

Celtic Evening Prayer and Communion



The Second Sunday in Lent

March 1, 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-five 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

Don Macey, Robyn Macey

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

**Canticle Q
A Song of Christ's Goodness
Anselm of Canterbury**

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. A period of silence is observed.

The Holy Gospel

John 3:1-17

Reader A reading from the Gospel according to John.

There was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. He came to Jesus by night and said to him, "Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God; for no one can do these signs that you do apart from the presence of God." Jesus answered him, "Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above." Nicodemus said to him, "How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother's womb and be born?" Jesus answered, "Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. Do not be astonished that I said to you, 'You must be born from above.' The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit." Nicodemus said to him, "How can these things be?" Jesus answered him, "Are you a teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things? "Very truly, I tell you, we speak of what we know and testify to what we have seen; yet you do not receive our testimony. If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things? No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in him may have eternal life. "For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life. "Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him."

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 Eric Bidy

A period of silence is observed.

Music for Meditation

Don Macey, Robyn Macey

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 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

Don Macey, Robyn Macey

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 Eric Biddy

THE HOLY COMMUNION

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

The Offertory Music

Don Macey, Robyn Macey

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.***

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.***

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.

All ***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

Celebrant 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 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

Don Macey, Robyn Macey

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

Don Macey, Robyn Macey

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

SERVING TODAY

The Reverend Eric Biddy
Ellen Nesbitt, Linda Schaufert
Linda Hardy
Linda Schaufert

Celebrant
Eucharistic Ministers
Vestry Person of the Day
Altar Guild

PARISH ANNOUNCEMENTS

First Sunday Offering— Your generous non-pledged offerings (cash and designated checks to Fr. Biddy's discretionary and Mtr. Kimberly's Discretionary) on the first Sunday each month support our clergy's Discretionary Accounts. These funds are used to meet urgent needs within our community, to further the ministries of the church when other funds are not available, and to support community programs and institutions that serve those in need.

The 37th season of Tuesday's Music Live continues with a free concert by Liana Paniyeva, Pianist, March 3, 12:00 Noon. Visit Tuesday's Music Live (TuesdaysMusicLive.com) for more information and the full schedule.

Common Ground Fellowship will gather Wednesday March 4. This group is our "common ground" for adults in their 20's to 40's to gather in fellowship, service, and deepening faith, whether single or partnered. (Note: these events do not include childcare.) For more information contact Fr. Eric (ebiddy@saintpauls.org).

The Daughters of the King invite you to a spiritual morning of quiet solitude March 7, 9:30 AM - 12:30 PM in the Chapel. Bring "prayer tools" such as your bible, journal, or anything used for meditation. A pot-luck lunch follows in the Children's Ministry Center. Contact Mtr. Kimberly (kdunn@saintpauls.org) for more information.

Spring forward! Daylight Saving Time Begins Sunday, March 8. Be sure to set your clock one hour ahead Saturday night.

Dish and serve ice cream and cookies at our quarterly Veteran's Social March 8, 2:30-3:30 PM. We'll meet at the GA War Veterans' Nursing Home located at 1101 15th Street to share a dessert and then spend much-appreciated time visiting. For more information contact Gene Helmich at ehelmich21@comcast.net.

Mark your calendar for our next gathering of W.E.E.M. (Women's Enrichment and Empowerment Ministry), March 10, 5:30-7 PM. All women are welcome. Invite a friend and join us in Tyler Hall second Tuesdays of each month for heavy hors d'oeuvres and drinks. For more information, contact Mtr. Kimberly (kdunn@saintpauls.org) or Summer Bell (summerfin@gmail.com).

Make plans to attend the Friday Night Fish Fry, March 13, 6 PM in the River Room. Dinner of fish, fries, hush puppies, and coleslaw from 6-7 PM. Bring your own beverage; tea and water available. As always, we appreciate your gift of time to serve on a parish life team. A RSVP is required before midnight March 11 for this dinner. A direct link to RSVP and to serve is available in Friday's *Weekly Postings* and on our website.



This year's Rose Sunday Concert will be performed by Keith Shafer at 4 PM on Sunday, March 15 and features two newly discovered pieces of music written by Johann Sebastian Bach. Also on the program will be Four Pieces in Jazz Style by the Canadian composer, Denis Bédard, the Pastorale by Cesar Franck, and Mozart's famous Fantasie in F Minor, K. 608. The concert is free and a reception follows in Tyler Hall.

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 15 in Tyler Hall Sign up to bring an item and to serve on the hospitality team to set up or clean up on our website. A direct link is available in Friday's Weekly Postings.



The Annual Episcopal Visitation is Sunday, March 15. Bishop Logue will preside at the Holy Eucharist at both 8 AM and 11 AM with the rite of Confirmation and Reception at the 11 AM service. Please plan to join us in the Berlin Room for a "Conversation with the Bishop" at the Sunday Forum at 9:30 AM and share a few moments following the service with our Confirmands in the Churchyard.

Save the Date —Our Neighborhood Partner School, Hornsby Elementary, will celebrate Field Day April 17 and has asked for volunteers to help with set up and break down. Come, cheer and encourage, and celebrate with our friends from Hornsby. Details forthcoming.

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— "All that we are and all that we have comes from God. In gratitude, we honor him by giving of ourselves and our gifts to care for his world." 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.



SUNDAY SCHEDULE

8:00 - 8:45 AM	HOLY EUCHARIST Rite I
9:00 AM - 10:45 AM	COFFEE AND LIGHT 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	Charlie Tudor, Jr. Warden	Will Rice, Treasurer
Bryan Hawkins, Chancellor	Julie Badger, Clerk of the Vestry	

Vestry Term Expires 2026

Stacy Nuessle
Tom Cathey
Mary Porter Vann

Vestry Term Expires 2027

Kathleen Chandler
Patsy Davis
Melissa Friedman

Vestry Term Expires 2028

Jerry Ashmore, III
Linda Hardy
Tom Robertson

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 & Dianne L'Heureux	Lectors & LEM – Robin Merriman
Linen Guild – Tricia Nixon	Nursery Grandmother's Guild – Coleman Graham
Outreach – Marilyn Grau	Pastoral Care Ministry – Ellen Nesbitt
Stewardship – Kitty Gordon	Ushers – Rex Teeslink & Cindy Shafer
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, Assoc. Rector	ext. 204	kduinn@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
Keith Shafer, Director of Music	ext. 215	kshafer@saintpauls.org
Catherine Stuckey, Liturgy and Parish life	ext. 203	cstuckey@saintpauls.org
Elisabeth Price, Parish Administrator	ext. 225	mailbox@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, Anthony Ellis, James Wheeler; Sextons		
Mark Albertin, Wright Montgomery, Audio Visual		

