



Christmas at St. Paul's

January 5, 2025

THE SECOND SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS DAY
10:00 AM

ORDER OF SERVICE

ORGAN VOLUNTARY: Chorale Prelude on *Rhosymedre*

Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872-1958)

The people are invited to stand

HYMN • 587, "Our Father, by whose Name"

Rhosymedre

LITURGY OF THE WORD

Celebrant The people who walked in darkness

People **have seen a great light.**

Celebrant For to us a child is born

People **to us a Son is given.**

Celebrant His name will be called wonderful counsellor, mighty God, the everlasting Father, the Prince of Peace.

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

CANTICLE: Hymn 96, "Angels we have heard on high" (v.1)

Gloria

Angels we have heard on high, singing sweetly through the night, and the mountains in reply echoing their brave delight. Gloria in excelsis Deo. Gloria in excelsis Deo.

COLLECT OF THE DAY

Celebrant The Lord be with you

People **And also with you.**

Celebrant Let us pray.

Lord, your wisdom echoes in the child's question, the raw insight of youth: renew our curiosity and deepen our desire for a truth that lives and grows before you; through Jesus Christ, the Child of Promise.

All **Amen.**

Please be seated

LESSON • Jeremiah 31:7-14

Lector A reading from the Prophet Jeremiah.

Thus says the Lord:

Sing aloud with gladness for Jacob,
and raise shouts for the chief of the nations;

proclaim, give praise, and say,

"Save, O Lord, your people,
the remnant of Israel."

See, I am going to bring them from the land of the north,
and gather them from the farthest parts of the earth,
among them the blind and the lame, those with child and
those in labor, together;

a great company, they shall return here.

With weeping they shall come,

and with consolations I will lead them back,

I will let them walk by brooks of water,
in a straight path in which they shall not stumble;
for I have become a father to Israel,
and Ephraim is my firstborn.
Hear the word of the Lord, O nations,
and declare it in the coastlands far away;
say, "He who scattered Israel will gather him,
and will keep him as a shepherd a flock."
For the Lord has ransomed Jacob,
and has redeemed him from hands too strong for him.
They shall come and sing aloud on the height of Zion,
and they shall be radiant over the goodness of the Lord,
over the grain, the wine, and the oil,
and over the young of the flock and the herd;
their life shall become like a watered garden,
and they shall never languish again.
Then shall the young women rejoice in the dance,
and the young men and the old shall be merry.
I will turn their mourning into joy,
I will comfort them, and give them gladness for sorrow.
I will give the priests their fill of fatness,
and my people shall be satisfied with my bounty, says the Lord.
Lector Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.
People **Thanks be to God**

THE RESPONSE •

Psalm 84 *Quam dilecta*

Mode 8

The Refrain is first sung by the Choir and repeated by All, and then as indicated.

Refrain

How dear to me is your dwell - ing, O Lord of hosts!

How dear to me is your dwelling, O Lord of hosts! My soul has a desire and longing for the courts of the Lord; my heart and my flesh rejoice in the living God. The sparrow has found her a house and the swallow a nest where she may lay her young; by the side of your altars, O Lord of hosts, my King and my God. **Refrain**

Happy are they who dwell in your house! they will always be praising you. Happy are the people whose strength is in you! whose hearts are set on the pilgrims' way. **Refrain**

Those who go through the desolate valley will find it a place of springs, for the early rains have covered it with pools of water. They will climb from height to height, and the God of gods will reveal himself in Zion. **Refrain**

Lord God of hosts, hear my prayer; hearken, O God of Jacob. Behold our defender, O God; and look upon the face of your Anointed. **Refrain**

EPISTLE • Ephesians 1:3-6, 15-19a

Lector

A reading from the letter to the Ephesians.

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, just as he chose us in Christ before the foundation of the world to be holy and blameless before him in love. He destined us for adoption as his children through Jesus Christ, according to the good pleasure of his will, to the praise of his glorious grace that he freely bestowed on us in the Beloved.

I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, and for this reason I do not cease to give thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers. I pray that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation as you come to know him, so that, with the eyes of your heart enlightened, you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance among the saints, and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power for us who believe.

Lector

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

People

Thanks be to God.

The people are invited to stand

GRADUAL HYMN • 112, "In the bleak mid-winter"

Cranham

Please remain standing

HOLY GOSPEL • Luke 2:41-52

Celebrant

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, according to Luke.

People

Glory to you, Lord Christ.

Celebrant

The parents of Jesus went to Jerusalem every year for the festival of the Passover. And when he was twelve years old, they went up as usual for the festival. When the festival was ended and they started to return, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem, but his parents did not know it. Assuming that he was in the group of travelers, they went a day's journey. Then they started to look for him among their relatives and friends. When they did not find him, they returned to Jerusalem to search for him. After three days they found him in the temple, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. And all who heard him were amazed at his understanding and his answers. When his parents saw him they were astonished; and his mother said to him, "Child, why have you treated us like this? Look, your father and I have been searching for you in great anxiety." He said to them, "Why were you searching for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?" But they did not understand what he said to them. Then he went down with them and came to Nazareth, and was obedient to them. His mother treasured all these things in her heart.

And Jesus increased in wisdom and in years, and in divine and human favor.

Celebrant

The Gospel of our Lord Jesus.

People

Praise to you, Lord Christ.

Please be seated.

SERMON

The Rev. Philip Major

A brief silence follows the sermon.

The people are invited to stand.

NICENE CREED

The word “creed” comes from the Latin credo, translated here as “we believe.” Credo is not simply belief in accurate propositions, but more deeply a sense of relationship or trust—an alternate translation might be “we give our heart,” “we trust,” “we rely upon.” Developed in the fourth century as a means of unifying a divided church, the Nicene Creed has been used by Christians in worship for almost two

thousand years, and connects us to our ancient ancestors in the Communion of Saints. The Creed is used in worship not because it comprises a list of doctrinal statements one must affirm in order to be considered a Christian, but rather as a song of praise and confidence in the Holy Trinity: God in three persons who creates, redeems and sanctifies a holy people.

All **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.**

Please remain standing.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

In peace let us pray to the Lord.

Holy Jesus, by being born one of us, and laying humbly in a manger, you show how much God loves the world. Let the light of your love always shine in your Church.

Silence is kept.

Lord of love, **Hear our prayer.**

Holy Jesus, at your birth the angels sang, “Peace to God’s people on earth.” Strengthen our national leaders to work for peace and justice in our land and in all the world.

Silence is kept.

Lord of love, **Hear our prayer.**

Holy Jesus, for whom there was no room in the inn, give courage and comfort to all who are homeless. Protect with your love those who have no home and all who live in poverty.

Silence is kept.

Lord of love, **Hear our prayer.**

Holy Jesus, you were born in a stable but worshipped by the angels. Be with all who are lonely, and with all who feel distant from celebrations. Be for us a living hope that lightens our hearts.

Silence is kept.

Lord of love, **Hear our prayer.**

Holy Jesus, as you healed the sick, bring healing to those in our families who are ill today. We pray especially for *n.* and those we name silently or aloud.

The people add their prayers, silently or aloud.

Lord of love, **Hear our prayer.**

Holy Jesus, at your birth, heaven is come down to earth, and earth is raised to heaven. Hold in your hand all who have passed through death in the hope of your coming kingdom, especially *n.* and those we name silently or aloud.

The people add their prayers, silently or aloud.

Lord of love, **Hear our prayer.**

The Celebrant adds a concluding prayer.

The people are invited to stand

THE PEACE

Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People **And also with you.**

LITURGY OF THE TABLE

OFFERTORY

*At the Offertory, we return thanks for God's blessings in our lives and invite you to place your contribution in the offering plate in the main aisle or give by texting 73256 entering **stpaulsyr** (all lower case) and the amount you want to give.*

The people are invited to stand as the offering is brought forward

Celebrant All things come of Thee, O Lord.

People **And of thine own have we given thee.**

Please be seated.

AN ANTHEM —“A New Year Carol”

Benjamin Britten

Here we bring a new water from the well so clear, For to worship God with, this happy New Year. *Sing levy dew, sing levy dew, the water and the wine; The seven bright gold wires and the bugles that do shine.* Sing reign of Fair Maid, with gold upon her toe, Open you the West Door, and turn the Old Year go. *Sing levy dew . . .* Sing reign of Fair Maid, with gold upon her chin, Open you the East Door, and let the New Year in. *Sing levy dew . . .*

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The musical notation consists of four staves. The first staff is for the Celebrant, with lyrics 'The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.' The second staff is for the People, with lyrics 'Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.' The third staff is for the Celebrant, with lyrics 'Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.' The fourth staff is for the People, with lyrics 'It is right to give him thanks and praise.'

Celebrant It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth . . . Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who forever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

SANCTUS AND BENEDICTUS

Hymnal S-130

From *Deutsche Messe*, Franz Schubert (1797-1828)

The letter 'S' before a music selection indicates it will be found in the front section of the hymnal, known as the Service Music.

Celebrant We give thanks to you, O God, for the goodness and love which you have made known to us in creation; in the calling of Israel to be your people; in your Word spoken through the prophets; and above all in the Word made flesh, Jesus, your Son. For in these last days you sent him to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary, to be the Savior and Redeemer of the world. In him, you have delivered us from evil, and made us worthy to stand before you. In him, you have brought us out of error into truth, out of sin into righteousness, out of death into life.

On the night before he died for us, 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."

All Therefore, according to his command, O Father,
We remember his death,
We proclaim his resurrection,
We await his coming in glory;

Celebrant And we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, O Lord of all; presenting to you, from your creation, this bread and this wine.

We pray you, gracious God, to send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Sacrament of the Body of Christ and his Blood of the new Covenant. Unite us to your Son in his sacrifice, that we may be acceptable through him, being sanctified by the Holy

Spirit. In the fullness of time, put all things in subjection under your Christ, and bring us to that heavenly country where, with all your saints, we may enter the everlasting heritage of your sons and daughters; through Jesus Christ our Lord, the firstborn of all creation, the head of the Church, and the author of our salvation.

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 for ever.

All **Amen.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Celebrant As our Savior Christ has taught us, we now pray,
All **Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy Name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.**

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

The breaking of the bread symbolizes the activity whereby God emptied Godself of divine power for purpose of reconciling Godself with us. We have no words to accurately describe this divine activity, thus a period of 10-15 seconds of silence is kept following the breaking of the bread and before saying the Fraction Anthem.

FRACTION ANTHEM:

Hymnal S-164

Franz Schubert

The people are invited to be seated.

You are invited to consume the consecrated bread immediately after you receive it. If you choose to receive the wine, drink directly from the cup. Gluten-free wafers are available. Please ask the communion minister. The sacrament of communion is complete if the bread or wine is received; it is not necessary to receive both.

COMMUNION HYMN 119—“As with gladness men of old”

Dix

The People are invited to stand.

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

Officiant Let us pray.
All **God of abundance, you have fed us with the bread of life and cup of salvation; you have united us with Christ and one another; and you have made us one with all your people in heaven and on earth. Now send us forth in the power of your Spirit, that we may proclaim your redeeming love to the world and continue for ever in the risen life of Christ our Savior. Amen.**

BLESSING

HYMN • 497, “How bright appears the Morning Star”

Wie schön leuchtet

DISMISSAL

People: **Thanks be to God. Alleluia, Alleluia!**

ORGAN VOLUNTARY • Chorale Prelude on *Wie schön leuchtet*

Johann Pachelbel (1653-1706)

Please Keep These People in Your Prayers

Destany W., Jane W., David M. and Fred K.

For those who have died: June Bisson

Our thanks today for the...

Altar Guild: Julia Fine with Nancy & Harry Lambright

Lay Reader: Jean Stanton

Ushers: Barbara Bell & David Ridings

Flower Guild: Guild Members

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Prayers of the People were written by St. Paul's prayer leaders.

The Collect of the Day is taken from "Prayers for an Inclusive Church, 2009."

During this Christmas Season we give thanks for those who have worked many extra hours to prepare for and lead our worship services, including members of our choir, ushers, lectors, flower guild, altar guild, Eucharistic Ministers, and St. Paul's Staff.

Announcements

* Please join us for worship at 8 and 10 a.m. next Sunday, January 12th. On this day, the first Sunday after the Epiphany we will celebrate the baptism of Christ Jesus and, at 10 a.m., we will baptize one of our own new members!

* Next Sunday afternoon at 3 p.m. St. Paul's will host *The Syracuse Orchestra* for the next concert in their Casual series: *A Romantic Afternoon*.

Understanding Episcopal Liturgy

#11. What is the reason the priest and other people bow as they approach the altar?

The Hebrew scriptures warn God's people not to worship idols and other physical objects. So when we bow in front of the altar we are definitely not worshipping the altar or the cross behind the altar. We are showing reverence for the consecrated bread and wine which are kept on the shelf next to the altar.

This is connected with a particular type of prayer, called an 'invocation', which is said as part of the Eucharistic Prayer. For example, in Eucharistic Prayer C, the priest holds their hands near the bread and the wine and says, "Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ our Lord." We understand that the bread and the wine have been made holy in some way, through the prayers and actions of our Eucharistic celebration.

At the end of each worship service, we gather what remains of the consecrated bread and wine and keep them in special containers on a shelf next to the altar. The priest and other worship leaders bow as they approach the altar in an action of reverence for the consecrated bread and wine. This is also the reason some of our members make a small bow, or genuflect, before taking a seat in their pew at the beginning of worship.

If you have a question about something in our liturgy, I will be happy to answer it. Please ask in person, or send an email to me at revmajor@stpaulsyr.org.

Fr. Philip +

Officers

Senior Warden: Marion Greenhalgh

Junior Warden: Joe Moorman

Treasurer: Doug Mouncey

Clerk of the Vestry: Joseph Russo

2024

Vestry & Team Leaders

2024: David Morgan, Tom Cantwell, Michael Mach

2025: Matthieu van der Meer, Harry Lambright, Barbara Bell

2026: Ieva Doyle, Jeanne Chu, Tim Cassavaw

Finance Committee Chairperson: David Ridings

Children's Ministry Leader: Jeanne Avery

Worship Ministry Team Convener: Laurie Sanderson

Formation Ministry Team Convener: Jeanne Avery

Mission & Service Team Convener: Betsy Elkins

Community Fellowship Min. Convener: Elizabeth Belden-Handler

Pastoral Care Leader: Kira Dirghalli

Buildings & Grounds Chair: Bill Pitcher

Office Volunteers: Liz Handler, Kira Dirghalli, Betsy Elkins, Sandi Yingling

Staff

The Right Reverend Dr. DeDe Duncan Probe, Bishop of Central New York

The Reverend Philip Major, Rector of St. Paul's

James L. Potts, Organist and Choirmaster

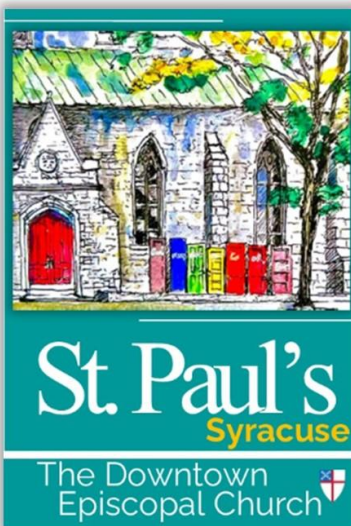
Judy McAdoo-Pelton, Operations Manager

Doug Mouncey, Parish Assistant (Volunteer)

Debbie Nettle, Open Doors Project Administrator

Mark King, Technology Assistant

Derek Lane, Sunday Security



St. Paul's Syracuse

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