



Celtic Evening Prayer and Communion at Saint Paul's Church

The Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost
September 20, 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.

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.

Prelude

Erin Montgomery

At the sound of the bell, the People are invited to stand.

Opening

from St. Symeon the New Theologian

Celebrant Come, true light. Come, life eternal. Come, hidden mystery.
Come, treasure without name. Come, reality beyond all words.
Come, person beyond all understanding. Come, rejoicing without end.
Come, light that knows no evening.
Come, raising of the fallen. Come, resurrection of the dead.
Come, for your name fills our hearts with longing and is ever on our lips.
Come, Alone to the alone.
Come, for you are yourself the desire that is within us.
Come, our breath and our life. Come, the consolation of our humble souls.
Come, our joy, our glory, our endless delight.

A Prayer for the Evening

Celebrant Gracious God,
You have given us much today;
Grant us also a thankful spirit.
Into your hands we commend ourselves
And those we love.
Be with us still, and when we take our rest
Renew us for the service of your Son Jesus Christ.
Amen.

Please be seated. A period of silence is observed.

Reader A reading from the Gospel according to Matthew.

Jesus said, "The kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire laborers for his vineyard. After agreeing with the laborers for the usual daily wage, he sent them into his vineyard. When he went out about nine o'clock, he saw others standing idle in the marketplace; and he said to them, 'You also go into the vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right.' So they went. When he went out again about noon and about three o'clock, he did the same. And about five o'clock he went out and found others standing around; and he said to them, 'Why are you standing here idle all day?' They said to him, 'Because no one has hired us.' He said to them, 'You also go into the vineyard.' When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his manager, 'Call the laborers and give them their pay, beginning with the last and then going to the first.' When those hired about five o'clock came, each of them received the usual daily wage. Now when the first came, they thought they would receive more; but each of them also received the usual daily wage. And when they received it, they grumbled against the landowner, saying, 'These last worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat.' But he replied to one of them, 'Friend, I am doing you no wrong; did you not agree with me for the usual daily wage? Take what belongs to you and go; I choose to give to this last the same as I give to you. Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or are you envious because I am generous?' So the last will be first, and the first will be last."

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

Erin Montgomery

Prayers for Ourselves and Others

Please stand as you are able.

Celebrant Let us pray for the Church and the world.

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 Let us now name before God those for whom we offer our personal prayers, either silently or aloud.

The people may add their intercessions.

Celebrant Lord, you have called us to serve you.

All ***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 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

Erin Montgomery

The Grace

Celebrant Jesus said, "Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light." *--Matthew 11:28-30*

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

Erin Montgomery

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

Erin Montgomery

After Communion

The People are invited to stand

Celebrant Let us pray.

All **Father of all, we give you thanks and praise, that when we were still far off you met us in your Son and brought us home. Dying and living, he declared your love, gave us grace, and opened the gate of glory. May we who share Christ's body live his risen life; we who drink his cup bring life to others; we whom the Spirit lights give light to the world. Keep us firm in the hope you have set before us, so we and all your children shall be free, and the whole earth live to praise your name; through Christ our Lord. 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.**

Music for Meditation

Erin Montgomery

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

PARISH ANNOUNCEMENTS

Greeters needed - Our Greeters Ministry is key to welcoming newcomers, connecting people with ministries matching their interests and introducing them to clergy and others. We'd like to have greeters at every service. *Even if you are a newcomer yourself*, we will provide the tools. Please contact the church office or let clergy know if you are interested in learning more.

Gather with us on the Portico for a light reception following this service! Meet, greet, and enjoy light refreshment.

Need help joining the new Church Directory with Realm? We'll be available to help you get started, answer your questions, and take your family photo if you need one. Contact Toni (tclayton@saintpauls.org).

The 38th season of Tuesday's Music Live begins on September 22 with a free 30-minute concert at 12:00 Noon performed by the Nikita Borisevich, violin, and Margarita Loukachkina, piano. More information at tuesdaysmusiclive.com or 706-722-3463.

Common Ground Fellowship will gather Wednesday, September 23, 7 PM for a faith talk in Tyler Hall. Mtr. Kimberly will join us. 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.

Caring Prayer Thursday, September 24, is for anyone who wants to pray and needs support. The group is appropriate for caregivers, for anyone who is mourning, lives with chronic illness, has lost their job, or faces any kind of challenge that might be helped by love and prayer. Gather at 3:30 PM in the chapel to pray Evening Prayer together, check in with each other, and provide mutual support. For more information contact Fr. Eric at ebiddy@saintpauls.org.

Ironman Weekend is September 25-27. We have a fantastic weekend planned and there are volunteer opportunities and a place for each of us to be involved in some way. Sign up to serve using the QR code to the right or the direct link in Friday's *Weekly Postings*. Contact Kim Butler for more information at kimberlybutler@gmail.com.



Register for Cursillo, October 15-18 at Honey Creek. Cursillo is a weekend for adults that gives participants the opportunity to build community and delve deeper into their faith. More information is available in Friday's *Weekly Postings* or contact Heather Wheeler (hndawgs@gmail.com or by phone (706) 993-8471).

Hornsby Book Drive continues through September—Support young readers at Hornsby Elementary by giving a new or gently read book (all ages picture book - 5th grade). A list of suggested titles is available. If you prefer, gifts may be made for our book drive, and we'll do the shopping for you. Use the Giving QR code below or visit our website; Choose Outreach and Hornsby sub fund. For more information contact Barbara Coleman at barbaracolem@gmail.com.

ERD Offering —The Outreach Committee has voted to send \$1000 to Episcopal Relief and Development's International Disaster Fund in response to the flooding in Nepal. We will collect gifts from the parish, and then will send a combined check from the people of Saint Paul's Wednesday, September 23. If you would like to add your gift, please make your check payable to Saint Paul's Church with a notation ERD Disaster Fund. You may also use the Giving QR code below or visit our website; Choose Special Offering and ERD sub fund.

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, drop by the greeters table to complete a yellow form. We'll make the tag and you'll find it at the table next week. Or, email the Catherine Stuckey (cstuckey@saintpauls.org).

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.



SERVING TODAY

The Reverend Eric Biddy
Mat Merriman, Robin Merriman
Summer Bell
Linda Hardy
Catherine Stuckey

Preacher and Celebrant
Eucharistic Ministers
Eucharistic Visitor
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 – Linda Hardy and Charlie Tudor
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, Will Douse, Anthony Ellis, Sherry Wilson; Sextons
Mark Albertin, Brandon Dawson, Marty Duff, Wright Montgomery; Audio Visual

