

Morning Prayer in the Celtic Tradition  
First Sundays, Life Together at 8:00 a.m.  
Fifth Sunday of Easter  
May 7, 2023



St. Paul's  
Episcopal Church  
Brunswick, Maine

27 Pleasant St.  
P.O. Box 195  
Brunswick, Maine 04011

Phone: 207-725-5342  
Fax 207-729-1910  
E-mail: [stpauls@stpaulsmaine.org](mailto:stpauls@stpaulsmaine.org)

**Welcome to St. Paul's, First Sundays,  
Life Together at 8:00 a.m.**

*This is a service of silence and prayer, loosely based on the order for morning prayer in Iona Abbey. 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*

*(seated in silence)*

## **Opening Responses**

Leader: In the beginning, before time, before people, before  
the world began,

ALL: GOD WAS.

Leader: Here and now, among us, beside us, clearer than air,  
closer than breathing,

ALL: GOD IS.

Leader: In all that is to come, when we have turned to dust  
and human knowledge has been completed,

ALL: GOD WILL BE.

Leader: Not despairing of earth, but delighting in it, not  
condemning the world, but redeeming it through  
Jesus Christ, by the power of the Holy Spirit,

ALL: GOD WAS, GOD IS, GOD WILL BE.

## **Hymn #400** *(said in unison)*

*(verses 2, 3, 4)*

2 Great rushing winds and breezes soft,  
you clouds that ride the heavens aloft,  
O praise him, Alleluia!  
Fair rising morn, with praise rejoice,  
stars nightly shining, find a voice,

*Refrain: O praise him, O praise him, Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!*

3 Swift flowing water, pure and clear,  
make music for your Lord to hear,  
Alleluia, alleluia!  
Fire, so intense and fiercely bright,  
you give to us both warmth and light,

*Refrain: O praise him, O praise him, Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!*

4 Dear mother earth, you day by day  
unfold your blessings on our way,  
O praise him, Alleluia!  
All flowers and fruits that in you grow,  
let them his glory also show:

*Refrain: O praise him, O praise him, Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!*

## **Prayer of Confession**

Leader: Holy God, Maker of all,

ALL: HAVE MERCY ON US.

Leader: Jesus Christ, Son of Mary,

ALL: HAVE MERCY ON US.

Leader: Holy Spirit, breath of life.

ALL: HAVE MERCY ON US.

Leader: Let us in silence remember our own faults and failings.

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

Leader: In the community of Christ's Church and in the presence of all God's people, I confess to God that I have sinned in thought, word and deed. I have not loved God, cared for God's world, or respected God's people as I should. I own my responsibility and pray for God's pardon.

ALL: MAY GOD FORGIVE US, CHRIST BEFRIEND US,  
AND THE SPIRIT RENEW AND CHANGE OUR  
LIVES.

Leader: Amen.

ALL: IN THE COMMUNITY OF CHRIST'S CHURCH  
AND IN THE PRESENCE OF ALL GOD'S PEOPLE,  
WE CONFESS TO GOD THAT WE HAVE SINNED  
IN THOUGHT, WORD AND DEED. WE HAVE NOT  
LOVED GOD, CARED FOR GOD'S WORLD, OR RE-  
SPECTED GOD'S PEOPLE AS WE SHOULD. WE  
OWN OUR RESPONSIBILITY AND PRAY FOR  
GOD'S PARDON.

Leader: May God forgive us, Christ befriend us, and the Spirit renew and change our lives.

ALL: AMEN.

Leader: Turn again, O Lord, and give us life.

ALL: THAT YOUR PEOPLE MAY REJOICE IN YOU.

Leader: Create in me a clean heart, O God.

ALL: AND RENEW A RIGHT SPIRIT WITHIN ME.

Leader: Give us again the joy of your help

ALL: WITH YOUR SPIRIT OF FREEDOM SUSTAIN US.

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.

### **Word of God**

Leader: Let us listen for the Word of the Lord.

ALL: OUR EARS ARE OPEN.

*(a volunteer reads the lesson slowly)*

Reader: A reading from the Gospel of John.      John 14: 1-14

Jesus said,

‘Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father’s house there are many dwelling-places. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also. And you know the way to the place where I am going.’ Thomas said to him, ‘Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?’ Jesus said to him, ‘I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. If you know me, you will know my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him.’

Philip said to him, ‘Lord, show us the Father, and we will be satisfied.’ Jesus said to him, ‘Have I been with you all this time, Philip, and you still do not know me? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, “Show us the Father”? Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own; but the Father who dwells in me does his works. Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; but if you do not, then believe me because of the works themselves. Very truly, I tell you, the one who believes in me will also do the works that I do and, in fact, will do greater works than these, because I am going to the Father. I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If in my name you ask me for anything, I will do it.

Leader: Thanks be to God.

ALL: AMEN.

**Canticle N** (*in unison*) **A Song of God’s Love** 1 John 4:7-11

Beloved, let us love one another, \*  
for love is of God.

Whoever does not love does not know God, \*  
for God is Love.

In this the love of God was revealed among us, \*  
that God sent his only Son into the world,  
so that we might live through Jesus Christ.

In this is love, not that we loved God but that God loved us \*  
and sent his Son that sins might be forgiven.  
Beloved, since God loved us so much, \*  
we ought also to love one another.  
For if we love one another, God abides in us, \*  
and God's love will be perfected in us.

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

**Prayer**

Leader: Let us pray.

Almighty God, whom truly to know is everlasting life: Grant us so perfectly to know your Son Jesus Christ to be the way, the truth, and the life, that we may steadfastly follow his steps in the way that leads to eternal life; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

Leader: Where the hungry go unfed while the privileged gorge themselves; where the poor go begging while the rich amass greater fortunes; where the tyrants have bitten the dust but their successors prove no better, God of justice,

ALL: SHOW YOURSELF.

Leader: To those who speak for the voiceless and defend the persecuted, to those who protest for a fairer world and practice simpler lives, to those who share their faith in Jesus in places where faith is suspected, God of justice,

ALL: SHOW YOURSELF.

Leader: And to us, that we might serve and love you with body, soul and mind; God of justice,

ALL: SHOW YOURSELF.

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

## **Closing responses**

Leader: Hear these prayers made in the presence and in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord.

ALL: AMEN.

Leader: This is the day that the Lord has made.

ALL: WE WILL REJOICE AND BE GLAD IN IT.

Leader: We will not offer to God.

ALL: OFFERINGS THAT COST US NOTHING.

Leader: Go in peace and serve the Lord.

ALL: WE WILL SEEK PEACE AND PURSUE IT.

Leader: Glory be to God who made us and to Christ who saved us and to the Holy Spirit who keeps us in faith.

ALL: AS IT WAS IN THE BEGINNING IS NOW,  
AND SHALL BE FOR EVER. AMEN.

*You are encouraged to remain in silence.*