



Celtic Evening Prayer and Communion at Saint Paul's Church

The Tenth Sunday after Pentecost
August 2, 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

Benjamin Barker, Harp

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.

Reader A reading from the Gospel according to Matthew.

Jesus withdrew in a boat to a deserted place by himself. But when the crowds heard it, they followed him on foot from the towns. When he went ashore, he saw a great crowd; and he had compassion for them and cured their sick. When it was evening, the disciples came to him and said, "This is a deserted place, and the hour is now late; send the crowds away so that they may go into the villages and buy food for themselves." Jesus said to them, "They need not go away; you give them something to eat." They replied, "We have nothing here but five loaves and two fish." And he said, "Bring them here to me." Then he ordered the crowds to sit down on the grass. Taking the five loaves and the two fish, he looked up to heaven, and blessed and broke the loaves, and gave them to the disciples, and the disciples gave them to the crowds. And all ate and were filled; and they took up what was left over of the broken pieces, twelve baskets full. And those who ate were about five thousand men, besides women and children.

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 Eric Biddy

A period of silence is observed.

Music for Meditation

Benjamin Barker, Harp

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.

Music for Meditation

Benjamin Barker, Harp

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.

THE HOLY COMMUNION

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

The Offertory Music

Benjamin Barker, Harp

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

Benjamin Barker, Harp

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 Visitors

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.***

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

SERVING TODAY

The Reverend Eric Biddy
Naila Assad, Linda Schaufert
Kurt and Naeem Holmes
Patsy Davis
Linda Schaufert

Preacher and Celebrant
Eucharistic Ministers
Eucharistic Visitors
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 Accounts. 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.

Don't miss next Sunday's fall program year "kick-off." Our formation programming for children and youth begins, the choir returns from their summer break, and we'll "Gather by the River" following the 11 AM service for a low-country boil in the River Room (donations welcome). As always, we need a few folks to help us set up, cook, and clean up. Sign up to serve on our website (a direct link is available in Friday's *Weekly Postings*).

Adult Formation beginning next Sunday, 9:30 AM, in the Berlin Room—For much of this year, the Sunday Forum will take the Catechism as an outline for exploring the questions that motivate our faithful exploration of truth and relationship with God. Watch the *Weekly Postings* for specific topics, and bring your own questions to add to our questions of faith.

School starts August 5th in Richmond County. Be a first day greeter at our partner school, 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. Get your "High Fives" ready and show them a little Saint Paul's love. To volunteer or for more information, email Barbara Coleman at barbaracolem@gmail.com or call (706) 495-1884.

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.

All Hands-On Deck August 15! It's time to build another ramp. Saint Paul's needs volunteers to build a ramp for one of our neighbors in need. This is part of our Bridge Building Community work in the CSRA. All supplies are provided and we have construction leaders. Sign up on our website (a direct link is available in Friday's *Weekly Postings*. We'll meet at Saint Paul's at 9 AM. Rain date August 22.

Common Ground Fellowship will gather for a faith discussion, Wednesday, August 12, 7 PM in Tyler Hall. 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.) For more information contact Fr. Eric at ebiddy@saintpauls.org.

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 Charlie Tudor, Jr. Warden Will Rice, Treasurer
Bryan Hawkins, Chancellor Julie Badger, Clerk of the Vestry

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	Acolytes – Meg & Donald Horton
Buildings and Grounds – John Robertson	Daughters of the King – Kathleen Fickling
Endowment – Monty Osteen	Eucharistic Visitors – Ellen Nesbitt
Finance – Cameron Nixon	Facebook – Stacy Nuessle & Aubrey Hinkson
Flower Guild – Barbara Register & Laurie Montgomery	Hospitality and Parish Life – Eric Friedman
Interior Design – Julie Badger	Invite, Welcome, Connect – Jackie Pingel & Dianne L'Heureux
Lectors & LEM – Robin Merriman	Linen Guild – Tricia Nixon
Nursery Grandmother's Guild – Coleman Graham	Outreach – Marilyn Grau
Pastoral Care Ministry – Ellen Nesbitt	Stewardship – Kitty Gordon
Ushers – Rex Teeslink & Cindy Shafer	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		

