



St. Paul & the Redeemer



The Reverend Catherine Healy

Dear People of St. Paul & the Redeemer,

When I first learned about SPR, I was immediately drawn to your progressive theology, commitment to anti-racist praxis, transcendent liturgy and music, vibrant formation for all ages, and passion for healing the city and the world. Most of all, I was captivated by your vision: “to become a community that mirrors the radical hospitality practiced by Jesus.” Now, with great joy and gratitude, I write to introduce myself as your next rector. I look forward to collaborating with all of you to build that community together.

SPR is so clearly a church not only *in* the city but *for* the city, and your commitments to outreach and organizing reflect that. I am a native Chicagoan (originally from Uptown), and I am thrilled to be coming home to the city I love—but I have been away for fifteen years, so I will be eager to learn from you about where you feel the city's needs are deepest and how the church can be a good neighbor, organizer, and ally in the struggle for justice.

I am equally eager to hear about how you hope to grow in faith during this next chapter of life at SPR. I believe that contemplation and action nourish each other; contemplation inspires us to act, action gives us reason to reflect, and together, both can draw us closer to the heart of Christ. I look forward to learning about each of your spiritual journeys and exploring ways to deepen them through formation, worship, and music.

I am also very much looking forward to getting to know all of you! I share life with my wife, Heather (a middle-school math/science teacher and marathon runner), and our two-month-old daughter, Clare. In my free time, I love being outdoors—especially in a canoe or on a bike—and reading. I am currently in the middle of *Buffalo Shout*, *Salmon Cry: Conversations on Creation, Land Justice, and Life*, by Steve Heinrichs, and am enjoying my annual re-read of *The Essential Dykes to Watch Out For*, by Alison Bechdel.

Yours is an extraordinary church, and it is a privilege to be called to lead it. You already have an exceptionally capable team of lay leaders; I have so enjoyed getting to know your wardens, vestry, and search committee, and I know many of you exercise leadership in various ministries. As your rector, I will do my best to support your ministry in the present and prepare it to flourish in the future, so that SPR can continue to be a blessing to the city for many generations to come.

Yours,

The Rev. Catherine Healy