

Morning Prayer in the Celtic Tradition

First Sundays at 8:00 a.m.

The Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost

October 5, 2025



St. Paul's

Episcopal Church

Brunswick, Maine

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**Welcome to Celtic Morning Prayer
at St. Paul's
First Sundays at 8:00 a.m.**

*This is a service of silence and prayer,
loosely based on the order for morning prayer in the
Northumbrian Community and including prayers
from the Iona Community. It is led by Lay and Clergy
Worship Leaders and is intended to include long si-
lences, which begin and end with the ringing of a bell.*

*(At the beginning of worship, you
are invited to place an offering in
the Alms Basin.)*

Leader: The Rev. Rebecca Wegner

ST. PAUL'S TERRITORY ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

(In accordance with Diocese resolution and approved by Vestry in winter/spring '23)

We acknowledge that we stand on territory that was taken from the Abenaki people of the Wabanaki Confederacy, the people of the Dawnland. May we always remember that the Earth does not belong to us, that we belong to the Earth, and that we are all companions in life. May we learn from our past sins and be instruments of justice and peace for all people in today's world. We ask for inspiration that we might be compelled to take action and support our native neighbors as they continue to seek their sovereignty here in Maine.

(With all seated in silence, leader lights a candle.)

Opening Prayer and Thanksgiving

Leader: Lord, be with us this day

All: Within us to purify us,

Leader: Above us to draw us up,

All: Beneath us to sustain us,

Leader: Beside us to accompany us,

All: Before us to lead us,

Leader: Behind us to restrain us,

All: Around us to protect us.

Prayer of Approach and Contrition

Leader: God of wild, windy and prodigal love,

All: We confess our bondage to fear,

Our smallness of heart,

Our lack of imagination,

Our guardedness in giving,

Our complicity in systems of racial and economic injustice,

Our misuse of the gifts of creation,

Our resistance to the Way of Jesus.

We ask your mercy and the power of your Holy Spirit,

To burn through our defenses,

To break open our hearts,

To ignite our imaginations and

To raise us from the dead

That we might be signs of your healing and liberating love in the world.

First Reading

Waiting for God, Simone Weil

A day comes when the soul belongs to God, when it no longer only consents to love, but when truly and effectively it loves. Then in its turn it must cross the universe to go to God. The soul does not love like a creature with created love. The love within it is divine, uncreated; for it is the love of God for God that is passing through it. God alone is capable of loving God.

We can only consent to give up our own feelings so as to allow free passage in our soul for this love. That is the meaning of denying oneself. We are created for this consent and for this alone.

(5 minutes of silence begins and ends with the bell)

Scripture Readings

Psalm 37: 1-9 (Responsively by half verse)

- 1 Do not fret yourself because of evildoers; *
do not be jealous of those who do wrong.
- 2 For they shall soon wither like the grass, *
and like the green grass fade away.
- 3 Put your trust in the LORD and do good; *
dwell in the land and feed on its riches.
- 4 Take delight in the LORD, *
and he shall give you your heart's desire.
- 5 Commit your way to the LORD and put your trust in him, *
and he will bring it to pass.
- 6 He will make your righteousness as clear as the light *
and your just dealing as the noonday.
- 7 Be still before the LORD *
and wait patiently for him.
- 8 Do not fret yourself over the one who prospers, *
the one who succeeds in evil schemes.
- 9 Refrain from anger, leave rage alone; *
do not fret yourself; it leads only to evil.

Lamentations 3: 19 - 26

¹⁹ The thought of my affliction and my homelessness
is wormwood and gall!

²⁰ My soul continually thinks of it
and is bowed down within me.

²¹ But this I call to mind,
and therefore I have hope:

²² The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases,
his mercies never come to an end;

²³ they are new every morning;
great is your faithfulness.

²⁴ “The Lord is my portion,” says my soul,
“therefore I will hope in him.”

²⁵ The Lord is good to those who wait for him,
to the soul that seeks him.

²⁶ It is good that one should wait quietly
for the salvation of the Lord.

(5 minutes of silence begins and ends with the bell)

Invitation to Faith and Prayer

The Spirit helps us in our weakness. Our faith seeks without voice. We do not know how to pray, but the Spirit intercedes for us with sighs too deep for words.

Declaration of Faith

All: We believe in God whose love is the source of all life
and the desire of our lives,
whose love was given a human face in Jesus of Nazareth,
whose love was crucified by the evil that waits to enslave us all
and whose love, defeating even death,
is our glorious promise of freedom.

Therefore, though we are sometimes fearful and full of doubt, in God we trust; and in the name of Jesus Christ, we commit ourselves, in the service of others, to seek justice and to live in peace, to care for the earth, and to share the commonwealth of God's goodness, to live in the freedom of forgiveness and the power of the spirit of love, and in the company of the faithful so to be the church, for the glory of God. Amen.

(5 minutes of silence begins and ends with the bell)

Prayers

Leader: Peace between nations

All: Peace between neighbors

Leader: Peace between lovers and partners

All: In love of the God of life.

Leader: Peace between parent and child,

All: Peace between sister and brother

Leader: The peace of Christ above all peace,

All: Bless O Christ my face

Let my face bless everything.

Bless O Christ my eyes

Let my eyes bless all they see.

The Lord's Prayer

Leader: And now, as Jesus taught us, we say,

All: Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,
Your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as in
heaven.

Give us today our daily bread.

And forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against
us.

Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.

For the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours, now
and for ever. AMEN.

(5 minutes of silence begins and ends with the bell)

Blessings

Leader: Our Christ, our shield

All: Our encircler

Leader: Each day, each night

All: Each light, each dark

Leader: Be near us, uphold us,

All: Our treasure, our triumph.

Leader:

May the God of Hope fill us with every joy in believing.

May the peace of Christ abound in our hearts.

May we be enriched by the gifts of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

All: Amen

You are encouraged to remain in silence.

This service is adapted from the Community of
Iona, the Northumbrian Community, St. Albans Cape
Elizabeth, St. Brendan's Deer Isle, and other Celtic
prayer resources.

