



CELTIC EVENSONG AND COMMUNION

at St. Stephen's Episcopal Church

The Tenth Sunday after Pentecost ☩ August 17, 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

Nocturne

Stephen Bryant

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

Opening

Pseudo-Macarius, 4th Century Egyptian monastic

The heart itself is only a small vessel, yet dragons are there, and lions; there are poisonous beasts and all the treasures of evil; there are rough and uneven roads; there are precipices; but there, too, are God, and the angels; life is there, and the Kingdom; there, too, is light, and there the apostles, and heavenly cities, and treasures of grace. All things lie within that little space.

Silence is held after the reading.

Hymn

Amazing grace, how sweet the sound

Sung by all, standing as able.

New Britain

1. A - - - maz - ing grace, how sweet the sound that
2. 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, and
3. The Lord has prom - ised good to me, his
4. Through man - y dan - gers, toils, and snares, I
5. When we've been there ten thou - sand years, bright

saved a wretch like me! I once was lost, but
grace my fears re - lieved; how pre - cious did that
word my hope se - cures; he will my shield and
have al - read - y come; 'tis grace has brought me
shin - ing as the sun, we've no less days to

now am found, was blind but now I see.
grace ap - pear the hour I first be - lieved.
por - tion be as long as life en - dures.
safe thus far, and grace will lead me home.
sing God's praise than when we'd first be - gun.

A Prayer for the Evening

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.**

The Reading Luke 12:49-56 *Please sit.*

Reader A Reading from the Gospel according to Luke.

Jesus said, "I came to bring fire to the earth, and how I wish it were already kindled! I have a baptism with which to be baptized, and what stress I am under until it is completed! Do you think that I have come to bring peace to the earth? No, I tell you, but rather division! From now on five in one household will be divided, three against two and two against three; they will be divided:

father against son
and son against father,
mother against daughter
and daughter against mother,
mother-in-law against her daughter-in-law
and daughter-in-law against mother-in-law."

He also said to the crowds, "When you see a cloud rising in the west, you immediately say, 'It is going to rain'; and so it happens. And when you see the south wind blowing, you say, 'There will be scorching heat'; and it happens. You hypocrites! You know how to interpret the appearance of earth and sky, but why do you not know how to interpret the present time?"

Silence is held for one minute of reflection.

Reflection Lydia Mercado

Silence is held for two minutes of reflection.

Music for Meditation *Habu no Minato* (The Harbor of Habu)

Nakayama Shinpei

Prayers for Ourselves and Others *Please stand.*

Deacon Let us pray for the church and the world.

In the silence following each petition, please offer your own prayers, silently or aloud.

Leader Let us first of all pray for those who have no one to pray for them.

Leader Let us pray for the concerns of our community, our families and friends, and all who have requested our prayers.

Leader Let us pray for the Christian Church and for all people of faith.

Leader Let us pray for our nation and for leaders around the world.

Leader Let us pray for those who grieve and for those who have died, [especially _____].

Leader Finally, let us give thanks for all that is lovely, true, and gracious in our world and in our lives and those of others, [especially for _____].

Leader May God still our minds, calm our hearts, breathe fresh life into us, and make us instruments of Christ to share the peace that the world cannot give. **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 Lavender Hills

Brian Crain

Hymn In God alone my soul

Jacques Berthier

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



Verses: For God alone my soul waits in silence; from God comes my salvation. God alone is my rock and my salvation. For God alone I wait in silence; for my hope is in God. God alone is my rock, my salvation, God is my fortress; I shall not be shaken.

Blessing of Oil for Healing Ministries

Celebrant To Jesus came the untouchable sick, sinners and outcasts, foreigners and foes alike;

All **He touched and healed, welcomed and forgave. Jesus loved them all.**

Celebrant Jesus receives all who seek God's loving mercy.

All **We come to Jesus in our need, bringing with us the needs of the world.**

Celebrant Spirit of God, come upon this oil and upon all who seek the anointing of your healing; pour upon them the gift of your wholeness and the healing of your love, in the holy name of Christ. **Amen.**

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."

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 STSTEPHENSVA to 73256.



At the Offertory Amazing Grace

arr. Jennifer Grady

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.

Michael Simpson

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. Blest is
he who comes in the name of the Lord. 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.

Michael Simpson

Lamb of God, you take a-way the sins of the
 world: have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the
 sins of the world: have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you
 take a-way the sins of the world: 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 The last rose of summer
À Chloë
Wildflower

trad. Irish, arr. Philip Keveren
Reynaldo Hahn
Jennifer Haines

After Communion Please stand.

Celebrant Let us pray.

All **Loving God,**
we give you thanks
that in the sacrament of Christ's Body and Blood,
you awaken us to your indwelling Presence
and our true life.
Help us to recognize and honor
your Presence in one another,
to treat each other with reverence and humility,
and to become, more and more,
the people we already are in you. Amen.

The Blessing

Paraphrase of Henri Frederic Amiel

Celebrant Life is short and we do not have much time to gladden the hearts of those who are traveling the journey with us. So be swift to love, and make haste to be kind. And the blessing of God Almighty, Father, Son and Holy Spirit be among you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

Hymn

Let us now depart in your peace

Sung by all, standing as able.

A la puerta



1. Let us now de - part in your peace, bless-ed Je - sus. Send us to our
2. Let us now de - part in your love, bless-ed Je - sus. Send us on our
homes with God's love in our hearts. Let not the bus - y world
way with your joy in our hearts. Help us to show your love,
claim all our loy - al - ties. Keep us ev - er mind - ful of you, O Lord.
lead us to do your will. Keep us ev - er faith - ful to you, O Lord.

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 *Là-bas, vers l'église* (Down there by the church)

Maurice Ravel

Postlude Be thou my vision

trad. Irish, arr. Bethany K. Smith

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 Mr. and Mrs. James Dunn Mason, Sr., Dr. and Mrs. James Dunn Mason, Jr., and Mr. and Mrs. Alexander Hamilton Mason by Sarah Mason Ayers; John H. Beebe, Jr. and William H. Beebe by their family; and Mr. and Mrs. Vachel Augustine Downes and Mr. and Mrs. John Franklyn Newsom, Jr. by Mr. and Mrs. John Franklyn Newsom III and family.

Participants

Celebrant: The Rev. John Rohrs; **Deacon:** The Rev. John Jenkins; **Reflector:** Lydia Mercado; **Subdeacon:** Earl Roney; **Reader:** Sarah Shutt; **Intercessor:** Katy Groover; **Chalice Bearers:** Nancy Atkins, Dave Davis, Guy Frank, Pat Githens; **Musicians:** Quinn Bitsas, *cantor*; Treesa Gold, *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

Charles Adams, Richelle Anderson, Abigail Palmer Anthony, Rubylane Armstrong, Patricia Atkins-Smith, Robert Baker, Elizabeth Bannerman, Lash Barksdale, Nancy Beale, Christine Boeteger, Denise Bondy, Genie Borum, Julia Bouck, Liz Brengel, Sturges Brian, Leslie Brockman, Alex H. Brown, Pat Brown, Sarah Jo Bryce, Turner Bruneau, Matt Boyd, Patti Bullen, the Robert Burns family, Ann Campbell, Tammy Carleton, Scott Carnohan, Paula Chambers, Helen Clendenin, Percy Cochran, Sarah Cole, Susan Collier, Caswell Cooke, Mary Cooke, Prior Cooper, Kathy Conrad, Stephanie Copeland, John Corey, Randy Correll, Tom Coulbourn, Michelle Crim, the Rt. Rev. Michael Curry, Steven Dalle Mura, Daniel and family, Chris Davis, Patricia Delany, Jackie Dering, Ham DeRosa, *Terry Dickinson*, Davis Dunn Dillard, Barbara Hall Dunn, Jim Einhaus, Charlotte and Wade Elliott, Proctor Ford, Guy Frank, Julia G., Yvette Gerardin, Frank Ginty, Rick Greenwood, Johnny Guy, Janis Hall, Rodger Hardy, Marianne Harmuth, Katie Hellebush, Dan Hill, Deborah Hodgson-Lyons, Anna Hurdle, Esther Hutchison, Julie Imeson, the Rt. Rev. Shannon Johnston, Lena Jones, Gouthum Karadi, Jane Kelly, Dana King, *Margee Krebs*, 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, Michael J. Malone, Barbara Mathison, Adrienne Maxwell, Richard Maxwell, Virginia Maxwell, Michael McCabe, Schnucki McCabe, Morgan McCall, Stratton and Robin McCrady, Gertrude McLean, Nancy Meath, Melanie, Jack Miller, Mary Miller, Susan Minyard, Sallie Moncol, Lou Anne Nabhan, Ashley Nickerson, Mary Beth Noel, Jan Orgain, Tricia Payne, Beth Pearce, Ernest Perry, Courtney Phillips, Scott Pittman, Wilde Poole and family, Bob Pope, Lee Powell, Tom Rader, Bryson Raquet, Wick Raquet, Nancy B. Reed, Brenda Rohadfox, 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, Margie Sesler, Jane Settle, Jim and Mary Beth Shannon, *Bayliss Sharp*, Todd Shelton, Torrey Shuford, Chrys Sills, Aiden Thomas Smith, Ross Southward, Josh Spain, Ben Sparks, Jayne Speck, Reilly Starr, Dorothy Suskind, Margaret Teachey, Jens Tholand, Margaret Thompson, Nelson Toebbe, Langdon Tollett, Kenneth Valke, Cordelia Vogel, Timothy W., Mac Wade, Ozzie Wade, Carol and Don Wakeley, Suzanne Wallace, Baird Weisleder, Tom White, Terri Wilcox, Donna Williams, Nelson Williams, Trevor Wingate, Claire Wood, Emily H. Wood, Sue Wootton, Paul Leddington Wright, Karen Young, Margaret P. Young. **For those who have died**, especially *Carrie Marshall*. **For the blessings of this life**, especially for the birth of *Stuart Wilton Burgess Kegan to Stuart and Melissa Kegan*. **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 Scottish Episcopal Church*. **For ReWork Richmond**. **For an end to gun violence**. **For peace and reconciliation** in Haiti, Iraq, Iran, 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, Lt. Jonathan Dean Hudson, Abraham Schlossberg, and Lt. Alex Whitmire. *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 Kitty Ball at kball@ststephensRVA.org.

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. -

St. Stephen's Episcopal Church ☎ 6000 Grove Avenue Richmond, Virginia 23226 ☎ 804.288.2867 ☎ ststephensRVA.org