



Celtic Evening Prayer and Communion at Saint Paul's Church

**The Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost
August 23, 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.

Reader A reading from the Gospel according to Matthew.

When Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, “Who do people say that the Son of Man is?” And they said, “Some say John the Baptist, but others Elijah, and still others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.” He said to them, “But who do you say that I am?” Simon Peter answered, “You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God.” And Jesus answered him, “Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father in heaven. And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not prevail against it. I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.” Then he sternly ordered the disciples not to tell anyone that he was the Messiah.

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**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 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

Laura Tomlin

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 people are invited to stand.

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.***

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.

PARISH ANNOUNCEMENTS

Common Ground Fellowship will gather for silent prayer, Compline, and then go out to dinner together, Wednesday, August 26, 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.

Lectio at Lunch is a midweek Bible study which follows immediately after the 11:30 AM Thursday Holy Eucharist. Participants gather to share a light lunch along with warm fellowship and an interactive dive into the Bible. Our text will be *We Make the Road by Walking* by Brian McLaren. Contact Kitty Gordon with questions: kittygordon87@gmail.com.

Caring Prayer, Thursday, August 27, 3:30 PM, in the Chapel, is for anyone who wants to pray and needs support. The group is for caregivers, anyone who is mourning, lives with chronic illness, has suffered loss of a job, or faces any kind of challenge that might be helped by love and prayer. For more information, contact Fr. Biddy at ebiddy@saintpauls.org.

Adult Formation next Sunday, 9:30 AM, in the Berlin Room—What/How Do We Know about God? At next week’s Sunday Forum, we’ll continue our series on questions of faith by asking how God reveals Godself to us. What can we learn about God from nature? How has God’s self-revelation progressed through history? How else do we know about God? And how much can we trust revelation through nature versus special revelation (like the Bible)?

Join our Greeter team, August 30, following the 11 AM service. We’d love to have greeters at our Celtic Service. A warm welcome can change a newcomer’s entire Sunday. Join our upcoming Greeter Orientation to learn the ropes and become part of our front-line welcoming team. Got a busy schedule? No problem! This is the perfect flexible role—simply sign up to serve on the days you’re already coming to church. Step up, share a smile, and help us kick off worship together! Contact Jackie Pingel, jackiepingel@gmail.com, or Dianne L’Heureux, dithehappy1@gmail.com, for more information.

Our 2026-2027 program guide is available. We invite you to browse this publication and look for ways that you can discover or rediscover where you belong, what you are called to do, and how we might grow together in God’s Presence.

Our Backpack and School Supply Drive for the children at Hornsby Elementary ends next Sunday. 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.

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.



IT'S HAPPENING! SAINT PAUL'S DIRECTORY IS UNDERWAY.

We are excited to introduce Realm, a new online church community designed to help us stay connected, communicate more effectively, and engage more fully in the life of Saint Paul's.

Our church directory will be part of Realm, giving parishioners a convenient way to connect with one another while keeping contact information current. As we roll out Realm, members will be able to create and update their profiles, choose what information they wish to share, and connect with fellow parishioners, groups, and ministries. As Realm expands throughout the parish, it will also provide opportunities to register for events, receive parish announcements, manage giving and view giving history, and most importantly stay connected.

We are committed to protecting the privacy of our parish community. Members will have control over the information they share in the directory, and parents will be able to review and manage information related to minors.

We encourage you to participate in this new online community and help us build a more connected Saint Paul's. More information, training opportunities, and instructions for getting started will be shared in the coming weeks including opportunities to take a picture with our staff and if you choose, update your profile by paper. We look forward to using Realm to strengthen relationships and support the life of our parish.

SERVING TODAY

The Reverend Eric Biddy
Linda Schaufert, Celeste Ray
Summer Bell
Linda Schaufert

Preacher and Celebrant
Eucharistic Ministers
Vestry Member
Altar Guild

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
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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

