

Celtic Evening Prayer and Communion



**The First Sunday of Advent
November 29, 2020, at Half-Past Five o'clock in the Evening**

WELCOME

As you enter the Nave you may go forward to light a votive candle, mindful of physical distancing. Please use a fresh taper, depositing it in the water when finished.

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

Carolyn Munford

*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

"O come, O come, Emmanuel"

Carolyn Munford

Prayer for the Evening

Leader Living God, in you there is no darkness; shed upon us through this night the light of your forgiveness, your healing and your peace, that when we wake from sleep we may know once more the brightness of your presence; through our Savior Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

A period of silence is observed.

The Holy Gospel

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.**

A period of silence is observed after the reading.

Reflection

The Reverend George Muir

A period of silence is observed.

Music for Meditation

Carolyn Munford

Prayers for Ourselves and Others

Please stand.

Celebrant Imagine throwing a pebble into the centre of a pond, and the circles of ripples that move out from the center.

Silence.

Leader We pray first for those closest to us, our immediate family and closest friends—for their health, needs, joys and fears.

The people may add their intercessions either silently or aloud.

Leader We pray for our extended family and friends whom we might not see each week—for their love and concern, for their well-being.

The people may add their intercessions either silently or aloud.

Leader As the ripples reach out toward the land, we pray for those with whom we have contact only annually or less frequently—for a blessing this Advent-time.

The people may add their intercessions either silently or aloud.

Leader And as the ripples reach their furthest point we pray for this world and its people—for the needs of this week and the future.

The people may add their intercessions either silently or aloud.

Leader God of creation, God of Salvation
Who speaks to us through thunder and whisper
Who loves us as if there were but one of us to love
Hear the prayers of our hearts.

Celebrant Lord, you have given us your Word for a light to shine upon our path; grant us so to meditate on that Word, and to follow its teaching, that we may find in it the light that shines more and more until the perfect day; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

People **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.**

Please do not come forward for the laying on of hands.

The prayer following is offered for the congregation.

Please either silently or aloud offer names for healing.

Celebrant May God the Father bless you, God the Son heal you, God the Holy Spirit give you strength. May God the holy and undivided Trinity guard your body, save your soul, and bring you safely to his heavenly country; where he lives and reigns for ever and ever. **Amen.**

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

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.**

*The Ministers and People greet one another in the name of the Lord with a wave or a nod.
After exchanging the Peace, please sit.*

Announcements

The Reverend George Muir

THE HOLY COMMUNION

*Alms basins are not passed through the congregation at this service.
For your offerings, alms basins are located at each entrance to the church.*

The Offertory Music

Carolyn Munford

Eucharistic Prayer

All 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.

Celebrant 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 Oh 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.**

The Lord’s Prayer

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 kept.

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.

Celebrant Let us pray.

Leader God of abundance, you feed us with the bread of life and cup of salvation; you unite us with Christ and one another; and you make 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

The Communion Music

Carolyn Munford

*You are welcome to stand or sit until you come forward,
using the center aisle, mindful of a ten foot distance, to receive.
When you receive the consecrated bread, please depart the church by the side aisle.*

FROM THE STEWARDSHIP CHAIR

*Lord we give faithfully, and in our giving, we honor you,
the source of all our blessings, our daily bread, and all the gifts in our lives.*

Pledges are still coming in and as of this week, we have received a total of 121 representing \$542,434.00. If you have not completed a pledge card, please complete this year's annual stewardship appeal and return it to the church as soon as possible, or pledge online at saintpauls.org/pledge-card/. If you did not receive a pledge appeal in the mail, or have simply misplaced yours, please contact the parish office at (706) 724-2485 ext. 225 or email at mailbox@saintpauls.org.

PARISH ANNOUNCEMENTS

Compline: Wednesday evening 8 PM Facebook Live or Zoom. End your day in prayer with your church family. Following the prayers, those who gather through Zoom have an opportunity for a brief mid-week visit. Details available on the Church-ONLINE page of our website, saintpauls.org.

Saint Paul's Church communicates by a weekly e-mail newsletter. Join our email list on our website or by contacting parish administrator, Elisabeth Price, at (706) 724-2485 or mailbox@saintpauls.org.

During this period of time, please note that we will continue to assess the situation and appropriately respond. We will keep the parish well informed and you will be receiving more email communications than normal. We invite you to communicate your thoughts or concerns with us as well.

If there is a pastoral need please email or call the parish office as we will be checking for messages regularly.

Everything we do at Saint Paul's Church is made possible because of people like you. If this service has been meaningful for you, we encourage you to give as you are able to help Saint Paul's continue our mission of welcoming, serving, and sharing the Good News of God in Jesus Christ in greater Augusta and beyond. Gifts can be made 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.

SAINT PAUL'S FAITHFULNESS *as of 11/25/2020*

Offerings Pledged this Week	\$15,000.00	Operating Expenses to Date	\$865,536.37
Offerings Received this Week	\$15,659.88	Total Income Received to Date	\$798,846.93

Pledge Cards Received to Date for the Year 2021: 121 representing \$542,434.00



Saint Paul's Church is a parish of the Episcopal Diocese of Georgia.
The Church is open for prayer by appointment.
www.saintpauls.org Tel: 706-724-2485