

WELCOME TO ST. PAUL'S CHURCH

Welcome to St. Paul's Church in Endicott, NY. We are happy to have you with us.

The present building was built in 1953.

As you enter, you will notice an atmosphere of worship and reverence. Your eye will be carried to the altar, and to the cross above it. This is intended to move your thoughts to Christ and to God, whose house this is. The Altar sits behind the rail where the congregation comes to receive Communion. The area inside the rail is called the Sanctuary. The part of the church where the people sit is called the nave. On the right side at the front of the church is the pulpit where Scripture is read and the sermon is preached. The area to the left within the sanctuary is appropriately called the "choir" as these pews are where the choir sits.

We sincerely pray that you enjoy your visit and will want to come again and perhaps join our parish family. We especially want you to feel comfortable during the liturgy and hope this leaflet will assist you in some way. Whether you are a newcomer, an "old timer" who is returning, or a guest visiting us today, we greet you and welcome you in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

St. Paul's Church is a member of the Christ's One, Holy, Catholic, and Apostolic Church that lives out this faith within the Anglican tradition. We are a eucharistically centered parish, desiring to yield ourselves to the outpouring of the Holy Spirit. Worship is the very heart of our community life. Our commitment to Jesus Christ is expressed in many ways. However, it is in gathering in the Holy Eucharist that we live out most fully our Baptismal Covenant to worship God and serve his people. It is in this Eucharistic celebration that the Good News is proclaimed and Jesus Christ is made known to us "...in the breaking of the bread."

The Holy Eucharist (Church Service with communion) is celebrated at 8:00 AM and 10:00 AM on Sundays. A Healing Eucharist is held on Wednesdays at 9:30 AM in the chapel. We invite all who are baptized to receive Holy Communion. The Liturgy is usually in two forms, the more traditional Elizabethan English Rite I, and the contemporary English Rite II. The first part is called the Liturgy of the Word, and contains three Scripture Readings, Psalm as well as the Sermon, Profession of Faith, Prayers of the People, Confession of Sin, and Sign of Peace.

The next part is the Liturgy of the Eucharist, and contains The Great Thanksgiving, and Holy Communion.

Church School for grade Kindergarten through Middle School meets in the Christian Education Building at 10:00 AM. Children then join their families during the sign of Peace.

St. Paul's Church is happy to share the Word of God with an active parish. Adult Education Forum is held on Sundays after the 10:00 AM Service. There are various youth group activities during the year for our youth. Consult the bulletin or inquire of the Rector for more information.

There are candles on the altar to remind us that Christ is "the Light of the world." Often there are flowers on the altar to beautify God's house and to recall the resurrection of Jesus.

Answers to some commonly asked questions on the Liturgy

The ushers will hand you a "bulletin" as you enter the door which contains announcements and details about the service. They will gladly answer questions about the service. Pews are unreserved.

What are the books in the pews? There are three books in our pews. The Book of Common Prayer (BCP) is the red book in which can be found the Liturgy of Holy Eucharist and other rites of the Church. The Hymnal 1982 is the blue book and hymns are plain numbers; those marked with "S" are service music found in the front part of the hymnal. The LEVAS Hymnal is the red and black book noted in the bulletin as LEVAS (Lift Every Voice and Sing II) and the WLP (Wonder, Love and Praise) is the green book located at the end of each pew.

What if I lose my place? Don't worry. You won't be the first, nor will you be the last. If you get lost during the liturgy, just "rise and fall with the rest of us" as we stand, kneel or sit. Simply enter into the Eucharist as Jesus makes himself present to you in both Word and Sacrament. Pages numbers are found in the bulletin, will be announced throughout out the service or ask someone next to you.

Do I have to make the sign of the cross, bow or genuflect etc.? No. These are expressions of adoration to our Lord Jesus Christ which are used by many Christians. You do not have to do anything that makes you uncomfortable. There is freedom of expression that is allowed in Episcopal Churches.

May I receive Communion? If you have been baptized with water in the name of the Trinity-the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit-and profess Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior, you are welcome to receive the Blessed Sacrament at the Altar. *It is in baptism that we are buried with Christ in His death and raised with Him in the newness of Life.*

May my children receive the Sacrament? The same guidelines for adults also apply to children. By virtue of one's baptism into Christ's death and resurrection, you become a full member of the Body of Christ and are welcome to receive the Lord's Sacrament.

How do I receive the Sacrament? The ushers will indicate when it is time for you to receive the Sacrament. Go up to the altar rail with the rest of the pew and either kneel or stand. If you are infirmed and can not make it to the rail, let the ushers know and they will have the priest bring the Sacrament to you. Consecrated bread is received either on the tongue or carried to the mouth with both hands, right over left. This is to ensure it is not dropped. The Consecrated Wine is received by lightly grasping the base of the communion cup, called the chalice, with one hand helping the Eucharistic Minister to guide it to your lips.

Must I receive the consecrated Wine? No. If you wish to partake of the Bread only, simply stay at the altar rail and indicate to the Eucharistic Minister by crossing your arms over your chest that you do not wish to have the wine.

How do I receive the Consecrated Wine if I do not wish to drink from the chalice? Simply leave the bread in the palm of your hand. The Eucharistic Minister with the chalice will allow you to dip the consecrated Bread into the chalice.

What if my children and I do not wish to receive Communion? You have two options at the time the Sacrament is distributed. First, when those with you who will be receiving Communion go up to the altar rail, simply go with them. When at the rail, kneel or stand and cross your arms over your chest. The priest will then give you a blessing, and both the priest and the Eucharistic Minister will know that you do not wish to receive the Sacrament. The other option is for you to remain in your pew while those wishing to receive go up.

What is the passing of the Peace? The passing of the peace dates back to the early church. Visitors are no longer strangers, for, in a most profound way through an embrace or the shaking of hands, the peace of Christ is exchanged one with another. However, the Peace is not the time to carry on a conversation with your neighbor.

You will find the service to be beautiful in its ordered dignity, God-centered, and yet mindful of the nature and needs of human beings. Before and after the service can be a time for personal meditation and devotion.

St. Paul's Episcopal Church

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Our Mission Statement

We welcome you to join us on our journey as we strive to share the love of Jesus through worship, Christian Education, Fellowship, and service to each other and the community beyond our walls.