

Morning Prayer in the Celtic Tradition
First Sundays at 8:00 a.m.
The Second Sunday after Pentecost
June 7, 2026



St. Paul's Episcopal Church

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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 silences,
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.)*

Co-Leaders: Rev. Abby Pettee and Rev. Kevin Pleas

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.

Opening Prayer and Thanksgiving

Leader: The world belongs to God,

All: The earth and all its people.

Leader: How good it is, how wonderful,

All: To live together in unity.

Leader: Love and faith come together,

All: Justice and peace join hands.

Leader: If Christ's disciples keep silent

All: these stones would shout aloud.

Leader: Open our lips, O God,

All: And our mouths shall proclaim your praise.

Prayer of Approach and Reconciliation

Abby: We begin our day alone, and in the company of one another,

Kevin: Honoring this life, with all its potentials and possibilities.

Abby: We begin our day with trust,

Kevin: Knowing we are created for loving encounter.

Abby: We begin our day with hope,

Kevin: Knowing the day can hold love, kindness, forgiveness, and justice.

All: O God of new beginnings,

Who brings light out of night's darkness

And fresh green out of the hard winter earth,

There is barren land between us as people and as nations this day,

There are empty stretches of soul within us.

Give us eyes to see new dawns of promise.

Give us ears to hear fresh soundings of birth.

First Reading:

LET THE HEALERS COME FORWARD In my language healers are called the alikchi.

It is in their honor that I write these words:

Let the alikchi come forward. Let the healers come forward.

We need them now and in so many ways. Let them come forward to lead
Our steps to health and harmony.

Healers of every kind.

Healers of the body, healers of the mind.

Healers of the heart, healers of the soul. Physical healers and spiritual
healers. Healers of conflict and division.

Healers of anger and fear.

Let them all come forward, for I know they are here.

The alikchi are here. I know they are all around us.

They know their gifts. They know what they can do.

Let them come forward, Spirit,

And bless each one as they do. Empower them to empower us,

That your people may be whole.

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

Scripture Readings

Psalm 33:1-12 BCP pg 626, responsively by half verse.

Matthew 9:9-13, 18-26 (Using the Common English Bible)

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

Invitation to Faith and Prayer

Like a tent in the wilderness the Lord our God stands open and ready, with an offering of sanctuary and safety, of hospitality and healing.

So come, all you who are weary and hungry;

Come with your fellow travelers and find companionship and comfort;

For here, Jesus—who knows what it is to wander, watch and wrestle in desert places—waits to meet us and welcome us in,

Offering us rest and restoration, solace and strength,

For the journey still to come.

Declaration of Faith

Leader: With the whole church

All: We affirm we are made in God's image,
Befriended by Christ, empowered by the Spirit.

Leader: With people everywhere

All: We affirm God's goodness at the heart of humanity,
Planted more deeply than all that is wrong.

Leader: With all creation

All: We celebrate the miracle and wonder of life;
The unfolding purposes of God,
Forever at work in ourselves and the world. Amen.

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

Prayers

Leader: Patient and compassionate God, we so want to trust in your love.

All: Hear our longing.

Leader: We hope for healing in our lives and the lives of others:

Intercessions and thanksgivings are offered, silently or aloud.

Leader: Hear our prayers

All: Heed our holy desires.

Leader: We confess our impatience and anxiety.

All: We seek your grace.

Leader: Give us the wisdom to rely on you.

All: May we always trust in your goodness.

Leader: From where we are to where you need us,

All: Jesus, show us the way.

Leader: From the security of what we know to the adventure of what you will reveal,

All: Jesus, lead, guide and inspire us.

The Casa Del Sol Prayer of Jesus

Leader: Let us join together in prayer...

All: Ground of all being,

Mother of life, Father of the Universe,

Your name is sacred, beyond speaking.

May we know your presence,

May your longings be our longings in heart and action,

May there be food for the human family today

And for the whole earth community.

Forgive us the falseness of what we have done

As we forgive those who are untrue to us.

Do not forsake us in our time of conflict

But lead us into new beginnings.

For the light of life, the vitality of life, and the glory of life

Are yours now and for ever.

Amen.

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

Blessing

Young, the day—awake my heart.
Wide open and awake
To all the possibilities waiting in the hours of this day.
O Spirit of the Circling Hours,
Bless me that I might be a blessing
Work through me, that I may be
Your love poured out upon the earth,
Creator of all that is, be blessed.
Sanctifier of all that is, be blessed.
As you encircle our lives this day, be blessed.
Amen.

Leader: Glory to the Source, Wisdom, and Breath of Creation. As it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen. Alleluia.

All: Amen. Alleluia.

This service is adapted from the Community of Iona, the Northumbrian Community, the CorryMeela Community, Seven Sacred Pauses, and John Phillip Newell, as shared on GhostRanch.org and in Celtic Treasure.

The first reading is from the book “Spirit Wheel: Meditations from an Indigenous Elder,” by Steven Charleston (p. 74, Kindle Edition.)

Ministries

8:00 a.m.

10:30 a.m.

Celebrant	Celtic Morning Prayer Co-Leaders: Rev. Abby Pettee and Rev. Kevin Pleas	The Rev. Matthew Scott
Preacher		The Rev. Katie Holicky
Eucharistic Ministers		Cliff Ruprecht and Meghan Williams
Lectors		Carol Lord 1st Lesson Intergenerational Reader Ps. Intergenerational Reader Pr.
Music		Susan Brown and Jon Bolton
Greeter		Ariel Elwell
Ushers		Jerome Brown and Guy Rossignol
Acolyte		Cliff Rurecht
Torchbearer	Iris Titcomb	
Alter Guild	Bonnie Labonte and Karen Rienert	
Fellowship Host	Nancy Whitehouse	

The Diocese of Maine, The Rt. Rev. Thomas James Brown, Bishop

St. Paul's Staff and Vestry
The Rev. Dr. Matthew R. Scott, Rector
The Rev. Katie Holicky, Associate Rector

Shanon Cotta, *Postulant and Diocesan Intern*

Melissa Carbajal
Lead Administrator

Patsy Oehl
Senior Warden

Andrea Lauerman
Sacred Ground Coordinator

Sunshine Spaulding
Administrative Assistant

Nancy King
Junior Warden

Amy Webb-Prosser
Organist/Accompanist

Vestry

Term ending 2027 — Michael Anne Banks, Jonathan Bolton
Term ending 2028 — Roger Barras, Michael Turner, John Bilodeau
Term ending 2029 — Dieuwke Zolas, Leslie Walter, and Elizabeth Davis