

Morning Prayer in the Celtic Tradition
First Sundays, Life Together at 8:00 a.m.
September 3 , 2023



St. Paul's
Episcopal Church
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**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 #449 O love, how deep, how broad, how high

(said in unison)

- 1 O love, how deep, how broad, how high,
how passing thought and fantasy,
that God, the Son of God, should take
our mortal form for mortals' sake.
- 2 For us baptized, for us he bore
his holy fast and hungered sore;
for us temptations sharp he knew;
for us the tempter overthrew.
- 3 For us he prayed; for us he taught;
for us his daily works he wrought:
by words and signs and actions, thus
still seeking not himself, but us.
- 4 For us to wicked men betrayed,
scourged, mocked, in purple robe arrayed,
he bore the shameful cross and death;
for us gave up his dying breath.

5 For us he rose from death again;
for us he went on high to reign;
for us he sent his Spirit here
to guide, to strengthen, and to cheer.

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 Letter to the Romans 12: 9-21.

Let love be genuine; hate what is evil, hold fast to what is good; love one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in showing honour. Do not lag in zeal, be ardent in spirit, serve the Lord. Rejoice in hope, be patient in suffering, persevere in prayer. Contribute to the needs of the saints; extend hospitality to strangers.

Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them. Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep. Live in harmony with one another; do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly; do not claim to be wiser than you are. Do not repay anyone evil for evil, but take thought for what is noble in the sight of all. If it is possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all. Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave room for the wrath of God; for it is written, 'Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord.' No, 'if your enemies are hungry, feed them; if they are thirsty, give them something to drink; for by doing this you will heap burning coals on their heads.' Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

Leader: Thanks be to God.

ALL: AMEN.

Hymn #581 Where charity and love prevail *(in unison)*

- 1 Where charity and love prevail
there God is ever found;
brought here together by Christ's love
by love are we thus bound.
- 2 With grateful joy and holy fear
his charity we learn;
let us with heart and mind and strength
now love him in return.

- 3 Forgive we now each other's faults
as we our faults confess;
and let us love each other well
in Christian holiness.
- 4 Let strife among us be unknown,
let all contention cease;
be his the glory that we seek,
be ours his holy peace.
- 5 Let us recall that in our midst
dwells God's begotten Son;
as members of his Body joined
we are in him made one.
- 6 Love can exclude no race or creed
if honored be God's Name;
our common life embraces all
whose Father is the same.

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

Prayer

Leader: Let us pray.

Lord of all power and might, the author and giver of all good things: Graft in our hearts the love of your Name; increase in us true religion; nourish us with all goodness; and bring forth in us the fruit of good works; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God for ever and ever. *Amen.*

Leader: Almighty God, by our baptism into the death and resurrection of your Son Jesus Christ, you turn us from the old life of sin: Grant that we, being reborn to new life in him, may live in righteousness and holiness all our days; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for 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.

(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.