



Celtic Evening Prayer and Communion at Saint Paul's Church

The Seventh Sunday of Easter
May 17, 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

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, 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 looked up to heaven and said, "Father, the hour has come; glorify your Son so that the Son may glorify you, since you have given him authority over all people, to give eternal life to all whom you have given him. And this is eternal life, that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent. I glorified you on earth by finishing the work that you gave me to do. So now, Father, glorify me in your own presence with the glory that I had in your presence before the world existed.

"I have made your name known to those whom you gave me from the world. They were yours, and you gave them to me, and they have kept your word. Now they know that everything you have given me is from you; for the words that you gave to me I have given to them, and they have received them and know in truth that I came from you; and they have believed that you sent me. I am asking on their behalf; I am not asking on behalf of the world, but on behalf of those whom you gave me, because they are yours. All mine are yours, and yours are mine; and I have been glorified in them. And now I am no longer in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, protect them in your name that you have given me, so that they may be one, as we are one."

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

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

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 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

Matt Dickerson

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

Matt Dickerson

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.***

Sending out of the Eucharistic Visitor

Celebrant In the name of this congregation, I send you forth bearing these holy gifts, that those to whom you go may share with us in the communion of Christ's body and blood.

All ***We, who are many, are one body because we all share one bread, one cup.***

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
Naila Assad, Celeste Ray
Linda Hardy
Catherine Stuckey
Kurt Holmes, Ann Pendarvis

Celebrant
Eucharistic Ministers
Vestry Member
Altar Guild
Eucharistic Visitor

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.

Don't miss the last Senior Lunch for the program year! Join us Wednesday, May 20, at 12 Noon in Tyler Hall for a relaxing social time. Lunch is provided but donations welcome. Please sign up in the Narthex on Sunday mornings or on our website. A direct link is available in the *Weekly Postings*.

Common Ground Fellowship will gather Wednesday, May 20 for a Compline in the Chapel followed by dinner downtown. 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.)

Help us package our next set of Snack Packs, Saturday, May 23, 9 AM in Tyler Hall. Snack Packs are small bags of food containing some type of protein, cracker, water, etc., to help sustain someone until their next meal. Two ways to help: Donate items for our snack packs, especially protein (example: tuna pouches, Vienna sausages with a pull tab, meat sticks, meat jerky) and/or help us pack bags in Tyler Hall. Contact Mandy Harmon (msamandajoy27@hotmail.com) or Melissa Friedman (friedmanme2@gmail.com) for more information.

Pentecost is next week. Wear red and bring a dish to share to our Parish Potluck May 24, following the 11 AM service. The church will provide chicken. Please bring a large side, salad, or dessert to share to the River Room kitchen before the 11 AM service.

Eat, Pray, Swim— Let's launch the summer with an afternoon of food, fellowship and fun at Wildwood Park, on Clark's Hill Lake, May 31, 1-4 PM. We will leave right after the 11:00 AM service and enjoy burgers and hot dogs, buns, condiments, iced tea and lemonade. Please sign up on our website to bring a salad, side dish, or dessert. More information and an RSVP direct link available in the *Weekly Postings* and on the flyer in the narthex.

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 office for collection. For more information, contact Gene Helmich at ehelmich21@comcast.net. Gifts may be also made using the QR code to the right and the Outreach Committee will do the shopping.



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.

