

Morning Prayer in the Celtic Tradition  
First Sundays, Life Together at 8:00 a.m.  
Fifth Sunday after Pentecost  
July 2 , 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: Cliff Ruprecht*

*(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 #416 For the beauty of the earth** *(said in unison)*

1 For the beauty of the earth,  
for the beauty of the skies,  
for the love which from our birth  
over and around us lies,

*Refrain: Christ our God, to thee we raise  
this our hymn of grateful praise.*

2 For the beauty of each hour  
of the day and of the night,  
hill and vale, and tree and flower,  
sun and moon, and stars of light,

*Refrain*

3 For the joy of ear and eye,  
for the heart and mind's delight,  
for the mystic harmony  
linking sense to sound and sight,

*Refrain*

4 For the joy of human love,  
brother, sister, parent, child,  
friends on earth, and friends above,  
for all gentle thoughts and mild,

*Refrain*

**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 RESPECTED 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 Matthew 10: 40-42

‘Whoever welcomes you welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me welcomes the one who sent me. Whoever welcomes a prophet in the name of a prophet will receive a prophet’s reward; and whoever welcomes a righteous person in the name of a righteous person will receive the reward of the righteous; and whoever gives even a cup of cold water to one of these little ones in the name of a disciple—truly I tell you, none of these will lose their reward.’

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, you have built your Church upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief cornerstone: Grant us so to be joined together in unity of spirit by their teaching, that we may be made a holy temple acceptable to you; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

Leader: Lord God Almighty, you have made all the peoples of the earth for your glory, to serve you in freedom and in peace: Give to the people of our country a zeal for justice and the strength of forbearance, that we may use our liberty in accordance with your gracious will; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

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.*