



ST. LUKE'S
EPISCOPAL
CHURCH

17 SOUTH
FITZHUGH STREET
ROCHESTER, N. Y.

Founded 1817

THE REV. FREDERICK M. WINNIE, D.D.
Rector

ST. LUKE'S WELCOMES YOU . . .
whatever your church, whatever your faith.

Now the oldest public building in Rochester, it serves a congregation scattered throughout the city and its suburbs.

On March 13, 1817, twenty-eight men in the village of Rochesterville signed the "Declaration of Attachment to the Protestant Episcopal Church" at the first public service, conducted by the Rev. Henry U. Onderdonk, "Rector of St. John's Church,

Canandaigua, and Missionary to parts adjacent." On July 14 the congregation was organized with Col. Nathaniel Rochester and Samuel J. Andrews as Wardens, and eight Vestrymen.

After several years of worshiping in the schoolhouse, a wooden building was erected in 1820 on the present lot, with such gifts, in addition to cash, as tin-ware, tailoring, hats, flour, books, cider and apples, meat, saddlery, shoes, team work, blacksmithing, lumber, coopering and joinery work.

The prosperity of the parish made increased accommodation necessary, so in 1823 the Vestry authorized subscriptions to the building fund in the form of shares. The frame church was removed to the rear of the lot and a stone church built in the Gothic style. The tower was ornamented with delicate tracery. The interior with its gallery on three sides was lighted by tall windows. A fine organ was in-

stalled in the rear gallery, the instrumental music in the old church having been furnished by a violin, flute, clarinet and bass viol.

In 1828 Col. Fitzhugh gave \$500 toward a new bell, and thirty feet were added to make the church its present length.

The unique three-deck altar, reading desk and pulpit surmounted by an ornate canopy was added about 1839, and the present chancel rail in 1844. The church stood close to the old Erie Canal and there must have been leakage into the basement, for in 1856 it was necessary to renew the floor. During this period, the present pews took the place of the box pews with doors. The tower was remodeled, oil lamps were replaced by gas, and the unusual lights on the pulpit, the stained glass windows and a new organ installed. The wood stoves were replaced by a steam-heat apparatus and a center aisle was added.

The pews were declared free in 1917; before that, they had been rented annually. In 1925 the church was reconstructed, the organ and choir moved to the chancel, and a new fireproof parish house was built.

An old photograph was discovered in 1966 showing the chancel as it looked in 1865 draped in black at the time of the assassination of President Lincoln. It is the earliest picture extant of the interior and with the old records formed the basis for the present restoration — the columns marbled with gilded capitals, the chancel walls adorned with plaster Gothic details and painted to resemble stone. The 1925 memorial organ and the choir were returned to the rear gallery.

St. Luke's Church, just inside the Inner Loop and in the midst of many new office buildings, is very fortunate in being easily accessible from the new highways stretching in each direction.

EVERYONE IS WELCOME
AT OUR SERVICES