Saint Paul's Church

Gather by the River

The First Sunday of Advent

November 29, 2026
Eight o'clock in the Morning

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.

To all our Visitors & Guests

About Worship

If the liturgy (worship) of the Episcopal Church is unfamiliar, then we hope you will find this information helpful.

You are welcome in the Episcopal Church, and so the first and best resource we offer are your neighbors in the pews. Just say, "I'm visiting," and they will gladly help.

The worship of the Episcopal Church is rooted in the practices of ancient Christianity. The structure of our services, the architecture of our building, the music, our physical postures, and participatory responses ALL hold rich meaning about our beliefs and are intentional expressions of our relationship with God.

- In this bulletin you will find:

  Responses spoken by the people are printed in bold italics.
  Directions for the people are printed in italics.

- We encourage families with children to sit at the front of the Nave so that children can easily see and hear the liturgy. We are delighted to offer activity bags for families to help keep little hands busy and engaged during worship services. Feel free to pick one up at the entrance!

- Episcopalians customarily pray either standing or kneeling, so please do what you find most comfortable.

- Notify an usher if you require an assisted listening device or any other assistance.

- Restrooms are located in the parish hall. An usher will direct you.

About Receiving The Holy Communion

ALL who come in faith are invited to receive Holy Communion at Saint Paul's.

- During communion at this service, the people kneel (as able) at the altar rail from right to left. If you drink from the common cup of wine, please consume your wafer and sip from the chalice soon to follow. If you prefer not to drink from the common cup, hold onto your wafer for the minister to dip into the chalice ("intinct") for you.

- For those who may prefer not to receive communion at the main altar, the clergy will bring the bread and wine to your pew. Please notify an usher before the service begins.

- To receive a blessing without receiving Communion, cross both arms over your chest, palms on your collar.

Connect with Us

We invite you to share your contact information on a connect card, located in each pew. Hand it to one of our clergy after church. Please feel free to fill out as much or as little information as you'd like so we can connect with you.

Celebration of The Holy Eucharist: Rite One

The Word of God

Our Service Begins in the Book of Common Prayer

The Opening Acclamation

Celebrant Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
People ***And blessed be his kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.***

The Collect for Purity **p. 323**

Kyrie eleison and Gloria **p. 324**

The Collect of the Day

Celebrant The Lord be with you.
People ***And with thy spirit.***
Celebrant Let us pray.

Almighty God, give us grace that we may cast away the works of darkness, and put upon us the armor of light, now in the time of this mortal life in which thy Son Jesus Christ came to visit us in great humility; that in the last day, when he shall come again in his glorious majesty to judge both the quick and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through him who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Ghost, one God, now and for ever. ***Amen.***

Old Testament **Isaiah 64:1-9**

O that you would tear open the heavens and come down, so that the mountains would quake at your presence-- as when fire kindles brushwood and the fire causes water to boil-- to make your name known to your adversaries, so that the nations might tremble at your presence! When you did awesome deeds that we did not expect, you came down, the mountains quaked at your presence. From ages past no one has heard, no ear has perceived, no eye has seen any God besides you, who works for those who wait for him. You meet those who gladly do right, those who remember you in your ways. But you were angry, and we sinned; because you hid yourself we transgressed. We have all become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous deeds are like a filthy cloth. We all fade like a leaf, and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away. There is no one who calls on your name, or attempts to take hold of you; for you have hidden your face from us, and have delivered us into the hand of our iniquity. Yet, O Lord, you are our Father; we are the clay, and you are our potter; we are all the work of your hand. Do not be exceedingly angry, O Lord, and do not remember iniquity forever. Now consider, we are all your people.

Lector The Word of the Lord.
People ***Thanks be to God.***

The Response **Psalm 80:1-7, 16-18**

prayed responsively by whole verse

1 Hear, O Shepherd of Israel, leading Joseph like a flock; *
shine forth, you that are enthroned upon the cherubim.

2 ***In the presence of Ephraim, Benjamin, and Manasseh, ****
stir up your strength and come to help us.

3 Restore us, O God of hosts; *
show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.

4 ***O LORD God of hosts, ****
how long will you be angered
despite the prayers of your people?

5 You have fed them with the bread of tears; *
you have given them bowls of tears to drink.

6 ***You have made us the derision of our neighbors, ****
and our enemies laugh us to scorn.

7 Restore us, O God of hosts; *
show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.

16 ***Let your hand be upon the man of your right hand, ****
the son of man you have made so strong for yourself.

17 And so will we never turn away from you; *
give us life, that we may call upon your Name.

18 ***Restore us, O LORD God of hosts; ****
show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.

The Epistle **1 Corinthians 1:3-9**

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that has been given you in Christ Jesus, for in every way you have been enriched in him, in speech and knowledge of every kind-- just as the testimony of Christ has been strengthened among you-- so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ. He will also strengthen you to the end, so that you may be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. God is faithful; by him you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Lector The Word of the Lord.
People ***Thanks be to God.***

The Holy Gospel **Mark 13:24-37**

Celebrant The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.
People ***Glory be to thee, O Lord.***

Jesus said, "In those days, after that suffering, the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light, and the stars will be falling from heaven, and the powers in the heavens will be shaken.

Then they will see 'the Son of Man coming in clouds' with great power and glory. Then he will send out the angels, and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven.

"From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near. So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that he is near, at the very gates. Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all these things have taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

"But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. Beware, keep alert; for you do not know when the time will come. It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his slaves in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to be on the watch. Therefore, keep awake—for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or at dawn, or else he may find you asleep when he comes suddenly. And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake."

Celebrant The Gospel of the Lord.
People ***Praise be to thee, O Christ.***

The Sermon **The Reverend Eric Biddy**

The Nicene Creed **p. 326**

The Prayers of the People **p. 328**

The Confession and Absolution **p. 331**

The Peace **p. 332**

The Ministers and People greet one another in the name of the Lord.

Parish Greetings & Announcements

The Holy Communion

Offertory Sentence

Presentation of the Offering

Celebrant All things come of thee, O Lord.
People ***And of Thine own have we given Thee.***

The Great Thanksgiving - Prayer I **p. 333**

The Lord's Prayer **p. 336**

The Breaking of the Bread **p. 337**

Agnus Dei **p. 337**

Prayer of Humble Access **p. 337**

The Communion *All who come in faith are welcome at the Lord's table.*

The Post-Communion Prayer **p. 339**

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 **p. 339**

The Dismissal

Celebrant Let us go forth in the name of Christ.
People ***Thanks be to God.***

Greenery on the Altar this Sunday

The greenery on the altar this Sunday is given to the glory of God and in memory of
Mary Alford Faulk, Frank Faulk, Jr. and James Wright Montgomery.
Arranged by the Flower Guild.

Prayers are Requested

For the special needs and concerns of this congregation; especially Anne Way, Eryn Eubanks, Beth Pate, Ann Pendarvis, Rain Coleman, Sandra Mashburn, Karen Davidson, Betsy Rollins, Kisha Seals, Yvona Myrna, Ann Kilpatrick, Lois Hand, Ricie Eubanks, Dorine Smith, Wayne Matthews, Suzanne Pursley-Crotteau, Samm Fusselle, Katie Delaigle, Susan Keithley, Margaret Lodi, Gary Crotteau, Louis Walker, Greg Maxie, Laura Luther Medved, Mitch Wyatt, Susan Wyatt, David Hawkins, Jim Williams, Pearce Truesdale, Zach Beckham, Shirley Courtney, Jane Silcox, Jeremy Carr, Mark Simon, Rob Verfurth, Jamie Medved, Sonia Bentley, Arion Strothers, Becky Harrod, Ann Parker, Nancy Kotti, Shane Prince, Nancy Kitchens, Herb Upton, Jean Verduce, Diana, Dana Biddy, Chris Dahl, Susan Meloan, Reid James, the Sumerel family, Eric Presley, Simona Perry, Michael Bryant, Kenny Simmons.

For those serving our country at home and abroad; especially, Kirk Ring, Sam and Lara Powell, Jim Ring, Bennett Ivey, Isaac Mikell, Zach Nevard, Jackson Smith, Brandon Walker, Julianna Lindsey.

Serving Today

The Reverend Eric Biddy	Celebrant
Bobbie Ingenito	Eucharistic Minister
Becky Wright	Altar Guild
Katherine Ferrara	Vestry Member
Bobbie Ingenito	Eucharistic Visitor

Parish Announcements

9 AM— Please join us for a hot breakfast in Tyler Hall. Then at 9:30 AM in the Berlin Room join us for The Gospel of Mark: The What. A new liturgical year begins today, and our Sunday worship will feature the Gospel According to Mark. In this second of two Sundays at the Sunday Forum, we'll do the "what" of Mark, exploring the story, distinctive themes, and unique style of what is generally considered the oldest gospel.

Pick up an Advent Wreath for your home Sunday 9:30 - 10:30 AM in Tyler Hall. The Flower Guild is preparing complete kits with everything you need, including a fresh evergreen wreath, candle ring, candles, and wire. They will be available to help you with assembly or take your kit home for completion. Weekly prayers and instructions will be included with all wreaths. $25 donation. Pre-order using the QR code to the right.

Calling all angels! Our Angel Tree Christmas program is in full swing. This year we will be providing clothing and gifts for students at our neighborhood school, Hornsby Elementary. Angels will be available in the narthex for the next two Sundays. Wrapped gifts should be returned by Sunday, December 6. Donations are appreciated; checks should be made out to Saint Paul's Church and designated for Angel Tree Ministry. For more information, contact Barbara Coleman at barbaracolem@gmail.com.

Walking with the Word begins today. —Join Saint Paul's, Episcopalians across Georgia, and our ECLA and UMC friends to read the Bible this liturgical year. Through short, daily Bible readings and companion resources, participants are encouraged to engage Scripture in meaningful ways and discover how God continues to speak through His Word. More details including the reading schedule are available in Friday's *Weekly Postings*.

The Greening of the Church & Brass for Christmas Eve — Wreaths, greenery, and red poinsettias in the church are enjoyed throughout the Christmas season and additional professional musicians enhance our Christmas Eve services. If you would like to contribute toward the cost of Christmas Eve music, or give to "green the church", please return the form found in the bulletin to the Parish Office no later than Sunday, December 13. Requests may be made using the QR code to the right and on the website (a direct link is available in Friday's *Weekly Postings*).

The 38th season of Tuesday's Music Live continues with a concert by the Davidson Chorale at 12 noon on December 1. The concert is free and lasts 30 minutes. Visit TuesdaysMusicLive.com for the full schedule.

Join us for our last Men's Monthly Meal (Mmm!) this year, Wednesday, December 2. (Men gather at 4 PM to cook, the parish gathers at 6 PM for dinner.) On the menu: meatloaf, mashed potatoes, broccoli, and dinner rolls. Please RSVP on our website so that we may be a good host (a direct link is available in the *Weekly Postings*). Donations welcomed. Questions? Contact Eric Friedman at bige.fried@gmail.com.

Common Ground Fellowship will gather on Wednesday, December 2, 7 PM for Compline in the Chapel and then Christmas light tour. 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 (ebiddy@saintpauls.org).

Need Help joining Realm or a picture for the directory? Toni Clayton will be available 9:00 AM in Tyler Hall or at the Welcome Table after the 11:00 AM service on December 6 to answer questions and help you get connected. While you're there, you can also have your photo taken for the church directory or update your existing picture.

More information about these announcements and other events is 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.

Sunday Schedule

8:00 - 8:45 AM	**Holy Eucharist** Rite I
9:00 AM - 10:45 AM	**Continental Breakfast - Tyler Hall**
9:25 - 10:00 AM	**Children/Youth Choir Rehearsals**
9:30 - 10:30 AM	**Christian Formation for Adults**
10:00 - 10:45 AM	**Christian Formation for Children**
11:00 AM - 12:00 PM	**Holy Eucharist** Rite II
Following the 11:00 AM Service	**Lemonade on the Lawn**
5:00 - 7:00 PM	**EYC (Episcopal Youth Community)**
5:30 - 6:15 PM	**Celtic Evening Prayer & Communion with prayers for healing**

Nursery care offered in the Children's Ministry Center (CMC) 9:30 AM - 12:00 PM.
The 11 AM service is broadcast on Facebook and YouTube at Saint Paul's Church-Augusta
and by radio at WGAC 580 AM Radio and 95.1 FM Radio. Listen live on-line at http://wgac.com

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	Vestry Term Expires 2028	Vestry Term Expires 2029
Kathleen Chandler	Jerry Ashmore, III	Will Badger
Patsy Davis	Katherine Ferrara	Summer Bell
Melissa Friedman	Tom Robertson	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 Ted H. Clarkson, Assisting Priest		
The Reverend Dr. Cynthia Taylor, 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, Sherry Wilson; Sextons		
Mark Albertin, Brandon Dawson, Marty Duff, Wright Montgomery; Audio Visual		