



Celtic Evening Prayer and Communion at Saint Paul's Church

The Fifth Sunday of Easter
May 3, 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

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, 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.
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.

Reader A reading from the Gospel according to John.

Jesus said, "Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father's house there are many dwelling places. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also. And you know the way to the place where I am going." Thomas said to him, "Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?" Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. If you know me, you will know my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him."

Philip said to him, "Lord, show us the Father, and we will be satisfied." Jesus said to him, "Have I been with you all this time, Philip, and you still do not know me? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, 'Show us the Father'? Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own; but the Father who dwells in me does his works. Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; but if you do not, then believe me because of the works themselves. Very truly, I tell you, the one who believes in me will also do the works that I do and, in fact, will do greater works than these, because I am going to the Father. I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If in my name you ask me for anything, I will do it."

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

Don Macey, Robyn Macey

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

Don Macey, Robyn Macey

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, binds 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

Don Macey, Robyn Macey

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

Don Macey, Robyn Macey

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

Don Macey, Robyn Macey

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.

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. 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.

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.

SERVING TODAY

The Reverend Kimberly E. Dunn
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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