



CELTIC EVENSONG AND COMMUNION

at St. Stephen's Episcopal Church

The Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost ☪ August 24, 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 Homeland

Eric Tingstad, arr. Brent te Velde

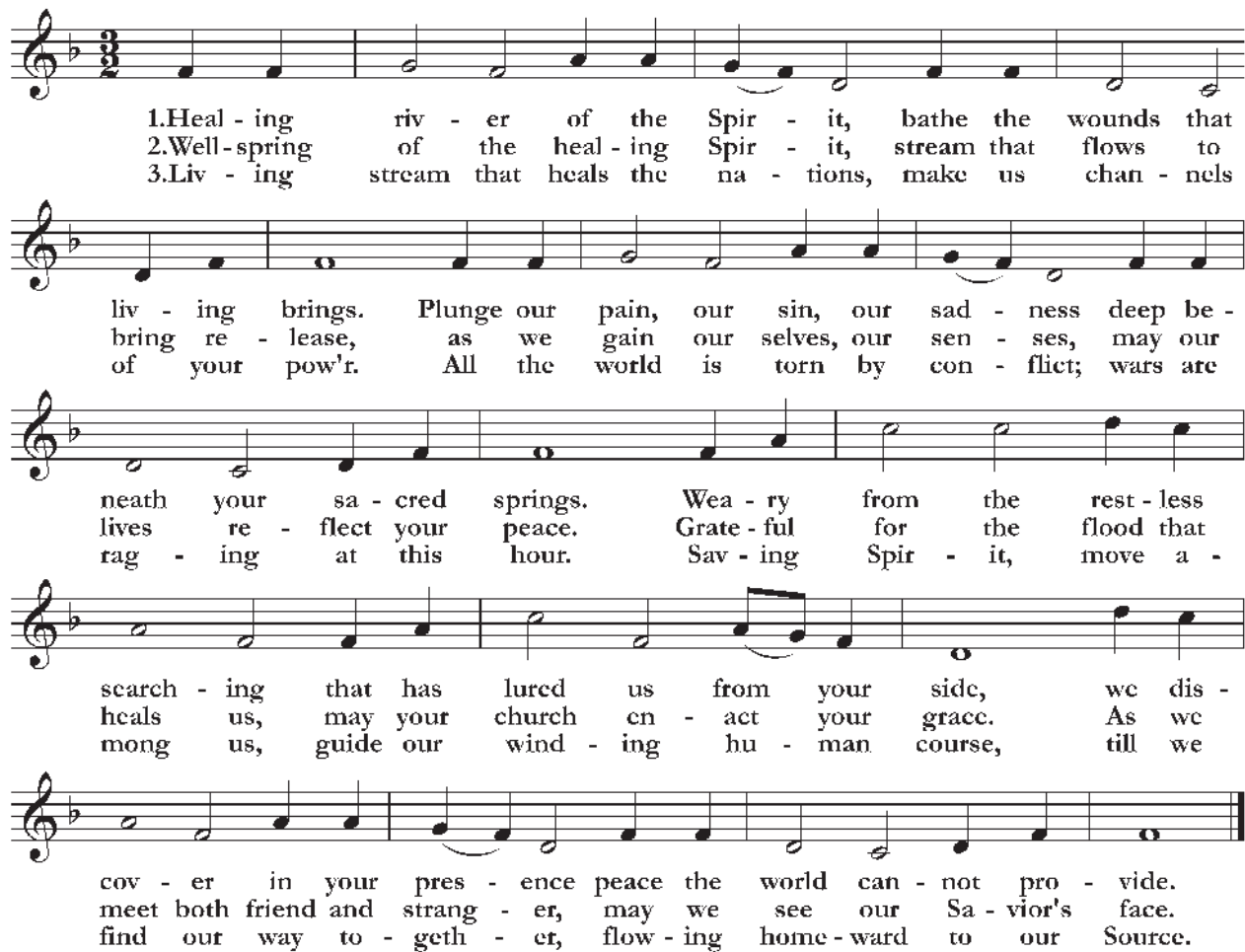
Please stand at the sound of the bell, as you are able

Opening The Summer Day

Mary Oliver

Who made the world?
Who made the swan, and the black bear?
Who made the grasshopper?
This grasshopper, I mean—
the one who has flung herself out of the grass,
the one who is eating sugar out of my hand,
who is moving her jaws back and forth instead of up and down—
who is gazing around with her enormous and complicated eyes.
Now she lifts her pale forearms and thoroughly washes her face.
Now she snaps her wings open, and floats away.
I don't know exactly what a prayer is.
I do know how to pay attention, how to fall down
into the grass, how to kneel down in the grass,
how to be idle and blessed, how to stroll through the fields,
which is what I have been doing all day.
Tell me, what else should I have done?
Doesn't everything die at last, and too soon?
Tell me, what is it you plan to do
with your one wild and precious life?

Silence is held after the reading.



1. Heal - ing riv - er of the Spir - it, bathe the wounds that
 2. Well - spring of the heal - ing Spir - it, stream that flows to
 3. Liv - ing stream that heals the na - tions, make us chan - nels

liv - ing brings. Plunge our pain, our sin, our sad - ness deep be -
 bring re - lease, as we gain our selves, our sen - ses, may our
 of your pow'r. All the world is torn by con - flict; wars are

neath your sa - cred springs. Wea - ry from the rest - less
 lives re - flect your peace. Grate - ful for the flood that
 rag - ing at this hour. Sav - ing Spir - it, move a -

search - ing that has lured us from your side, we dis -
 heals us, may your church en - act your grace. As we
 mong us, guide our wind - ing hu - man course, till we

cov - er in your pres - ence peace the world can - not pro - vide.
 meet both friend and strang - er, may we see our Sa - vior's face.
 find our way to - geth - er, flow - ing home - ward to our Source.

A Prayer for the Evening

The sacred Three

To save,

To shield,

To surround,

The hearth,

The household,

This eve,

This night,

Oh! this eve,

This night,

And every night,

Each single night. **Amen.**

The Reading Luke 13:10-17 *Please sit.*

Reader A Reading from the Gospel according to Luke.

Now Jesus was teaching in one of the synagogues on the sabbath. And just then there appeared a woman with a spirit that had crippled her for eighteen years. She was bent over and was quite unable to stand up straight. When Jesus saw her, he called her over and said, "Woman, you are set free from your ailment." When he laid his hands on her, immediately she stood up straight and began praising God. But the leader of the synagogue,

indignant because Jesus had cured on the sabbath, kept saying to the crowd, “There are six days on which work ought to be done; come on those days and be cured, and not on the sabbath day.” But the Lord answered him and said, “You hypocrites! Does not each of you on the sabbath untie his ox or his donkey from the manger, and lead it away to give it water? And ought not this woman, a daughter of Abraham whom Satan bound for eighteen long years, be set free from this bondage on the sabbath day?” When he said this, all his opponents were put to shame; and the entire crowd was rejoicing at all the wonderful things that he was doing.

Silence is held for one minute of reflection.

Reflection Rob Nease

Silence is held for two minutes of reflection.

Music for Meditation *Tölfsynir* (Bravely sails my bark) Icelandic folk song, arr. Granville Bantock

Prayers for Ourselves and Others *Please stand.* from *The Book of Common Prayer of Ireland*

Deacon God has promised to hear the prayers of those who ask in faith; therefore, let us pray for the Church and the world.

In the silence following each petition the people may add their prayers either silently or aloud.

Leader Lord of your people: strengthen and renew your Church in all the world, and build us up in faith and love.

Leader Lord of creation: look with favor on the world you have made, and guide the nations in the ways of justice and of peace.

Leader Lord of relationship: comfort and sustain the communities in which we live and work; help us to love our neighbors as ourselves; enable us to serve our families and friends, and to love one another as you love us.

Leader Lord of healing: relieve and protect all who suffer in body, spirit, and mind; sustain and deliver all who know danger, violence, or suffering throughout the world, [especially ____].

Leader Lord of blessing: receive our thanks and gratitude for the ways you fill our lives with goodness, faith, hope, opportunity and every nourishment and comforting kindness, [especially ____].

Leader Lord of life: in the strong hope of resurrection in Christ, come near to all who grieve at the loss or death of beloved ones, [especially for ____].

Leader Lord of eternity: bind us together by your Holy Spirit in communion with your saints, that we may entrust ourselves, and one another, and our whole life to you. **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 The Green Glens of Antrim trad. Irish, arr. Phil Coulter

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.

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 STSTEPHENS RVA to 73256.



At the Offertory Gabriel's Oboe

Ennio Morricone

The Great Thanksgiving

Please stand.

Enriching Our Worship, Eucharistic Prayer 3

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

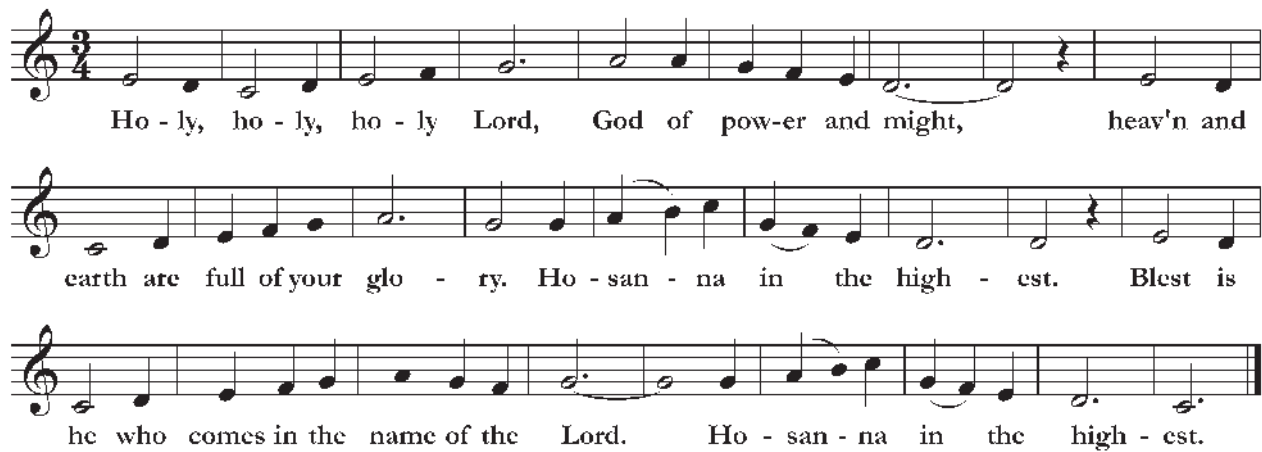
Celebrant Lift up your hearts.

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:



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."**

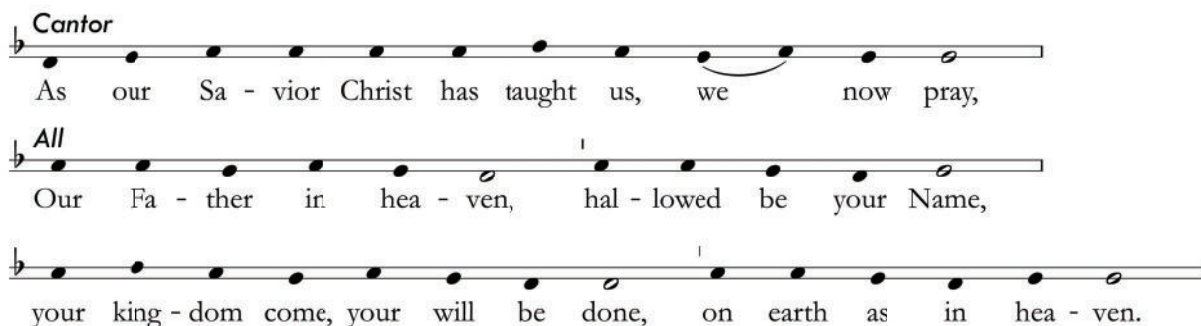
Celebrant And so, remembering all that was done for us: the cross, the tomb, the resurrection and ascension, longing for Christ's coming in glory, and presenting to you these gifts your earth has formed and human hands have made, we acclaim you, O Christ:

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





The Breaking of the Bread

The Celebrant breaks the bread. A period of silence is held.

Sung by all.

Michael Simpson



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 *Beach Spring*
Sinfonia, from Cantata 156
Ágúst (August)

arr. Rachel Porter
J.S. Bach
Ólafur Arnalds

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 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 May the grace of Christ *Sung by all, standing as able.* *Austin*

1. May the grace of Christ our Sa - vior and the Fa - ther's bound-less love,
2. Thus may we a - bide in un - ion with each oth - er and the Lord;
with the Ho - ly Spi - rit's fa - vor, rest up - on us from a - bove.
and pos - sess, in sweet com - mun - ion, joys which earth can - not af - ford.

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 *Wakareshi Yoi* (The evening of parting)

Motoori Nagayo

Postlude Mingulay Boat Song

trad. Hebrides, arr. Sunita Staneslow

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 C. Coleman McGehee and Carden C. McGehee, Jr. by Caroline Brandt; and in memory of Carrie Marshall by Nancy Thompson and Wendy Tenhoeve.

Participants

Celebrant: The Rev. John Jenkins; **Deacon:** The Rev. Bill Sachs; **Reflector:** Rob Nease; **Subdeacon:** Pam Redd; **Reader:** Tyler Curtis; **Intercessor:** Kathy Brock; **Chalice Bearers:** SSarah Shutt, Kim Spensieri, Susan Wilkes, Cary Wyatt; **Musicians:** Matt Hassmer, *cantor*; Vicky Hamrick, *oboe*; Ingrid Keller, *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 at Information Central (the large table outside the parish office) and in the narthex (the vestibule inside the Three Chopt Road entrance to the church). To add someone to the prayer list, please contact Kitty Ball in the parish office, kball@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 Summer Day" by Mary Oliver from *New and Selected Poems* © 1992 Beacon Press, Boston, MA. Reprinted with permission.

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