



Celtic Evening Prayer and Communion at Saint Paul's Church

The Ninth Sunday after Pentecost
July 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

Laura Tomlin

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

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 13:31-33,44-52

Reader A reading from the Gospel according to Matthew.

Jesus put before the crowds another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed that someone took and sowed in his field; it is the smallest of all the seeds, but when it has grown it is the greatest of shrubs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches."

He told them another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like yeast that a woman took and mixed in with three measures of flour until all of it was leavened."

"The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which someone found and hid; then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field.

"Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls; on finding one pearl of great value, he went and sold all that he had and bought it.

"Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was thrown into the sea and caught fish of every kind; when it was full, they drew it ashore, sat down, and put the good into baskets but threw out the bad. So it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come out and separate the evil from the righteous and throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

"Have you understood all this?" They answered, "Yes." And he said to them, "Therefore every scribe who has been trained for the kingdom of heaven is like the master of a household who brings out of his treasure what is new and what is old."

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 Dr. Eric Biddy

A period of silence is observed.

Music for Meditation

Laura Tomlin

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.

Silence

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.

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

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

Laura Tomlin

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

Laura Tomlin

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 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

Laura Tomlin

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

SERVING TODAY

The Reverend Dr. Eric Biddy
Naila Assad, Celeste Ray
Summer Bell
Linda Hardy
Catherine Stuckey

Preacher and Celebrant
Eucharistic Ministers
Eucharistic Visitor
Vestry Member
Altar Guild

PARISH ANNOUNCEMENTS

The new year for our ministries with our partner school, Hornsby Elementary, begin this week with several opportunities to be involved. To volunteer or for more information, contact Barbara Coleman at barbaracolem@gmail.com or call (706) 495-1884.

- ***Help us serve breakfast to teachers on their first day back, July 29, 8 AM.*** It's a simple breakfast of biscuits, doughnuts, juice and coffee—minimal fuss and lots of fun (no cooking required).
- ***School starts August 5th. Be a first day greeter at Hornsby Elementary*** and start students' year on a happy note. All you have to do is show up at Hornsby at 8:30 AM and greet kids as they arrive for school.
- ***Our Backpack and School Supply Drive for the children at Hornsby Elementary continues through August.*** New students arrive throughout the year. Dropping off extra supplies ensures new arrivals and the classrooms have all they need for the year. A supply list from Hornsby is available in the Narthex and in Friday's *Weekly Postings*. If you prefer, gifts may be made for our back-to-school supplies, and we'll do the shopping for you. Use the Giving QR code below or visit our website; Choose Outreach and Hornsby sub fund.

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.

August 2, following the 11 AM service, all kids and their families are invited to Sundae Sunday in Tyler Hall. Grab an ice cream and tour the children's formation rooms and meet our amazing volunteers. We will answer any questions about Sunday School offerings. All are welcome! For more information about our Children and Youth Ministries, contact Aubrey Hinkson at ahinkson@saintpauls.org.

Sunday Forum this Summer, 9:30 AM, the Berlin Room—Throughout July, the Sunday Forum will feature guest clergy and lay leaders sharing reflections on faith and theological topics. Next Sunday, The Rev. Bill Dolen leads "Rebuilding the Temple." Take a tour of Jerusalem and the Temple Mount (including the Western Wall tunnels) as we read what Scripture teaches about the tabernacle in the wilderness and the building (and destruction) of the temples.

Mark your calendar for our fall program year kick-off, Sunday, August 9: our formation programming for parishioners of all ages begins, the choir returns from their summer break, and we'll "Gather by the River" following the 11 AM service for a parish meal. Details to come.

ERD Offering—The Outreach Committee has voted to send \$1000 to Episcopal Relief and Development to support those affected by the Earthquakes in Venezuela. We will collect gifts from the parish, and then will send a combined check from the people of Saint Paul's Wednesday, August 12. If you would like to add your gift, please make your check payable to Saint Paul's Church with a notation ERD International Disaster Fund. Online gifts may be made using the Giving QR code on the following page or visit our website. (Choose Special Offering and Episcopal Relief and Development Sub-fund).

Still thinking about EfM and wondering what you can expect? • A safe, confidential space to ask questions, share doubts, and identify, reflect on, and share significant events in your faith life • A deeper knowledge and understanding of Scripture, Church history, and Christian theology and spirituality • An ability to reflect theologically on culture, current events, and personal experience, as well as on the Christian tradition and your own beliefs • A transformed understanding of your relationship to God, the church, and our culture at large • An evolving sense of personal call and theology. Interested? Registration begins after July 15. For information, contact Tom Smyth, tom.smyth@icloud.com.

The new Forward Day by Day issue for August, September, and October has arrived and is available in the Narthex. Forward Day by Day is a booklet of daily, "page-a-day," inspirational meditations, each reflecting on a specific Bible passage from the daily lectionary readings of the Episcopal Church. The meditations are rich in substance and offer a wide range of witness and experience.

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 (cstuckey@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.

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.



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

