

Morning Prayer in the Celtic Tradition

First Sundays at 8:00 a.m.

The Second Sunday of Lent

March 1, 2026



St. Paul's

Episcopal Church

Brunswick, Maine

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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 si-
lences, 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.

(With all seated in silence, leader lights a candle.)

Opening Prayer and Thanksgiving

Leader: I awake this morning

All: In the presence of the holy angels of God

May heaven open wide before me, above me, and around me
That I may see the Christ of my love.

Teach me the silence of humility,

The silence of wisdom,

The silence that enables truth and justice,

The silence that speaks without words.

Prayer of Approach and Contrition

Leader: Trusting in God's forgiveness, let us acknowledge
our part in the pain of the world.

All: Before God, with the people of God, I confess my turning
away from God in the ways I wound my life, the lives of others,
and the life of the world.

Leader: May God forgive us, Christ renew us, and the Spirit
enable us to grow in love.

All: Before God, with the people of God in community, we
confess our turning away from God in the ways we wound
our lives, the lives of others, and the life of the world.

May God forgive us, Christ renew us, and the Spirit enable us
to grow in love.

First Reading

You were Made for This, by Clarrisa Pinkola Estes

One of the most powerful things you can do to intervene in a stormy world is to stand up and show your soul. Soul on deck shines in dark times. The light of the soul throws sparks, can send up flares, builds signal fires, causes proper matters to catch fire. To display the lantern of the soul in shadowy times like these – to be fierce and to show mercy toward others; both are acts of immense bravery and greatest necessity. Struggling souls catch light from other souls who are fully lit and willing to show it. If you would help to calm the tumult, this is one of the strongest things you can do...

There will always be times when you feel discouraged. I too have felt despair many times in my life, but I do not keep a chair for it. I will not entertain it. It is not allowed to eat from my plate...In that spirit, I hope you will write this on your wall: *When a ship is in harbor and moored, it is safe, there can be no doubt. But that is not what great ships are built for...*

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

Scripture Readings

Psalm 121 (Responsively by half verse)

- 1 I lift up my eyes to the hills; *
from where is my help to come?
- 2 My help comes from the LORD, *
the maker of heaven and earth.
- 3 He will not let your foot be moved *
and he who watches over you will not fall asleep.
- 4 Behold, he who keeps watch over Israel *
shall neither slumber nor sleep;
- 5 The LORD himself watches over you; *
the LORD is your shade at your right hand,
- 6 So that the sun shall not strike you by day, *
nor the moon by night.
- 7 The LORD shall preserve you from all evil; *
it is he who shall keep you safe.
- 8 The LORD shall watch over your going out and your
coming in, *
from this time forth for evermore.

Luke 6:37-42

NRSV

Do not judge, and you will not be judged; do not condemn, and you will not be condemned. Forgive, and you will be forgiven; give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap, for the measure you give will be the measure you get back.”

He also told them a parable: “Can a blind person guide a blind person? Will not both fall into a pit? A disciple is not above the

teacher, but every disciple who is fully qualified will be like the teacher. Why do you see the speck in your neighbor's eye but do not notice the log in your own eye? Or how can you say to your neighbor, 'Friend, let me take out the speck in your eye,' when you yourself do not see the log in your own eye? You hypocrite, first take the log out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to take the speck out of your neighbor's eye.

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

Invitation to Faith and Prayer

The Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know how to pray, but the Spirit intercedes for us with sighs too deep for words.

Declaration of Faith

We believe in God, who made the sea and the earth, the sun and the sky,
Who calls us to live responsibly.

We believe in Jesus Christ
Who became human, who healed the sick,
Who talked to children, who made friends with sinners.
He burned brightly and offended many.
His journey was one of life and death and resurrection.
His light continues to shine in the darkness.

We believe in the Holy Spirit
Who inspired the scriptures and whose breath we breathe.

We believe that God calls us to be a community,
Committed to one another, offering a welcome to everyone,
Old and young, rich and poor, strong and weak.
We believe that God calls us to be peacemakers,
Workers for justice, brothers and sisters,
A light for our world.

(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 heart.

Let my heart bless all it holds.

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 for ever. AMEN.

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

Blessings

All: On my heart and on my house

The Blessing of God.

In my coming and in my going

The peace of God.

In my life and in my seeking and in my silence

The love of God.

At my end and new beginning

The arms of God to welcome me and bring me home.

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

You are encouraged to remain in silence.

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

