



CELTIC EVENSONG AND COMMUNION

at St. Stephen's Episcopal Church

The Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost ☩ September 14, 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 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 Intermezzo, Op. 117, No. 1

Johannes Brahms

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

Opening Forgiveness

Temple Cone

I've heard that deaf children,
in a room where music is played,
grow calm, begin to rock slightly
as the sounds, moving through air,
move them, too. It's this way
with forgiveness; it goes unheard
for a while, delivers us
into a rhythm we can't help,
like a weather front. In the end,
we can't even say
who gave or received, only that air
still trembles, that walls fold around.

Silence is held after the reading.

Hymn A place called home

Sung by all, standing as able.

Finlandia

1. A place called home with com-fort for the wea-ry: a place called home of
2. A place called home, where ten-der-ness can flourish; a place called home, a
3. A place called home for ev-'ry hu-man be-ing; a place called home where
nour-ish-ment and rest; a place called home that wel-comes in the stran-ger,
ha-ven from all harm; a place called home where chil-dren sleep in safe-ty,
arms are o-pened wide; a place called home where all ex-tend the wel-come,
Where one un-known be-comes a wel-come guest, where love can find a
where hurts are healed, a shel-ter from the storm, where peace can find a
where none are lost, a-lone or cast a-side, but mem-bers of a
hu-man hab-i-ta-tion; God grant us all this grace: a place called home.
hu-man hab-i-ta-tion; God grant us all this grace: a place called home.
sin-gle hu-man fam-ly; God grant us grace to build a place called home.

A Prayer for the Evening

Speak to us this night, O God
Speak to us your truth.
Dwell with us this night, O God
Dwell with us in Love. **Amen.**

The Reading Luke 15:1-10 *Please sit.*

Reader A Reading from the Gospel according to Luke.

All the tax collectors and sinners were coming near to listen to Jesus. And the Pharisees and the scribes were grumbling and saying, "This fellow welcomes sinners and eats with them." So he told them this parable: "Which one of you, having a hundred sheep and losing one of them, does not leave the ninety-nine in the wilderness and go after the one that is lost until he finds it? When he has found it, he lays it on his shoulders and rejoices. And when he comes home, he calls together his friends and neighbors, saying to them, 'Rejoice with me, for I have found my sheep that was lost.' Just so, I tell you, there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who need no repentance. Or what woman having ten silver coins, if she loses one of them, does not light a lamp, sweep the house, and search carefully until she finds it? When she has found it, she calls together her friends and neighbors, saying, 'Rejoice with me, for I have found the coin that I had lost.' Just so, I tell you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents."

Silence is held for one minute of reflection.

Reflection Angela DeVaun

Silence is held for two minutes of reflection.

Music for Meditation Eleanor Plunkett trad. Irish/Turlough O'Carolan, arr. Diana Chou

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 into your 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 Open our hearts with compassion to suffering throughout the world, for the earth's plants, animals and ecosystems, and all who bear the wounds of human violence, indifference, and aggression, especially in the Middle East and Eastern Europe.

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.

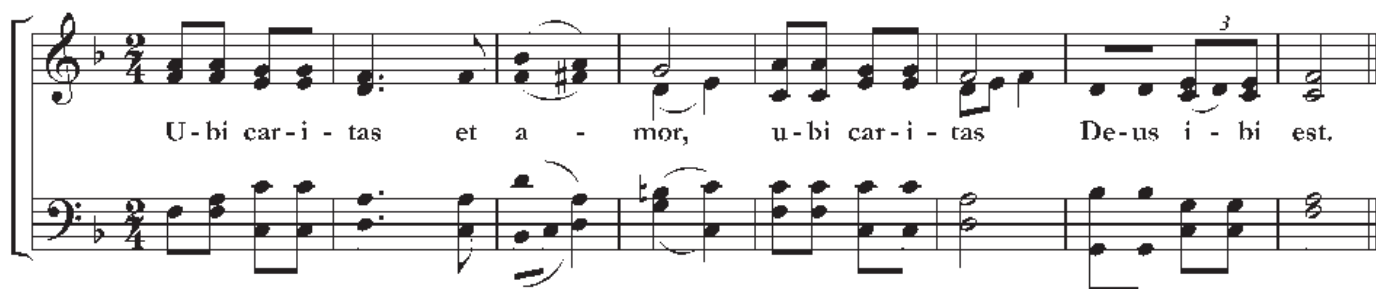
Music for Meditation *Suil a Ghra*

trad. Irish, arr. Kathryn Cater/Sandy Norman

Hymn *Ubi caritas*

Jacques Berthier

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



Translation: Where true charity and love dwell, God is there.

Verses: Your love, O Jesus Christ, has gathered us together. May your love, O Jesus Christ, be foremost in our lives. Let us love one another as God has loved us. Let us be one in love together in the one bread of Christ. The love of God in Jesus Christ will never have an end.

The Grace When he came to himself he said, "How many of my father's hired hands have bread enough and to spare, but here I am dying of hunger! I will get up and go to my father, and I will say to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son; treat me like one of your hired hands.' So he set off and went to his father. But while he was still far off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion; he ran and put his arms around him and kissed him. **Amen.** *Luke 15:17-20*

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 Moonrise

Brian Crain

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:

Sanctus

This refrain is repeated as the cantor sings the verses.

Jacques Berthier



Translation: Holy, holy, holy Lord God of hosts.

Verses: Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might. Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

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.

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

Sung by all. The congregation will repeat the refrain as the cantor sings the verses.

Jacques Berthier

Do - na no - bis pa - cem.

Translation: Grant us peace.

Verses: Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us. Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us. Lamb of God, you take away 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 | <i>Kōjō no Tsuki</i> (Moon over the ruined castle) | Taki Rentarō, arr. Yamada Kōsaku |
| | Romance, Op. 78, No. 2 | Jean Sibelius |
| | <i>Nuvole bianche</i> (White clouds) | 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

Celebrant The Blessing of the Creator, light you.
The Blessing of the Risen Son, light you.
The Blessing of the Light-giving Spirit, light you.
May the Holy Three give you light, love and peace
this night and forever. **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 Thine the Amen

arr. Anne Krentz Organ

Postlude

Be still, my soul

arr. Jennifer Haines

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



Flowers and Vigil Candle

The flowers are given to the glory of God and in memory of Robert Calvert King Sr. by his family; in memory of the Rev. E. Allen Coffey by his family; and in celebration of the marriage of Nathaniel Pendleton Rogers, Jr. and Winfred Miller Yeates. The vigil candle in the Chapel of the Holy Spirit is given in memory of Lucy Boswell Negus

Participants

Celebrant: The Rev. Will Stanley; **Deacon:** The Rev. Bill Sachs; **Reflector:** Angela DeVaux; **Subdeacon:** Pam Redd;
Reader: Gayle Royals; **Intercessor:** John Porter; **Chalice Bearers:** Nancy Atkins, Guy Frank, Kim Spensieri, Cary Wyatt;
Musicians: Abby Outlaw, *cantor*; Peter Greydanus, *cello*; 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.

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, Richelle Anderson, Abigail Palmer Anthony, Rubylane Armstrong, Patricia Atkins-Smith, *Sue Atkinson*, Robert Baker, Elizabeth Bannerman, Lash Barksdale, Nancy Beale, Ken Blaisdell, Christine Boeteger, Denise Bondy, Genie Borum, Julia Bouck, *Gene Bowles*, 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, Alan Demascus, Jackie Dering, Ham DeRosa, Terry Dickinson, Davis Dunn Dillard, Barbara Hall Dunn, Charlotte and Wade Elliott, Proctor Ford, Guy Frank, Julia G., Yvette Gerardin, Frank Ginty, Rick Greenwood, 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, Joy Luke, 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, Lyn Presson, 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, Todd Shelton, *Maj. David Shuford, Jr.*, Chrys Sills, Aiden Thomas Smith, Ross Southward, Josh Spain, Ben Sparks, Jayne Speck, Reilly Starr, Regena Stith, Dorothy Suskind, Margaret Teachey, Jens Tholand, Margaret Thompson, *Matt Thompson, Sr.*, Nelson Toebbe, Langdon Tollett, Kenneth Valke, Cordelia Vogel, Timothy W., Mac Wade, Ozzie Wade, Carol and Don Wakeley, Suzanne Wallace, Tom White, Terri Wilcox, Donna Williams, Trevor Wingate, Claire Wood, Emily H. Wood, Sue Wootton, Paul Leddington Wright, Wesley Wright, Karen Young, Margaret P. Young. **For those who have died, especially Mary Helen Clendenin, Jeanette Lynne Hedrick, Elizabeth Parker Whittet O'Connor, Wesley Wright, Jr. 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 *Anglican Church of South America*. **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.

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: "Forgiveness" by Temple Cone, from *No Loneliness*; FutureCycle Press ©2009. Printed by permission.

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