



# CELTIC EVENSONG AND COMMUNION

at St. Stephen's Episcopal Church

The Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost ☪ September 21, 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**

The way home

Cory Blake

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

## **Opening**

The Map You Make Yourself

Jan Richardson

You have looked  
at so many doors  
with longing,  
wondering if your life  
lay on the other side.

For today,  
choose the door  
that opens  
to the inside.

Travel the most ancient way  
of all:  
the path that leads you  
to the center  
of your life.

No map  
but the one  
you make yourself.

No provision  
but what you already carry  
and the grace that comes  
to those who walk  
the pilgrim's way.

Speak this blessing  
as you set out  
and watch how  
your rhythm slows,  
the cadence of the road  
drawing you into the pace  
that is your own.

Eat when hungry.  
Rest when tired.  
Listen to your dreaming.  
Welcome the detours  
as doors deeper in.  
Pray for protection.  
Ask for guidance.  
Offer gladness  
for the gifts that come,  
and then  
let them go.


Do not expect  
to return  
by the same road.  
Home is always by another  
way,  
and you will know it  
not by the light  
that waits for you

but by the star  
that blazes inside you,  
telling you  
where you are  
is holy  
and you are welcome  
here.

*Silence is held after the reading.*

**Hymn**

My shepherd will supply my need

*Sung by all, standing as able.**Resignation*


1. My Shep-herd will sup-ply my need. Je-ho-vah is his name;  
 2. When I walk through the shades of death, thy pres-ence is my stay;  
 3. The sure pro-vi-sions of my God at-tend me all my days;  
 in pas-tures fresh he makes me feed be-side the liv-ing stream.  
 one word of thy sup-port-ing breath drives all my fears a-way.  
 oh, may thy house be mine a-bode and all my work be praise.  
 He brings my wan-d'ring spi-rit back when I for-sake his ways,  
 Thy hand, in sight of all my foes, doth still my ta-ble spread;  
 There would I find a set-tled rest, while o-thers go and come:  
 and leads me, for his mer-cy's sake, in paths of truth and grace.  
 my cup with blessings o-ver-flows, thy oil a-noints my head.  
 no more a strang-er or a guest, but like a child at 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 16:1-13*Please sit.***Reader**

A Reading from the Gospel according to Luke.

Jesus said to the disciples, "There was a rich man who had a manager, and charges were brought to him that this man was squandering his property. So he summoned him and said to him, 'What is this that I hear about you? Give me an accounting of your management, because you cannot be my manager any longer.' Then the manager said to himself, 'What will I do, now that my master is taking the position away from me? I am not strong enough to dig, and I am ashamed to beg. I have decided what to do so that, when I am dismissed as manager, people may welcome me into their homes.' So, summoning his master's debtors one by one, he asked the first, 'How much do you owe my master?' He answered, 'A hundred jugs of olive oil.' He said to him, 'Take your bill, sit down quickly, and make it fifty.' Then he asked another, 'And how much do you owe?' He replied, 'A hundred containers of wheat.' He said to him, 'Take your bill and make it eighty.' And his master commended the dishonest manager because he had acted shrewdly; for the children of this age are more shrewd in dealing with their own generation than are the children of light. And I tell you, make friends for yourselves by means of dishonest wealth so that when it is gone, they may welcome you into the eternal homes.

"Whoever is faithful in a very little is faithful also in much; and whoever is dishonest in a very little is dishonest also in much. If then you have not been faithful with the dishonest wealth, who will entrust to you the true riches? And if you have not been faithful with what belongs to another, who will give you what is your own? No slave can serve two masters; for a slave will either hate the one and love the other, or be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and wealth."

*Silence is held for one minute of reflection.*

**Reflection**     Sandy Gramling

*Silence is held for two minutes of reflection.*

**Music for Meditation**     A simple day

Amy and Cory Blake

**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.*

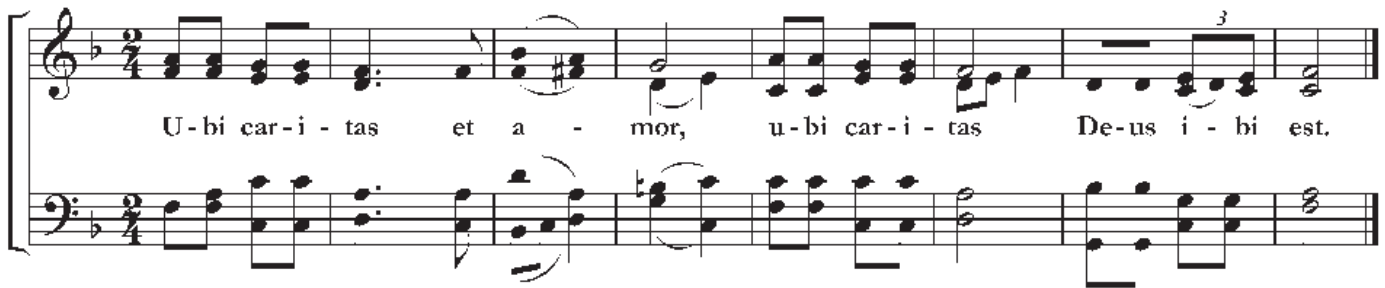
**Music for Meditation** My shepherd, you supply my need

arr. Emily Maxson Porter

**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 STSTEPHENS RVA to 73256.*



**At the Offertory** *Se io m'accorgo*

anonymous 15th-century lute piece

**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.”**

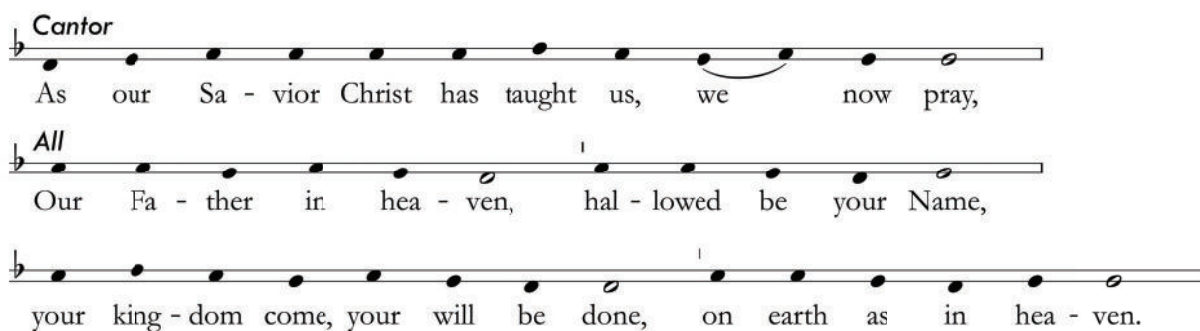
**Celebrant** And so, remembering all that was done for us: the cross, the tomb, the resurrection and ascension, longing for Christ’s coming in glory, and presenting to you these gifts your earth has formed and human hands have made, we acclaim you, O Christ:

**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





### 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



*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** Boots of Spanish leather

Bob Dylan, arr. Blake

Evening Songs: *Vy všichni, kdo jste stísněni* (All you with burdens)

Antonín Dvořák

Vanishing in the rain

Masashi Toyofuku



## After Communion

*Please stand.*

**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**

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

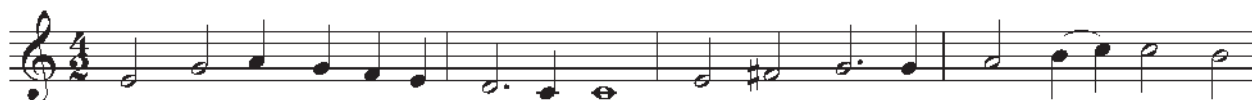
this night and forever. **Amen.**

## Hymn

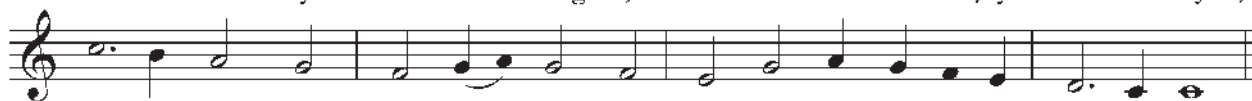
God be with you till we meet again

*Sung by all, standing as able.*

*Randolph*



1. God be with you till we meet a-gain; lov - ing coun-sels guide, up - hold you,  
2. God be with you till we meet a-gain; un - seen wings pro - tect - ing hide you,  
3. God be with you till we meet a-gain; when life's per - ils thick con - found you,  
4. God be with you till we meet a-gain; with the oil of joy a - noint you,



with a Shep-herd's care en - fold you: God be with you till we meet a-gain.  
dai - ly man - na still pro - vide you: God be with you till we meet a-gain.  
put un - fail - ing arms a - round you: God be with you till we meet a-gain.  
lov - ing min - i - stries ap - point you: God be with you till we meet a-gain.

## 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

Going home

Celtic ballad, arr. Blake

## Postlude

The great dream from heaven

Joseph Spence, arr. Blake

*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 Dr. Walter Mayer and Dr. Robin Mayer by their family.

## Participants

**Celebrant:** The Rev. John Rohrs; **Deacon:** The Rev. Cate Anthony; **Reflector:** Sandy Gramling; **Subdeacon:**

Sam Davis; **Reader:** Kristen Estes; **Intercessor:** Rob Nease; **Chalice Bearers:** Guy Frank, Katie Groover, Barbara

Massey, Kim Spensieri; **Musicians:** Lauren Clay, *cantor*; Amy Blake, *flute*; Cory Blake, *guitar*; 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 been 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](mailto: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. Eerdmans 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: Jan Richardson, "The Map You Make Yourself" from *Circle of Grace: A Book of Blessings for the Seasons*; © 2015 Wanton Gospeller Press. Used by permission.

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