

Morning Prayer in the Celtic Tradition

First Sundays at 8:00 a.m.

The Tenth Sunday after Pentecost

August 2, 2026



St. Paul's Episcopal Church

physical address: 27 Pleasant St.

mailing address: P.O. Box 195

Brunswick, Maine 04011

207-785-5342

**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.)*

Leader: Bill Edman

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: Creator of the cosmos, of eternity and time:

All: Be with us in this time

Leader: Savior of the world, healer of the nations:

All: Be with us in this place

Leader: Breath of all that lives, of people near and far

All: Stir within our lives

Leader: Maker-Spirit-Christ, God of here and now,

All: Be present in our worship,

that we may find new ways

to be present in your world.

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 us,

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:

Sabbaths 1979 I by Wendell Berry

I go among trees and sit still. All my stirring becomes quiet
around me like circles on water. My tasks lie in their places
where I left them, asleep like cattle.

Then what is afraid of me comes and lives a while in my sight.
What it fears in me leaves me, and the fear of me leaves it.
It sings, and I hear its song.

Then what I am afraid of comes. I live for a while in its sight.
What I fear in it leaves it, and the fear of it leaves me. It sings,
and I hear its song.

After days of labor, mute in my consternations, I hear my song
at last, and I sing it. As we sing, the day turns, the trees move.

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

Scripture Readings

Psalm 145: 8-9, 15-22

8 The Lord is gracious and full of compassion, *
slow to anger and of great kindness.

9 The Lord is loving to everyone *
and his compassion is over all his works.

15 The Lord upholds all those who fall; *
he lifts up those who are bowed down.

16 The eyes of all wait upon you, O Lord, *
and you give them their food in due season.

17 You open wide your hand *
and satisfy the needs of every living creature.

18 The Lord is righteous in all his ways *
and loving in all his works.

19 The Lord is near to those who call upon him, *
to all who call upon him faithfully.

20 He fulfills the desire of those who fear him; *
he hears their cry and helps them.

21 The Lord preserves all those who love him, *
but he destroys all the wicked.

22 My mouth shall speak the praise of the Lord; *
let all flesh bless his holy Name for ever and ever.

Matthew 14:13-21

Jesus withdrew in a boat to a deserted place by himself. But when the crowds heard it, they followed him on foot from the towns. When he went ashore, he saw a great crowd; and he had compassion for them and cured their sick. When it was evening, the disciples came to him and said, "This is a deserted place, and the hour is now late; send the crowds away so that they may go into the villages and buy food for themselves." Jesus said to them, "They need not go away; you give them something to eat." They replied, "We have nothing here but five loaves and two fish." And he said, "Bring them here to me." Then he ordered the crowds to sit down on the grass. Taking the five loaves and the two fish, he looked up to heaven, and blessed and broke the loaves, and gave them to the disciples, and the disciples gave them to the crowds. And all ate and were filled; and they took up what was left over of the broken pieces, twelve baskets full. And those who ate were about five thousand men, besides women and children.

(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.

Blessings

All: This day and this night,
May I know, O God
The deep peace of the running wave,
The deep peace of the flowing air
The deep peace of the quiet earth
The deep peace of the shining stars
The deep peace of the Son of Peace.

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.

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 forever.

AMEN

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

Blessings

Leader: Peace to the nations, east and west

All: Peace to our neighbors

Leader: Peace to all women, peace to all men, peace to all genders,

All: The peace of Christ above all peace. Amen.

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

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

Ministries

8:00 a.m.

9:30 a.m.

Celebrant	Celtic Morning Prayer Leader: Bill Edman	The Rev. Katie Holicky
Preacher		The Rev. Katie Holicky
Eucharistic Ministers		Carol Martin and Tom Nugent
Lectors		Intergenerational Reader 1st Lesson George Walter Ps. Leslie Walter Pr.
Music		Susan Brown
Greeter		Ellen Hall
Ushers		Jerome Brown and Michael McCabe
Acolyte		Cliff Ruprecht
Torchbearer		
Alter Guild	Lee Caesar and Karen Rienert	
Fellowship Host		

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

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