

Celtic Evening Prayer and Communion

at Saint Paul's Church

The Twenty-fifthSunday after Pentecost
November 15, 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 **Celeste Ray**

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.

The Reading **Matthew 25:14-30**

Reader A reading from the Gospel according to Matthew.

Jesus said, "It is as if a man, going on a journey, summoned his slaves and entrusted his property to them; to one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. The one who had received the five talents went off at once and traded with them, and made five more talents. In the same way, the one who had the two talents made two more talents. But the one who had received the one talent went off and dug a hole in the ground and hid his master's money. After a long time the master of those slaves came and settled accounts with them. Then the one who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five more talents, saying, 'Master, you handed over to me five talents; see, I have made five more talents.' His master said to him, 'Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.' And the one with the two talents also came forward, saying, 'Master, you handed over to me two talents; see, I have made two more talents.' His master said to him, 'Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.' Then the one who had received the one talent also came forward, saying, 'Master, I knew that you were a harsh man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you did not scatter seed; so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours.' But his master replied, 'You wicked and lazy slave! You knew, did you, that I reap where I did not sow, and gather where I did not scatter? Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and on my return I would have received what was my own with interest. So take the talent from him, and give it to the one with the ten talents. For to all those who have, more will be given, and they will have an abundance; but from those who have nothing, even what they have will be taken away. As for this worthless slave, throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.'"

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 Dr. Cynthia Taylor**

A period of silence is observed.

Music for Meditation **Celeste Ray**

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 **Celeste Ray**

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 **Celeste Ray**

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 **Celeste Ray**

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.

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 **Celeste Ray**

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

2027 Annual Campaign Update

Our 2027 annual pledge campaign has officially ended. Thank you for your gifts and for your faithful conversations during this year's campaign. To date we have received 128 pledges with a total pledged income of $851,104. 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.

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.

The 38th season of Tuesday's Music Live continues November 17 with a free 30-minute concert at 12:00 Noon performed by Savannah River Brass. More information at tuesdaysmusiclive.com or 706-722-3463.

Join us for our next Senior Lunch, Wednesday, November 18, 12 Noon in Tyler Hall. While gearing to retirees, anyone is welcome. No agenda; just a relaxing social time. Lunch is provided but donations are welcome. Please sign up in the Narthex on Sunday mornings or on our website (A direct link is available in Friday's *Weekly Postings*.) Contact Gene Helmich for more information at ehelmich21@comcast.net.

The Daughters of the King invite you to a spiritual morning of quiet solitude, Saturday, November 21, 9:30 AM to 12:30 PM, beginning in the chapel. Bring "prayer tools" such as your bible, journal, or anything used for meditation. A pot-luck lunch follows in Tyler Hall. Contact Mtr. Kimberly (kdunn@saintpauls.org) for information.

New to Saint Paul's in the last year? Join us for our Fall Newcomer Party November 22, 12:15 PM. Join us for heavy appetizers and lively conversation. Get to know your fellow worshipers, pick up your Saint Paul's t-shirt, and meet some of Saint Paul's vestry and staff. All who haven't attended a Newcomer Party before are welcome! For more information contact Elisabeth Price at mailbox@saintpauls.org.

Thanksgiving Eve— Bring your family and friends to the Community Thanksgiving Eve Eucharist, Wednesday, November 25 at 7 PM. The service includes joyous music, featuring the Saint Paul's Choir, and lessons and prayers of thanks and praise. The Thanksgiving Eve offering will be given to the DCCM (Downtown Cooperative Church Ministries) Food Bank. Donations may also be made online at saintpauls.org/giving. Choose Special Offering and DCCM.

Make an Advent Wreath for your home Sunday, November 29, 9:30-10:30 am in Tyler Hall. The Flower Guild is preparing complete kits with everything you need. Weekly prayers and instructions will be included with all wreaths. $25 donation. Make your wreath in Tyler Hall or take your kit home for completion. Children and Youth will meet in their classrooms as usual during formation and will have Advent Wreath activities during this time. Please pre-order your kit using the QR code to the right so that we will know how many to prepare.

The new Day by Day issue for November, December, and January 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 experiences. These meditations are also available online on the Forward movement website at prayer.forwardmovement.org/home.

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 Dr. Cynthia Taylor	Preacher and Celebrant
Linda Schaufert, Meg Horton	Eucharistic Ministers
Melissa Friedman	Vestry Member
Denise and Mark Simon	Greeters
Linda Schaufert	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	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 Dr. Cynthia Taylor, 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, Sherry Wilson; Sextons		
Mark Albertin, Brandon Dawson, Marty Duff, Wright Montgomery; Audio Visual		