



# THE EPISTLE

ST. PAUL'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

May 2021

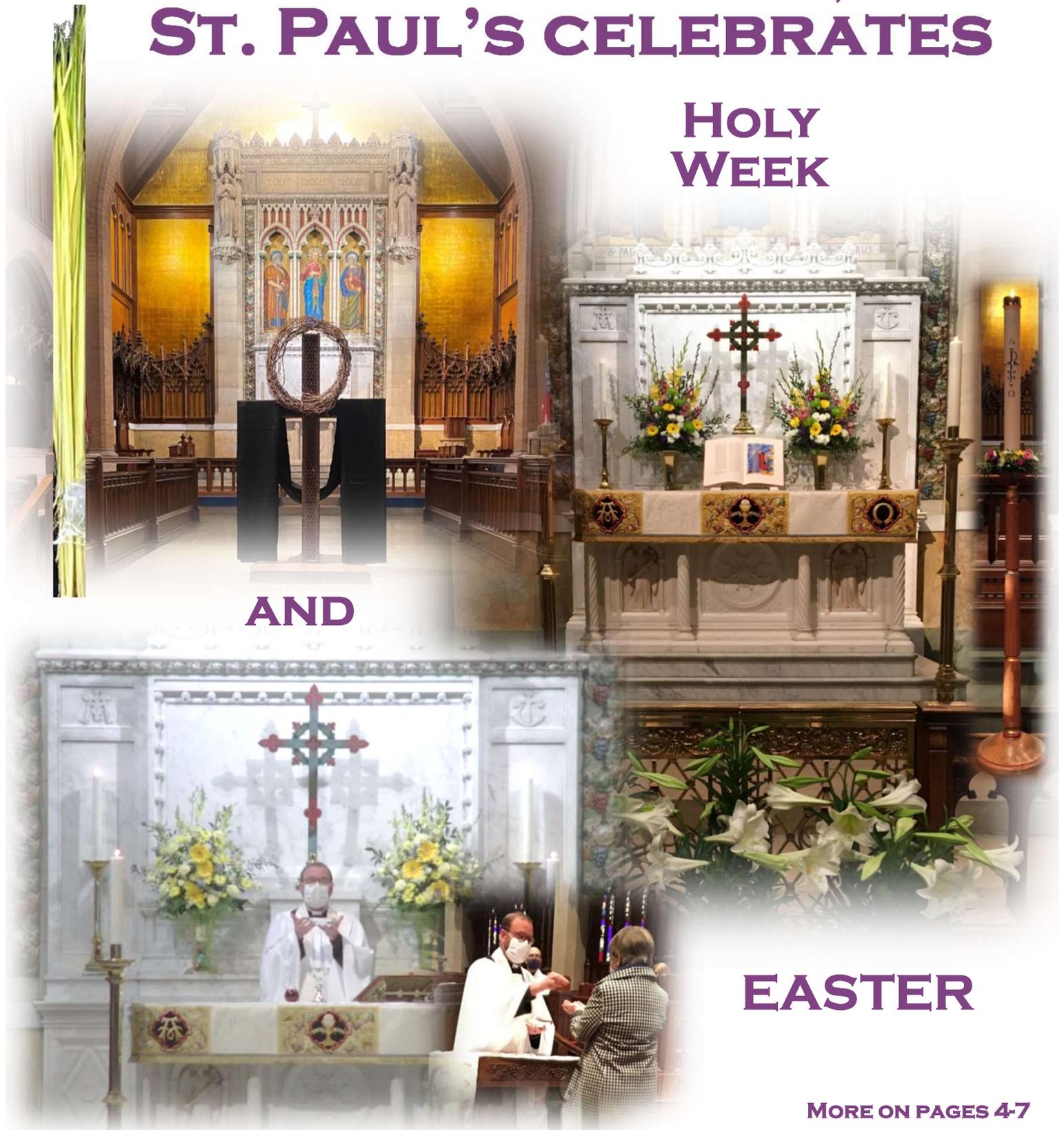
## AFTER OBSERVING LENT, ST. PAUL'S CELEBRATES

### HOLY WEEK

AND

### EASTER

MORE ON PAGES 4-7





## Message from our Rector

Alleluia! Christ is Risen!

What a joy it has been to gather both in-person and online during our celebration of the Great Fifty Days of Easter. I am grateful to all whose dedication, creativity, cooperation, good humor, and leadership make this possible. And, I remain grateful for the kindness, patience, enthusiasm, and support of the congregation.

This last year has also taught us much about ourselves and our congregation. We know what we miss when separated and we have learned, and are continuing to learn, how to expand our reach in worship, formation, and fellowship. I am *very* excited about the opportunity for *resurrection* before us.

In the Resurrection, Jesus was not simply resuscitated 'back to normal'; rather, His whole being was transformed. Eastertide is one not to be squandered by focusing on what isn't or what once was; rather, we should be dreaming about our future as St. Paul's Church. This is the perfect season to discuss what the next program-year and beyond will look like, as best we can — and the staff and Vestry are engaged in that conversation.

Our Presiding Bishop, the Most Rev. Michael Curry, reflecting on the ancient Hebrew people's exile in Babylon, said: "The temptation will be to rush back to 'Jerusalem' and think it was going to be the same way it was before.... But, there's something in exile that's worthy of learning... and somehow there's an encounter with God here that moves beyond the building of the Temple...and discovering that the God we've been worshipping, who we thought was just located in that temple — it's like the old slaves used to say, "He's got the whole world in His hands." To discover that God... [and] to come out of this exile period and not lose the exile consciousness of God in the wilderness with us: that will be a revival in the Church such that we have not seen since the Babylonian exile."

I believe that this is a truly exciting time in the life of the Church and our parish. As a congregation we have a unique opportunity to leave behind the burial cloths that have kept us from growth in Christ, strengthen that which we value the most in our walk of faith together, embrace *the new* already alive in our life-together, and dream about our future as God's people who together make up St. Paul's Church.

With my prayers and best wishes for a joyous and transformational Easter season, I remain,

Your friend and Rector,

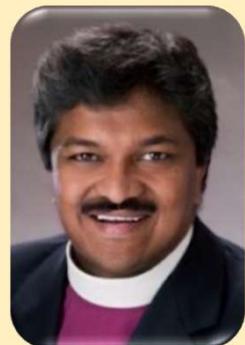
(The Rev'd) Robert A. Picken

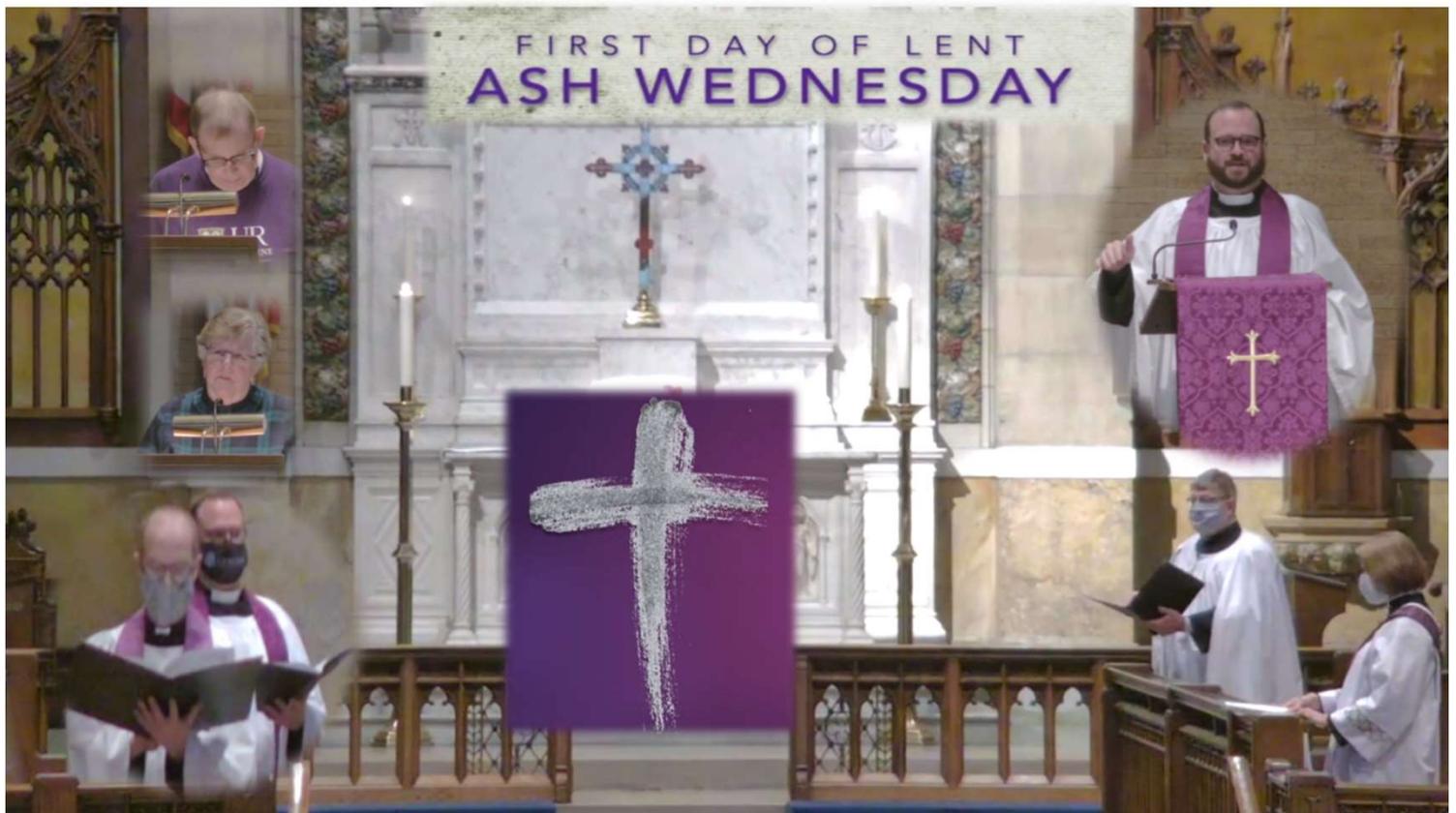
Follow St. Paul's on Facebook, Instagram,  
and email to receive messages.  
Clergy and staff closely monitor mail, phone calls,  
and e-mail.  
For urgent pastoral concerns, call 585-483-0472.

### OUR BISHOP TO VISIT ST. PAUL'S

On Sunday, June 13th, the Right Reverend Prince Singh will join us to preside and preach at the 8:00 A.M. and 10:30 A.M. services.

Following the 10:30 A.M. service, he will bless and re-dedicate the newly renovated Stone Hall.





St. Paul's observed Ash Wednesday with a number of worship opportunities.

A pre-recorded Ash Wednesday service, which included music provided by the St. Paul's COVID Choir, lessons, prayers, and a sermon, was uploaded at 5:30 A.M. A live service was offered at noon via Facebook.

## INVITATION TO A HOLY LENT

I invite you, therefore, in the name of the Church,  
to the observance of a holy Lent,  
by self-examination and repentance;  
by prayer, fasting, and self-denial,  
and by reading and meditating on God's holy Word.

During the day, the sanctuary was open so parishioners could meditate, listen to an audiotape of the service which was played on a continuous loop, and impose ashes on themselves from a bowl set up in the aisle.



TOP: Lectors Gary Scott and Kitty MacDowell, the Rev. Jay Burkardt, the Rev. Rob Picken, Dr. Robert Poovey, and the Rev. Sue Ouellette.

UPPER RIGHT: Dr. Robert Poovey with vocalists Payton Dziekan, Dr. Charles Tellier, Daniel Magee, Nancy Curtis, Chris Moore, and Cassie Zinkan.

LOWER RIGHT: The presentation of the Lenten ashes as well as a few of the parishioners who attended in person.



# HOLY WEEK PALM SUNDAY



ABOVE –

TOP: The Rev. Sue Ouellette reading the Gospel; The Rev. Rob Picken at the altar; and Trumpeter Herb Smith.

MIDDLE: Vocalists Charles Tellier and Nancy Curtis; The Rev. Jay Burkardt leading prayers; Soloist Nancy Curtis; the Rev. Rob Picken preaching; and musicians Payton Dziekan, Herb Smith, and Kevin Frisch.

BOTTOM: Shown rehearsing for the recording of the Palm Sunday service are Herb Smith and choir under the direction of Dr. Robert Poovey. *Bottom row photos by Rob Picken.*

LEFT –

The Rev. Jay Burkardt and the Rev. Sue Ouellette distributing palms to those who stopped by after the Palm Sunday service was broadcast. *Photos at left by Rob Picken.*



## THANK YOU TO ALL WHO HELPED PRODUCE OUR HOLY WEEK SERVICES:

- ◆ To leaders and participants: Our Clergy, Music Director, Vocalists, Trumpeter, and Lectors;
- ◆ To those who prepared the worship space for the pre-recorded services and the live Easter services;
- ◆ To Altar Guild Director Jackie Barnes and her team, Nancy Andrus, and our Maintenance Team;
- ◆ To our Ushers who helped with our inn-person worship at four celebrations of Easter; and
- ◆ To our Office and Program Staff for their input into creating the services.



The remote Maundy Thursday service included commemoration of the Last Supper in scripture and in sacred music.

LEFT TOP: Dr. Robert Poovey with vocalists Chris Wallingford, Mara Hazzard Wallingford, Daniel Magee, and Payton Dziekan.

LEFT BELOW: Lector Judy Wadsworth, the Rev. Jay Burkardt, the Rev. Rob Picken, and the Rev. Sue Ouellette.



At the conclusion of the Maundy Thursday service, the Rev. Rob Picken shared the Gospel account of Jesus' agony and arrest in Gestheme.



The **Good Friday** commemoration of the Passion of Christ included a sung Gospel of the Passion and Solemn Collects.

ABOVE, TOP ROW: The Rev. Rob Picken; the Rev. Sue Ouellette and the Rev. Jay Burkardt leading the Solemn Prayers; parishioners during a time of private prayer between noon and 3:00 P.M.

MIDDLE: Gary Scott, Lector; Dr. Robert Poovey, Organist.

BOTTOM: Performing the Sung Gospel of the Passion are Cassie Zinkan, Luke Brennan, the Rev. Rob Picken, Christopher Moore, and Ali Santos, led by Dr. Robert Poovey.

# HOLY WEEK EASTER

To celebrate Easter and the lessening of pandemic restrictions, St. Paul's held four Easter in-person services: one on Easter Eve and three on Easter Morning. Shown here are scenes from the 8:00 A.M. service and the 9:30 A.M. service which was live-streamed for those who couldn't attend in person.

LEFT TOP: The Rev. Sue Ouellette reading the Easter Gospel; Cantor Cassie Zinkan; and the Rev. Rob Picken preaching.

LEFT BOTTOM: Dr. Robert Poovey at the organ; the Rev. Jay Burkardt and the Rev. Rob Picken.

BELOW LEFT: The Rev. Sue Ouellette and the Rev. Jay Burkardt greeting parishioners after the 8:00 A.M. service; Live-stream technician setting up for streaming the 9:30 A.M. Easter service.

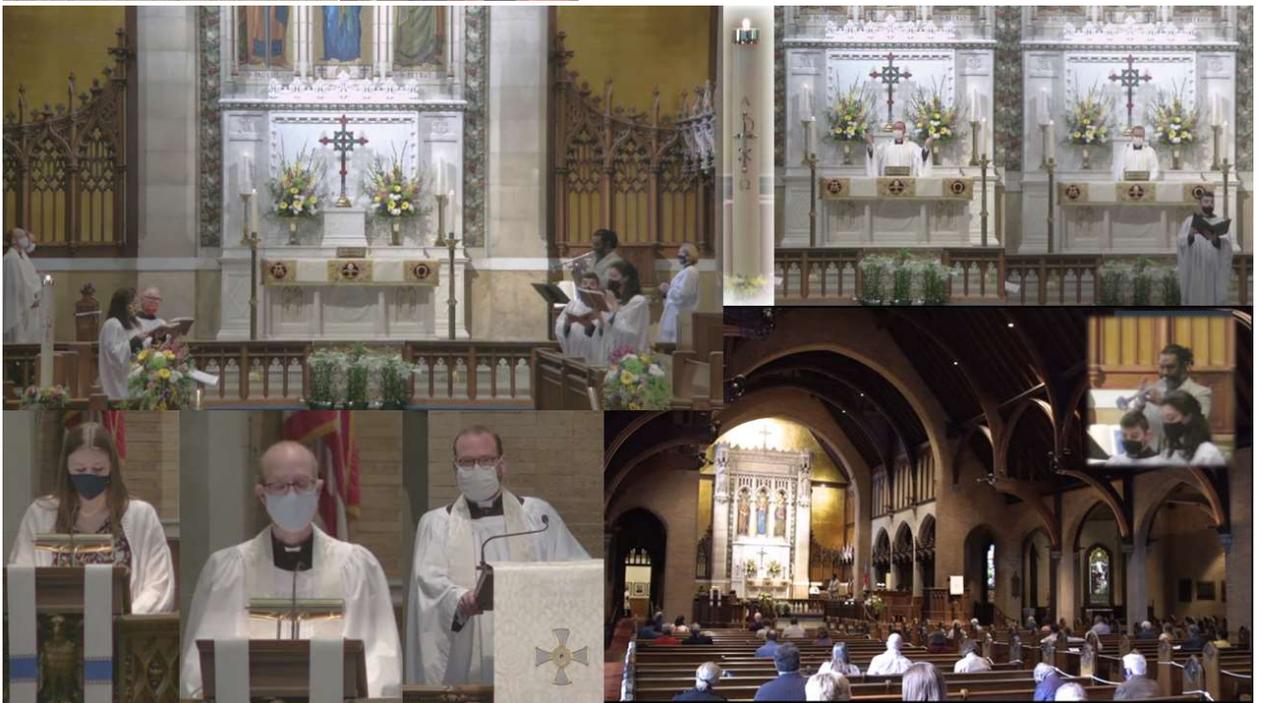
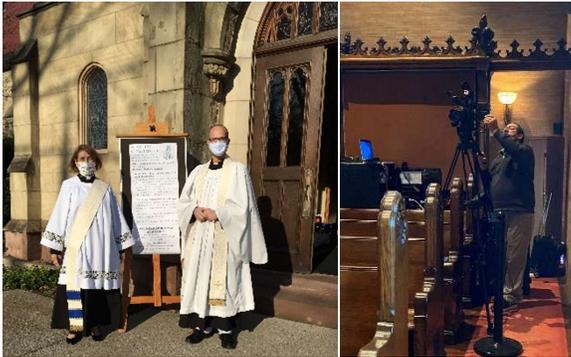
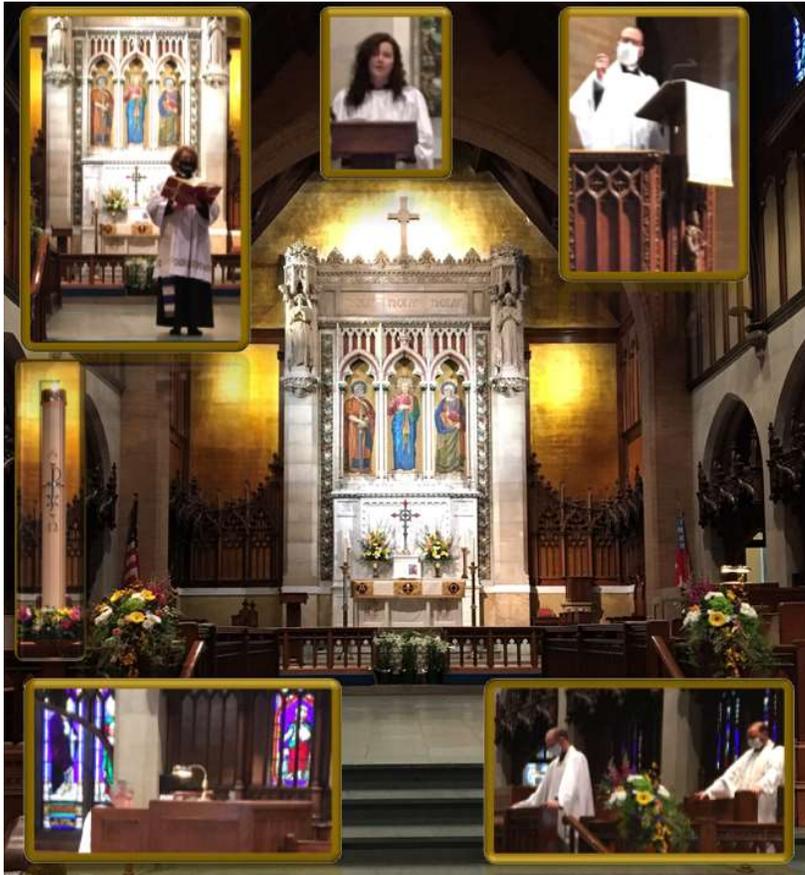
BELOW TOP: Vocalists Cassie Zinkan, Charles Tellier, Daniel Magee, and Alexis Peart with trumpeter Herb Smith and the clergy; the Rev. Rob Picken at the altar; and cantor Daniel Magee.

BELOW BOTTOM: Lector Natalie L., the Rev. Jay Burkardt leading prayers, the Rev. Rob Picken preaching, some of those attending the 9:30 A.M. service, and trumpeter Herb Smith.

Serving at the Saturday afternoon service was cantor Alexis Peart.

Vocalists who served at the 11:15 A.M. Easter service were Nancy Curtis, Christopher Moore, Alexis Peart, and Charles Tellier.

Luke Brennan assisted at the organ.



## Celebrating the Eucharist returns after a year !!



On April 18, parishioners participated in the Holy Eucharist for the first time since services were cancelled due to the pandemic in March 2020. Shown is a composite of the 8:00 A.M. and 10:30 A.M. Communion services.

LEFT: Lector Jim Dorr (8:00 A.M.); Lector Bill Allison and Cantor Nancy Curtis (10:30 A.M.).

CENTER: The Rev. Rob Picken blessing the Eucharist elements, explaining how parishioners would access Communion, and distributing Communion wafers to congregants.

RIGHT: The Rev. Jay Burkardt reading the Gospel, and the Rev. Sue Ouellette preaching the sermon.

RIGHT BELOW: Thomas and Sonya managing the live stream for the 10:30 A.M. service.



## Our Archbishop and Presiding Bishop discuss the Church in the world.



On April 14, a group of parishioners gathered via zoom to view and discuss a fascinating (recorded) conversation between the Most Rev. Michael Curry, Presiding Bishop of the Episcopal Church, and the Most Rev. and Rt. Hon. Justin Welby, Archbishop of Canterbury. The two leaders conversed about the Church's service as witness this past year, steps to take to live out a life of love, the role of the Church in speaking to government, ways that being a part of a global Church can help us on our spiritual journeys, and what features that developed during the pandemic would be good to maintain once the world returns to 'normal.'. Among other things, it was noted that the average Anglican is a 30-year-old woman living in a war zone in sub-Saharan Africa.

# Weekly Services

## Sunday Worship

A service of Morning Prayer was offered online at 9:15 A.M. during Epiphany and Lent. Seen at the right is a composite of participants in these Sunday worship services.

RIGHT (Top to Bottom): Vocalists Payton Dziekan, Chris Moore; Cassie Zinkan, Charles Tellier, Dan Magee; Alexis Peart; and Deacon Sue Ouellette.



ABOVE RIGHT (Top to Bottom): Bassist Payton Dziekan, the Rev. Rob Picken, the Rev. Jay Burkardt, and the Rev. Sue Ouellette.



## Evening Prayer

A prerecorded service of Evening Prayer was uploaded each Saturday afternoon during Epiphany. This service was then available via St. Paul's website or Facebook page at any time.

LEFT: Pictured are the Rev. Rob Picken and Dr. Robert Poovey who led all the services as well as lectors Lindsay Korth, Kevin Frisch, Erin Glanton, Joan Flint, Nancy Grear, and Nancy Curtis.

## Compline

During Lent, the Rev. Rob Picken and Dr. Robert Poovey led a service of Compline which was uploaded each Sunday evening so the service was available to at the viewer's convenience.

LEFT: The Rev. Rob Picken and Dr. Robert Poovey who led the worship with vocalists Nancy Curtis, Alexis Peart, Payton Dziekan, Cassie Zinkan, Pat Moran, Kevin Frisch, Charles Tellier, and Dan Magee.



## The Daily Office

St. Paul's offers two opportunities to share the Daily Office: Noonday Prayer live on Facebook Monday-Friday, and Morning Prayer conducted by laity each Thursday at 8:00 A.M. on Zoom.

# Adult Formation



## The Way of LOVE

On Sundays at 10:15 A.M. in our Zoom Room from January 31 through March 21, parishioners gathered to consider ways to meet the challenge of our Presiding Bishop, Dr. Michael Curry, to become active members of the Episcopal branch of the Jesus Movement. To help with this commitment, a group of clerics created a guide, *The Way of Love*, which describes seven practices to adopt. Using a series of videos prepared by the National Episcopal Church, participants spent a session exploring each of those practices: Turn, Learn, Pray, Worship, Bless, Go, and Rest.

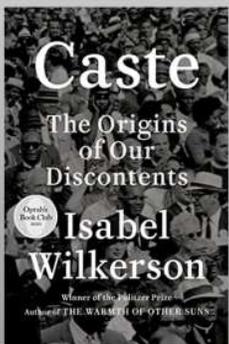


## THE LANGUAGE OF COLORS: THE MEANING OF ICONS

On March 3, 10, and 17, parishioners met via Zoom to explore the language, meaning, and creation of Christian icons. The Rev. Rob Picken led the discussion of these religious works of art that have been created over the centuries to modern times. The steps to take in 'writing' icons to make their creation a religious experience were also reviewed.

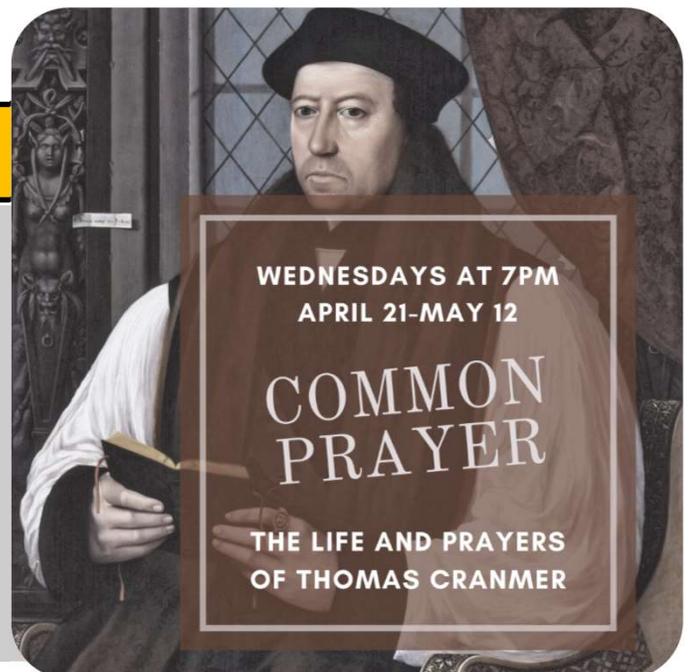
## Current Zoom Learning Opportunities:

### Spring Reading Group: CASTE



Mondays at 7:00 P.M.

A group began reading and discussing this book on April 26 with plans to end on June 7, having taken off Memorial Day.



# ST. PAUL'S OUTREACH UPDATE

## If Music Be the Food

On April 18, the IF MUSIC BE THE FOOD Spring Recital to benefit Foodlink was broadcast live via YouTube from St Paul's. Due to the pandemic, the in-person audience was limited to guests of performers.

The program featured works of Mozart and Chopin performed by cellist Mimi Hwang (IMBTF Musica Director), and Eastman faculty violinist Yoojin Jang, as well as pianists Elinor Freer and Alexander Kobrin—seen at the right performing.



## St. Paul's Members Support St. Joseph's

Members of St. Paul's provide meals for St. Joseph's House of Hospitality on the first Saturday of each month. Each volunteer is asked to bring 7-9 bagged lunches, each of which includes two sandwiches, fruit, chips, cookie, and a bottle of water. St. Paul's parishioners provide 70-75 sandwiches each month. Since COVID, there are many more homeless people, since places like St. Joseph House and House of Mercy have not been able to house anyone overnight. Many of the homeless stay in downtown parking garages that are heated. The need for clothing and groceries is great. Financial donations allow for the purchase of needed clothing and groceries. To learn more, contact Meredith Halter at [mhalter@rochester.rr.com](mailto:mhalter@rochester.rr.com)



Due to the onset of the pandemic one year ago, Family Promise of Greater Rochester (FPGROC/RAIHN) transitioned families out of the congregation shelter program and found alternative housing in motels. Now, families have been transitioned into three apartments for family comfort and cost effectiveness. The congregation shelter program remains on hold and will reopen based on government recommendations as well as the comfort level of partner congregations. **Thank you** to those who continue to provide weekly gift cards and basic food items to the families in the Shelter Program.

## Sleep for a Night Without A Bed - Saturday, June 26, 2021

Sleep in a car, in a tent, in a treehouse, or even on the living room floor to raise awareness for families experiencing homelessness. This campaign is a social media challenge to raise awareness of families experiencing homelessness. By sharing social media posts, and taking pictures or video to post using the hashtag #NightWithoutABed, you can raise awareness, too. To learn more, visit [Night Without A Bed](#).

# STONE HALL RESTORATION UPDATE

It is good news to report that we are on the final checklist for our renovation of Stone Hall. The space will begin to be used gradually during this month and we look forward to the blessing and re-dedication of the space during the Bishop's Visit on Sunday, June 13.

The completion of this project represents the conclusion of a near decade-long endeavor that included re-routing pipes, water-proofing the outside of the basement (aka "the big dig") and many, many steps in-between. We should be grateful for the good work of Bero Architects, DGA Builders, and the other contractors who worked on this project and to Bob Potter and the members of our Property Committee.

This restoration renovated the prep kitchen, restored and added restrooms, restored spaces to be used by our youth group and parish archivists, and installed up-to-date AV equipment. We will welcome back most of our 12-step groups when they move back to in-person meetings and Stone Hall will be used by the diocesan ministry to the deaf and hard of hearing. We also have begun conversations with other community groups as we dream about how this refreshed and hospitable space can be used to further the mission of St. Paul's Church.

Thank you to those parishioners who generously contributed to this project and thus reduced our use of capital reserves. If you wish to make a contribution, you may send a check to the office (memo: Stone Hall). There will also be an opportunity for us to help furnish our new youth group room (memo: Youth Group Room).



ABOVE : Stone Hall meeting space, kitchenette, and youth room.

## SERVICES, MEETINGS

Parish opportunities for worship and learning are provided electronically. Check your email daily for updates.

### KEEPING IN TOUCH

The Parish Office is open by appointment only. Clergy and staff monitor mail, phone calls, and emails. For emergency pastoral needs, call 585-483-0472. Another resource for learning about electronic sessions for worship and learning is our website at <http://stpaulsec.org/>

### 12-STEP GROUPS ONLINE

The 12-step groups which normally meet at St. Paul's are not meeting at this time. Some may be available online. Contact Alcoholics Anonymous at [Rochester-NY-AA.org](http://Rochester-NY-AA.org). For other 12-step groups, please check with your local or national office.

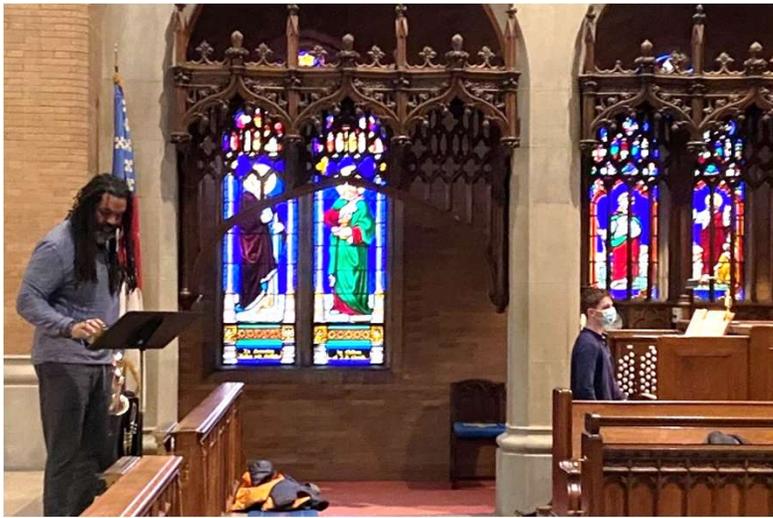
Merciful God,

we entrust to your never-failing care and love

**Gwyneth D. Hunting and Margie Fitch.**

Rest eternal grant to them, O Lord; And let light perpetual shine upon them.

May their souls, and the souls of all the departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen.



# ST. PAUL'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

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585-271-2240 • Email: [info@stpaulsec.org](mailto:info@stpaulsec.org)  
Web Site: [www.stpaulsec.org](http://www.stpaulsec.org)

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Rochester, NY

**EASTER PREPARATION:** Trumpeter Herb Smith and organist Luke Brennan rehearsing for Easter services. See page 6 for coverage of Easter worship.

## ST. PAUL'S WORSHIP SERVICES

### Sunday In-Person Worship

8:00 A.M. and 10:30 A.M.  
Pre-Registration Required

### Sunday Online Worship

10:30 A.M. Live-Stream Worship  
via YouTube (replay available)

**Tuesdays-Thursdays Noonday Prayer**  
via Facebook Live

Thursday. Morning Prayer  
8:00 A.M. via Zoom

Links for all online worship services  
are emailed and available on our website,  
[www.stpaulsec.org](http://www.stpaulsec.org).

Contribute information for the Epistle via  
[publicity@stpaulsec.org](mailto:publicity@stpaulsec.org). Judy Wadsworth, Editor

View the full church calendar at:

[www.stpaulsec.org](http://www.stpaulsec.org)

- Visit us on Facebook



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## Our Vision

We pray that all who enter St. Paul's experience God's presence in this community of faith, a community that through Christ strives to be loving, joyous, inclusive, transforming and filled with God's Grace.

## St. Paul's Ministry Staff

Rector  
The Rev. Robert A. Picken

Assistant Rector  
The Rev. Jay P. Burkardt

The Rev. Sue Ouellette, Ph.D., Deacon

Director of Music  
Dr. Robert Poovey

Front Desk Assistant  
Natosche Holt

Parish Accountant  
Judy McGrath

Director, Adult Faith Formation  
Nancy Grear

Accounting & Administrative  
Assistant  
Lisa Werner

Director, Children, Youth &  
Family Faith Formation  
Amy Welker

Property Manager  
Bob Potter

Sunday Child Care  
Dorothea (Dorrie) Champlin  
Candace Hoffman-Hussain

Maintenance Associates  
Dave McEntee  
Jim D'Angelo

Wedding & Funeral Coordinator  
Judy Loveland

Director, Child Care Center  
Michelle Mousseau

Director, City School Outreach  
Paula Valeri