



CELTIC EVENSONG AND COMMUNION

at St. Stephen's Episcopal Church

The Feast of St. Stephen ☩ November 9, 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 in the center aisle. 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

Silent Noon

Ralph Vaughan Williams

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

Opening

"For This, I Walk Outside," from *A Hundred Falling Veils*

Rosemerry Wahtola Trommer

Not to escape the world,
but to be more wholly in it.
Sharp cold stings my cheeks—
not like a slap, but like the thrilling burn
of whiskey as it blazes down the throat—
the kind of wild aliveness
that brooks no choice
but to wake up to life,
to champion it, to know life
as the most wondrous thing
even as I steep in the ugliness
we humans commit.
This is what life asks of us.
I walk outside to be more wholly here,
here the way the Stellar's jay is here.

Even on the coldest day,
its every fluffing, every peck, every head bob,
every flight is in service to life.
It's never confused about its purpose.
I want to be in service.
Outside, everything is teacher:
the cold, the snow, the bird, the day,
this fallible, fabulous human race,
this improbable, beautiful planet in space.
To serve life, I must inhabit it wholly
and be inhabited by it, too.
As if it all could end tonight.
As if it goes on forever.

Silence is held after the reading.

Hymn

Will you let me be your servant?

Sung by all, standing as able.

Servant Song



1. Will you let me be your ser - vant, let me be as Christ to you?
2. We are pil - grims on a jour - ney, fel - low trav - 'lers on the road.
3. I will hold the Christ-light for you in the night-time of your fear;
4. Will you let me be your ser - vant, let me be as Christ to you?



Pray that I may have the grace to let you be my ser - vant, too.
We are here to help each oth - er walk the mile and bear_____ the load.
I will hold my hand out to you, speak the peace you long_____ to hear.
Pray that I may have the grace to let you be my ser - vant, too.

A Prayer for the Evening

We seek the grace of healing, O God.

At the heart of the brokenness around us
and in the hidden depths of our own souls
we seek your touch of healing, O God,
for there you reside.

In the hidden depths of life, O God,
there you reside. **Amen.**

The Reading Luke 20:27-38 *Please sit.*

Reader A Reading from the Gospel according to Luke.

Some Sadducees, those who say there is no resurrection, came to Jesus and asked him a question, “Teacher, Moses wrote for us that if a man’s brother dies, leaving a wife but no children, the man shall marry the widow and raise up children for his brother. Now there were seven brothers; the first married, and died childless; then the second and the third married her, and so in the same way all seven died childless. Finally the woman also died. In the resurrection, therefore, whose wife will the woman be? For the seven had married her.”

Jesus said to them, “Those who belong to this age marry and are given in marriage; but those who are considered worthy of a place in that age and in the resurrection from the dead neither marry nor are given in marriage. Indeed they cannot die anymore, because they are like angels and are children of God, being children of the resurrection. And the fact that the dead are raised Moses himself showed, in the story about the bush, where he speaks of the Lord as the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob. Now he is God not of the dead, but of the living; for to him all of them are alive.”

Silence is held for one minute of reflection.

Reflection Jennifer Bousquet

Silence is held for two minutes of reflection.

Music for Meditation *Shikararete*

Hirota Ryūtarō

Prayers for Ourselves and Others *Please stand.*

Deacon Let us pray for ourselves and the world.

Leader Lord, when I am famished,
People **give me someone who needs food;**

Leader when I am thirsty,
People **send me someone who needs water;**

Leader when I am cold,
People **send me someone to warm;**

Leader when I am hurting,
People **send me someone to console;**

Leader when my cross becomes heavy,
People **give me another’s cross to share;**

Leader when I am poor,
People **lead someone needy to me;**

Leader when I have no time,
People **give me someone to help for a moment;**

Leader when I am humiliated,
 People **give me someone to praise;**
 Leader when I am discouraged,
 People **send me someone to encourage;**
 Leader when I need another's understanding,
 People **give me someone who needs mine;**
 Leader when I need somebody to take care of me,
 People **send me someone to care for;**
 Leader when I think of myself,
 People **turn my thoughts toward another.**

Leader On this feast of St. Stephen, we remember the first deacon and martyr of the Christian community, who served the hungry and widows, and was stoned for bearing witness to his faith, hope, and love. We pray for all who serve the Gospel, and we bring ourselves to God.
 All **That we might be healed
 and drawn to love each other
 as God loves us. 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.

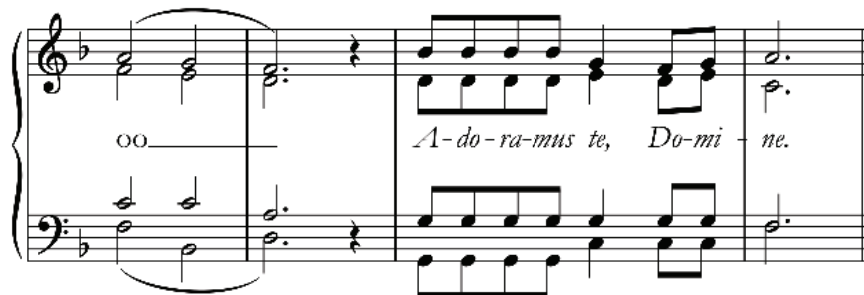
Music for Meditation *Servant Song*

arr. Mario Pearson

Hymn Adoramus te, Domine

Jacques Berthier

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



Translation: We adore you, O Lord.

Verses: With the angels and archangels; with patriarchs and prophets; with the Virgin Mary, Mother of God; with the Apostles and evangelists; with all the martyrs of Christ; with all who witness to the Gospel of the Lord; with all your people of the Church throughout the world.

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 Londonderry Air

trad. Irish, arr. Phil Coulter/James Galway

Eucharistic Prayer *Please stand.*

A New Zealand Prayer Book, Prayer II

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 offer thanks and praise.**

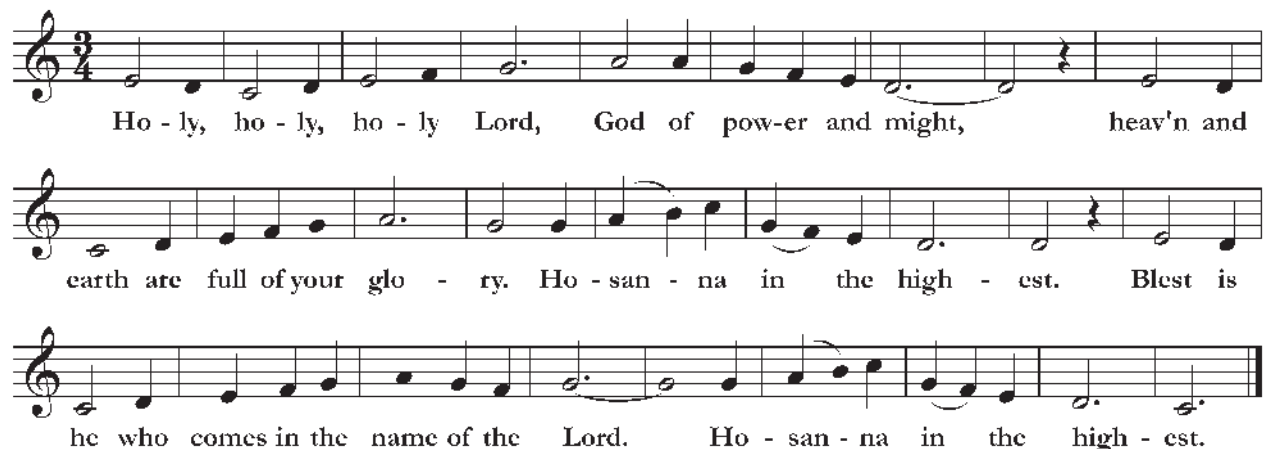
Celebrant It is right indeed, it is our joy and delight, O holy, everlasting God, at all times and in all places to give you thanks and praise through Christ your only Son. You are the source of all life and goodness; through your eternal Word you created all things from the beginning and formed us in your own image. When we turned away from you, you called us back to yourself and gave your Son to share our human nature. Through Christ Jesus you have made us your holy people.

Therefore, with the faithful who rest in him, with the angels who sing "Glory," and with all the saints and ancestors who have known you to be with us, we proclaim your great and glorious name together:

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 Blessed are you, most holy, in your Son, who washed his followers' feet.

All **"I am among you," he said, "as one who serves."**

Celebrant On that night before he died, he shared a meal with his friends. He took bread, blessed it and broke it, and gave it to them saying:

All **"Take and eat. This is my own body given for you. Do this to remember me."**

Celebrant After supper he took a cup of wine, gave thanks to you, and gave it to them saying:
All **“This is my life-blood given for you. Do this to remember me.”**

Celebrant Therefore with this bread and wine we recall your goodness to us. In this sacrament of the suffering and death of your Son, we now celebrate the wonder of your grace and proclaim the mystery of our faith,
All **Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come in glory.**

Celebrant God of all creation, you bring forth bread from the earth and fruit from the vine. Send your Holy Spirit upon us and these your gifts that we who receive them may indeed be the body of Christ, and we who share his cup draw strength from the one true vine.
All **Called to follow Christ, help us to reconcile and unite. Called to suffer, give us hope in our calling.**

Celebrant For you, O heavenly one, make all things new; you are the beginning and the end, the last and the first.
All **All praise, glory and love be yours, O Holy God, this and every day, from us and all people, here and everywhere. 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.

Celebrant We break this bread to share in the body of Christ.
All **We who are many are one body, for we all share the one bread.**

Sung by all.

Christopher Walker

Lamb of God, you take a-way the sins of the world: have
mer-cy on us, mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the
sins of the world: have mer-cy on us, mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you
take a - way the sins of the world: grant us peace, 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 Let us break bread together
Navajo Vocable No. 1
Aspen

trad. spiritual, arr. Anne Krentz Organ
Connor Chee
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

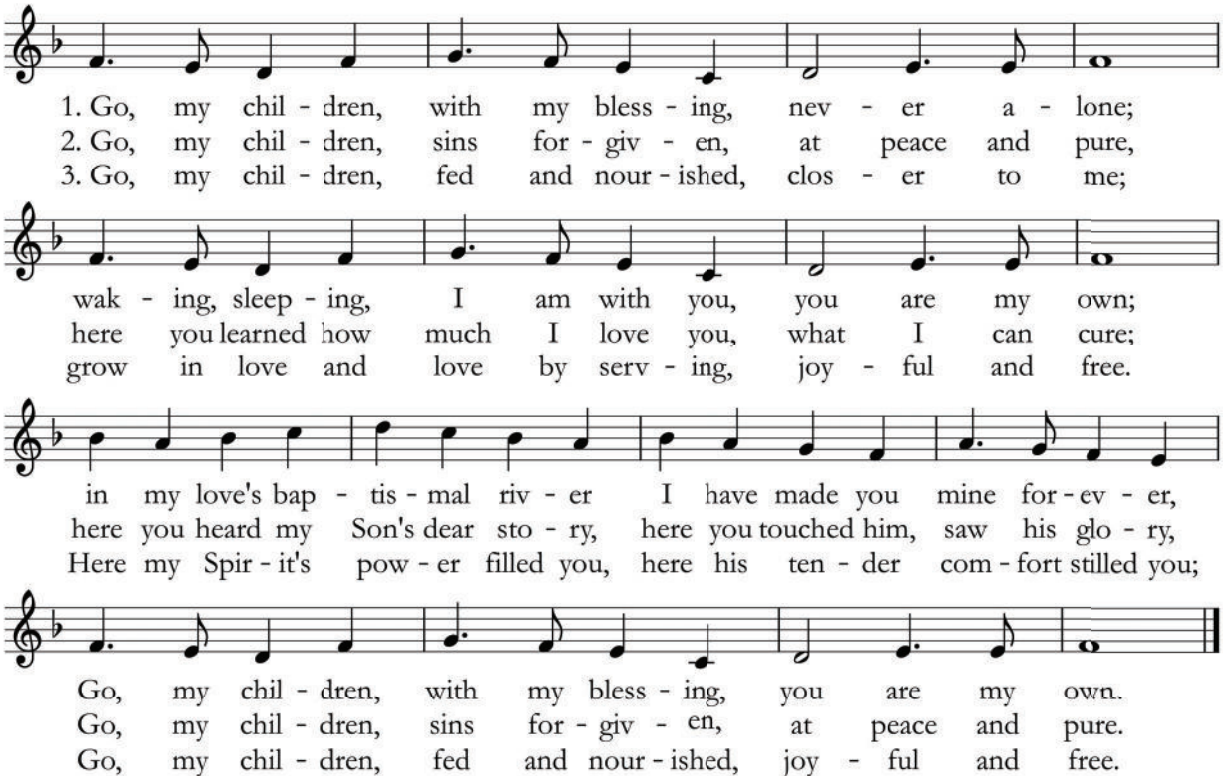
Celebrant

Now, may the Lord Christ go before you to prepare your way;
Christ beside you, be companion to you everywhere you go;
Christ beneath you, strengthen and uphold you when you fall or fail;
Christ behind you, finish and complete what you must leave undone;
Christ within you, give you faith and courage, love and hope;
And Christ above you, bless and keep you, now and evermore. **Amen.**

Hymn

Go, my children, with my blessing *Sung by all, standing as able.*

Ar hyd y nos



1. Go, my chil - dren, with my bless - ing, nev - er a - lone;
2. Go, my chil - dren, sins for - giv - en, at peace and pure,
3. Go, my chil - dren, fed and nour - ished, clos - er to me;
wak - ing, sleep - ing, I am with you, you are my own;
here you learned how much I love you, what I can cure;
grow in love and love by serv - ing, joy - ful and free.
in my love's bap - tis - mal riv - er I have made you mine for - ev - er,
here you heard my Son's dear sto - ry, here you touched him, saw his glo - ry,
Here my Spir - it's pow - er filled you, here his ten - der com - fort stilled you;
Go, my chil - dren, with my bless - ing, you are my own.
Go, my chil - dren, sins for - giv - en, at peace and pure.
Go, my chil - dren, fed and nour - ished, joy - ful and free.

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 *Ar hyd y nos*

trad. Welsh, arr. Daniel Burton

Postlude *Tryggare kan ingen vara*

Swedish hymn, arr. Anne Krentz Organ

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 Jan Price by her family.

Participants

Celebrant: The Rev. Will Stanley; **Deacon:** The Rev. John Jenkins; **Reflector:** Jennifer Bousquet; **Subdeacon:** Sam Davis; **Reader:** Sara Mackey; **Intercessor:** Bill Davis; **Chalice Bearers:** Alisa Booze Troetschel, Mary Martin, Sarah Shutt, Kim Spensieri; **Musicians:** Abby Outlaw, *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 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.

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: "For This, I Walk Outside" by Rosemary Wahtola Trommer, from *A Hundred Falling Veils* (Nov. 8, 2024). Used by permission of the author.