

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

SUNG LITURGY OF THE DAY

Communion Service in D by Alfred V. Fedak (b. 1953)

*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 – Melodia

F. Capocci (1840-1911)

THE ENTRANCE RITE

PROCESSIONAL HYMN – #423 Immortal, invisible, God only wise

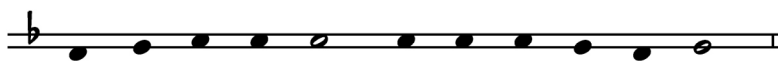
St. Denio

All stand as the procession enters the nave.

THE OPENING ACCLAMATION

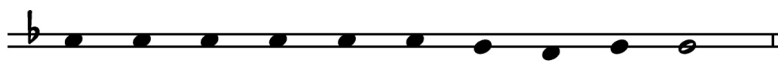
EOWM-1A7 (Ford)

Celebrant



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

People



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

THE COLLECT FOR PURITY

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

THE GLORIA

Fedak

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, increase in us the gifts of faith, hope, and charity; and, that we may obtain what you promise, make us love what you command; through Jesus Christ our Lord, 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

Leviticus 19:1-2,15-18

Reader A reading from the Book of the Prophet Isaiah.

The Lord spoke to Moses, saying:

Speak to all the congregation of the people of Israel and say to them: You shall be holy, for I the Lord your God am holy.

You shall not render an unjust judgment; you shall not be partial to the poor or defer to the great: with justice you shall judge your neighbor. You shall not go around as a slanderer among your people, and you shall not profit by the blood of your neighbor: I am the Lord.

You shall not hate in your heart anyone of your kin; you shall reprove your neighbor, or you will incur guilt yourself. You shall not take vengeance or bear a grudge against any of your people, but you shall love your neighbor as yourself: I am the Lord.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM 1

Setting by Bruce Neswick (b. 1956)

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

- 1 Happy are they who have not walked in the counsel of the wicked, *
nor lingered in the way of sinners,
nor sat in the seats of the scornful!
- 2 **Their delight is in the law of the Lord, *
and they meditate on his law day and night.**
- 3 They are like trees planted by streams of water,
bearing fruit in due season, with leaves that do not wither; *
everything they do shall prosper.
- 4 **It is not so with the wicked; *
they are like chaff which the wind blows away.**
- 5 Therefore the wicked shall not stand upright when judgment comes, *
nor the sinner in the council of the righteous.
- 6 **For the Lord knows the way of the righteous, *
but the way of the wicked is doomed.**

THE EPISTLE

1 Thessalonians 2:1-8

Reader A reading from the First Letter of Paul to the Thessalonians.

You yourselves know, brothers and sisters, that our coming to you was not in vain, but though we had already suffered and been shamefully mistreated at Philippi, as you know, we had courage in our God to declare to you the gospel of God in spite of great opposition. For our appeal does not spring from deceit or impure motives or trickery, but just as we have been approved by God to be entrusted with the message of the gospel, even so we speak, not to please mortals, but to please God who tests our hearts. As you know and as God is our witness, we never came with words of flattery or with a pretext for greed; nor did we seek praise from mortals, whether from you or from others, though we might have made demands as apostles of Christ. But we were gentle among you, like a nurse tenderly caring for her own children. So deeply do we care for you that we are determined to share with you not only the gospel of God but also our own selves, because you have become very dear to us.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

THE SEQUENCE HYMN – #605 What does the Lord require for praise and offering *Sharpthorn*

All standing, as able.

THE HOLY GOSPEL

Matthew 22:15-22

All remain standing, as able.

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

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

When the Pharisees heard that Jesus had silenced the Sadducees, they gathered together, and one of them, a lawyer, asked him a question to test him. "Teacher, which commandment in the law is the greatest?" He said to him, "'You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.' This is the greatest and first commandment. And a second is like it: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets."

Now while the Pharisees were gathered together, Jesus asked them this question: "What do you think of the Messiah? Whose son is he?" They said to him, "The son of David." He said to them, "How is it then that David by the Spirit calls him Lord, saying,

'The Lord said to my Lord,

“Sit at my right hand,
until I put your enemies under your feet”?”

If David thus calls him Lord, how can he be his son?” No one was able to give him an answer, nor from that day did anyone dare to ask him any more questions.

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 Called to serve God and our neighbor, let us pray in the name of Jesus for all who are in any need or trouble, saying: *Hear us, O Holy One.*

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 always experience the wonder and joy of loving and being loved by God. **Hear us, O Holy One.**

For this Cathedral community, that we may share the good news with one another and live as signs of God's love. **Hear us, O Holy One.**

For a greater sense of gratitude, that we may recognize all the ways that God has shown love for us and be filled with awe and thankfulness for God's gifts. **Hear us, O Holy One.**

For the growth of peace, that God will touch the hearts and change the minds of all who are leading conflict and warfare and give them courage to enter dialogue and establish ceasefires. **Hear us, O Holy One.**

For all those affected by shootings and violence, and those living with fear and uncertainty, that God will be their refuge and strength. **Hear us, O Holy One.**

For all those suffering from war, especially the people of Ukraine, that the God of peace will hold them close in loving care and protection, give them strength to endure great hardship, and fill them with the hope of freedom and justice. **Hear us, O Holy One.**

For refugees, immigrants and all who live in a strange land, and for all those who are in need of our prayers especially Christian, Yvonne, Tracy, Brian, Sean, Lynne, Alex, Jim, Chuck, Clark, Chris, Joe, Larry, and those on the Cathedral Pastoral Care list, that they may find refuge and healing in God's care. **Hear us, O Holy One.**

For all the departed, remembering especially Terry, Wanda, the victims of the mass shootings in Erie and Oregon, and those whose anniversaries of death we mark this week, that they may be welcomed by the Son God raised from the dead. **Hear us, O Holy One.**

Lifting our voices with all creation, with Blessed Mary the God-bearer, Blessed Paul, Blessed Simon and Jude the Apostles and all the saints, let us offer ourselves and one another to the living God through Christ. **To you, O Holy One we give praise and glory.**

Celebrant Gracious God, you established your Holy Law on the two commandments to love you and to love our neighbor; hear our prayers and grant that by keeping your precepts we may rejoice to enter your eternal kingdom. 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 – Let All on Earth Their Voices Raise

Arlen Clarke (b. 1954)

Let all the earth their voices raise
to sing the choicest psalm of praise,
to sing and bless Jehovah's Name:
His glory let the heathens know,
His wonders to the nations show,
And all His saving works proclaim.

He framed the globe, He built the sky,
He made the shining worlds on high,
And reigns complete in glory there:
His beams are majesty and light;
His beauties, how divinely bright!
His temple, how divinely fair!

Come the great day, the glorious hour,
When earth shall feel His saving power,
And barbarous nations fear His Name;
Then shall the race of man confess
The beauty of His holiness,
And in His courts His grace proclaim.

OFFERTORY HYMN – #451 All hail the power of Jesus' Name!

Miles Lane

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 2

Enriching Our Worship

Celebrant *People*

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

Celebrant *People*

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

Celebrant

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People

It is right to give him thanks and praise.

Then, facing the Holy Table, the Celebrant continues:

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

SANCTUS AND BENEDICTUS

Fedak

Holy, Holy, Holy Lord, God of power and might,
 heaven and earth are full of your glory.
 Hosanna in the highest.
 Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
 Hosanna in the highest.

The people stand or kneel.

The Celebrant continues

Glory and honor and praise to you, holy and living God.
To deliver us from the power of sin and death
and to reveal the riches of your grace,
you looked with favor upon Mary, your willing servant,
that she might conceive and bear a son,
Jesus the holy child of God.
Living among us, Jesus loved us.
He broke bread with outcasts and sinners,
healed the sick, and proclaimed good news to the poor.
He yearned to draw all the world to himself
yet we were heedless of his call to walk in love.
Then, the time came for him to complete upon the cross
the sacrifice of his life,
and to be glorified by you.

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,
Jesus was at table with his friends.
He took bread, gave thanks to you,
broke it, and gave it to them, and said:
"Take, eat:
This is my Body, which is given for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me."

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

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

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

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

CONCLUSION OF THE EUCHARISTIC PRAYER AND AMEN

EOWM-1A7 (Ford)

Through Christ and with Christ and in Christ, in the u - ni - ty of the Ho - ly Spi - rit,
to you be hon - or, glo - ry, and praise, for ev - er and ev - er. A - MEN.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

S148

Celebrant
As our Sa - vior Christ has taught us, we now pray,
Celebrant and People
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.

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

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.**

THE FRACTION ANTHEM

Fedak

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.

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 – Sacerdotes Domini

William Byrd (1543-1623)

Sacerdotes Domini incensum
et panes offerunt Deo,
et ideo sancti erunt Deo suo,
et non pollutent nomen eius. Alleluia.

Then did priests make offering of incense
and loaves of finest wheat to God,
and therefore shall they be holy to their Lord God
and shall not defile his most holy name. Alleluia.

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 BLESSING

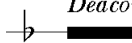
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THE FINAL HYMN – #610 Lord, whose love through humble service

Blaenhafren

THE DISMISSAL

S174

<i>Deacon</i>	<i>People</i>
	
Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.	Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE – Procession de St. Sacrament

CA Chauvet (1837-1871)

The flowers on the altar are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Juanita Hayes-Jemmott by David Jemmott.

CATHEDRAL LIFE | OCTOBER 25
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.

Regional Confirmations

Regional confirmations have been scheduled for Saturday, November 21 at 10:30am at St Paul's Cathedral in Buffalo. The Rt. Rev. Stephen T. Lane (Bishop Provisional of WNY) is presiding. This is an opportunity to be confirmed, received, or reaffirmed. If you would like to know more about Confirmation/Reception/Reaffirmation (or baptism or officially becoming a member of St. Paul's), please speak with Dean Rebecca.

Sorting Sunday, October 25th

Just a reminder to those sensational sorters and those sensational sorter wannabes. This Sunday, October 25 is the last Sunday of the month. Sorting for Garden of Love will take place in the Flickinger Ministry Center (4 Cathedral Park) at 11:45AM.

Stewardship 2026: What's your why?

It is now official. On Sunday, October 18, the 2026 Stewardship campaign was launched with our traditional ice cream social during the coffee hour after the 10:15 service. I offer these words to hopefully help you to think about a stewardship campaign through a different lens. Recently the Dean, and three of the members of the Stewardship Committee participated in an online training program on stewardship offered by the College of Bishops of the Episcopal Church. The goal of the training was to help congregations develop an individualized stewardship campaign that can be used year after year. Just to be clear, this year, we will use the campaign materials provided by the Episcopal Network for Stewardship or its acronym TENS. This year's theme is Plenty Good Room. You will hear more about that during the ongoing campaign that will end on November 22 with ingathering of pledges during the 8 & 10:15 services.

Back to the training. One of the first things that we focused on were the following three words: what, how, and why? Some clarification. We are very well versed in the first two words. A stewardship campaign is what we do. Our weekly outreach programs through the Garden of Love belong in the what category. Things that we do all of the time. The how is the things we do to make the what successful. For stewardship we have a kick-off, we send out letters to the congregation, various members of the congregation will offer messages about what stewardship means to that individual.

I have left why for last. Now you may think that you know the answer to the question: Why do we have a stewardship campaign? Duh, to raise money for the next budgetary year. While that may be true, I would ask you to bear with me while I provide another answer to that question. It was during the very first session of the training that I and my fellow trainees had one of those moments when you begin to look at a familiar concept in a totally different light. Consider the following description of our cathedral parish:

For over two hundred years St. Paul's has been a beacon of hospitality and welcome to all in the center of our city. Sunday mornings will find an inclusive and diverse congregation meeting to share fellowship, hear the word of Jesus proclaimed and preached in a beautiful liturgy which still follows a format that might still be recognized by earlier worshippers in the same venue. Our congregation is more of a church family that gathers together to receive nourishment at our Lord's table which segues to a coffee hour where all, members and visitors gather to greet each other and welcome new faces. When we leave the church on Sunday morning, we carry the message of Jesus out to the world and fulfill our gospel mandate to care for our neighbors through pastoral care and outreach initiatives that meet in the Flickinger Ministry Center throughout the week. This is a congregation that looks to the future, sure in the conviction that the gospel message of love, peace and caring for our neighbors and the stranger, will endure for another two hundred years.

Now, you might mistake what you just read as a profile we might use to attract new members or even be used when a search is held to find a new rector. Believe it or not, what you just read constitutes my own personal why for having a stewardship/pledge drive each year. Sure, we still need to bring in funds to help provide many of the things mentioned in the description of St. Paul's. You will probably agree with most of what I wrote and you might even add something that I did not mention.

Over the course of the next few weeks, you will hear people speak about his or her why for making a pledge to St. Paul's. I ask that you use what you have read here as an aid in your own discernment as to what you will promise for next year when you fill out your pledge card. Yes, we will still send out letters, and yes money is important; all of the things that are important to us as a congregation cost money. It is still the what/how of stewardship season. I am hoping that you will add your own why to the mix when pledging what you will give back to God for his continued love and care to you and to this cathedral.

Michael Bonilla, Sr. Warden
Stewardship Committee

CATHEDRAL CREATION CARE

Holy Hikes



Holy Hikes of Western New York, a ministry of St. Paul's Cathedral, is pleased to announce its full schedule (tinyurl.com/mwc53bm) for the 2026 season. All hikes are held on the second Saturday of the month at 10am, unless otherwise announced. **On November 14th, we will hike at the Iroquois National Wildlife Preserve, Basom, NY.**

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

SJAT Note: Good News! Scrap It Buffalo Expands

From Estelle Siener for the Social Justice Action Team

A turquoise bucket sits next to our coffee machine in the kitchen at church. It's a compost bin for food waste. All coffee grounds, tea bags and food waste go into it. (Click the link below to see what else you can compost. You'll be surprised!) Bill and I take the bag home to put in our own compost bin. Farmer Pirates, a company operating on Coit Street in Buffalo, collects and composts the food waste. It sells most of it to the City of Buffalo for our parks, but in the spring, it will also sell to individual gardeners.

For several years, Bill and I have participated in this pilot composting initiative. We have a small compost bin on our kitchen cupboard. When it is full we put it in a larger bin with a biodegradable liner, both supplied by Farmer Pirates. City dwellers may have seen these bins on garbage day in their neighborhood. It is about three feet high and fits under our kitchen cupboard. Farmer Pirates picks it up and leaves a new liner on our garbage day.

Buffalo residents can now apply for this expanded service. If you live outside the city, check with your town government to see if there is a similar program.

It's free! And recycling waste is good for the planet!

Apply to Buffalo Scrap It! Curbside

Farmer Pirates

What can I compost? (Also posted on the bulletin boards in the Walker Room)

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION AND FORMATION

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

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

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.

Prayer and Pastoral Care for the Week of October 25

We lift up the following in prayer, especially Christian, Yvonne, Tracy, Brian, Sean, Lynne, Alex, Jim, Chuck, Clark, Chris, Joe, Larry Sharon, Elaine, Howard, Lillian, Patty, Renee, Jim, Judy, Ann, Carol, and Shirley.

We also remember those who have died especially Terry, Wanda, Rob and Antonio, the victims of the mass shootings in Erie and Oregon, 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

Dear Ones,

There have been some beautiful, beautiful days in western New York the last couple of weeks – crystal blue skies, bright sun, brilliant leaves, mild temperatures. I'm reminded again and again how fortunate we are to live here.

And enjoying it all, I'm also reminded of what I learned at the recent House of Bishops meeting: western New York, the shores of Lakes Erie and Ontario, is one of the most climate resilient places in the United States. We are among the regions least likely to be deeply impacted by rising temperatures. Not that there won't be some impacts. But we will have moderate temperatures and abundant fresh water, things which much of the south and west of our country lack.

For the last several decades, the population of the US has been shifting south and west. That's where the jobs were. That's where the winters were milder. That's where land was abundant and housing was relatively cheap. New York was once the most populous state. Now we're fourth behind California, Texas and Florida.

But futurists and climatologists tell us that's about to change. 2026 was the hottest summer on record with an average temperature June to August of 74.4 degrees. August was the hottest month on record. In many places it didn't get much cooler at night, so the daily average stayed high. The southwest, including Nevada, Utah, Arizona and New Mexico, saw the worst of it. No relief is in sight, and water and electrical shortages may become permanent features of the region.

What this means for us is increasing numbers of climate refugees. Public radio in Rochester has already broadcast interviews with climate refugees. And the Institute for the Future is predicting as many as 1 million people may be coming our way over the next ten years.

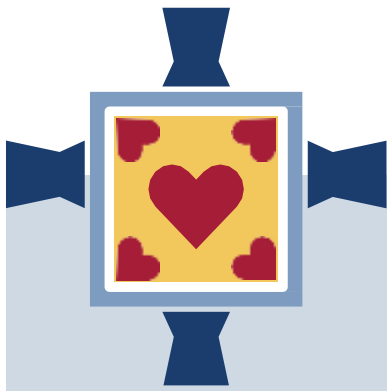
Human populations have always moved in response to environmental changes and in search of land and water. Migration has shaped human culture since the very beginning. And that's going to continue. The Church has followed those shifts, going where the people are and ministering in response to their needs.

What might climate refugees mean for The Episcopal Church in Western New York? How might it affect the decisions we make now? How might we welcome new people, folks of different cultures and different heritages, into our towns and villages? How will we show hospitality to strangers?

Sitting and looking at the blue sky out my window, it all seems a bit otherworldly. Will this really happen? Will other events intervene? Where is God in all this? What is our call in a world that looks increasingly unlike the world we have known?

No matter what, I believe God will be with us and will walk with us as we negotiate these new days. May we be open to possibility, and may we be signs of Christ's embrace of the world God created.

Peace,
Bishop Steve



Questions for Reflection:

What is something risky that you have undertaken that has paid off in the long run?



The Rev. Sabeth Fitzgibbons is rector of Trinity Church, Seattle and serves as Treasurer on the board of TENS.

Plenty Good Room

Invitation to Thrive

It's 7:45AM on a Saturday morning in May. I join 45 people gathered on a dirt lot around a table made of plywood laid over sawhorses. We sip from cups of hot coffee and someone offers a prayer. I grab work gloves from a bin and follow the sheetrock team.

The sheetrock team includes: Amelia, the future homeowner who will live here with her three children; Charlie, a retired history professor; Cameron, a pastor from another denomination. Together, we learned a new skill that day - to hang and mud sheetrock.

I kept going back to that worksite one Saturday a month until the house was built. It was a testament to community, overlapping human stories, joy, generosity, building God's kingdom on South Holly St.

Our congregations thrive because the people who sit in the pews volunteer to learn new skills and share experiences of creating a vibrant community. We know the power of having a common purpose to deepen our faith.

When we open ourselves to volunteering, sharing our stories and skills, our ministry reaches far beyond what we can imagine or accomplish alone.

Will you join me in the adventure of trying something new? Meeting new people who share our core values, seeing our work build on itself and God's kingdom flourish? Would you commit to volunteer one hour a week (beyond worship time) for your church?

Yes, it's risky. It might require us to share our stories and find connections. The work we do might not be perfect by the world's standards (have you ever seen how many crooked nails are in a Habitat for Humanity house?). If we work together to create justice, make peace, spread joy to our neighbors, stand with the outcasts, the kingdom of God - where there is plenty good room for all people - will thrive. [TENS.org](https://tens.org)

A message to The Episcopal Church from Executive Council: October 2026

Following its meeting Oct. 19 in New York City, The Episcopal Church's Executive Council shared the following letter to the church. Read prior council letters to the church [here](#).

Fall in New York City is cool, brisk, and on the move.

And so was the Executive Council, working efficiently but purposefully in its one-day meeting at the Church Center at 815 Second Ave., a location of great significance at this meeting.

Council gathered Sunday evening for dinner in the penthouse apartment where the presiding bishops of The Episcopal Church stay while in New York City. It is a lovely, if dated, space, with a wraparound terrace with a view of Grand Central Station in one direction and the United Nations building in the other.

Monday morning Eucharist was in the Chapel of Christ the Lord, followed by our meeting there. You saw the chapel if you watched the [investiture of Sean Rowe](#) as presiding bishop. We had shared meals across the foyer in the former bookstore. During the lunch break people visited floors 4, 5, and 6, the only floors occupied by church staff in this 10-story-and-a-penthouse building.

It felt part elegiac, part celebratory, and part pragmatic, given our agenda, which included the reports of the Standing Committees of Finance (FIN) and Governance and Operations (GO) related to selling the Church Center building.

“The church was never promised permanence; it was promised the presence of God.” This sentence opened the [remarks](#) by President of the House of Deputies Julia Ayala Harris, as she greeted council members gathered “in a building that has served as the headquarters of The Episcopal Church for more than 60 years.

“Generations of Episcopalians have prayed, debated, disagreed, reconciled, and made decisions that have shaped our common life,” she said. “But the church’s life did not begin at this address. For nearly 175 years before we came here, The Episcopal Church was already worshipping, serving, and discerning where God was calling it next. And now we are considering whether it is time to leave.”

Which means the council faced a decision that raised questions about property, finances, and stewardship of our resources and, in Ayala Harris’ words, “about the purpose of this church we serve: What are we called to sustain? And what are we called to release?”

Presiding Bishop Sean Rowe laid out the theological vision underlying not just this decision, but all of them: “The one question that governs every decision we make: How does this serve the mission of God in the world today?”

He described the church as living in liminal time, a Holy Saturday kind of in-between time where “the old has genuinely died and new has not yet appeared. “

“Are we willing to be reshaped – relinquishing forms we love so that something can rise we may not live to see? That is genuine stewardship: to build the church we will not live in,” Bishop Rowe said in his presentation of the strategic plan, in which there are three strategic priorities: **Witness** - A Christianity Worth Proclaiming;

Support - Capacity Where It's Needed; and **Sustain** - A Church Built to Last.

The plan is entitled “Our Courageous Witness,” and it has us doing the seemingly unEpiscopalian thing of going into the public square and giving Christian witness, as well as the practical work of offering greater support to dioceses and congregations (such as help with Title IV disciplinary matters), and pragmatic financial strategies to sustain the church for years to come.

In short, as council member the Rev. Theodora Brooks said in response to the presentation, it shows “the funeral procession is interrupted.”

Yes, rumors of the death of The Episcopal Church are exaggerated. As Brooks said, “We see that life every Sunday.”

Council members were enthused about the prospect of an advertising campaign to educate people about The Episcopal Church and raise our visibility, so we are no longer the best kept secret in the nation and elsewhere. Yes, dear ones, it's evangelism about “Christianity Worth Proclaiming,” a Christianity that seeks and serves Christ in all people and respects the dignity of every human being.

It is a measure of the excellent, thorough briefings and reports that have brought the council through the process of reaching this decision that the resolution to sell the building passed with very little opposition. And while there was clearly trust in the room, there also was some healthy skepticism. Questions were asked and answered, with the obvious aim of being thorough.

This decision is only about selling the building, which includes short-term accommodations for staff and an interim location. Discernment about the permanent location of the Church Center will include the wider church.

Twenty-five percent of the proceeds from the sale will pay for temporary offices in Manhattan and eventually “fund costs” of a new permanent location “in a metropolitan area or state to be determined,” as stated in the resolution approved by the council.

The discussion of the sale of the building was followed by discussion of the church's triennial budget process. Transparency is the goal, with the budget being reviewed by Executive Council, then made available for public review, and finalized in February.

The report of Episcopal Church representatives to the Anglican Consultative Council, the Rt. Rev. Rafael Morales Maldonado of Puerto Rico, the Rev. Ranjit Mathews, canon to the ordinary in the Episcopal Diocese of Connecticut, and Yvonne O'Neal, lay leader from the Episcopal Diocese of New York, was encouraging, as it appears the emphasis on institutional survival that marked recent years has moderated, with much more openness to the workings of the Holy Spirit.

Indeed, the Holy Spirit seems to be hanging around. The strategic plan's success depends on a foundation of leaders who will, as the report states, “labor faithfully and with the kind of grit and determination that will see the work through.”

But it also depends on the openness of every Episcopalian, because we are partners in this work, every one of us, in all four orders of ministry.

Together, we can do this.

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, Christina Casto; Altar Guild
Judith Elliott, Kimberly O'Connell; Ushers
Elizabeth Rundle, Evelyn Smigelsky; Coffee Hour Hosts
Thomas Heyer; Livestream Technician

Kevin O'Neil, Elenora Heffner, Alan Blackburn; Readers
Andrew Jacob; Crucifer
Kevin O'Neil, Jessy Alexander; Intercessors
David Jemmott; 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

EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF WESTERN NEW YORK

The Rt. Rev. Stephen T. Lane, Bishop Provisional
<https://episcopalwny.org/>

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CATHEDRAL WARDENS

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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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