



## Celtic Evening Prayer and Communion at Saint Paul's Church

The Fourth Sunday of Easter  
April 26, 2026 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

Erin Montgomery

*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, the People are invited to 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 carpenter and yet in whose creative hands a world was fashioned.

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 fisherman and yet pointed to a harvest that was yet to come.

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.

*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.

*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.

*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.

*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.

*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.*

*Reader* A reading from the Gospel according to John.

Jesus said, "Very truly, I tell you, anyone who does not enter the sheepfold by the gate but climbs in by another way is a thief and a bandit. The one who enters by the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep hear his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. When he has brought out all his own, he goes ahead of them, and the sheep follow him because they know his voice. They will not follow a stranger, but they will run from him because they do not know the voice of strangers." Jesus used this figure of speech with them, but they did not understand what he was saying to them.

So again Jesus said to them, "Very truly, I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep. All who came before me are thieves and bandits; but the sheep did not listen to them. I am the gate. Whoever enters by me will be saved, and will come in and go out and find pasture. The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly."

*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 Ted H. Clarkson

*A period of silence is observed.*

Music for Meditation

Erin Montgomery

Prayers for Ourselves and Others

*The People are invited to 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

**Erin Montgomery**

### 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 People are invited to stand.*

### 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.*

THE HOLY COMMUNION

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

The Offertory Music

Erin Montgomery

Eucharistic Prayer

*The People are invited to 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**

*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.*

### **The Communion Music**

**Erin Montgomery**

### **After Communion**

*The people are invited to 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

Erin Montgomery

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

## PARISH ANNOUNCEMENTS

***The Reverend Eric Biddy, Rector of Saint Paul's, is on sabbatical through June.*** Saint Paul's is grateful to all the clergy and lay leaders making our worship possible this week.

***The Daughters of the King invite you to a spiritual morning of quiet solitude May 2, 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 Tyler Hall. Contact Mtr. Kimberly for more information at [kdunn@saintpauls.org](mailto:kdunn@saintpauls.org).

***It's Taco Night at our next Men's Monthly Meal (Mmm!) scheduled Wednesday, May 6 in the River Room.*** (Men gather at 4 PM to cook, the parish gathers at 6 PM for dinner.) On the menu: Tacos, with a vegetarian option, black beans, street corn (off the cobb). PLEASE RSVP on the website, so that we may be a good host. A direct link is available in Friday's *Weekly Postings*.

***Common Ground Fellowship will gather Wednesday, April 6 for a social evening of fellowship, refreshments and recreation.*** For more information and location, contact the parish office at [mailbox@saintpauls.org](mailto:mailbox@saintpauls.org). 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.)

***Support the Women Spring Drive through Mother's Day—*** The Daughters of the King have partnered with four local agencies to gather gently used bras, new packaged undergarments, and feminine hygiene product to meet the needs of women and young girls in the CSRA. The teal collection boxes are located in the Narthex and in Tyler Hall, or make a gift using the QR code to the right and the Outreach Committee will do the shopping for you. More information is available in Friday's *Weekly Postings*, or by contacting Janet Olson at [janetolson@bellsouth.net](mailto:janetolson@bellsouth.net).



***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](mailto: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](http://saintpauls.org/giving), or by mail to Saint Paul's Church, 605 Reynolds St., Augusta, GA 30901. Thank you.



# WELCOME TO SAINT PAUL'S CHURCH

## SERVING TODAY

The Reverend Ted H. Clarkson  
Mat Merriman, Robin Merriman  
Kathleen Chandler  
Catherine Stuckey

Celebrant  
Eucharistic Ministers  
Vestry Member  
Altar Guild

## VESTRY

Linda Hardy, Sr. Warden  
Bryan Hawkins, Chancellor

Charlie Tudor, Jr. Warden  
Julie Badger, Clerk of the Vestry

Will Rice, Treasurer

### Vestry Term Expires 2027

Kathleen Chandler  
Patsy Davis  
Melissa Friedman

### Vestry Term Expires 2028

Jerry Ashmore, III  
Katherine Ferrara  
Tom Robertson

### Vestry Term Expires 2029

Will Badger  
Summer Bell  
Martin Schwerzler

## COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Altar Guild – Catherine Stuckey  
Buildings and Grounds – John Robertson  
Endowment – Monty Osteen  
Finance – Cameron Nixon  
Flower Guild – Barbara Register & Laurie Montgomery  
Interior Design – Julie Badger  
Lectors & LEM – Robin Merriman  
Nursery Grandmother's Guild – Coleman Graham  
Pastoral Care Ministry – Ellen Nesbitt  
Ushers – Rex Teeslink & Cindy Shafer

Acolytes – Meg & Donald Horton  
Daughters of the King – Suzanne Pursley-Crotteau  
Eucharistic Visitors – Ellen Nesbitt  
Facebook – Stacy Nuessle & Aubrey Hinkson  
Hospitality and Parish Life – Eric Friedman  
Invite, Welcome, Connect – Jackie Pingel & Dianne L'Heureux  
Linen Guild – Tricia Nixon  
Outreach – Marilyn Grau  
Stewardship – Kitty Gordon  
W.E.E.M. – The Rev. Kimberly Dunn & Summer Bell

## CLERGY AND STAFF

The Reverend Dr. Eric Biddy, Rector ext. 205  
The Reverend Kimberly E. Dunn, Assoc. Rector ext. 204  
The Reverend Dr. William K. Dolen, Assisting Priest  
The Reverend Dr. Cynthia Taylor, Assisting Priest  
The Reverend Erwin Veale, Assisting Priest  
The Reverend Ted H. Clarkson, Assisting Priest  
Aubrey Hinkson, Director of Children & Youth Ministries  
Keith Shafer, Director of Music ext. 215  
Catherine Stuckey, Liturgy and Parish life ext. 203  
Elisabeth Price, Parish Administrator ext. 225  
Norm Nieminen, Parish Accountant ext. 206  
Toni Clayton, Assistant for Administrative Projects  
Victoria Hammond and Nikki Wickware, St. Nicholas Choir  
Sarah Pritchard, Music Associate Emerita  
Hillary Bryant, Anthony Ellis, James Wheeler; Sextons  
Mark Albertin, Brandon Dawson, Marty Duff, Wright Montgomery; Audio Visual

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