

Celtic Evening Prayer and Communion



The Third Sunday in Lent

March 23, 2025

Half-Past Five o'clock in the Evening

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.

Celtic Evening Prayer and Communion

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

Celeste Ray

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

Leader Jesus, as a mother you gather your people to you; *
you are gentle with us as a mother with her children.
Often you weep over our sins and our pride, *
tenderly you draw us from hatred and judgment.
You comfort us in sorrow and bind up our wounds, *
in sickness you nurse us and with pure milk you feed us.
Jesus, by your dying, we are born to new life; *
by your anguish and labor we come forth in joy.
Despair turns to hope through your sweet goodness; *
through your gentleness, we find comfort in fear.
Your warmth gives life to the dead, *
your touch makes sinners righteous.
Lord Jesus, in your mercy, heal us; *
in your love and tenderness, remake us.
In your compassion, bring grace and forgiveness, *
for the beauty of heaven, may your love prepare us.

The Confession

All ***Forgive those things we have done
which have caused you sadness,
and those things we should have done
that would have brought you joy.
In both we have failed
ourselves, and you.
Bring us back to that place
where our journey began,
when we said that we would follow
the way that you first trod.
Lead us to the Cross
and meet us there.***

The Absolution

Celebrant Heavenly Father you sent your Son into the world, not to condemn the world, but that the world through him might be saved, send your saving power upon all who turn to you and seek new life in your name. **Amen.**

A Prayer for the Evening

Celebrant Jesus, Lamb of God,
when you walked this earth
you did not consider
heavenly equality,
though that was yours to choose,
but took the role of servant,
and in humility
and obedience
allowed the rough nails of our sin
to be hammered into your flesh
for the sake of our salvation.
And so it is
that we acknowledge you
as Lord of all,
to the glory of God the Father,
Son, and Spirit, Three in One.

Please be seated.

The Holy Gospel

Luke 13:1-9

Reader A reading from the Gospel according to Luke.

At that very time there were some present who told Jesus about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices. He asked them, "Do you think that because these Galileans suffered in this way they were worse sinners than all other Galileans? No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish as they did. Or those eighteen who were killed when the tower of Siloam fell on them—do you think that they were worse offenders than all the others living in Jerusalem? No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish just as they did."

Then he told this parable: "A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard; and he came looking for fruit on it and found none. So he said to the gardener, 'See here! For three years I have come looking for fruit on this fig tree, and still I find none. Cut it down! Why should it be wasting the soil?' He replied, 'Sir, let it alone for one more year, until I dig around it and put manure on it. If it bears fruit next year, well and good; but if not, you can cut it down.'"

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.

A period of silence is observed.

Music for Meditation

Celeste Ray

Prayers for Ourselves and Others

Please stand.

Celebrant Let us pray for ourselves and others.

Leader We pray for all who work through the power of Christ, serving the needs of the poor and healing the wounds of injustice, division and materialism in our society.

Celebrant Lord in your mercy,

People **Hear our prayer.**

Leader We pray for the elderly, the sick and the lonely among us: that they may receive comfort, companionship and care from those around them.

Celebrant Lord in your mercy,

People **Hear our prayer.**

Leader We pray that those who have been persecuted or seriously wronged by others may experience warmth and love with Christ, and be able to forgive those who have hurt them.

Celebrant Lord in your mercy,

People **Hear our prayer.**

Leader We pray that when we are discouraged, we may find strength in the signs of a loving and faithful God in those around us, and the joy of the Holy Spirit within us.

Celebrant Lord in your mercy,

People **Hear our prayer.**

Leader We pray for those whom we love but no longer see; those who have gone beyond the veil of this mortal life, that their souls and the souls of the departed may rest in peace. *[The people may add their intercessions either silently or aloud.]*

Celebrant Lord in your mercy,

People **Hear our prayer.**

Leader We pray for all those who have asked for our prayers and for those who have no one to pray for them. *[The people may add their intercessions either silently or aloud.]*

Celebrant Lord in your mercy,

People **Hear our prayer.**

Celebrant Lord Jesus, support the sick, the dying, and all for whom this night will be a trial. And as you look upon us this evening, may the light of your countenance pass beyond our sins, even to the depths of our hearts: and bring to birth there a deep and trustful love, that we may be instruments of your peace. **Amen.**

Celebrant Lord, have mercy.

People **Christ, have mercy.**

Celebrant Lord, have mercy.

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 be seated.

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

Celeste Ray

The Grace

Celebrant Love your enemies, and do good, expecting nothing in return. Be merciful, just as God is merciful. Do not judge, and you will not be judged; do not condemn, and you will not be condemned. Forgive, and you will be forgiven.

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

Celeste Ray

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 All things are yours, O God of all creation,

People ***And so we return our gifts to you.***

Celebrant Blessed are you, O God of all creation, through whose goodness we have this bread to offer, which earth has given and human hands have made;

People ***May it become for us the bread of life.***

Celebrant Blessed are you, O God of all creation, through whose goodness we have this wine to offer, fruit of the vine and work of human hands;

People ***May it become for us the cup of blessing.***

Celebrant Receive these gifts, dear God, and accept in them the sacrifice of ourselves.

People ***In life and in death, may we be an offering to you for ever.***

Celebrant Great Creator, from whom all life comes forth, here we gather again with bread and with wine, seeking your presence, longing once more to be nourished, hungering for wholeness in our lives, for unity on earth and for peace among the nations.

People ***Here we gather with bread and with wine, but with more than bread and wine.***

Celebrant Here we gather with creation's elements all around us. With earth, air, fire, and water still expanding through the universe, with the glory of the sun, the whiteness of the moon, the glittering of heaven's lights off flowing waters.

People ***Here we gather with bread and with wine, but with more than bread and wine.***

Celebrant So with everything that we see and sense around us, with visible and invisible energies that pulse with life, we join our souls in the song that vibrates throughout the whole of creation.

People **Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.**

Celebrant Blessed are you, O God of all creation, your glory knows no bounds, and your love is without end. Blessed is Jesus, who in life and death revealed your glory and lived in your love. He taught his friends that to find life was first to lose it, and he spoke of the suffering that would be his.

On the night when he was betrayed, Jesus took bread, and having blessed it, he broke the bread and gave it to his friends, saying, "Take, eat, this is my body which is broken for you. Do this in remembrance of me." In the same way he took wine and having given thanks for it, he poured it out, and gave the cup to his friends, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me."

Come upon us with your Holy Spirit, O God, and upon this bread and this wine, that we may be renewed once again, and that as the whole of life is made new, we may find your peace within and around us. We ask this in the Name of God who creates us, who redeems us, and who sustains us. **Amen.**

All **Bread of life, nourish our souls. Light of the world, shine in our hearts.**

The Lord's Prayer

All Stand

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 and Fraction Responsory

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

Celebrant Behold what you are.

People **May we become what we receive.**

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.

Music during Communion

Celeste Ray

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 May you recognize in your life the presence,
power, and light of your soul.

May you realize that you are never alone,
that you have a special destiny here,
that in the deep rhythms of your life
there is something beautiful and eternal happening.

And may you learn to see yourself
with the same delight,
pride, and expectation
with which God sees you in every moment. ***Amen.***

The Dismissal

Celebrant Go out into the world and be not daunted by the enormity of the world's grief, but do justly now, love mercy now, and walk humbly now with the Holy Spirit. You are not obligated to complete the work, but neither are you free to abandon it.

People ***Thanks be to God.***

Music for Meditation

Celeste Ray

Please feel free to remain seated or depart, as you wish, during the closing music.

SERVING TODAY

The Reverend Kimberly E. Dunn
Matt Merriman, Robin Merriman
Mary Porter Vann
Becky Wright, Kathleen Fickling

Celebrant
Eucharistic Ministers
Vestry Person of the Day
Altar Guild

PARISH ANNOUNCEMENTS

Caring Prayer gathers in the chapel on the fourth Thursday of each month at 3:30 PM (this month March 27) to pray Evening Prayer together, check in with each other, and provide mutual support.

The group is for caregivers, anyone who is mourning, lives with chronic illness, has lost their job, or faces any kind of challenge that might be helped by love and prayer. Contact Fr. Eric for more information at ebiddy@saintpauls.org.

Rose Sunday Concert at 4:00 PM on March 30th featuring Organist Keith Shafer is being given in commemoration of the 275th Anniversary of Saint Paul's Church. The program includes music composed by James Hewitt, the first Organist of Saint Paul's, a performance of "Phoenix," written in 2016 in observance of the 100th Anniversary of the fire that destroyed 16 blocks of downtown Augusta, and newly commissioned music composed by Michael Burkhardt. The concert is free, and a reception (please see below) follows in the River Room.

The Parish Life & Hospitality Committee invites you to make or purchase a dessert or beverage for the Rose Sunday Reception immediately following the concert at 4:00 PM, March 30. Sign up to bring an item and to serve on the hospitality team to set up or clean up. A direct link is available in Friday's *Weekly Postings*.

If you would like to contribute toward the cost of Easter music, or give an Easter lily or flowers, please return the form found in the Narthex to the Parish Office. Requests may also be made using the QR code to the right, using the direct link is available in Friday's *Weekly Postings*, or by e-mail to mailbox@saintpauls.org no later than Sunday, March 30.



Washer Wanted—The River Room washing machine is no longer working. Do you have a washer you no longer need or want a good excuse to buy a new one for your home? We'd love to make a home for your heavy duty working-condition washer. Please contact Buildings and Grounds Chair, John Robertson at jrobertson@rwallen.com.

We are excited to introduce Saint Paul's Pod, a weekly podcast where faith is nurtured, and the love of God is shared with all. Each episode will feature the previous Sunday's sermon and words of encouragement and inspiration. Tune into Saint Paul's Pod on Spotify, Apple Podcasts, Amazon Music and iHeartRadio.

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.



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

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Altar Guild – Catherine Stuckey	Acolytes – Meg & Donald Horton
Buildings and Grounds – John Robertson	Creation Care – in transition
Daughters of the King – Suzanne Pursley-Crotteau	Endowment – Monty Osteen
Eucharistic Visitors – Ellen Nesbitt	Finance – Cameron Nixon
Facebook – Stacy Nuessle & Aubrey Hinkson	Flower Guild – Barbara Register & Laurie Montgomery
Flower Delivery – Barbara Register & Margaret Scott Penix	History – in transition
Hospitality and Parish Life – Eric Friedman	Interior Design – Julie Badger
Invite, Welcome, Connect – Jackie Pingel	Lectors & Eucharistic Ministers – Robin Merriman
Linen Guild – Tricia Nixon	Nursery Grandmother's Guild – Coleman Graham
Outreach – Marilyn Grau	Pastoral Care Ministry – Ellen Nesbitt
Stewardship – Kitty Gordon	Ushers – Nick Uros & Rex Teeslink
W.E.E.M. – The Rev. Kimberly Dunn & Summer Bell	

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		
Aubrey Hinkson, Director of Children & Youth Ministries		ahinkson@saintpauls.org
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Victoria Hammond and Nikki Wickware, St. Nicholas Choir		songbird95@hotmail.com
Sarah Pritchard, Music Associate Emerita		
Hillary Bryant, Greg Maxie, TJ Wilson, James Wheeler, Sextons		
Mark Albertin, Wright Montgomery, Audio Visual		



Saint Paul's Church is a parish of the Episcopal Diocese of Georgia.
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