

Morning Prayer in the Celtic Tradition
First Sundays at 8:00 a.m.
The Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost
September 6, 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.)*

Leader: Peter Garlid

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: Eternal God, Maker of the skies above,
Lowly Christ, Lover of the earth and its people,
Unfettered Spirit, Giver of gracious gifts,

All: You are present among us.
O hidden mystery, sun behind all suns,
Soul within all souls, in all we touch, in all we meet,
You are present among us.
As bearers of your image, we come to reshaped.
Dependent on your mercy, we ask to be made new. Amen.

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:

From A Celtic Book of Days; Brittany 1812

Between the sea and the land lies a pelagic country, the boundaries between the two elements uncertain; the skylark flies with the lark of the sea, the shore lark; the plough and the boat are a stone's throw from each other, both land and water are furrowed. The seafarer and the herdsman borrow each other's language: the sailor speaks of fleecy clouds - the shepherd speaks of flottilas of sheep. The sands of many shades, banks of many kinds of shellfish, the seaweed, the fringes of silver foam etching the green or flaxen borders of the wheatfields...

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

Scripture Readings

Psalm 148 (Responsively by whole verse)

1 Hallelujah!

Praise the Lord from the heavens;*
praise him in the heights.

2 Praise him, all you angels of his;*
praise him, all his host.

3 Praise him, sun, and moon;*
praise him, all you shining stars.

4 Praise him, heaven of heavens,*
and you waters above the heavens.

5 Let them praise the Name of the LORD;*
for he commanded, and they were created.

6 He made them stand fast for ever and ever;*
he gave them a law which shall not pass away.

7 Praise the LORD from the earth,*
you sea-monsters and all deeps;
8 Fire and hail, snow, and fog,*
tempestuous wind, doing his will;
9 Mountains and all hills,*
fruit trees and all cedars;
10 Wild beasts and all cattle,*
creeping things and winged birds;
11 Kings of the earth and all people,*
princes and all rulers of the world;
12 Young men and maidens,*
old and young together.
13 Let them praise the Name of the LORD,*
for his Name only is exalted,
his splendor is over earth and heaven.
14 He has raised up strength for his people
and praise for all his loyal servants,*
the children of Israel, a people who are near him.
Hallelujah!

Deuteronomy 26:1-4

1 “When you come into the land that the Lord your God is giving you for an inheritance and have taken possession of it and live in it,

2 you shall take some of the first of all the fruit of the ground, which you harvest from your land that the Lord your God is giving you, and you shall put it in a basket, and you shall go to the place that the Lord your God will choose, to make his name to dwell there.

3 And you shall go to the priest who is in office at that time and say to him, 'I declare today to the Lord your God that I have come into the land that the Lord swore to our fathers to give us.'

4 Then the priest shall take the basket from your hand and set it down before the altar of the Lord your God.

(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 forever.

AMEN

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

Blessings

All: May the peace of Christ go with us,
Wherever Christ may send us.
May Christ guide us through the wilderness,
Protect us through the storm.
May Christ bring us home rejoicing
At the wonders Christ has shown us.

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

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

Christina Spurling
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