



CELTIC EVENSONG AND COMMUNION

at St. Stephen's Episcopal Church

The Second Sunday after Pentecost ☧ June 22, 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. Throughout this bulletin, guidance is printed in italics. Nursery care is available (infant-4); speak with a door greeter. A "soft space" is also available in the Chapel of the Good Shepherd, the side chapel nearest the parish house, where children and parents can continue to participate in the service if and when they need more room than a church pew provides. Children must be accompanied by a parent while using the soft space. 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 Thursday.

From 5:10 on Sundays, the church is ready for prayer and rest. Please observe silence inside the church and thank you for remembering to "silence" all devices.

About this evening's opening

In our services today we are remembering Juneteenth, which marked the end of slavery in the United States in 1865.

The Rev. Howard Thurman (1899-1981) is remembered as a teacher, minister, theologian, writer, mystic and activist. "No single label can capture the multiplicity of Howard Thurman's life, but his influence is evident in the most significant aspects of the civil rights movement..." where Thurman served as the movement's chaplain and spiritual leader to its leader, especially the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. "As racial justice once again comes to the forefront of American consciousness, Howard Thurman's faith and life have much to say to a new generation of the disinherited and all those who march alongside them."

"The Work of Christmas" echoes Jesus' sermon on the mount and points to the meaning of an incarnated, Spirit led life in this and every age.

—Excerpts from Paul Harvey's *Howard Thurman and the Disinherited: A Religious Biography* (2020)



Prelude Arietta

Samuel Coleridge-Taylor

Please stand at the sound of the bell, as you are able

Opening The Work of Christmas

Howard Thurman

When the song of the angels is stilled,
When the star in the sky is gone,
When the kings and princes are home,
When the shepherds are back with their flock,
The work of Christmas begins:
To find the lost,
To heal the broken,
To feed the hungry,
To release the prisoner,
To rebuild the nations,
To bring peace among sisters and brothers,
To make music in the heart.

Silence is held after the reading.

Hymn

Let us break bread together

*Sung by all, standing as able.**Let Us Break Bread*

1. Let us break bread to - geth-er on our knees; _____
 2. Let us drink wine to - geth-er on our knees; _____

let us break bread to - geth-er on our knees; _____
 let us drink wine to - geth-er on our knees; _____

Refrain
 when I fall on my knees, with my face to the ris - ing
 sun, O Lord, have mer-cy on me. _____

3. Let us praise God to - geth-er on our knees; _____
 let us praise God to - geth-er on our knees; _____ *to Refrain*

A Prayer for the Evening*from Wild Goose Big Book 2024*

We gather at this solemn time, O God, aware of the costliness of human history. In the face of hostility between nations and neighbors, you have come to us in Jesus Christ, offering us the gift of peace, calling us to serve as peacemakers. In this time of worship, renew in us the hope that you will turn our swords into ploughshares, and by the power of the Holy Spirit, lead the world you love away from the study of war to the promise of peace with justice for all your peoples. **Amen.**

The Reading Luke 8:26-39 *Please sit.***Reader** A Reading from the Gospel according to Luke.

Jesus and his disciples arrived at the country of the Gerasenes, which is opposite Galilee. As he stepped out on land, a man of the city who had demons met him. For a long time he had worn no clothes, and he did not live in a house but in the tombs. When he saw Jesus, he fell down before him and shouted at the top of his voice, "What have you to do with me, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? I beg you, do not torment me"—for Jesus had commanded the unclean spirit to come out of the man. (For many times it had seized him; he was kept under guard and bound with chains and shackles, but he would break the bonds and be driven by the demon into the wilds.) Jesus then asked him, "What is your name?" He said, "Legion"; for many demons had entered him. They begged him not to order them to go back into the abyss.

Now there on the hillside a large herd of swine was feeding; and the demons begged Jesus to let them enter these. So he gave them permission. Then the demons came out of the man and entered the swine, and the herd rushed down the steep bank into the lake and was drowned.

When the swineherds saw what had happened, they ran off and told it in the city and in the country. Then people came out to see what had happened, and when they came to Jesus, they found the man from whom the

demons had gone sitting at the feet of Jesus, clothed and in his right mind. And they were afraid. Those who had seen it told them how the one who had been possessed by demons had been healed. Then all the people of the surrounding country of the Gerasenes asked Jesus to leave them; for they were seized with great fear. So he got into the boat and returned. The man from whom the demons had gone begged that he might be with him; but Jesus sent him away, saying, "Return to your home, and declare how much God has done for you." So he went away, proclaiming throughout the city how much Jesus had done for him.

Silence is held for one minute of reflection.

Reflection The Rev. John Jenkins

Silence is held for two minutes of reflection.

Music for Meditation *Aka-tombo* (Red dragonflies)

Yamada Kōsaku

Prayers for Ourselves and Others *Please stand, as able.*

Deacon Let us keep silence before God, and through our minds and imaginations offer prayers which words might not contain. Let us pray.

Silence

Leader There is a time for every purpose under heaven.

Silence

Leader A time for gratitude...

Silence

Leader A time for what we have to lay down...

Silence

Leader A time for what we have to pick up...

Silence

Leader A time for confronting what we are avoiding...

Silence

Leader A time for holding compassion for ourselves and others, remembering especially those who suffer the violence of armed conflict.

Silence

Leader A time for recognizing what we hope for...

Silence

Leader A time for giving thanks, [especially ____].

Silence

Leader A time to pray for those who have died, [especially ____].

Silence

Leader In our time and in your time, O God, fulfill our prayers as is best for us and may your kingdom come. **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 Prelude on *We Shall Overcome*

Adolphus Hailstork

The congregation will repeat the refrain as the cantor sings the verses.



Translation: Come, Holy Spirit.

Verses: Come, Holy Spirit, from heaven shine forth with your glorious light. Light in our hearts the flame of your love, that in the darkness of the world, it may glow and reach to all forever.

The Grace Listen to these words of Jesus, words that we can trust: Iona Worship Book

“Don’t be afraid.”

“I love you.”

“Abide in my love.”

“Your sins are forgiven.”

“I will be with you always.”

Write these words in our hearts, loving God, let them take root in our living. **Amen.**

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 STSTEPHENS RVA to 73256.



At the Offertory *Three Visions: II. Summerland*

William Grant Still

The Great Thanksgiving *Please stand.*

Canon G

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 God thanks and praise.**

Celebrant O God of mystery and promise, you invite us to discover you in the intimate places of ourselves and our lives. You invite us to discover you within the complexities of our humanity, in passionate and tender loving, in struggle and pain, in confusion and unknowing, in flashes of insight and wisdom. You also call us beyond ourselves to places of imagination, beyond the silent stars, in the deep rhythms of the ocean, in the unending cycles of day and night, seasons of life and death.

With saints and ancestors, with the seas and earth and sky, with animals and birds, with our friends and those unknown to us, with all creation we join in the song of your unending glory:

Sanctus

Sung by all.

from *St. Anne's Mass*, James MacMillan

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 he, O bless - ed is he 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 that in Jesus you make known to us the wonder and richness of our humanity. We give thanks for his life-giving love, for his healing touch, for his vulnerability and for his gentleness.

Before he gave up his life, he shared his humanity, his flesh and blood with his friends. He took bread, gave thanks for it, broke it and gave it to them saying:

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

Celebrant So too after they had eaten, he took wine, gave thanks for it and gave it to them saying:

All **"This is my blood, poured out in love for you. Do this to remember me."**

Celebrant So we proclaim the mystery of faith:

All
Christ has died.
Christ is risen.
Christ will come again.

Celebrant Come now, Spirit of God, bless these holy gifts, and as we eat and drink these bodily things, make us one body, food for the world, one blood to be poured out for the life of all. Touch us with your gentle creativity and fire us with longing for the new age of justice and peace.

We ask this through Jesus who gave his body that we might be one and his blood that we might find new life. With him, and through him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, be to you, O God, all honor and glory forever. **AMEN.**

The Lord's Prayer

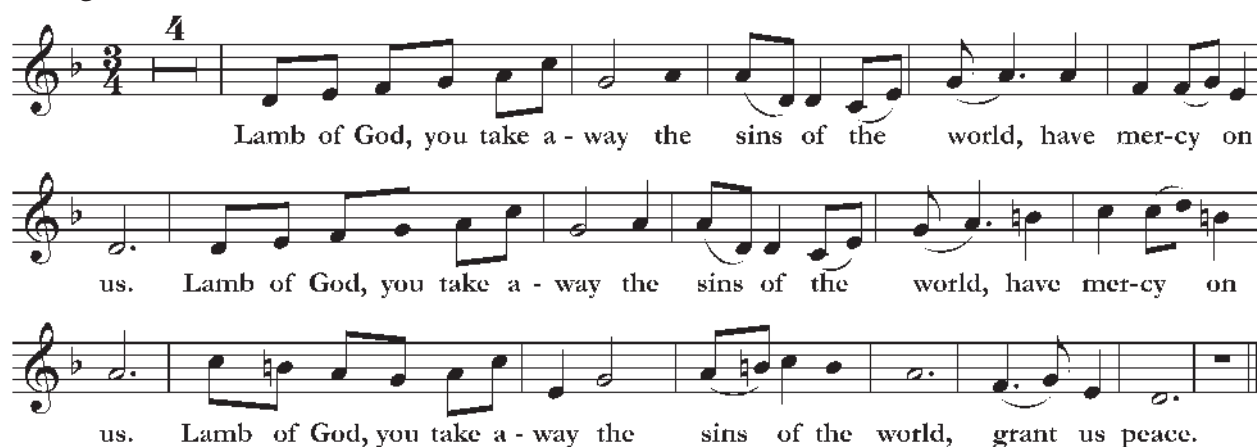
Cantor
As our Sa - vior Christ has taught us, we now pray,
All
Our Fa - ther in hea - ven, hal - lowed be your Name,
your king - dom come, your will be done, on earth as in hea - ven.



The Breaking of the Bread

Silence is held.

from *St. Anne's Mass*, James MacMillan



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

Nobody knows the trouble I've seen
Ave verum corpus
Cinnamon Grove: II. Adagio cantabile

trad. spiritual, arr. Florence Price
 Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart
 Robert Nathaniel Dett

After Communion

Please stand, as able.

Celebrant

Let us pray.

God of glory,

you nourish us with bread from heaven.

Fill us with your Holy Spirit

that through us the light of your glory

may shine in all the world.

We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Blessing

Celebrant

My dearest Lord,

Be thou a bright flame before me

Be thou a guiding star above me

Be thou a smooth path beneath me

Be thou a kindly shepherd behind me

Today and for evermore.

And the blessing of the Holy Trinity,

God the Father, God the Son, God the Holy Spirit,

Three in one, be with you, evermore. **Amen.**

Hymn

There is a balm in Gilead

Sung by all, standing as able.

Balm in Gilead

Refrain



There is a balm in Gil-e-ad, to make the wound-ed whole, there is a
balm in Gil - e - ad, to heal the sin - sick soul.

1. Some - times I feel dis - cour-aged, and think my work's in
2. If you can - not preach like Pe - ter, if you can - not pray like

Repeat Refrain

vain, but then the Ho - ly Spi - rit re - vives my soul a - gain.
Paul, you can tell the love of Je - sus, and say, "He died for all."

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 She moved through the fair

trad. Irish

Postlude

This little light of mine

Margaret Bonds

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



Memorials

The flowers are given to the glory of God and in memory of W. Cabell Moore and Maggie Belle Moore by their family; in memory of H. Stephen Casey, Jr. and Paul E. Brandt by Caroline Brandt.

Participants

Celebrant: The Rev. Bill Sachs; **Deacon and Reflector:** The Rev. John Jenkins; **Subdeacon:** Earl Roney; **Reader:** Scott Finn; **Intercessor:** Katie Kirkley; **Chalice Bearers:** Charlie Caldwell, Guy Frank, Alice Meadows, Paige Trivett; **Musicians:** Lauren Clay, *cantor*; Christine Ertell, *flute*; 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

Copies of the parish prayer list are available inside the Three Chopt Road entrance to the church at at Information Central, outside the parish office. To add someone to the prayer list, please contact Mary Feldman in the parish office, 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: "The Work of Christmas" by Howard Thurman from *Howard Thurman: Essential Writings Selected*, Orbis Books, 2006. Reprinted by permission.

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