



# CELTIC EVENSONG AND COMMUNION

at St. Stephen's Episcopal Church

The Baptism of our Lord

January 12, 2025 at 5:30 p.m.

Welcome to St. Stephen's Episcopal Church. We welcome and include all people without exception and invite you to participate fully in worship and after the service to enjoy the community supper in the fellowship hall. Throughout this bulletin, helpful guidance is printed in italics. Nursery care is available (infant-4); speak with a door greeter. Visitor guides are available at entrances. When you want to be known here, place a Welcome card (in all pews, or submit online) in the basket by the baptismal font. The church is open for prayer from 7 a.m. to 6 p.m., Monday through Thursday. From 5:10, the church is ready for prayer and rest. Please observe silence inside the church and remember to silence all devices.

**Prelude** Come down, O Love divine arr. Charles Callahan  
*Please stand at the sound of the bell.*

**Opening** Meister Eckhart, 14th century, Dominican  
"What good is it to me if Mary gave birth to the Son of God hundreds of years ago, if I do not give birth to the Son of God in my time and my culture? We are all meant to be Mothers of God, for God is always needing to be born."

*Silence is held after the reading.*

**Hymn** Brightest and best *Sung by all, standing.* *Morning Star*

1. Bright - est and best of the stars\_ of the morn - ing,  
 2. Shall we then yield him, in cost - ly de - vo - tion,  
 3. Vain - ly we of - fer each am - ple o - bla - tion,  
 dawn on our dark - ness, and lend\_ us thine aid;  
 o - dors of E - dom, and of - ferings di - vine,  
 vain - ly with gifts would his fa - vor se - cure,  
 star of the east, the hor - i - zon a - dorn - ing,  
 gems of the moun - tain, and pearls\_ of the o - cean,  
 rich - er by far is the heart's a - dor - a - tion,  
 guide where our in - fant Re - deem - er is laid.  
 myrrh from the for - est, and gold\_ from the mine?  
 dear - er to God are the prayers of the poor.

**A Prayer for the Evening**  
O Christ, our love and encircler  
Each day and each night,  
Each light and each dark,  
Be near us, uphold us,  
Our treasure and our truth. **Amen.**

**The Reading** Luke 3:15-17, 21-22 *Please sit.*

**Reader** A Reading from the Gospel according to Luke.

As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, John answered all of them by saying, "I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire."

Now when all the people were baptized, and when Jesus also had been baptized and was praying, the heaven was opened, and the Holy Spirit descended upon him in bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from heaven, "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased."

*Silence is held for one minute of reflection.*

**Reflection** Cooper Ackerly

*Silence is held for two minutes of reflection.*

**Music for Meditation** Afton Water

trad. Scottish, arr. Doreen Smith

**Prayers for Ourselves and Others** *Please stand.*

**Deacon** Let us pray for the church and the world.

*In the silence following each petition the people may add their prayers either silently or aloud.*

**Leader** That we may live in unity, peace, and concord,

**People** **Lord, have mercy.**

**Leader** Upon all who suffer from dissensions and quarrels,

**People** **Christ, have mercy.**

**Leader** That all who lead the nations may seek peace,

**People** **Lord, have mercy.**

**Leader** Come, Lord, into our hearts,

**People** **and fill them with love.**

**Leader** Come, Lord, into our minds,

**People** **and fill them with peace.**

**Leader** Come, Lord, into our lives,

**People** **and fill them with light.**

**Leader** Come, Holy Spirit, to all who are suffering in body, mind, or spirit,

**People** **and fill us with your hope and healing.**

**Leader** We pray for all who grieve, and for those who have died, [especially \_\_\_\_\_].

**All** **God be in my head, and in my understanding.**

**God be in my eyes, and in my looking.**

**God be in my mouth, and in my speaking.**

**God be in my heart, and in my thinking.**

**God be at my end, and at my departing. Amen.**

**Candle Lighting, Additional Prayers**

*Lighting candles is as potent a symbol of offering one's prayer to God as candlelight is of God's abiding presence. All may light one votive at any station, now and hereafter. This Church is open daily for prayer and rest, and a permanent votive station is located near the piano in the Chapel of the Holy Spirit.*

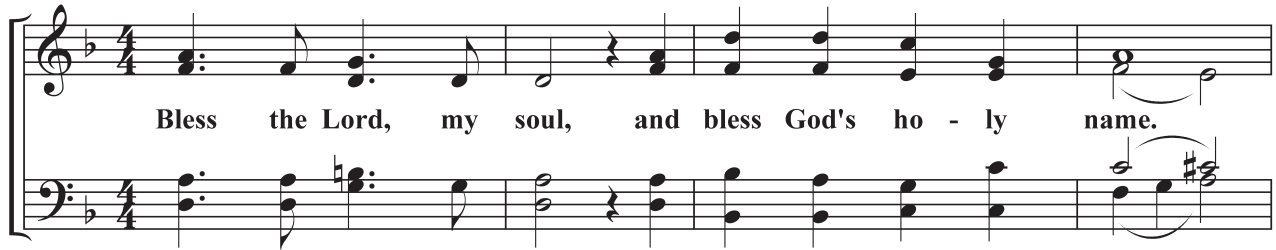
Music for Meditation *Ljósið* (The Light)

Ólafur Arnalds

Hymn Bless the Lord, my soul *Sung by all, standing.*

Jacques Berthier

*The refrain will be repeated several times as the cantor sings the verses.*



Bless the Lord, my soul, and bless God's ho - ly name.



Bless the Lord, my soul, who leads me in - to life.

**The Grace** Love your enemies, do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return. Your reward will be great, and you will be children of the Most High; for God is kind to the ungrateful and the wicked. Be merciful, just as God is merciful. 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.  
**Amen.** *Luke 6:35-38a*

**The Peace** May Christ, the Good Shepherd, bind us with a bond of love that cannot be broken. The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you. **And also with you.**  
*All greet one another in the name of the Lord, saying "peace."*

**The Holy Communion**

**Welcome and Announcements**

*All comes from God, so from all God has given into our care, we offer gifts from our gratitude. Please place offerings into the basket near the baptismal font or food pantry items into the baskets by the main entrance, or make a gift online by scanning the QR code or texting STSTEPHENSVA to 73256.*



**At the Offertory** Nocturne

Rolf Lovland

**The Great Thanksgiving**

*Please stand.*

*Iona Worship Book, adapted*

*Celebrant* The Lord is here.

*People* **God's spirit is with us.**

*Celebrant* Lift up your hearts.

*People* **We lift them to the Lord.**

*Celebrant* Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

*People* **It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

*Celebrant* We praise you for the prophets who in spite of persecution spoke your challenging word. We praise you that in Christ you chose to be born in a stable and revealed to poor shepherds. We praise you for Mary Magdalene, first witness of the resurrection; and for all the women and men who have been trusted and empowered by you. With all the unremembered and outcast, with the poor and needy, with the trusting and hopeful in all the ages, we praise you, singing:

# Sanctus

Sung by all.

Land of Rest

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and might,  
heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry, Ho - san - na in the high - est.  
Bless - ed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -  
san - na in the high - est, — Ho - san - na in the high - est.

*Celebrant* We praise you for Jesus Christ, born of peasant parents, friend of lepers and tax collectors, who chose a life given up for others. On the night before he died, he shared a meal with his friends. He took bread, gave thanks and broke it, and gave it to them saying:

*All* **“This is my own body given for you. Do this to remember me.”**

*Celebrant* After supper he took a cup of wine, blessed it and gave it to them saying:

*All* **“This is my life-blood poured out for you. Do this to remember me.”**

*Celebrant* Therefore according to his command, O Father,

*All* **We remember his death,  
We proclaim his resurrection,  
We await his coming in glory;**

*Celebrant* Come now Holy Spirit of God. Come upon us and upon these gifts of bread and wine, that in sharing this feast we may become the body of Christ. Break down walls of selfishness and fear and bring us all to the new age in which none go hungry and all are fed. Through Christ, with Christ and in Christ in the unity of the holy Spirit be all honor and glory now and forever. **AMEN.**

## The Lord's Prayer

*Cantor*  
As our Sa - vior Christ has taught us, we now pray,  
*All*  
Our Fa - ther in hea - ven, hal - lowed be your Name,  
your king - dom come, your will be done, on earth as in hea - ven.  
Give us to - day our dai - ly bread.

For - give us our sins as we for - give those who sin a - gainst us.  
 Save us from the time of tri - al, and de - liv - er us from e - vil.  
 For the king - dom, the power, and the glo - ry are yours,  
 now and for ev - er. A - men.

**The Breaking of the Bread**

*The Celebrant breaks the bread. A period of silence is held.*

*Sung by all.*

Christopher Walker

Lamb of God, you take a-way the sins of the world: have  
 mer-cy on us, mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the  
 sins of the world: have mer-cy on us, mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you  
 take a - way the sins of the world: grant us peace, grant us peace.

**The Invitation**

*Celebrant*

This is the table, not of the Church, but of the Lord. It is made ready for those who love him and for those who want to love him more. So, come, you who have much faith and you who have little, you who have been here often and you who have not been here long, you who have tried to follow and you who have failed. Come, because it is the Lord who invites you. It is his will that those who want him should meet him here.

**At the Communion of the People**

**All who seek God's presence through Communion or God's blessing are welcome to come forward.** Extend your hands, one upon another, to receive a bread wafer (request gluten-free) or, to receive God's blessing instead, cross your arms over your chest in an "X". Wine for sipping is offered next to the bread or dip the edge of your wafer in the small cup by the pillars. **Healing prayer and anointing** are offered to all at the side chapels from the beginning of Communion through the end of the service. More information is found at the end of this bulletin.

**Music for Communion**

*Stella del mattino* (Morning star)  
 Prelude on a starry night  
 Waterways

Ludovico Einaudi  
 Masashi Toyofuku  
 Ludovico Einaudi

**After Communion**      *Please stand.*

*Celebrant*    Let us pray.  
*All*            **Lord Jesus Christ,**  
**you have put your life into our hands;**  
**now we put our lives into yours.**  
**Take us, renew us and remake us.**  
**What we have been is past;**  
**what we shall be, through you,**  
**still awaits us.**  
**Lead us on. Take us with you. Amen.**

**The Blessing**

*from A New Zealand Prayer Book*

*Celebrant*    God be your comfort, your strength;  
God be your hope and support;  
God be your light and your way;  
and the blessing of God,  
Creator, Redeemer and Giver of life,  
remain with you now and for ever. **Amen.**

**Hymn**            Day is done            *Sung by all, standing.*

*Ar hyd y nos*



1. Day is done, but love un - fail - ing dwells ev - er here;  
2. Dusk de - scends, but light un - end - ing shines through our night;  
3. Eyes will close, but you un - sleep - ing watch by our side;



sha - dows fall, but hope, pre - vail - ing, calms ev - 'ry fear.  
you are with us, ev - er lend - ing new strength to sight:  
at all times, in love's safe - keep - ing still we a - bide.



God, our Ma - ker, none for - sak - ing, take our hearts, of Love's own ma - king,  
one in love, your truth con - fess - ing, one in hope of hea - ven's bless - ing,  
God of love, all e - vil quell - ing, sick - ness heal - ing, fear dis - pel - ling,



watch our sleep - ing, guard our wak - ing, be al - ways near.  
may we see, in love's pos - sess - ing, love's end - less light!  
stay with us, our hearts in - dwell - ing, this e - ven - tide.

**Dismissal**

*Deacon*            Go out into the world in peace, have courage, hold on to what is good, return no one evil for evil,  
strengthen the faint-hearted, support the weak, help the suffering, honor everyone, love and serve  
God, rejoicing in the power of the Spirit.

*People*            **Thanks be to God.**

**Music for Meditation** Flow gently, sweet Afton

trad. Scottish, arr. Kim Robertson

**Postlude** *Dove of Peace*

arr. Nancy Raabe

*Please feel free to depart during or after the Postlude, holding silence.*



## Memorial

The vigil candle in the Chapel of the Holy Spirit is given in memory of John O.W. Gravely III.

## Participants

**Celebrant:** The Rev. Will Stanley; **Deacon:** The Rev. John Jenkins; **Reflector:** Cooper Ackerly; **Subdeacon:** Sam Davis; **Reader/Intercessor:** Guy Frank; **Chalice Bearers:** Kathy Brock, Dave Davis, Iffet Araniti-Davis, Gabrielle Maes; **Musicians:** Quinn Bitsas, *cantor*; Alyssa Evans, *violin*; Diana Chou, *piano*

## The Ministry of Healing Prayer at St. Stephen's Church

TO PRESENT YOURSELF FOR HEALING PRAYER OR ANOINTING: Healing ministers are located in both side chapels from the time people receive communion until after the service concludes. Go to either side chapel either after receiving communion or a blessing, or at any time following irrespective of what else is happening in the service. Because these ministries will continue through the end of the service, please respect those in prayer by exiting in silence from any of the rear doors. Whether or not you participate in these ministries tonight, you may contribute to the work of healing prayer by offering your personal prayers for yourself and that all who worship here may experience the healing love of God in their lives and bear that love into the world for its healing.

HEALING PRAYER: If you wish to sit for a moment with a healing prayer minister, it is helpful if you share your name and the concern for which you ask God's healing. The minister will lay hands on your shoulders, join with you in silently opening ourselves to God, and offering your prayer concern to the healing One who is with us always. This is not a ministry of magical incantations. It is simply about fellow pilgrims opening ourselves more completely to God's presence and healing love.

ANOINTING: If you wish to receive anointing with healing oil, approach the anointer with you palms open and extended. She or he will mark your hand with the sign of the cross and offer a simple prayer for your healing.

Healing ministries of prayer and anointing have practiced by Christians from the very beginning. God's grace is freely given to all people for the healing of spirit, mind, and body, and these practices provide ways for us to present ourselves just as we are with open hands and open hearts. We do not believe in magical incantations. Instead, these sacramental acts are simply about fellow pilgrims opening ourselves more completely to the healing love of God.

## The Parish Prayer List

Ken Abrams, Charles Adams, Abigail Palmer Anthony, Rubylane Armstrong, Robert Baker, Elizabeth Bannerman, Lash Barksdale, Nancy Beale, Nancy Beeler, Kay Best, Christine Boeteger, Denise Bondy, Genie Borum, Julia Bouck, Liz Brengel, Leslie Brockman, Alex H. Brown, Pat Brown, Turner Bruneau, Patti Bullen, Ann Campbell, Scott Carnohan, Percy Cochran, Stephanie Coleman, Susan Collier, Caswell Cooke, Mary Cooke, Prior Cooper, John Corey, Randy Correll, Michelle Crim, the Rt. Rev. Michael Curry, Steven Dalle Mura, Hedley Hines Davey, Chris Davis, Alan Demascus, Ham DeRosa, Terry Dickinson, Eddie Doyle, Barbara Hall Dunn, Guy Frank, Julia G., Nancy Gauldin, Yvette Gerardin, Frank Ginty, Janis Hall, Mary Hancock, Rodger Hardy, Marianne Harmuth, Katie Hellebush, Bob Hines, Tom Hodges, Deborah Hodgson-Lyons, Anna Hurdle, Esther Hutchison, Julie and Tom Imeson, the Rt. Rev. Shannon Johnston, Gouthum Karadi, Jane Kelly, Donna Kessler, Dana King, Diedra Kriewald, Hanns Kuttner, Caleb Lambert, Laura Lewandowski, Linda Lewis, Brenda Lorenz, Genie Lucyk, Margaret Lyle, Pam Lynch, Ross Mackenzie, Peggy Maguire, Nick Martina, Barbara Mathison, Richard Maxwell, Virginia Maxwell, Michael McCabe, Stratton and Robin McCrady, Gertrude McLean, Lydia Melton, Jack Miller, John Miller, Mary Miller, Hoyt Minyard, Susan Minyard, Sallie Moncol, Blair Barre Morris, Caroline Hughes Neal, Tricia Payne, Beth Pearce, Iralin Peple, Wilde Poole and family, Bob Pope, Tom Rader, Bryson Raquet, Wick Raquet, Stephanie Roberts, Linda Robinson, Alison Roussy, Brenda Quinn, Jason R., Jennifer Reed, Robert Sass, James Saunders and Harriet Covey, T. Logan Scott, Charlie Seilheimer, Margie Sesler, Jane Settle, Jim and Mary Beth Shannon, Chrys Sills, Aiden Thomas Smith, Josh Spain, Reilly Starr, Dorothy Suskind, Jim Teachey, Jens Tholand, Margaret Thompson, Will Thompson, Tim, Nelson Toebbe, Langdon Tollett, Tom Turney, Kenneth Valke, Cordelia Vogel, Timothy W., Mac Wade, Ozzie Wade, Jane Wallace, Suzanne Wallace, Baird Weisleder, Tom White, Terri Wilcox, Nelson Williams, Trevor Wilson, Mary Wiltshire, Trevor Wingate, Paul Leddingdon Wright, Karen Young, Margaret P. Young. **For the blessings of this life**, especially for the birth of Chandler Gertrude Brown to Liz and Pat Brown and the baptisms of Catherine Elliott O'Malley Cocke, Robert Bolling Lancaster III, Thomas Winfield McCormick, William Taylor Robinson Strader, and James Coleman Witt. **For those who have died**, especially former President Jimmy Carter. **For those expecting a child**, especially Sarah and Andrew Klein, Meghan and Andrew Lawrence, and Sarah and Nathan Smith. **For our missionaries**, Heidi Schmidt and Monica Vega, and the people they serve in Argentina. **In the Anglican Cycle of Prayer**, we pray for *the Church of the Province of West Africa*. **For ReWork Richmond**. **For an end to gun violence**. **For the victims of the recent winter storms and the wildfires in California**. **For peace and reconciliation** in Haiti, Iraq, Israel/Palestine, North Korea, South Sudan, Syria, and Ukraine, and at our borders. **For those serving overseas in the military or diplomatic service**: CPT Anna Broadbent-Evelyn and Lt. Jonathan Dean Hudson.

*Names in italics were added to the prayer list this week.*

*In order to keep our prayer list current and facilitate the intentionality and mindfulness with which we pray, we print names on the list for three months or less. If you would like for someone to remain on the list for more (or less) time, please call the office or email Mary Feldman at [mfeldman@ststephensRVA.org](mailto:mfeldman@ststephensRVA.org).*

Prayers and blessings adapted from the following sources: The Northumbria Community, Celtic Daily Prayer: Prayers and Readings from the Northumbria Community, Harper Collins, © 2002; Intercessions for the Christian People, The Liturgical Press, ©1990; A New Zealand Prayer Book, Harper Collins, © 1997; Philip Newell, Celtic Benediction: Morning and Night Prayer, William B. Eardmans Publishing Company, © 2000; Iona Community, Iona Community Worship Book. Glasgow: Wild Goose Publications, © 2017; Wild Goose Worship Group, Big Book of Liturgies, Glasgow: Wild Goose Publications, © 2023. Rite Planning, © 2021, by Church Publishing Incorporated, all rights reserved, used by permission. All copyrighted music by permission, under OneLicense #A710911. Opening: "Starlings in Winter" by Mary Oliver, from *Owls and Other Fantasies: Poems and Essays*. © Beacon Press, 2003.

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