Celtic Evening Prayer and Communion



The First Sunday of Advent

November 29, 2026
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.

Celtic Evening Prayer and Communion

Prelude **DeCeadaoin**

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, all stand.

Opening *Patient Trust* **Pierre Teilhard de Chardin**

Leader Above all, trust in the slow work of God

We are quite naturally impatient in everything
to reach the end without delay.
We should like to skip the intermediate stages.
We are impatient of being on the way to something
unknown, something new.
And yet it is the law of progress
that it is made by passing through
some states of instability—
and that it may take a very long time.

And so I think it is with you.
Your ideas mature gradually—let them grow,
let them shape themselves, without undue haste.

Don't try to force them on,
as though you could be today what time
(that is to say, grace and circumstances
acting on your own good will)
will make of you tomorrow.

Only God could say what this new spirit
gradually forming within you will be.
Give Our Lord the benefit of believing
that his hand is leading you,
and accept the anxiety of feeling yourself
in suspense and incomplete.

Please be seated.

Music for Meditation **DeCeadaoin**

A Prayer for the Evening

Celebrant Almighty God, we give you thanks for surrounding us, as daylight fades, with the brightness of the vesper light; and we implore you of your great mercy that, as you enfold us with the radiance of this light, so you would shine into our hearts the brightness of your Holy Spirit; through our Savior Jesus Christ.

People ***Amen***.

A period of silence is observed.

The Reading **Mark 13:24-37**

Reader A reading from the Gospel according to Mark.

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."

Reader Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

People ***Thanks be to God.***

Reflection **The Reverend Kimberly E. Dunn**

A period of silence is observed.

Music for Meditation **DeCeadaoin**

Prayers for Ourselves and Others *Please stand.*

Celebrant God calls us to love one another. As a sign of that love, let us lift up our prayer to God for the needs of all people throughout the world, saying: O God, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Leader We pray for the peace of the world, that our instruments of war may be transformed into instruments of peace, and that nations shall cease to learn war any more. O God, in your mercy,
People ***Hear our prayer.***

We pray for the church, that we may become more and more a means of grace and peace in the world. O God, in your mercy,
Hear our prayer.

We pray for all people of good will who seek to cast off the works of darkness, that we may be enlightened through our service of others in the name of Christ. O God, in your mercy,
Hear our prayer.

We pray for all who are in need, that we may be alert to the presence of Christ in them and ready to reach out in love. O God, in your mercy,
Hear our prayer.

We pray for those who are assembled here today, that we may be clothed with the Lord Jesus Christ and go forth from this place to be Christ in the world. O God, in your mercy,
Hear our prayer.

We pray for all who have asked for our prayers that we may faithfully wait upon God with confidence in that love which sustains us in every moment of our lives. O God, in your mercy,
Hear our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.
The People may add their petitions aloud or silently.

Celebrant We praise you, Lord our God, that you have called us to be your people and the instruments of your presence in the world. Grant us grace to discern your will and the strength to do it, through Christ our Lord. ***Amen.***

The Confession and Absolution *from a New Zealand Prayer Book*

Celebrant God has promised forgiveness to all who truly repent, turn to Christ in faith, and are themselves forgiving. In silence, we call to mind our sins.

Silence.

People ***Merciful God,***
we have sinned in what we have thought and said,
in the wrong we have done
and in the good we have not done.
We have sinned in ignorance:
we have sinned in weakness:
we have sinned through our own deliberate fault.

We are truly sorry.
We repent and turn to you.
Forgive us, for our Savior Christ's sake,
and renew our lives to the glory of your name. Amen.

Celebrant Through the cross of Christ, God have mercy on you, pardon you, and set you free. Know that you are forgiven and be at peace. God strengthen you in all goodness and keep you in life eternal. ***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 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 **DeCeadaoin**

The Grace

Celebrant Do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing? Look at the birds of the air and consider the lilies of the field, how God cares for them. How much more will God care for you? And can any of you by worrying add a single hour to your span of life? But strive first for the kingdom of God and God's righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.
People ***Amen.***

The Peace *Please stand.*

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 **DeCeadaoin**

Eucharistic Prayer *Please 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 It is our joy and delight to give you thanks and praise, Emmanuel, God with us. We give you thanks and praise for your hallowing of human flesh. We rejoice at your light which shines out of darkness and enlightens all who seek you. We praise you that you brought forth new life in the family of Mary and Joseph as you do today from all who faithfully await the fulfillment of your word. We praise you that you were known first by poor shepherds and wise seekers as you are known today by the poor and the outcast. We rejoice with the angels at your promise of peace for those who trust in you. We rejoice that the extraordinary is given birth in the ordinary places of life.

Celebrant So with the angels who sing "Glory" and with all the saints and ancestors who have known you to be with us, we say together:

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 We bless you for Jesus, born of the Spirit's love and a woman's body and blood. We bless you for Jesus who shows us how to live the fullness of our humanity and thus become one with you. We remember Jesus who laughed and wept and felt tiredness and fear; who praised Mary when she anointed him for death and blessed a woman of the city who washed his feet with tears. We remember Jesus who touched lepers and the sick and feasted with tax collectors and sinners. We remember Christ who lives on in all who courageously and faithfully bring forth the light of his love in earth's darkest places. We remember Jesus who on the night before he died, shared a meal with his friends. He took bread, blessed it and broke it and gave it to them saying: "Take and eat. This is my own body given for you. Do this to remember me." After supper he took the cup of wine, gave thanks and gave it to them saying: "This is my life-blood given for you. Do this to remember me." So we proclaim the mystery of faith:

All ***Christ has died.***
Christ is risen.
Christ will come again.

Celebrant O God who is known to us in human flesh, send your Holy Spirit on us and on these material things of bread and wine, that they may be for us the body and blood of Christ, and we may be the body of Christ, food and life for the world. We ask these things through Christ, with whom and in whom, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, be glory now and forever. ***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 **DeCeadaoin**

After Communion *All Stand.*

Celebrant Let us pray.

All ***Lord Jesus Christ, you have put your life into our hands; now we put our lives into yours. Take us, renew us and remake us. What we have been is past; what we shall be, through you, still awaits us. Lead us on. Take us with you. Amen.***

The Blessing

Celebrant May this new night of rest
Repair the wear of time,
Restore your vision of a deeper light,
Heal the wounds of disappointments,
and restore youth of heart
For the adventure
That awaits you tomorrow.
And the blessing of God Almighty,
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, be among you
and remain with you, now and forever.
Amen.

The Dismissal

Leader Go out into the world with joy. The Lord is coming with justice and peace, and will give you hope and courage to meet the days ahead.
All ***Thanks be to God.***

Music for Meditation **DeCeadaoin**

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

Parish Announcements

Calling all angels! Today is the kick-off for our Angel Tree Christmas program. 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 three 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).

We will begin preparing for our annual Children's Advent Program beginning Sunday, December 6th. We will be telling the Christmas story and rehearsing for this joyful program during formation (10-10:45 am) for 2 Sundays (December 6 & 13) and during the parents' afternoon out, December 19. The program will be shared by our children at the 11 am service on December 20. A reception will follow the 11 am service in Tyler Hall. If you know children or grandchildren who are interested in participating in the Advent program, please contact Aubrey Hinkson at ahinkson@saintpauls.org so we can assign them a part. All are welcome ages preschool-5th grade.

On the Second Sunday of Advent, December 6, 4 PM in the Berlin Room, Robin Merriman will lead a labyrinth walk as we wait and walk in anticipation of the birth of Our Savior, Jesus Christ. There will be a brief introduction to walking a labyrinth and a time for reflection prior to the walk. No experience walking a labyrinth is required.

2027 Annual Campaign —If you haven't yet submitted a pledge, please don't delay; the Finance Committee will begin work soon on drafting the 2027 budget. Our collective estimates of giving (pledges) allow well-informed budget and ministry decisions. Deliver or mail your pledge card to the parish office or use this QR code to pledge online.

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 (mailbox@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.

SERVING TODAY

The Reverend Kimberly E. Dunn	Celebrant
Celeste Ray, Linda Schaufert	Eucharistic Ministers
Linda Schaufert	Altar Guild
Patsy Davis	Vestry Member

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 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	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		