



CELTIC EVENSONG AND COMMUNION

at St. Stephen's Episcopal Church

The Second Sunday of Easter ☩ April 27, 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 found 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 Friday. From 5:10, the church is ready for prayer and rest. Please observe silence inside the church and thank you for remembering to "silence" all devices.

Prelude Appalachian Sunrise

Joseph Martin

Please stand at the sound of the bell.

Opening *Lost*

David Wagoner

Stand still. The trees ahead and bushes beside you
Are not lost. Wherever you are is called Here,
And you must treat it as a powerful stranger,
Must ask permission to know it and be known.
The forest breathes. Listen. It answers,
I have made this place around you.
If you leave it, you may come back again, saying Here.
No two trees are the same to Raven.
No two branches are the same to Wren.
If what a tree or a bush does is lost on you,
You are surely lost. Stand still. The forest knows
Where you are. You must let it find you.

Silence is held after the reading.

Hymn Come, risen Lord and deign to be our guest

Sung by all, standing.

Sursum Corda

1. Come, ri - sen Lord, and deign to be our guest; nay, let us be thy
2. We meet, as in that up - per room they met; thou at the ta - ble,
3. One with each o - ther, Lord, for one in thee, who art one Sa - vior

guests; the feast is thine; thy - self at thine own board make man - i -
bless - ing, yet dost stand: "This is my Bo - dy"; so thou giv - est
and one liv - ing Head; then o - pen thou our eyes, that we may

fest in thine own Sac - ra - ment of Bread and Wine.
yet: faith still re - ceives the cup as from thy hand.
see; be known to us in break - ing of the Bread.

A Prayer for the Evening

We thank you for your world, O God, for our part in it, and for making us makers too. Help us to love creation as you love it, to take risks to value it as Jesus did and as Christ does; draw us deep now into the wildness and wonder of your Holy Spirit, this night and every day. **Amen.**

The Reading John 20:19-31 *Please sit.*

Reader A Reading from the Gospel according to John.

When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you." When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained."

But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord." But he said to them, "Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands, and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe."

A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe." Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!" Jesus said to him, "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe."

Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book. But these are written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.

Silence is held for one minute of reflection.

Reflection Bill Davis

Silence is held for two minutes of reflection.

Music for Meditation *Lasst uns erfreuen*

arr. Anne Krentz Organ

Prayers for Ourselves and Others *Please stand.*

Deacon Let us pray for ourselves and the world.

Leader Loving God, enliven the Church for its mission,

People **That we may be salt of the earth and light to the world.**

Leader Breathe fresh life into your people.

People **Give us power to reveal Christ in our daily lives.**

Leader Creator of all, lead us and every people into the ways of justice and peace,

People **That we may respect one another in freedom and truth.**

Leader Awaken in us a sense of wonder for the earth and all that is in it.

People **Teach us to care creatively for this fragile world.**

Leader God of truth, inspire with your wisdom those whose decisions affect the lives of others.

People **That all may live with integrity and courage.**

Leader Give grace to all those whose lives are linked with ours.

People **May we serve Christ in one another, and love as Christ loves us.**

Leader Receive the gratitude of our hearts, [especially ____].

The people may add their intercessions either silently or aloud.

Leader Let us now remember before God those for whom we offer our personal prayers, remembering especially all who suffer from violence and every shade of oppression.

The people may add their intercessions either silently or aloud.

Leader We pray for all who mourn and for those who have died, [especially ____].

The people may add their intercessions either silently or aloud.

Leader Lord, you have called us to serve you.

People **Grant that we may walk in your presence:
your love in our hearts,
your truth in our minds,
your strength in our wills,
until, at the end of our journey,
we know the joy of our homecoming
and the welcome of your embrace,
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

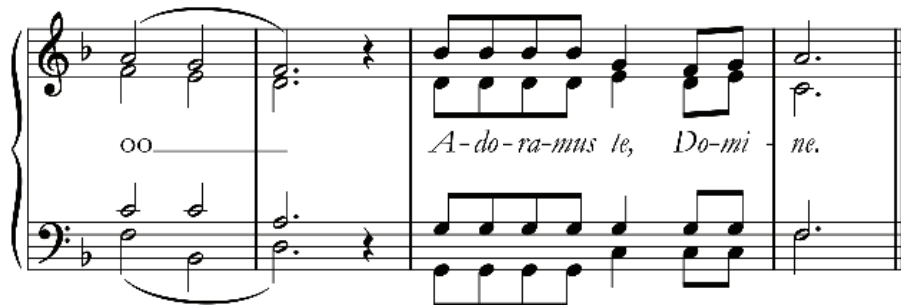
Candle Lighting, Additional Prayers

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 a 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 *Terra beata* trad. English hymn, arr. Jennifer Haines

Hymn *Adoramus te, Domine* Jacques Berthier

Sung by all, standing. The refrain will be sung by the cantor, then repeated by all as the cantor sings the verses.



Translation: We adore you, O Lord.

Verses: With the angels and archangels; with patriarchs and prophets; with the Virgin Mary, Mother of God; with the Apostles and evangelists; with all the martyrs of Christ; with all who witness to the Gospel of the Lord; with all your people of the Church throughout the world.

The Grace Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will hardship, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. **Amen.**

Romans 8:35, 37-39

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 (or scan QR) into the basket near the baptismal font or food pantry items into the baskets by the main entrance.



At the Offertory *Ash Grove*

trad. Welsh, arr. Kathryn Cater and Sandy Norman

Eucharistic Prayer

Please stand.

Enriching Our Worship, Eucharistic Prayer 3

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

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 our thanks and praise.**

Celebrant All thanks and praise are yours at all times and in all places, our true and loving God; through Jesus Christ, your eternal Word, the Wisdom from on high by whom you created all things. You laid the foundations of the world and enclosed the sea when it burst out from the womb; you brought forth all creatures of the earth and gave breath to humankind. Wondrous are you, Holy One of Blessing, all you create is a sign of hope for our journey; and so as the morning stars sing your praises we join the heavenly beings and all creation as we shout with joy:

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 Glory and honor are yours, Creator of all, your Word has never been silent; you called a people to yourself, as a light to the nations, you delivered them from bondage and led them to a land of

promise. Of your grace, you gave Jesus to be human, to share our life, to proclaim the coming of your holy reign and give himself for us, a fragrant offering. Through Jesus Christ our Redeemer, you have freed us from sin, brought us into your life, reconciled us to you, and restored us to the glory you intend for us.

We thank you that on the night before he died for us Jesus took bread, and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, gave it to his friends and said:

All **"Take and eat. This is my own body given for you. Do this to remember me."**

Celebrant After supper Jesus took the cup of wine, said the blessing, gave it to his friends and said:

All **"This is my life-blood given for you. Do this to remember me."**

Celebrant And so, remembering all that was done for us: the cross, the tomb, the resurrection and ascension, longing for Christ's coming in glory, and presenting to you these gifts your earth has formed and human hands have made, we acclaim you, O Christ:

All **Dying, you destroyed our death. Rising, you restored our life. Christ Jesus, come in glory!**

Celebrant Send your Holy Spirit upon us and upon these gifts of bread and wine that they may be to us the Body and Blood of your Christ. Grant that we, burning with your Spirit's power, may be a people of hope, justice and love. Giver of Life, draw us together in the Body of Christ, and in the fullness of time gather us with all your people into the joy of our true eternal home. Through Christ and with Christ and in Christ, by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, we worship you our God and Creator in voices of unending praise.

All **Blessed are you now and for ever. 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.

Cantor:

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia,

All:

Christ our Pass - o - ver is sac - ri - ficed for us;
there - fore let us keep the feast.

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

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.

Music for Communion	Ye Banks and Braes	traditional Scottish, arr. Sunita Staneslow
	<i>Primavera</i> (Spring)	Ludovico Einaudi
	The Earth Prelude	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

E. Carson Brisson

Celebrant May joy and nothing less find you on the way.
May you be blessed and a blessing.
And may light guide you, and countless others, all the way home.
And the blessing of God Almighty, Father, Son and Holy Spirit
be among you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

Hymn For the beauty of the earth *Sung by all, standing.*

Dix

1. For the beau - ty of the earth, for the beau - ty of the skies,
2. For the beau - ty of each hour of the day and of the night,
3. For the joy of ear and eye, for the heart and mind's de - light,
for the love which from our birth o - ver and a - round us lies,
hill and vale, and tree and flower, sun and moon and stars of light,
for the mys - tic har - mo - ny link - ing sense to sound and sight,
Refrain
Christ our God, to you we raise this our hymn of grate - ful praise.

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.** *Please sit for the Music for Meditation.*

Music for Meditation *Brother James' Air*

arr. John Carter

Postlude Shenandoah

trad., arr. Daniel Burton

Please feel free to depart in silence during the Postlude, as you wish.



Memorial

The flowers are given to the glory of God and in memory of Mr. and Mrs. Robert Leigh Frackleton by their family.

Participants

Celebrant: The Rev. John Rohrs; **Deacon:** The Rev. John Jenkins; **Reflector:** Bill Davis; **Subdeacon:** Pam Redd;
Reader: Charlie Caldwell; **Intercessor:** Scott Finn; **Chalice Bearers:** Guy Frank, Braxton Hill, Alice Meadows,
Kim Spensieri; **Musicians:** Quinn Bitsas, *cantor*; Ellie Swanson, *flute*; Brent te Velde, *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.

continued

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

Charles Adams, Abigail Palmer Anthony, Rubylane Armstrong, Patricia Atkins-Smith, Robert Baker, Elizabeth Bannerman, Lash Barksdale, Nancy Beale, Nancy Beeler, Robert Bjorkholm, Christine Boeteger, Denise Bondy, Genie Borum, Julia Bouck, Liz Brengel, Leslie Brockman, Alex H. Brown, Pat Brown, Sarah Jo Bryce, Turner Bruneau, Matt Boyd, Patti Bullen, Ann Campbell, Scott Carnohan, Paula Chambers, Dan Clements, Helen Clendenin, Percy Cochran, Susan Collier, Caswell Cooke, Mary Cooke, Prior Cooper, Stephanie Copeland, John Corey, Randy Correll, Michelle Crim, the Rt. Rev. Michael Curry, Steven Dalle Mura, Chris Davis, Ham DeRosa, Terry Dickinson, Davis Dunn Dillard, Eddie Doyle, Barbara Hall Dunn, Guy Frank, *Sam Fuller*, Julia G., Yvette Gerardin, Frank Ginty, Rick Greenwood, Janis Hall, Mary Hancock, Rodger Hardy, Marianne Harmuth, Katie Hellebush, Dan Hill, Deborah Hodgson-Lyons, Anna Hurdle, Esther Hutchison, Julie and Tom Imeson, the Rt. Rev. Shannon Johnston, Brian Jones, Lena Jones, Gouthum Karadi, Jane Kelly, Dana King, Diedra Kriewald, Hanns Kuttner, Caleb Lambert, Laura Lewandowski, Linda Lewis, Eva Lindsay, Sharon Livsie, Brenda Lorenz, Genie Lucyk, Margaret Lyle, Pam Lynch, Ross Mackenzie, Peggy Maguire, Nick Martina, Barbara Mathison, Richard Maxwell, Virginia Maxwell, Michael McCabe, Schnucki McCabe, Stratton and Robin McCrady, Gertrude McLean, Melanie, Jack Miller, John Miller, Mary Miller, Hoyt Minyard, Susan Minyard, Sallie Moncol, Mary Beth Noel, Lynn Parli, Tricia Payne, Beth Pearce, Ernest Perry, Courtney Phillips, Scott Pittman, Wilde Poole and family, Bob Pope, Tom Rader, Bryson Raquet, Wick Raquet, Sara Ritter, Stephanie Roberts, Linda Robinson, Alison Roussy, Brenda Quinn, Jason R., Jennifer Reed, Kaley Rosenthal, Richard Sanger, Robert Sass, James Saunders and Harriet Covey, T. Logan Scott, Charlie Seilheimer, Margie Sesler, Jane Settle, Jim and Mary Beth Shannon, Torrey Shuford, Chrys Sills, Aiden Thomas Smith, Josh Spain, Ben Sparks, Reilly Starr, Dorothy Suskind, Margaret Teachey, Jens Tholand, Margaret Thompson, Nelson Toebbe, Langdon Tollett, Tom Turney, Kenneth Valke, Cordelia Vogel, Timothy W., Mac Wade, Ozzie Wade, Suzanne Wallace, Baird Weisleder, Tom White, Terri Wilcox, Nelson Williams, Trevor Wilson, Mary Wiltshire, Trevor Wingate, Keith Witherspoon, Claire Wood, Emily H. Wood, Paul Leddington Wright, Karen Young, Margaret P. Young. **For the blessings of this life**, *especially for the baptisms of Blake Carter Francis, Graham Thomas McCoy, and Charlotte Lawrence Morris*. **For those expecting a child**, especially Natalie and Lewis Jones, Stuart and Melissa Kegan, Elizabeth and Matson Roberts. **For those who have died**, *especially Pope Francis and Anne Boggs*. **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 the Indian Ocean*. **For ReWork Richmond**. **For an end to gun violence**. **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.*

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: From *Traveling Light: Collected and New Poems*. Copyright 1999 by David Wagoner. Used with permission from the University of Illinois Press.