



Celtic Evening Prayer and Communion at Saint Paul's Church

The Fifth Sunday of Easter
April 28, 2024, at Half-Past Five o'clock in the Evening

WELCOME. *We are glad you are here. We are aware that many who attend this service come from other churches and faith traditions, and we are delighted to have many who consider Saint Paul's to be their second church home. The mixture of faith traditions represented at this service makes up a community we especially cherish.*

Prelude

Matt Dickerson

In order to prepare for worship and allow for private prayer, we ask that silence be observed upon entering and that you turn off cell phones.

At the sound of the bell, all stand.

Opening

Celebrant Alleluia. Christ is risen.
People ***The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia.***

Celebrant Almighty God, who through your only-begotten Son Jesus Christ overcame death and opened to us the gate of everlasting life: Grant that we, who celebrate with joy the Lord's resurrection, may be raised from the death of sin by your life-giving Spirit; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. ***Amen.***

Prayer for the Evening

Leader Blest are you, Lord Jesus, who came to us as a little child, one of us, flesh and blood to share in our humanity.

For God so loved the world
All ***That all might have eternal life.***

Leader Blest are you, Lord Jesus, who came to us as a teacher and opened eyes to truths that only the poor could understand.

For God so loved the world
All ***That all might have eternal life.***

Leader Blest are you, Lord Jesus, who came to us as a healer and opened hearts to the reality of wholeness.

For God so loved the world
All ***That all might have eternal life.***

Leader Blest are you, Lord Jesus, who came to us as prophet, priest, and king
and yet humbled yourself to take our place upon the cross.
For God so loved the world
All ***That all might have eternal life.***

Leader Blest are you, Lord Jesus, who came to us as a servant
and revealed to us the extent of the Father's love for human kind.
For God so loved the world
All ***That all might have eternal life.***

Leader Blest are you, Lord Jesus, who rose from the shame of a sinner's death
to the triumph of a Savior's resurrection.
For God so loved the world
All ***That all might have eternal life.***

Leader God so loved the world that he gave his only Son
for the sake of me,
and you,
and other sinners too.
God so loved the world.
All ***Blest are you Lord Jesus, our Savior and Redeemer.***

Celebrant Your light is the only light we need
as we travel through life's mystery.
Your word the only voice we hear,
that still small voice that leads us
to the place where we should be.
Your presence is the only company we need
as we walk this narrow road.
Your fellowship the warmth we crave
to help us on our way.
May the truth of Easter,
The joy of Easter,
And the blessings of Easter
Be with us this day and all days. ***Amen.***

Please be seated. A period of silence is observed.

The Reading

John 15:1-8

Reader A reading from the Gospel according to John.

Jesus said to his disciples, "I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinegrower. He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing. Whoever does not abide in me

is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples.”

Reader Hear what the Spirit is saying to God’s people.
People **Thanks be to God.**

A period of silence is observed after the reading.

Reflection

The Reverend Kimberly E. Dunn

A period of silence is observed.

Music for Meditation

Matt Dickerson

Prayers for Ourselves and Others

Please stand.

Celebrant Almighty God, you have promised to hear when we pray in the name of your Son.
Therefore in confidence and trust we pray for the Church and for all who serve you in it.

Leader Loving God, enliven the Church for its mission.
People **That we may be salt of the earth and light to the world.**

Leader Breathe fresh life into your people.
People **Give us power to reveal Christ in word and action.**

Leader Creator of all, lead us and every people into the ways of justice and peace.
People **That we may respect one another in freedom and truth.**

Leader Awaken in us a sense of wonder for the earth and all that is in it.
People **Teach us to care creatively for its resources.**

Leader God of truth, inspire with your wisdom those whose decisions affect the lives of others.
People **That all may act with integrity and courage.**

Leader Give grace to all those whose lives are linked with ours.
People **May we serve Christ in one another, and love as he loves us.**

Leader Let us now name before God those for whom we offer our personal prayers, either silently or aloud.

The people may add their intercessions silently or aloud.

Celebrant Lord, you have called us to serve you.

People **Grant that we may walk in your presence:
your love in our hearts, your truth in our minds,
your strength in our wills, until, at the end of our journey,
we know the joy of our homecoming and the welcome of your embrace,
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

THE HEALING SERVICE

Celebrant Almighty God, who inspired your servant Luke the physician to set forth in the Gospel the love and healing power of your Son: Graciously continue in your Church this love and power to heal, to the praise and glory of your Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

All are invited to come forward to receive the laying on of hands and anointing with oil in prayer for healing for yourself, for others, for our world.

Additional Prayers of Intercession and Thanksgiving

Please sit.

During the instrumental music and anytime hereafter, you may come forward to light votives as a symbol of your prayers. After lighting a votive, please fully extinguish the lit taper and return it to the holder.

Music for Meditation

Matt Dickerson

The Grace

Celebrant May the God of hope fill us with all joy and peace in believing through the power of the Holy Spirit.

People **Amen.**

The Peace

Celebrant Christ, the Good Shepherd, bind us with a bond of love that cannot be broken. My sisters and brothers, the peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you

People **And also with you.**

All greet one another in the name of the Lord.

Welcome and Announcements

The Reverend Kimberly E. Dunn

THE HOLY COMMUNION

The alms basin is not passed at this service, but stands in front of the Baptismal Font.

The Offertory Music

Matt Dickerson

Eucharistic Prayer

Please stand.

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Celebrant Lift up your hearts.

People **We lift them to the Lord.**

Celebrant Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
People ***It is right to give God thanks and praise.***

Celebrant O God of mystery and promise, you invite us to discover you in the intimate places of ourselves and our lives. You invite us to discover you within the complexities of our humanity, in passionate and tender loving, in struggle and pain, in confusion and unknowing, in flashes of insight and wisdom. You also call us beyond ourselves to places of imagination, beyond the silent stars, in the deep rhythms of the ocean, in the unending cycles of day and night, in seasons of life and death. With saints and ancestors, with the seas and earth and sky, with animals and birds, with our friends and those unknown to us, with all creation we join in the song of your unending glory:

All ***Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.***

Celebrant We praise you that in Jesus you make known to us the wonder and richness of our humanity. We give thanks for his life-giving love, for his healing touch, for his vulnerability and for his gentleness. Before he gave up his life, he shared his humanity, his flesh and blood with his friends. He took bread, gave thanks for it, broke it, and gave it to them saying:

All ***"This is my own body given for you. Do this to remember me."***

Celebrant So too after they had eaten, he took wine, gave thanks for it, and gave it to them saying:

All ***"This is my blood, poured out in love for you. Do this to remember me."***

Celebrant So we proclaim the mystery of faith:

All ***Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.***

Celebrant Come now, Spirit of God, and as we eat and drink these bodily things, make us one body, food for the world, one blood to be poured out for the life of all. Touch us with your gentle creativity and fire us with longing for the new age of justice and peace. We ask this through Jesus who gave his body that we might be one and his blood that we might find new life. With him, and through him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, be to you, O God, all honor and glory forever. ***Amen.***

The Lord's Prayer

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

All ***Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy Name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.***

The Breaking of the Bread

A period of silence is observed when the bread is broken.

The Invitation to the Lord's Table

Celebrant This is the table, not of the Church, but of the Lord. It is made ready for those who love him and for those who want to love him more. So, come, you who have much faith and you who have little, you who have been here often and you who have not been here long, you who have tried to follow and you who have failed. Come, because it is the Lord who invites you. It is his will that those who want him should meet him here.

You are welcome to stand or sit until you come forward to receive.

Music during Communion

Matt Dickerson

After Communion

All Stand.

Celebrant Let us pray.

All ***God of abundance, you have fed us with the bread of life and cup of salvation; you have united us with Christ and one another; and you have made us one with all your people in heaven and on earth. Now send us forth in the power of your Spirit, that we may proclaim your redeeming love to the world and continue for ever in the risen life of Christ our Savior. Amen.***

The Blessing

Celebrant The God of peace, who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus Christ, the great Shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant, make you perfect in every good work to do his will, working in you that which is well-pleasing in his sight; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you, and remain with you always. **Amen.**

The Dismissal

Leader The Lord has made a promise to love you faithfully forever. Go out with joy and be led forth with peace. Alleluia, Alleluia.

All ***Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia.***

Music for Meditation

Matt Dickerson

Please feel free to remain or depart during the closing music, and honor the silence for all in prayer.

SERVING TODAY

The Reverend Kimberly E. Dunn
Robin Merriman, Mat Merriman
Patsy Davis
Becky Wright, Kathleen Fickling

Celebrant and Preacher
Eucharistic Ministers
Vestry Person of the Day
Altar Guild

PARISH ANNOUNCEMENTS

Next Sunday, May 5, 4:00 PM — Our book discussion of John Philip Newell's Sacred Earth Sacred Soul concludes in the Berlin Room.

It's Taco night at Saint Paul's for our next Mmm... (Men's Monthly Meal), Wednesday, May 1, 6 PM. The Men of Saint Paul's will gather at 4 PM in the River Room to prepare this meal for the parish. Men, please sign up for cooking and clean up teams and everyone PLEASE RSVP for dinner on our website (a direct link is available in Friday's Weekly Postings). Donations welcomed.

Pentecost is 3 weeks away! Save the date for our Parish Picnic (comfortably scheduled in the River Room) May 19, following the 11 AM service. Wear red and bring a dish to share. We'll spill out onto the terrace with music and games. More details to follow.

We will celebrate the Sacrament of Baptism on the Feast of Pentecost, Sunday, May 19. All who wish to be baptized are invited to contact Fr. Eric (ebiddy@saintpauls.org) or Mtr Kimberly (kdunn@saintpauls.org).

Save the date for our Saint Paul's Parish Day Sunday June 9: "Eat, Pray, Swim." We have a full day of fun and fellowship for all ages at Elijah Clark State Park. More details are forthcoming. Mark your calendars.

Send a gift with our mission team to Ecuador. We're collecting over the counter first aid items needed in Quito. A "wish list" of medical supplies is available in the *Weekly Postings*. We've placed a box in the parish office for collection by June 2. For more information, contact Gene Helmich at ehelmich21@comcast.net.

Support Augusta Women and Girls Personal Clothing Drive. The DoK is expanding our connections with local shelters to provide personal apparel and hygiene items. Through the end of April, we will have our turquoise and white flowered collection boxes in Tyler Hall and the Narthex. More details available in the *Weekly Postings* and on the postcard by the box.

The new Day by Day issue for May, June, and July has arrived and is available in the Narthex. Forward Day by Day is a booklet of daily, "page-a-day," inspirational meditations each reflecting on a specific Bible passage from the daily lectionary readings of the Episcopal Church.

Need a name tag? Name tags allow us to get to know each other and be a welcoming community to all. If you need a name tag or have just misplaced yours, email the parish office (mailbox@saintpauls.org) or ask an usher for the yellow form to request a name tag.

More information about these announcements and other events is available in Friday's Weekly Postings, including registration and contact information. A copy is available in the Narthex and on our website; or join our email list by signing up on the website or contacting the parish administrator, at mailbox@saintpauls.org.

Make a gift—Everything we do at Saint Paul's Church is made possible because of people like you. If this service has been meaningful for you, we encourage you to give as you are able to help Saint Paul's continue our mission of welcoming, serving, and sharing the Good News of God in Jesus Christ in greater Augusta and beyond. Gifts can be made using the QR Code to the right, on-line at saintpauls.org/giving, or by mail to Saint Paul's Church, 605 Reynolds St., Augusta, GA 30901. Thank you for your generosity.



WELCOME TO SAINT PAUL'S CHURCH

No matter who you are, no matter where you come from, and no matter where you are on the journey of life — you are welcome in this church. We hope you will find Saint Paul's to be a place of refreshment and renewal, where you experience the presence of the risen Christ. We have been serving Christ in this location for over two hundred seventy years. The monuments in our church and the graves in our churchyard reflect the conflicts and complexities of our nation's and our city's history. While our building is old and beautiful, our mission is contemporary and forward moving. Here you will find a people very much connected with the questions and struggles of modern life and faith and of following the way of Jesus.

SUNDAY SCHEDULE

8:00 - 8:45 AM	HOLY EUCHARIST Rite I
9:00 AM - 10:45 AM	CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST - TYLER HALL
9:25 - 10:00 AM	CHILDREN/YOUTH CHOIR REHEARSALS
9:30 - 10:30 AM	CHRISTIAN FORMATION FOR ADULTS
10:00 - 10:45 AM	CHRISTIAN FORMATION FOR CHILDREN
11:00 AM - 12:00 PM	HOLY EUCHARIST Rite II
Following the 11:00 AM Service	LEMONADE ON THE LAWN
5:00 - 7:00 PM	EYC (EPISCOPAL YOUTH COMMUNITY)
5:30 - 6:15 PM	CELTIC EVENING PRAYER & COMMUNION WITH PRAYERS FOR HEALING

Nursery care offered in the Children's Ministry Center (CMC) 9:30 AM - 12:30 PM.

The 11 AM service is broadcast on Facebook and YouTube at Saint Paul's Church-Augusta and by radio at WGAC 580 AM Radio and 95.1 FM Radio. Listen live on-line at <http://wgac.com>

VESTRY

Kitty Gordon, Sr. Warden	Erick Montgomery, Jr. Warden	Will Rice, Treasurer
Bryan Hawkins, Chancellor	Julie Badger, Clerk of the Vestry	

Vestry Term Expires 2025

Bryan Hawkins
Ian McQueen
Rex Teeslink

Vestry Term Expires 2026

Stacy Nuessle
Charlie Tudor
Mary Porter Vann

Vestry Term Expires 2027

Kathleen Chandler
Patsy Davis
Melissa Friedman

CLERGY AND STAFF

The Rev. Dr. Eric Biddy, Rector	ext. 205	ebiddy@saintpauls.org
The Rev. Kimberly E. Dunn, Asso. Rector	ext. 204	kdunn@saintpauls.org
The Rev. Dr. Bill Dolen, Assisting Priest		
The Rev. Erwin Veale, Assisting Priest		
Keith Shafer, Director of Music	ext. 215	kshafer@saintpauls.org
Elisabeth Price, Parish Administrator	ext. 225	mailbox@saintpauls.org
Hannah Purvis, River Room Coordinator	ext. 203	hpurvis@saintpauls.org
Norm Nieminen, Parish Accountant	ext. 206	nnieminen@saintpauls.org
Victoria Hammond and Nikki Wickware, St. Nicholas Choir		songbird95@hotmail.com
Sarah Pritchard, Music Associate Emerita		
Hillary Bryant, Greg Maxie, James Wheeler, Sextons		
Mark Albertin, Wright Montgomery, Audio Visual		

