



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

The Feast of Independence Day  
July 5, 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**

**Rob Foster**

*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**

**from Meditation XVII**

**by John Donne**

*Celebrant* All mankind is of one author, and is one volume;  
when one dies, one chapter is not torn out of the book,  
but translated into a better language;  
and every chapter must be so translated...  
As therefore the bell that rings to a sermon,  
calls not upon the preacher only, but upon the congregation to come:  
so this bell calls us all...  
No man is an island, entire of itself...  
any man's death diminishes me, because I am involved in mankind;  
and therefore never send to know for whom the bell tolls;  
it tolls for thee.

### **A Prayer for the Evening**

*Celebrant* Speak to us this night, O God  
Speak to us your truth.  
Dwell with us this night, O God  
Dwell with us in Love.  
**Amen.**

*Please be seated. A period of silence is observed.*

## The Reading

Matthew 5:43-48

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

Jesus said, "You have heard that it was said, 'You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.' But I say to you, Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, so that you may be children of your Father in heaven; for he makes his sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the righteous and on the unrighteous. For if you love those who love you, what reward do you have? Do not even the tax collectors do the same? And if you greet only your brothers and sisters, what more are you doing than others? Do not even the Gentiles do the same? Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect."

*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

Rob Foster

## Prayers for Ourselves and Others

*The People are invited to stand*

*Leader* I ask your prayers for God's people throughout the world; for our Bishop, Frank; for this gathering; and for all ministers and people. Pray for the Church.

*Silence*

*Leader* I ask your prayers for peace; for goodwill among nations; and for the well-being of all people. Pray for justice and peace.

*Silence*

*Leader* I ask your prayers for the poor, the sick, the hungry, the oppressed, and those in prison. Pray for those in any need or trouble.

*Silence*

*Leader* I ask your prayers for all who seek God, or a deeper knowledge of him. Pray that they may find and be found by him.

*Silence*

*Leader* I ask your prayers for the departed. Pray for those who have died.

*Silence*

*Leader* Praise God for those in every generation in whom Christ has been honored. Pray that we may have grace to glorify Christ in our own day.

*Celebrant* O Lord our God, accept the fervent prayers of your people; in the multitude of your mercies, look with compassion upon us and all who turn to you for help; for you are gracious, O lover of souls, and to you we give glory, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, now and for ever. **Amen.**

### THE HEALING SERVICE

*Celebrant* Holy Scripture teaches us that in acts of healing and restoration our Lord Jesus and his disciples laid hands upon the sick. By so doing they made known the healing power and presence of God. Pray that as we follow our Lord's example, we all may know his unfailing love.

*Celebrant* Let us pray.

*All* ***O God of peace, who taught us that in returning and rest we shall be saved, in quietness and confidence shall be our strength: By the might of your Spirit lift us, we pray, to your presence, where we may be still and know that you are God; through Jesus Christ our Lord. 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

**Rob Foster**

### The Grace

*Celebrant* See that ye be at peace among yourselves, and love one another. Follow the example of good men and women of old for God will comfort you and help you, both in this world and in the world which is to come. In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of The Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

### The Peace

*All stand.*

*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 HOLY COMMUNION

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

### The Offertory Music

**Rob Foster**

### 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* Look with kindness, O God, on your people gathered here before you. Send forth the power of your Spirit so that these gifts may become for us the Body and Blood of your beloved Son, Jesus, the Christ, in whom we have become your own.

*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* Loving God, you are always thinking about your people. You never forget us. You sent your Son, Jesus, who gave his life for us and who came to forgive us and taught us to forgive each other. On the very night he was betrayed, Jesus took bread and gave you thanks. He broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take, eat, this is my body which is given for you; do this in remembrance of me." In the same way, after supper he took the cup and gave you thanks. He gave it to them, saying, "Drink this, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Do this as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me."

Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

*All* **Christ has died.  
Christ is risen.  
Christ will come again.**

*Celebrant* Almighty God, our Heavenly Father, in your tender mercy, send us the Spirit of the Lamb. **Amen.**

*Celebrant* As our Savior Christ has taught us, we now pray,

*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**

**Rob Foster**

### **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* Remember that life is short  
And we have so little time  
To gladden the hearts  
of those who travel with us.  
So be quick to love.  
Make haste to be kind.  
And the blessing of God almighty –  
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit –  
Be with you now and  
Remain with you for ever.  
***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.

*All* ***Thanks be to God.***

## Music for Meditation

**Rob Foster**

*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  
Linda Schaufert, Celeste Ray  
Linda Hardy  
Linda Schaufert

Celebrant  
Eucharistic Ministers  
Vestry Member  
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 Account. 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.

**Sunday Forum this Summer**—Throughout July, the Sunday Forum will feature guest clergy and lay leaders sharing reflections on faith and theological topics. Next Sunday, Lydia Bliven and Tom Smyth will present the lesson "The Synthesis of the Eucharist" for Adult Formation at 9:30 AM. Together the class will look at the prayers, gestures, and concrete elements of the liturgy to explore how they connect. Join us for a hands-on, global view of the Eucharist.

**Registration for EfM begins on July 15<sup>th</sup> and weekly meetings begin in early September. What is EfM?** The Education for Ministry program is designed to help move individuals toward a deeper understanding of the fullness of God's kingdom and one's individual and shared role in it. More details available in Friday's *Weekly Postings*. Questions, contact [tom.smyth@icloud.com](mailto:tom.smyth@icloud.com) for additional information.

**Help us package our next set of Snack Packs, Saturday, July 25, 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. Donate food and/or help us pack. More information available in the Narthex, in Friday's *Weekly Postings*, or by contacting Mandy Harmon ([msamandajoy27@hotmail.com](mailto:msamandajoy27@hotmail.com)) or Melissa Friedman ([friedmanme2@gmail.com](mailto:friedmanme2@gmail.com)).

**Back-to-School Blessing**—We're sending our students and educators back to school with our prayers and blessings. This is a wonderful opportunity to invite your friends to join us for this special service, August 2, 11 AM. All students, teachers, and administrators are encouraged to bring book bags, briefcases, or laptops to be blessed for the new school year.

**Name tags allow us to get to know each other and be a welcoming community to all.** If you need a name tag or have just misplaced yours, email the parish office ([mailbox@saintpauls.org](mailto:mailbox@saintpauls.org)) or ask an usher for the yellow form to request a name tag.

**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 for your generosity.



## 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.

### 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 – Kathleen Fickling  
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 ebiddy@saintpauls.org  
The Reverend Kimberly E. Dunn, Assoc. Rector ext. 204 kdunn@saintpauls.org  
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 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  
Toni Clayton, Assistant for Administrative Projects tclayton@saintpauls.org  
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

