A HERITAGE OF SERVICE TO NATION AND NEIGHBORHOOD

On April 30, 1789, George Washington took the oath of office to become the first President of the United States. Afterward, he made his way from Federal Hall on Wall Street to St. Paul's Chapel where he attended services. At that point, St. Paul’s had already been a part of New York City for 23 years.

When it first opened as an outreach chapel of Trinity Church, St. Paul’s was considered a “chapel-of-ease” for those who did not want to walk along unpaved streets to Trinity, located a few blocks to the south. When Trinity was destroyed in New York’s Great Fire of 1776, St. Paul’s survived thanks to a bucket brigade dousing the building with water. Many, including Washington, made St. Paul’s their church home until the second Trinity Church was built.

Over the next two centuries, the ministries of St. Paul’s expanded along with the city, with services to accommodate the needs of immigrants, working women, and the homeless.

St. Paul’s Chapel is sometimes called “the little chapel that stood” because it survived another brush with destruction on September 11, 2001. Though the World Trade Center buildings collapsed just across the street, there was no damage to the church. St. Paul’s became the site of an extraordinary, round-the-clock relief ministry to the more than 14,000 people serving in the recovery effort.

Today, St. Paul’s Chapel and Trinity Church (on Broadway at Wall Street) form the cornerstones of Trinity Church Wall Street, an active and welcoming parish that seeks to serve and heal the world by building neighborhoods that live gospel truths, generations of faithful leaders, and sustainable communities. You’re invited to attend a service in person or online—live or on demand—as well as to engage with social justice initiatives, enjoy musical events, and more. Visit trinitywallstreet.org anytime for up-to-date information.

THANK YOU FOR VISITING.
ST. PAUL’S CHAPEL THROUGH THE YEARS

1766  St. Paul’s Chapel opens.
1776  “The Great Fire” destroys over 500 structures in Manhattan, including the first Trinity Church building, but St. Paul’s Chapel is saved by a bucket brigade.
1789  President George Washington attends a service on his Inauguration Day, April 30.
1797  The original St. Paul’s Chapel bell is installed.
1831  President James Monroe’s funeral service is held on July 7.
1866  A second bell is installed to commemorate the 100th anniversary of St. Paul’s Chapel.
1889  A centennial celebration of Washington’s inauguration is held in St. Paul’s, attended by Presidents Benjamin Harrison, Rutherford B. Hayes, and Grover Cleveland.
1904  The first Night Workers’ Service takes place at 2:30am, drawing nearby printshop workers, who weren’t able to attend regular services.
1954  Eleanor Roosevelt speaks in St. Paul’s Chapel for a special “Service of Dedication to the Ideals and Aims of the United Nations.”
1960  St. Paul’s Chapel is designated as a historical landmark.
1983  A transitional shelter in the balcony of St. Paul’s Chapel opens, offering housing and life-skills training for residents.
2001-2002  St. Paul’s Chapel is spared from the September 11 attacks on the World Trade Center and becomes home to an extraordinary round-the-clock volunteer relief ministry for recovery workers.
2005  Desmond Tutu preaches at St. Paul’s Chapel.
2011  Bach at One, a free concert series surveying Bach’s entire output of sacred vocal music, debuts.
2012  Partnership with Tamid Synagogue begins.
2015  Brown bag lunch distribution expands to St. Paul’s Chapel.
2016  St. Paul’s Chapel celebrates 250 years.

WORSHIP SERVICES

SUNDAY
Holy Eucharist  8am
Family Eucharist  9:15am
Holy Eucharist  11:15am
Compline by Candlelight  8pm
Worship online at trinitywallstreet.org/videos

CHAPEL HOURS
MONDAY– SATURDAY: 10am–6pm
SUNDAY: 7am–6pm
Churchyard hours are seasonal.

DIRECTIONS

SUBWAY
A, C, 2, 3 to Broadway-Nassau Street
4, 5 to Fulton Street
E to Chambers Street
6 to Brooklyn Bridge-City Hall
R to Cortlandt Street

TRINITY CHURCH CORE VALUES

FAITH | COMPASSION | INTEGRITY
INCLUSIVENESS | STEWARDSHIP
SOCIAL JUSTICE

TRINITY CHURCH
Broadway at Wall Street | New York City

ST. PAUL’S CHAPEL
Broadway and Fulton Street | New York City

212.602.0800 | trinitywallstreet.org
The Rev. Dr. William Lupfer, Rector
The Rev. Phillip A. Jackson, Vicar

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THINGS TO SEE IN ST. PAUL’S CHAPEL

St. Paul’s Chapel was built in the Georgian Classic-Revival style. The design was adapted from a pattern by James Gibbs, the British architect of St. Martin-in-the-Fields Church in London. The chapel was renovated in 2016 in celebration of its 250th anniversary.

On the north side of the chapel is The Great Seal of the United States 1, an original 18th century oil painting. Commissioned in New York in 1785, it is one of the earliest known depictions. If the bird on the seal resembles a turkey, it may be because the turkey was once considered for the national bird—a choice favored by Benjamin Franklin. Directly across the church is the painting of the Coat of Arms of the State of New York 2, which dates back to the late 1700s. The seal, adopted in 1777, depicts the state’s coat of arms and a banner inscribed with the official state motto, “Excelsior,” meaning “ever upward” in Latin.

The magnificent work of art that appears in the center of the windows is the “Glory” altarpiece 3. It was designed by architect Pierre L’Enfant, famously known as the planner of Washington, D.C. This piece depicts Mt. Sinai in clouds and lightning, the Hebrew word for “God” in a triangle, and the two tablets of the Law. When outside the chapel, although not easily seen through the glass, the altarpiece contains a sculpture of an eagle pulling back a curtain to reveal a sun with thirteen rays, representing the original colonies.

Facing the altar and to the left is the large raised pulpit 4, which was originally placed in front of the altar at the head of the central aisle.

Look up and around the ceiling. There are fourteen original cut-glass chandeliers hanging in the nave (or main church) and galleries. These date from 1802 and were originally made to hold candles. They were removed in 1857 when St. Paul’s was lit with gas, but returned and refitted for electricity in 1925.

At the back of the church in the balcony is the organ 5. The Noack organ was originally built in 1989 for the Church of the Redeemer in Chestnut Hill, Massachusetts, and installed in St. Paul’s in 2017. The case, brought from England in 1802, was modified to fit the Noack organ. This is the fifth instrument to be housed inside it.

The oak statue of St. Paul 6 sits on the balcony. The statue stood in the niche above the entrance to St. Paul’s Chapel for many years, but was replaced with a replica in 2016 and moved inside to preserve the deteriorating wood.

The Chapel of Remembrance 7 reflects the role St. Paul’s played in the aftermath of the attacks on September 11, 2001, and offers visitors an opportunity for meditation and prayer.

BROADWAY

CHURCH STREET

1 2

6

5

3 4

7
EXPLORING ST. PAUL’S CHAPEL CHURCHYARD

In 1766, when St. Paul’s Chapel opened, the main entrance to the church faced west toward the large churchyard and the Hudson River beyond (now the World Trade Center site). Take time to explore the peaceful churchyard and learn about some of the notable people buried here.

On the Broadway side of St. Paul’s Chapel is the Montgomery Memorial. It honors Brigadier General Richard Montgomery, the first officer killed in the American Revolution, who died at the Battle of Quebec in 1775. This is the first monument commissioned by the Continental Congress and the only one completed. Benjamin Franklin selected Jean-Jacques Caffieri to design it. Montgomery is buried beneath the chapel’s East Porch. Above the monument is the back of the “Glory” altarpiece that is featured inside.

Facing St. Paul’s from Broadway, look to the right. The monument to Dr. William James MacNeven stands 35 feet high and features interesting inscriptions. An Irish Patriot, MacNeven came to this country in 1805. As Supervisor of Hospitals for New York City, he was instrumental in staving off cholera and smallpox epidemics. He is buried on the Riker Farm in Astoria, Queens. On the south side of the churchyard near Broadway is a monument to another Irish immigrant, the Honorable Thomas Addis Emmet. An activist for an independent Ireland, he emigrated to America in 1803 and was New York State Attorney General from 1812-1813. He is buried at St. Mark’s Church-in-the-Bowery.

Behind Emmet’s monument are several notable burials from the Revolutionary era. Some gravestones are not legible, but a few can be located by the veteran star markers that stand in the ground near the tombstones. In the middle of the southeast churchyard is the grave of John Bailey, who is said to have forged the George Washington Battle Sword in Fishkill, NY, while the Continental Army was encamped there. The sword is preserved in the Smithsonian Institution. Closer to the pathway near the church lies Dr. Philip Turner, Surgeon General during the Revolutionary War and later appointed surgeon to the US Army stationed in Manhattan. A few steps away is John Holt, printer of The New York Journal and The Independent Gazette, which he founded.

Directly behind the rear entrance to St. Paul’s Chapel is the Bell of Hope. It was presented in September 2002 to the City of New York by the Lord Mayor of the City of London as a symbol of solidarity on the first anniversary of September 11, 2001. It is rung annually on September 11. The bell was cast at the Whitechapel Bell Foundry in London, the same foundry that cast the Liberty Bell and Big Ben.

From the Bell of Hope, follow either pathway west toward the World Trade Center. Approximately in the center of the churchyard is an oak tree marked by a plaque. It was planted in memory of George Washington in 1937. Nearby are gravestones of two Revolutionary War soldiers—Major John Lucas and Major Job Sumner. Lucas was from the Georgia line and Sumner was from the Massachusetts line. Lucas was a member of the Society of Cincinnati, an organization dedicated to perpetuating the memory of the American Revolution. Lucas and Sumner were both 33 years old when they died in 1789.
Further back on the north side is a monument to George Frederick Cooke (a placard is nearby), an English character actor known for eccentric behavior. Following a career in England, he came to America, where one of his most prominent roles was that of "Richard III" at the Park Lane Theatre in 1810. The monument here was given in his memory by actor Edmund Kean.

On the southwest side is a monument and placard to Lt. Col. Etienne Marie Bechet Sieur de Rochefontaine, who served under the French General Rochambeau alongside American patriots during the Revolutionary War. He assisted in the capture of Lord Cornwallis and later commanded the Corps of Artillerists and Engineers at West Point Military Academy.

Toward the back of the churchyard is a gravestone for Dr. John Francis Vacher, a French surgeon who served in the Revolutionary War. Vacher was an original member of the Society of the Cincinnati, an organization dedicated to perpetuating the memory of the American Revolution.

The last tombstone to take note of is for George J. Eacker. In 1801, Eacker gave a speech mentioning Alexander Hamilton. When Hamilton’s 19-year-old son Philip defended his father, Eacker responded by calling Philip and a friend who was with him, “damned rascals and villains.” Philip challenged Eacker to a duel. Three days later, Philip was dead. In 1804, Alexander Hamilton would suffer the same fate after a duel with Vice President Aaron Burr. Both Philip and Alexander Hamilton are buried in the Trinity churchyard at Broadway and Wall Street, although Philip’s gravesite is unknown.