broken to pieces; and it will crush anyone on whom it falls."

When the chief priests and the Pharisees heard his parables, they realized that he was speaking about them. They wanted to arrest him, but they feared the crowds, because they regarded him as a prophet.

The Gospel of the Lord.

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

The Leader and People pray responsively

Intercessor Let us offer prayers to God for the vineyard of the Lord of hosts, and for all those in any need, saying: *God our Creator, hear our prayer.*

For the Church: especially Sarah, Archbishop of Canterbury; Sean our Presiding Bishop; Stephen our Bishop Provisional; and our Diocese as we prepare to call a new Bishop Diocesan, that we may press on toward the goal for the prize God has prepared for us.
God our Creator, hear our prayer.

For this Cathedral community, that we may be strengthened to produce a harvest rich in justice, mercy, compassion, and forgiveness. **God our Creator, hear our prayer.**

For an end to conflict everywhere, that the fruit of justice and compassion will bring forth a season of understanding and loving care for one another.
God our Creator, hear our prayer.

For civility in public discourse, that we may see God's image in each other, learn to respond to others without hatred or bitterness, and work together with mutual respect for the dignity of every human being. **God our Creator, hear our prayer.**

For all who tend the fields and bring food to our tables, that God will strengthen them and protect them in their labors. **God our Creator, hear our prayer.**

For all those in need of our prayers, remembering especially Brian, Sean, Lynne, Alex, Jim, Chuck, Clark, Chris, Joe, Larry, and those on the Cathedral Pastoral Care list, that the peace of God that passes all understanding may fill their minds and hearts.

God our Creator, hear our prayer.

For all the departed, remembering especially Terry, Wanda and those whose anniversaries of death we mark this week, that they may share in the abundant harvest of the kingdom of heaven. **God our Creator, hear our prayer.**

Lifting our voices with all creation, with Blessed Mary the God-bearer, Blessed Paul, Blessed Francis, and all the saints, let us offer ourselves and one another to the living God through Christ. **Glory to you, Creator God.**

Celebrant Beloved God of the vineyard, hear our prayers and enrich your church with new growth that we may bear fruit in abundance and produce a rich harvest for eternal life. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ our Savior. **Amen.**

CONFESSION OF SIN

A Confession of Sin is said here if it has not been said earlier. On occasion, the Confession may be omitted.

The Deacon or Celebrant says

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

Silence may be kept.

Minister and People

Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent. For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us; that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways, to the glory of your Name. Amen.

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

Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord 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 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.

OFFERTORY ANTHEM – Christ is our Cornerstone

David Ogden (b. 1966)

Christ is our Cornerstone,
On Him alone we build;
With His true saints alone
The courts of heaven are filled;
On His great love our hopes we place
Of present grace and joys above.

Aleluia! Deo Gratias! Thanks be to God!

O then with hymns of praise
These hallowed courts shall ring;
Our voices we will raise
The Three in One to sing;
And thus proclaim in joyful song
Both loud and long, that glorious Name.

Here, gracious God, do Thou
Forevermore draw nigh;
Accept each faithful vow,
And mark each suppliant sigh;
In copious shower on all who pray,
Each holy day, Thy blessings pour.

Here may we gain from Heav'n,
The grace which we implore;
And may that grace, once given,
Be with us evermore;
Until that day when all the blest
to endless rest are called away.

All standing, as able.

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 GREAT THANKSGIVING – Eucharistic Prayer A

BCP page 361

SURSUM CORDA

S120

The musical notation is presented in four staves, each with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The lyrics are written below the notes, with 'Celebrant' and 'People' labels above the respective parts.

Staff 1: Celebrant: The Lord be with you. People: And al - so with you.

Staff 2: Celebrant: Lift up your hearts. People: We lift them to the Lord.

Staff 3: Celebrant: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

Staff 4: People: It is right to give him thanks and praise.

Then, facing the Holy Table, the Celebrant continues:

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth. Through Jesus Christ our Lord; who on the first day of the week overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life.

Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

SANCTUS AND BENEDICTUS

Darke

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

Holy and gracious Father: In your infinite love you made us for yourself, and, when we had fallen into sin and become subject to evil and death, you, in your mercy, sent Jesus Christ, your only and eternal Son, to share our human nature, to live and die as one of us, to reconcile us to you, the God and Father of all.

He stretched out his arms upon the cross, and offered himself, in obedience to your will, a perfect sacrifice for the whole world.

On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper he took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

MEMORIAL ACCLAMATION

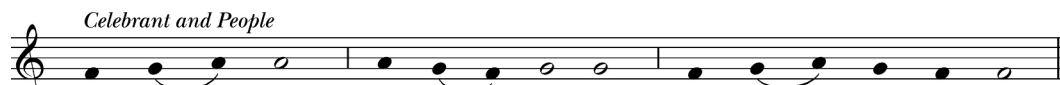
S133

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.

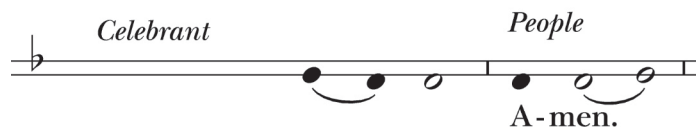
Music: Ambrosian chant; adapt. Mason Martens (1933-1991). Copyright © 1971 Mason Martens.

The Celebrant continues

We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, O Father, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Recalling his death, resurrection, and ascension, we offer you these gifts.

Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be for your people the Body and Blood of your Son, the holy food and drink of new and unending life in him. Sanctify us also that we may faithfully receive this holy Sacrament, and serve you in unity, constancy, and peace; and at the last day bring us with all your saints into the joy of your eternal kingdom.

All this we ask through you Son Jesus Christ. By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and forever.



The Celebrant then continues

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

THE LORD'S PRAYER

S119

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,

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 Lord Increase my Faith

Henry Loosemore (1607-1670)

O Lord, increase our faith,
strengthen us and confirm us in Thy true faith;
endue us with wisdom, charity, chastity, and patience,
in all our adversities.
Sweet Jesu say Amen.

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 ST. FRANCIS PLEDGE

All are invited to join in proclaiming aloud

I Pledge...

TO PRAY AND REFLECT on my duty to care for God's creation
and protect those who are poor and vulnerable,
to learn about and educate others about
the causes and moral dimension of climate change,

TO ASSESS how I as an individual,
my family, parish, and school contribute to climate change
by energy use, consumption, and waste.

TO ACT to change my choices and behaviors
by reducing my carbon footprint,
such as being a more energy-conscious consumer
and less wasteful in my use of limited resources.

TO ADVOCATE for the principles of nurturing the
Beloved Community and stewardship of God's creation
in climate change discussions and decisions,
especially as they impact those who are poor and vulnerable.

(Based on Catholic Climate Covenant)

THE BLESSING

THE FINAL HYMN – #495 Hail, thou once despised Jesus!

In Babilone

THE DISMISSAL

S174

Deacon



Let us go forth into the world, rejoicing in the pow - er of the Spi - rit.

People



Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE – Fugue in C Major (from Sonata no. 2)

Felix Mendelssohn (1809-1847)

*The flowers on the altar are given to the glory of God and in
loving memory of Elizabeth Skillman by Judy Kelly.*

CATHEDRAL LIFE | OCTOBER 4
ST. PAUL'S CATHEDRAL – SPCBUFFALO.ORG

TODAY AT ST PAUL'S

- 8:00am – **The Holy Eucharist, Rite II** (said) – Richmond Chapel
- 9:00am - **Bible Study** in the Walker Room – coffee and discussion of scripture lessons for the week.
- 10:00am – ***Godly Play Sunday School Program*** - 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.
- 10:15am – **Holy Eucharist, Rite II** (Choral)
- 11:30am – **Coffee Hour** – All are welcome to enjoy refreshments and join in some fellowship time at coffee hour following immediately following the 10:15 Eucharist.

First Tuesday

The first Tuesday of October falls on Oct. 6. Grab your favorite beverage, sit back and enjoy some chit chat with old and new friends at the SPC Zoom Coffee Hour.

Join in with the Zoom link here anytime between 7:00 and 7:45 PM when there is no particular agenda. One never knows what will come up. Compline begins at 7:45 and we adjourn at about 8:00.

SPC Zoom Link: <https://tinyurl.com/mvn4aw>

Meeting ID: [716 855 0900](https://www.zoom.us/j/7168550900) Password: [4cathedral](https://www.zoom.us/j/7168550900)

By Phone: [929-205-6099](https://www.zoom.us/j/7168550900) Access code: [716 855 0900](https://www.zoom.us/j/7168550900) Password: [535 007 8352](https://www.zoom.us/j/7168550900)

CATHEDRAL CREATION CARE

The Season of Creation

The Season of Creation 2026 runs from 1 September to 4 October 2026, and this year's theme is "Living Water," inspired by Ezekiel 47:9–12. This ecumenical observance invites Christian communities worldwide to pray, act, and advocate for ecological justice, with the symbol "Immersion in Living Water." In conjunction with the celebration of this season and the Feast of St. Francis, the Cathedral will hold its **Annual Blessing of the Animals in Honor of St. Francis** on the Eve of the Feast of St. Francis, **October 3 at 4PM**. Those unable to attend may also have their pet blessed following the 10:15 Eucharist on Sunday, October 4th. More announcements about Season of Creation events are pending.

Holy Hikes



Holy Hikes of Western New York, a ministry of St. Paul's Cathedral, is pleased to announce its full schedule (<https://tinyurl.com/mwc53bmn>) for the 2026 season. All hikes are held on the second Saturday of the month at 10am, unless otherwise announced. **On October 17th, we will hike at Heartland Forest Trail in Niagara Falls, Ontario, CN.** We hike rain or shine.

All are welcome; carpooling will be available from the Cathedral at 9:15am or you can join us directly at the appointed hike location.

Garden of Love: Sorting Sunday

On Sunday, September 27, the following sensational Sunday sorters showed up at the FMC and sorted and hung 4 racks of clothing for the Garden of Love: Katherine and Roger Woodard, Chris and Chuck Casto, Wendy and Jack Darling, Nancy Boncore, Gary Jeffrey, David Jemott, and myself. You too can be a sensational Sunday Sorter. All you have to do is show up at the FMC on Sunday, October 25 at 11:45 AM. You will be done no later than 1 PM, but, if you are as many and as fast as this last group of sensational Sunday sorters, you will get to leave early at 12:45. It is true, many hands make light work. Hope to see YOU there!

Michael Bonilla, for Garden of Love

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION AND FORMATION

The Serviceberry: Abundance and Reciprocity in the Natural World by Robin Wall Kimmerer

Using materials from the United Thank Offering (UTO) we will be engaging in a study inspired by the book *The Serviceberry: Abundance and Reciprocity in the Natural World* by Robin Wall Kimmerer. This book takes a look at how the natural world functions via a gift economy as plants, animals, soil, etcetera share what they have for the common good. Our faith teaches us that grace is a gift freely given by God and that the gift is so great we want to respond by giving to others. This is what it means to be a part of a gift economy when we give thanks and we give back. During this time of celebrating the Season of Creation, Native Peoples Day, and our Annual Stewardship campaign, we pray that this study will deepen our faith and awareness that “all flourishing is mutual” - when we are blessed, we bless others. Each week, we'll reflect on an aspect of gratitude and reciprocity to help deepen (or start) your personal spiritual discipline of gratitude.

The schedule for the Serviceberry will be on the following evenings from 7-8:30PM:

- Tuesday (9/15)
- Tuesday (9/22)
- Monday (10/5)
- Tuesday (10/13)

**Please note there is no session the week of Sept. 27-Oct 3*

The sessions will be held on the Cathedral Zoom site

SPC Zoom Link: <https://tinyurl.com/mvnsn4aw>

Meeting ID: 716 855 0900 Password: 4cathedral

By Phone: 929-205-6099 Access code: 716 855 0900 Password: 535 007 8352

The author, Robin Wall Kimmerer, who also wrote the acclaimed book *Braiding Sweetgrass*, is a mother, scientist, decorated professor, and enrolled member of the Citizen Potawatomi Nation. She is the author of *The Serviceberry: Abundance and Reciprocity in the Natural World*, *Braiding Sweetgrass: Indigenous Wisdom, Scientific Knowledge and the Teachings of Plants* and *Gathering Moss: A Natural and Cultural History of Mosses*. She lives in Syracuse, New York, where she is a SUNY Distinguished Teaching Professor of Environmental Biology, and the founder and director of the Center for Native Peoples and the Environment.

Growing Faith Together



BOOK STUDY on BELONGING
Hosted by the Erie South Deanery
and
Open to ALL!

Join Dean Rebecca Barnes of St. Paul's Cathedral
and the Rev. Ann Tillman of St. Matthias' Church
as we join forces to study
Father Gregory Boyle's
Cherished Belonging:
The Healing Power of Love in Divided Times.

Gatherings will be held on Monday afternoons from 4 - 5:30 pm on Zoom, and will be followed by Evening Prayer. We realize that some will be working at that hour, and we hope you will read alongside us!

Classes will be as follows:
10/19 Introduction and Chapter 1
10/26 Chapters 2 & 3
11/2 Chapters 4 & 5
11/9 Chapters 6 & 7
11/16 Chapters 8 & 9

Zoom Link:
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87163407294>
Passcode: 02241869

Children's Christian Education: "Godly Play"

"Godly Play: a Montessori-based program is offered 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. If you are interested in learning more about Christian Education and Formation for a child in your family, please contact Kathy Reiss at kathyreiss@yahoo.com. For information about baptism and/or confirmation, please contact Dean Rebecca at deanrebecca@spcbuffalo.org

SOCIAL JUSTICE AND OUTREACH MINISTRIES

SJAT Note - Bonds between SPC and Good Shepherd, Irving

From Bob Ludwig for the Social Justice Action Team

Background for the current bonds between St. Paul's Cathedral and Good Shepherd, on Seneca Territory, Irving – In the fall of 2021, SJAT was moved to learn about the intersection of Creation Care and Indigenous practices. After inviting an Indigenous speaker to an SPC adult education forum, we wanted more. Networking led us to Ellen Jamison, a parishioner at the Church of the Good Shepherd on the territory of the Seneca Nation in Irving, NY. Ellen was concerned about the condition of the church's parish hall (Clough Hall [pronounced Kluff]). 2022 was a year of exploration with Good Shepherd for what were their most urgent, and most important, needs. The diocese helped identify possible grants, a route familiar to Good Shepherd who had previously received a Diocesan grant. A new grant process ensued. SJAT aided in the assembly and submittal by the deadline Mar 1, 2023. The purpose set forth in the grant request was:

"Good Shepherd Irving's members, moved by the Holy Spirit, seek Seneca Nation grandparents to connect with their roots and with one another. How will this happen? First, by repairing the infrastructure which, with decades of neglect, no longer permits walker- and wheel-chair-bound people to enter Clough Hall, the century-old parish hall adjacent to Good Shepherd church. Second, by repairing the sacred breach of memory and the burial ground on both sides of Good Shepherd's church building. Third, by the concomitant opportunity to invite and share with elders and community members the story of their loved ones buried in the cemetery. Thus, with easy access to electronic maps and physical grave markers, allow and encourage them in prayer to connect with their roots and in fellowship with one another. When elders come, Good Shepherd will rejoice in welcoming other members of their lineages."

The Diocesan Reynolds Fund grant provided \$39,520, Good Shepherd \$2,300, SPC \$2,300, individuals \$750 – the Seneca Nation contributed \$3,000 for grave-identifying and marking, – for the project total of \$47,870. The Amish construction company started in April 2023 and finished by the fall of '23. ViaVista, by the fall, provided electronic maps – aerial photography linked to ground penetrating lidar. The identification work is ongoing - comparing old records to the electronic data and lots of manual labor setting out the cemetery boundaries and grave marking, casting concrete blocks on which to affix granite plaques with names on them.

Right now – Fast forward to Saturday Sep 19, 2026, and the annual observance of Every Child Matters observed at Good Shepherd in the refurbished Clough Hall. This event is a remembrance of the trauma inflicted on families and on their children by a policy of forced removal from their homes and subjected to live as a resident (at a Thomas School) under rules where the children were punished if they spoke their native language – or tried to run away.

Some 50 people were there, half of Indigenous descent, and most encouraging was the presence among them of half a dozen children.

It is tantalizing to wonder about how individuals have benefited from improved access to Clough Hall and from discovering where relatives are buried. The stories are coming. Stay alert for a future SJAT Note.

But help is still needed. Go back to early June 2026, and the message Good Shepherd sent St. Paul's – they were in a real financial bind – (a) the furnace in the church had broken and required a new one (transferring worship to Clough Hall uses more energy because of the large space), and (b) the escalation in insurance costs and energy costs (electricity and natural gas), had blown a giant hole in their budget. The furnace alone will cost \$2600. The insurance and the energy costs are the result of the current inflation (due largely to tariffs, wars, and uncertainty about the future.) The Diocese has been asked to help as has St. Paul's. What will St. Paul's Cathedral do? Here's where SPCers help.

At it's meeting last Sunday, the Vestry agreed to take up a special collection on October 11th, in honor of Native People's Day. We will make a contribution to our friends at Good Shepherd, Irving to help them procure a new furnace as the cold weather is just around the corner. Donations may also be made on the Cathedral's website. Please put in the memo field "Good Shepherd, Irving." Thank you for your generosity.

IMPORTANT ONGOING ANNOUNCEMENTS AT ST. PAUL'S

"We've got you covered!" - Parking at St. Paul's

At St. Paul's we are deeply aware of the challenges of downtown parking. As one of the oldest churches in the Diocese, we have been on this location for 210 years, long before the advent of the automobile era, but we do not want that to hinder your participation and worship at the Cathedral.



We offer the following options:

We've got you covered - literally! Park at 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, approx. Address is 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. If you bring your ticket from the Main Place Mall Parking with you, at the end of the service ask 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!)

As a reminder, street parking is free on Saturdays and Sundays.

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

Pastoral Care Ministry at St. Paul's

In the weekly Prayers of the People, we offer intercessions for those for whom prayers have been requested who are in acute or critical need. Names 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 maintain a separate Pastoral Care prayer list for those who are homebound and in nursing homes, or may request ongoing prayer. This list is weekly announcements and eNews, but individual names are included in the intercessions. We ask that the entire congregation remember these beloved of our community in our regular prayers holding in your hearts and prayers, all those in need and absent from us.

In a **Pastoral Emergency**, please contact— The Reverend Elizabeth Grohowski, Associate for Pastoral Care at (212) 222-8109 / email at motherliz@spcbuffalo.org or The Very Reverend Rebecca A. Barnes, Dean at (646) 533-1836 / email at deanrebecca@spcbuffalo.org.

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 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.

We lift up the following in prayer, especially Brian, Sean, Lynne, Alex, Jim, Chuck, Clark, Chris, Joe, Larry, Sharon, Elaine, Howard, Lillian, Patty, Renee, Jim, Judy, Ann, Carol, and Shirley. We also pray for those suffering from wildfires, the floods in Nepal, and the people of the Democratic Republic of the Congo and those who are living in fear of or suffering from the Ebola outbreak.

We also remember those who have died especially Wanda, Terry, Rob and Antonio, those killed in the flooding in Nepal and the Grand Canyon, 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 Steve

As I write this, I'm returning from a consequential House of Bishops meeting. The bishops met deeply aware of and concerned about the chaos that characterizes contemporary life. Our work was focused on the ways that we might provide helpful leadership and hope for our distressed parishes and dioceses.

We spent a couple of days considering the trends and events that might disrupt the plans we currently have for congregational revitalization. The House has entered into an agreement with the Institute for the Future (ITF) to develop a map of the next ten years, outlining trends and seeking insight into possible disruptive events. Predicting the future is impossible, but developing clarity about our mission and how it intersects with other developments is crucial.

The ITF calls our current reality BANI: brittle, anxious, nonlinear and incomprehensible. That is, the current structure of reality is brittle – things break unexpectedly; anxious – all decisions are surrounded by heightened anxiety; nonlinear – actions and consequences do not always line up; and, incomprehensible – things often happen that make little sense to the people who are experiencing them. People often end up asking, “How did we get here? Why is this happening?” And the response is often anger, even rage.

In the face of this BANI reality, the church is invited to lead with a counter-acting BANI: bendable – flexible, adaptable; attentive – paying attention to what's happening, and especially to people; neuroflexible – a willingness pivot, to improvise; and, interconnected – staying in touch with one another across our varying perspectives and differences.

Theologically, we are called to recognize that all of us are made in God's image and redeemed by Christ. Our future is together, and we need to work together across our differences. We face many dilemmas – problems for which no solution is apparent – but it is not acceptable simply to sit back and watch things come apart. We need to act – with kindness, compassion and justice – even if clarity is hard to come by, and we may make mistakes.

We left the meeting feeling sobered, but also encouraged. There is much more to say about what we learned, and I'll try to share it with all of you in the weeks ahead.

It was a privilege to represent you at this meeting, and I look forward to seeing you soon.

Blessings,
Bishop Steve

Diocesan Convention – October 23-24, 2026

Our 189th Diocesan Convention will be held in Celeron, NY at the Chautauqua Harbor Hotel on October 23 & 24, 2026. Convention Business begins at 10am, Oct. 23rd and continues thru noon, Oct 24th.

This year's convention theme is: **WE ARE THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH!** We are excited to announce that our keynote speaker will be: The Rev. Molly F. James, Ph.D.

Molly currently serves as the Interim Executive Officer of General Convention for The Episcopal Church. She holds a PhD in Theology from the University of Exeter (UK), a Masters of Divinity from Yale Divinity School and Bachelor of Arts in Psychology from Tufts University. She grew up in Maine and was ordained as a priest in 2005. She has served on the Bishops' Staff in Connecticut, as a parish priest, and a hospital chaplain, as well as an adjunct professor focusing on ethics and pastoral care. Her doctoral research focused on suffering and grief. Her work, *With Joyful Acceptance, Maybe* was published in 2013 by Wipf and Stock. Molly previously served as co-chair of Young Clergy Women International (an ecumenical organization of clergy women under 40), and as a board member for the Society of Scholar Priests. She is currently co-chair of the Faith Communities Today research consortium, a board member for the Association of Statisticians of American Religious Bodies, and the Yale Alumni Nonprofit Alliance. She has two children and loves cooking, reading, travel, and spending time in the splendor of God's creation.

Molly will also preach at the Convention Eucharist on Friday, October 23rd.

Convention Delegation from the Cathedral - Elected Delegates: Su Hadden, Kim Goodman O'Connell, Evelyn Smigelsky; Estelle Siener (alternate).



The Feast of St. Francis of Assisi

On October 4, The Episcopal Church celebrates the feast day of Francis of Assisi, an Italian friar, beloved saint, and one of the most venerated individuals in Christian history. He founded the Franciscan Order for men and the Order of Saint Clare for women, and he is also widely known for his love of nature and animals. Perhaps the most famous prayer attributed to St. Francis is:

*Lord, make us instruments of your peace.
where there is hatred, let us sow love;
where there is injury, pardon;
where there is discord, union;
where there is doubt, faith;
where there is despair, hope;
where there is darkness, light; and
where there is sadness, joy.*

*Grant that I may not so much seek to be consoled as to console;
to be understood as to understand;
to be loved as to love.
For it is in giving that we receive;
it is in pardoning that we are pardoned;
and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life. Amen.*



But did you know St. Francis is also credited with these inspiring and challenging quotes?

- *Start by doing what's necessary; then do what's possible; and suddenly you are doing the impossible.*
- *If you have men who will exclude any of God's creatures from the shelter of compassion and pity, you will have men who will deal likewise with their fellow men.*
- *While you are proclaiming peace with your lips, be careful to have it even more fully in your heart.*
- *All the darkness in the world cannot extinguish the light of a single candle.*
- *A single sunbeam is enough to drive away many shadows.*

Collect for the Feast of St. Francis

Most high, omnipotent, good Lord, grant your people grace to renounce gladly the vanities of this world; that, following the way of blessed Francis, we may for love of you delight in your whole creation with perfectness of joy; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

SEASON OF CREATION 2026

PRAYER

Living Water

Holy God, whose Spirit hovered over the waters at the beginning, we gather as part of your community of all creation, thirsty for your grace. We give thanks for the gift of water, the veins of our common home, that sustains the cedar and the whale, the pasture and the city. We are grateful for the local waters that nourish our homelands and our fellow creatures. We give thanks that in your well-watered garden, every drop is a sacred testament to your love.

Yet, we confess that we have treated this gift as a mere commodity. We have choked the seas with our waste and watched the warming tides rise in judgment. We lament the cracked earth of the drought-stricken and the salty tears of the climate refugee. Melt our frozen hearts, O God, and let the waters of repentance flow.

Lord of all Life, you promised that wherever the river flows, everything shall live. Stir in us a calling to care for the waters — to protect the watershed, defend the rights of water, and honor the dignity of the thirsty. May your Word be a spring within us, gushing forth for the healing of the nations.

May God our Father who brought water from the rock sustain us in the desert. May Christ our Lord who is Living Water refresh us for the work of restoration. And may the Holy Spirit carry us on currents of grace until justice rolls down like waters and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream. Amen.



Photo credit: Johanan Celine Valeriano



A pastoral word to The Episcopal Church from the September 2026 gathering of the House of Bishops

*“We look for the resurrection of the dead
and the life of the world to come.”*

— The Nicene Creed

“See, I am making all things new.”

— Revelation 21:5

Dear People of God:

Grace and peace to you in Jesus Christ our Lord.

Introduction

The bishops of The Episcopal Church gathered from Sept. 22-28, 2026, at Camp Allen Conference Center in Navasota, Texas. Our gathering included 118 bishops and bishops-elect, representing 93 dioceses and special ministries across 17 countries and territories. Mindful of the pressures and challenges facing our world and our church, we are grateful for this time set apart for spiritual renewal and focused work. We leave this meeting with deepened relationships and renewed commitments to the ministry we share in Jesus Christ.

Reflections from our meeting

Over the course of our meeting, we held in constant tension a clear-eyed look at the realities of the present and a persistent hope for the future. We received the latest draft of Presiding Bishop Sean Rowe’s strategic framework: Our Courageous Witness. This vision for The Episcopal Church has three strategic priorities that will compel our church to proclaim a Christianity that is authentic, expansive, beautiful, and unafraid; connect, convene, and coordinate resources across the breadth of our church; and better organize and allocate our resources to support the work of the Gospel.

We spent time learning about the opportunities and challenges of artificial intelligence as we reflected on the theological and existential questions of what it means to be human. Our time with futurist Bob Johansen, from the Institute for the Future, gave us the opportunity to engage in future-back thinking to help us better align our shared mission and ministry over the next decade.

As we have done in previous meetings, we continued to engage matters critical to the vitality of our church, including theological education, church planting, congregational redevelopment, and the ongoing dialogue toward a full-communion partnership with the United Methodist Church. We were joined by Mary Kate Wold, chief executive officer and president of the Church Pension Group (CPG), who shared the broad research being conducted by CPG to better align its services with the changing needs of the church.

A highlight of our time was our visit with the Most Rev. Sarah Mullally, who joined us on the six-month anniversary of her installation as the 106th archbishop of Canterbury. Echoing many of the themes of our week, Archbishop Mullally spoke of our call to grow in cultural competency and spiritual maturity, and encouraged us to nurture confidence in the Gospel as we move from fear to hope.

A call to embody God's new creation

Each time we gather as the House of Bishops, God meets us in word and sacrament, and we see God at work in one another. Our meeting has been marked by a holy vulnerability. We remember not only who we are, but who authors our lives and renews our hope. The ability to hope as bishops and as the church seems ever more important in our present circumstances.

Our ancestors faced seemingly insurmountable troubles, yet their hope for us and future generations was boundless. Hope is a gift given to us by a God who loves us completely. With God's grace, we meet all manner of circumstances with hope. Our hearts may tremble with fear, but with confidence we look for "the life of the world to come."

In the book of Revelation, we are given a glimpse of God's future, the promise of a new heaven and new earth (Revelation 21:1). The hope of this new creation frames, but does not erase, our present struggle.

The Apostle Paul holds this tension in his letter to the Romans. He does not deny that the sufferings of this present time are real but insists they are not worth comparing with the glory to be revealed (Romans 8:18). As we look for "the life of the world to come," the whole creation groans in labor pains, and so do we. We groan in pain because the former things have not yet passed away. We also groan in hope because we know what is to come. Yet we do not groan alone. The Spirit intercedes for us and within us with sighs too deep for words.

We believe what God began in the resurrection of Jesus Christ, God will complete in the new creation. God will dwell with God's people and wipe every tear from their eyes (Revelation 21:3-4).

As we move from fear to hope, we are called to live now as an embodied sign of God's future. To draw near to those who weep. To bear the burdens of those who are suffering. To work for justice, healing, and reconciliation. To stand in confidence that God, not fear or death, will have the final word.

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.

MINSTERS OF THE LITURGY

Kathy Reiss, Delwyn Milander; Altar Guild
Frank Smigelsky, Robert Ludwig; Ushers
Jessy Alexander, Patricia Hills; Coffee Hour Hosts
Nancy Boncore; Livestream Technician

Valerie Thomas, Michael Bonilla, Susan Hadden; Readers
Andrew Jacob; Crucifer
Valerie Thomas, Delwyn Milander; Intercessor
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.

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