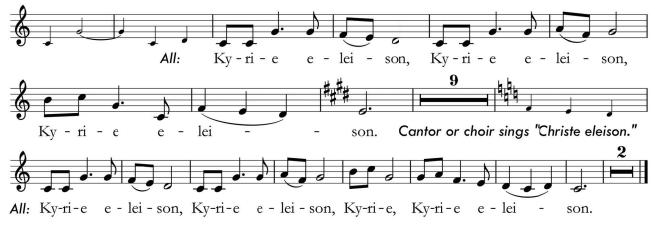


CELTIC EVENSONG AND COMMUNION at St. Stephen's Episcopal Church The Fourth Sunday in Lent March 30, 2025 at 5:30 p.m.

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	Across the Bay Brian Crain			
Please	Please stand at the sound of the bell.			
Opening				
Deacon	"Make peace with yourself and both heaven and earth will make peace with you." - Abba Isaac the Syrian, c.700			
A period of silence is kept.				
Celebrant	I confess to God, and in the presence of all God's people, that I have sinned in thought, word, and deed, and have not loved my neighbor as myself; and I pray God to have mercy on me.			
People	May God have mercy on you, pardon and deliver you from your sins, and give you time to amend your life.			
Celebrant	Amen.			
People	We confess to God, and in the presence of all God's people, that we have sinned in thought, word, and deed, and have not loved our neighbors as ourselves, and we pray God to have mercy on us.			
Celebrant	May God have mercy upon you, pardon and deliver you from your sins, and give you time to amend your life.			
People	Amen.			
Deacon People	Look upon us, O God, and give us life; That your people may rejoice in you.			
Deacon People	Create in us clean hearts, O God; And renew a right spirit within us.			
Deacon People	Give us the joy of your saving help again; And sustain us with your bountiful Spirit. Amen.			





Translation: Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

A Prayer for the Evening

Teach us, loving God, not to hold on to life too tightly. Teach us to hold it lightly, not carelessly, but lightly, easily. Teach us to take it as a gift, to enjoy and cherish while we have it, and to let it go gracefully and thankfully when the time comes. The gift is great, but the Giver is greater still. You, O God, are the giver, and in you is the life that never dies. **Amen.**

The ReadingLuke 15:1-3, 11b-32Please sit.ReaderA Reading from the Gospel according to Luke.

All the tax collectors and sinners were coming near to listen to Jesus. And the Pharisees and the scribes were grumbling and saying, "This fellow welcomes sinners and eats with them." So Jesus told them this parable:

"There was a man who had two sons. The younger of them said to his father, 'Father, give me the share of the property that will belong to me.' So he divided his property between them. A few days later the younger son gathered all he had and traveled to a distant country, and there he squandered his property in dissolute living. When he had spent everything, a severe famine took place throughout that country, and he began to be in need. So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed the pigs. He would gladly have filled himself with the pods that the pigs were eating; and no one gave him anything. But when he came to himself he said, 'How many of my father's hired hands have bread enough and to spare, but here I am dying of hunger! I will get up and go to my father, and I will say to him, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son; treat me like one of your hired hands." So he set off and went to his father. But while he was still far off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion; he ran and put his arms around him and kissed him. Then the son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son.' But the father said to his slaves, 'Quickly, bring out a robe--the best one--and put it on him; put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. And get the fatted calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate; for this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.' And they began to celebrate.

"Now his elder son was in the field; and when he came and approached the house, he heard music and dancing. He called one of the slaves and asked what was going on. He replied, 'Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fatted calf, because he has got him back safe and sound.' Then he became angry and refused to go in. His father came out and began to plead with him. But he answered his father, 'Listen! For all these years I have been working like a slave for you, and I have never disobeyed your command; yet you have never given me even a young goat so that I might celebrate with my friends. But when this son of yours came back, who has devoured your property with prostitutes, you killed the fatted calf for him!' Then the father said to him, 'Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. But we had to celebrate and rejoice, because this brother of yours was dead and has come to life; he was plost and has been found.''

Silence is held for one minute of reflection.

Reflection	The Rev. James Marsh
Silence	e is held for two minutes of reflection.
Music for Me	ditation Wayfaring Stranger trad. American, arr. Brent te Velde
Prayers for O	urselves and Others Please stand.
Deacon	Let us pray for ourselves and others.
In the s	ilence following each petition the people may add their prayers either silently or aloud.
Leader	We hold before God those for whom life is very hard, those who have thorny decisions to make, and who honestly do not know what is the right thing to do.
Leader People	Lord, in your mercy. Hear our prayer.
Leader	We hold before God those who have demanding tasks to face, and who fear they may fail in them; those who face challenging temptations, and who know only too well that they may fall to them, if they try to meet them alone.
Leader People	Lord, in your mercy. Hear our prayer.
Leader	We hold before God those who know that they can be their own worst enemies.
Leader People	Lord, in your mercy. Hear our prayer.
Leader	We hold before God those who have difficult people to work with, those who have to suffer unjust treatment, unfair criticism, unappreciated work, and those who are unemployed and frightened.
Leader People	Lord, in your mercy. Hear our prayer.
Leader	We hold before God those who are victims of violence, especially all who suffer the consequences of war, genocide, and armed conflict.
Leader People	Lord, in your mercy. Hear our prayer.
Leader	We hold before God those who are neglected or misunderstood, those who are struggling with any kind of illness or infirmity, and those who have no one to pray for them.
Leader People	Lord, in your mercy. Hear our prayer.
Leader	We hold before God the people, encounters, and blessings of life that elicit our gratitude and joy, [especially for].
Leader	Lord, in your mercy.
People	Hear our prayer.
Leader	We hold before God those who grieve for one who has died, and we pray for those known to us who have died, [especially].
Leader People	Lord, in your mercy. Hear our prayer.

Leader Lord God, may our prayers, rising before you like incense, be pleasing to you, and may our outstretched hands be filled with your mercy, through Jesus Christ. 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 MeditationI heard the voice of Jesus saytrad. English, arr. Valerie FloeterHymnGod is forgivenessSung by all, standing.Jacques Berthier





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."

Welcome and Announcements

The Holy Communion

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 STSTEPHENSRVA to 73256.



Ola Gjeilo

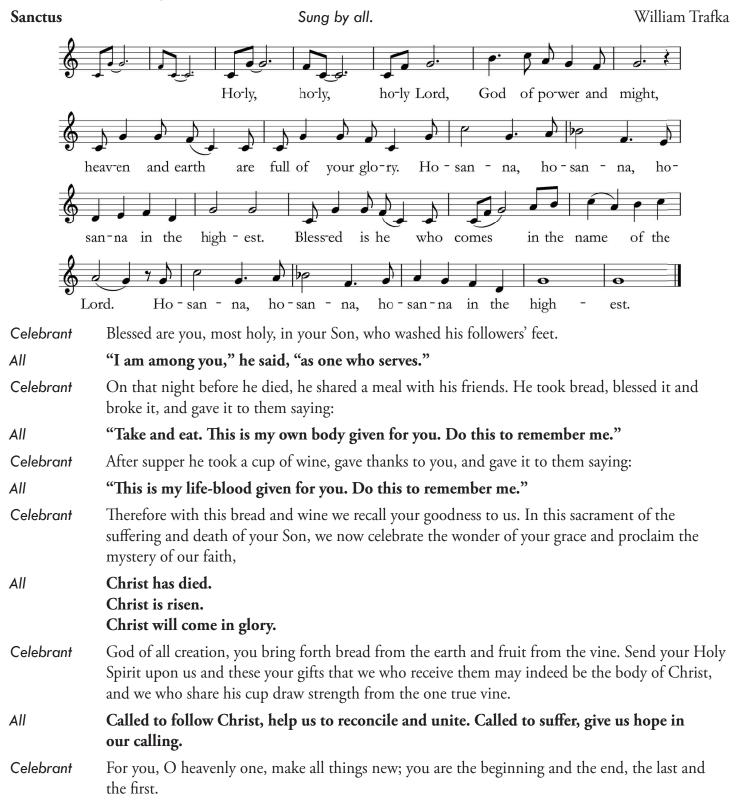
At the Offertory Madison

The Great Thanksgiving Please stand. A New Zealand Prayer Book, Prayer II Celebrant The Lord be with you. And also with you. People Celebrant Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord. People Celebrant Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. People It is right to offer thanks and praise. Celebrant It is right indeed, it is our joy and delight, O holy, everlasting God, at all times and in all places to give you thanks and praise through Christ your only Son.

You are the source of all life and goodness; through your eternal Word you created all things from the beginning and formed us in your own image; male and female you created us.

When we turned away from you, you called us back to yourself and gave your Son to share our human nature. Through Christ Jesus you have made us your holy people.

Therefore, with the faithful who rest in him, with the angels who sing "Glory," and with all the saints and ancestors who have known you to be with us, we proclaim your great and glorious name together:



All praise, glory and love be yours, O Holy God, this and every day, from us and all people, here and everywhere. AMEN.

The Lord's Prayer

All



Translation: Give us your peace.

All

The Invitation

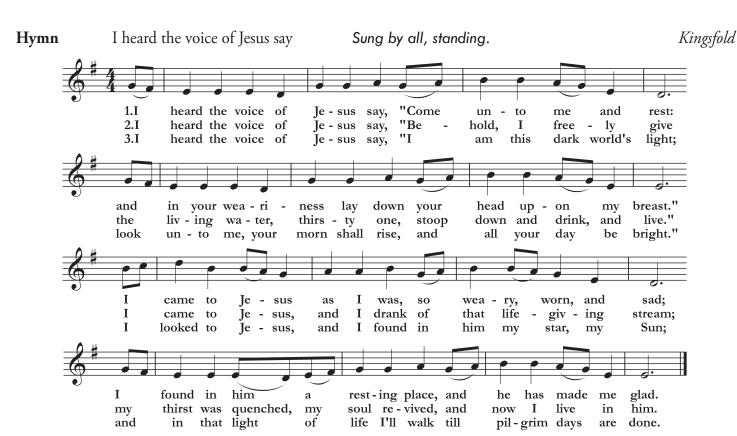
Celebrant This is the table, not of the Church, but of the Lord. It is made ready for those who love him and for those who want to love him more. So, come, you who have much faith and you who have little, you who have been here often and you who have not been here long, you who have tried to follow and 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 CommunionSpiegel im SpiegelArv.The Lover's WaltzJay Ungar, Molly MWondrous Lovearr. Justin McC	
After Communion Please stand.	
Celebrant Let us pray.	
All Creator of all,	
we give you thanks and praise, that when we were still far off you met us in your Son and brought us home. May we who share Christ's body live his risen life; we who drink his cup bring life to others; we whom the Spirit lights give light to the world. Amen.	
The Blessing	
Celebrant Deep peace of the running waves to you.	
Deep peace of the flowing air to you.	
Deep peace of the shining stars to you.	
Deep peace of the quiet earth to you.	
Deep peace of the gentle night to you.	
Deep peace of the God of peace to you.	
And the blessing of God Almighty, Father, Son and Holy Spirit	

be among you and remain with you always. Amen.



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 Arran Boat Song

traditional Scottish, arr. Kim Robertson arr. Anne Krentz Organ

Postlude Beach Spring

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

B

Memorials

The arrangements are given to the glory of God and in memory of William Astor Stanley by his family. The vigil candle in the Chapel of the Holy Spirit is given in memory of Dr. Lionel Lane.

Participants

Celebrant: The Rev. John Jenkins; **Deacon:** The Rev. John Rohrs; **Reflector:** The Rev. James Marsh; **Subdeacon:** Susan Wilkes; **Reader:** Alisa Booze Troetschel; **Intercessor:** Tyler Curtis; **Chalice Bearers:** Al Albiston, Tony Anthony, Guy Frank, Katie Kirkley; **Musicians:** Quinn Bitsas, *cantor*; Peter Greydanus, *cello*; Brent te Velde, *piano*

The Parish Prayer List

Copies of the parish prayer list are available in the narthex (the church vestibule inside the Three Chopt Road entrance) and at Information Central, just outside the parish office.

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.

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