# CELTIC EVENSONG AND COMMUNION

# at St. Stephen's Episcopal Church

The Fourth Sunday after Pentecost & July 6, 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.

**Prelude** American Tapestry

Joseph Martin

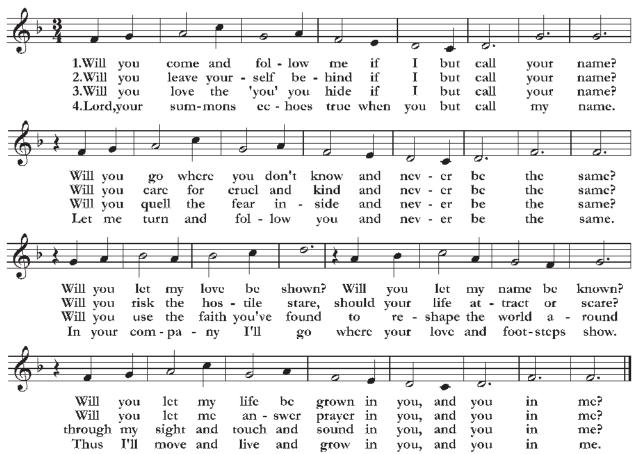
Please stand at the sound of the bell, as you are able

**Opening** The New Colossus

Emma Lazarus

Not like the brazen giant of Greek fame,
With conquering limbs astride from land to land;
Here at our sea-washed, sunset gates shall stand
A mighty woman with a torch, whose flame
Is the imprisoned lightning, and her name
Mother of Exiles. From her beacon-hand
Glows world-wide welcome; her mild eyes command
The air-bridged harbor that twin cities frame.
"Keep ancient lands, your storied pomp!" cries she
With silent lips. "Give me your tired, your poor,
Your huddled masses yearning to breathe free,
The wretched refuse of your teeming shore.
Send these, the homeless, tempest-tost to me,
I lift my lamp beside the golden door!"

Silence is held after the reading.



# A Prayer for the Evening

Enduring presence, goal and guide, you go before and await our coming. Our thirst compels us beyond complaint to conversation, beyond rejection to relationship. Pour your love into our hearts that, refreshed and renewed, we may invite others to the living water found in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

**The Reading** Luke 10:1-11, 16-20 Please sit. Reader A Reading from the Gospel according to Luke.

The Lord appointed seventy others and sent them on ahead of him in pairs to every town and place where he himself intended to go. He said to them, "The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; therefore ask the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest. Go on your way. See, I am sending you out like lambs into the midst of wolves. Carry no purse, no bag, no sandals; and greet no one on the road. Whatever house you enter, first say, 'Peace to this house!' And if anyone is there who shares in peace, your peace will rest on that person; but if not, it will return to you. Remain in the same house, eating and drinking whatever they provide, for the laborer deserves to be paid. Do not move about from house to house. Whenever you enter a town and its people welcome you, eat what is set before you; cure the sick who are there, and say to them, 'The kingdom of God has come near to you.' But whenever you enter a town and they do not welcome you, go out into its streets and say, 'Even the dust of your town that clings to our feet, we wipe off in protest against you. Yet know this: the kingdom of God has come near.' Whoever listens to you listens to me, and whoever rejects you rejects me, and whoever rejects me rejects the one who sent me." The seventy returned with joy, saying, "Lord, in your name even the demons submit to us!" He said to them, "I watched Satan fall from heaven like a flash of lightning. See, I have given you authority to tread on snakes and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy; and nothing will hurt you. Nevertheless, do not rejoice at this, that the spirits submit to you, but rejoice that your names are written in heaven."

Silence is held for one minute of reflection.

**Reflection** Paige Trivett

Silence is held for two minutes of reflection.

**Music for Meditation** Sunayama (A sand hill)

Nakayama Shinpei

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, becoming more and more a

community of hospitality, healing, and hope.

Leader Breathe fresh life into your people.

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

Leader Creator of all, give the people of our land a zeal for justice, the strength of forbearance, and the

wisdom of a humble heart,

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

Leader Awaken in us a sense of wonder for the earth and all your creation.

People Teach us to care creatively for this fragile world and live in harmony with it and with

one another.

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

those elected to uphold the common good and welfare of our nation, this state, and our local

community,

People That all may live with integrity and courage.

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

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

Leader Receive the gratitude of our hearts, especially for the liberties and democratic heritage that we

reaffirm and honor this Independence Day.

The people may add their intercessions either silently or aloud.

Let us now name before God those for whom we offer our personal prayers, remembering especially

all who suffer from violence and every shade of oppression in our own nation and the victims of

armed conflicts around the world.

The people may add their intercessions either silently or aloud.

Leader We pray for our losses, for those 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** John Anderson, My Jo

trad. Scottish, arr. Sunita Staneslow

**Hymn** My spirit is longing for you

William Bradley Roberts, arr. Brent te Velde

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



Verses:

O my God, I long for you; I wait in hope. My spirit is longing for you, my God; my spirit is waiting in hope.

The Grace

In Christ Jesus you are all children of God through faith. As many of you as were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. There is no longer Jew or Greek, there is no longer slave or free, there is no longer male and female; for all of you are one in Christ Jesus. **Amen.** 

Galatians 3:26-28

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 STSTEPHENSRVA to 73256.



At the Offertory

Sandpainting No. 1: White Shell

Connor Chee

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

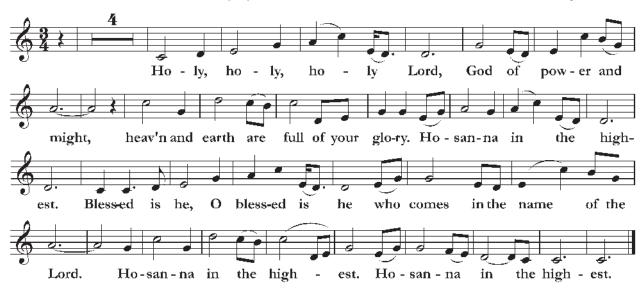
O God of mystery and promise, you invite us to discover you in the intimate places of ourselves and our lives. You invite us to discover you within the complexities of our humanity, in passionate and tender loving, in struggle and pain, in confusion and unknowing, in flashes of insight and wisdom. You 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



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:

ΑII

"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

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

Celebrant

So we proclaim the mystery of faith:

ΑII

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

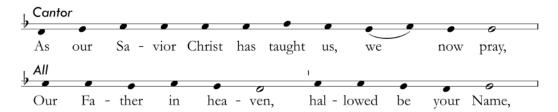
Christ will come again.

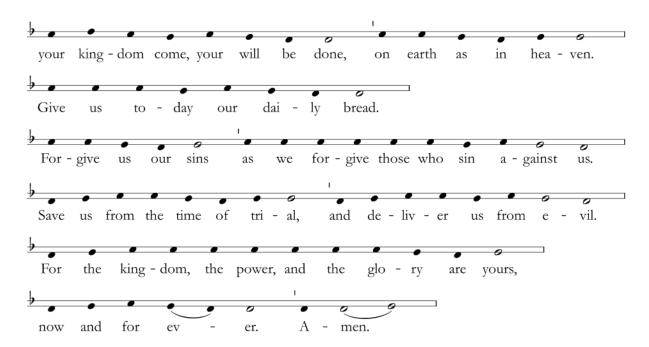
Celebrant

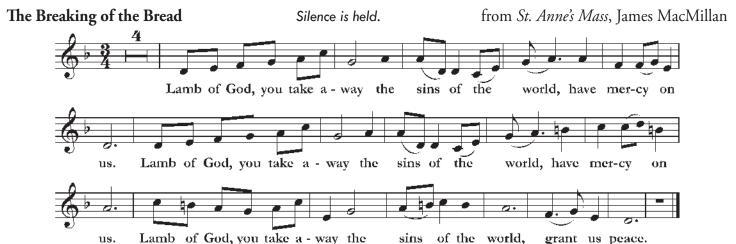
Come now, Spirit of God, bless these holy gifts, and as we eat and drink these bodily things, make us one body, food for the world, one blood to be poured out for the life of all. Touch us with your gentle creativity and fire us with longing for the new age of justice and peace.

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







#### 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** 

Shenandoah I'm troubled Rocky Mountain High arr. David Downes/Máiréad Nesbitt trad. spiritual, arr. Eugene Hancock John Denver, arr. Chris Nole 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

Celebrant May God, who created us for love, dwell in you;

May God, who created us for liberty, set you free from every bond,

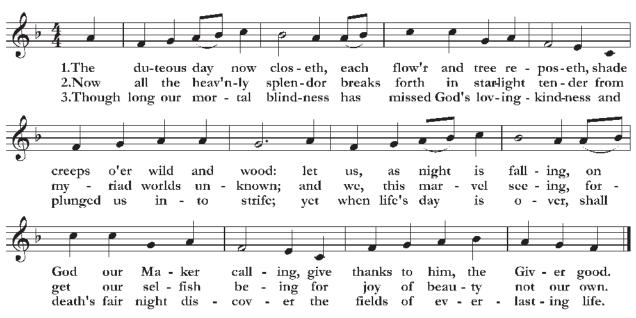
save for the tie that binds us together;

May God, who gave us the gift of one another, bless us with the spirit of unity, the bond of peace, and the will to continue the grand experiment of this nation;

And may the blessing of God, our Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer,

be upon you and remain with you forever. Amen.

Hymn The duteous day now closeth Sung by all, standing as able. O Welt, ich muss dich lassen



#### **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** Navajo Vocable No. 8

Connor Chee

**Postlude** Be thou my vision

trad. Irish, arr. Jennifer Haines

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

## **Participants**

**Celebrant:** The Rev. John Rohrs; **Deacon:** The Rev. John Jenkins; **Reflector:** Paige Trivett; **Subdeacon:** Dave Davis; **Reader/Intercessor:** Greta Kidd; **Chalice Bearers:** Iffet Araniti-Davis, Kristen Estes, Katie Kirkley, Cary Wyatt; **Musicians:** Lauren Clay, *cantor*; Ellie Swanson, *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

The parish prayer list is available in the narthex (the church vestibule) and at Information Central (the large table 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. Opening: "The New Colossus" by Emma Lazarus. Public Domain..