



# Palmer Hall Chapel

Sunday, December 7, 2025 at 9 a.m. ☩ The Second Sunday of Advent

Holy Eucharist: Rite Two

St. Stephen's Episcopal Church ☩ Richmond, Virginia

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## Welcome to the Palmer Hall service

We are delighted you are here. Wherever you might be on your faith journey, we hope your experience here will strengthen and affirm you. We are sure that your presence among us today strengthens others, and we welcome you to join in everything that St. Stephen's offers. Every Sunday, we offer several different services of worship (at 8, 9 and 11:15 a.m., and 5:30 and 8 p.m.), each with its own character. At 9 a.m., two services are happening simultaneously—one in the main church, and this one which takes place in Palmer Hall Chapel.

The Palmer Hall service for some feels especially welcoming to families, particularly those with babies and children. Both of the 9 a.m. services—this one, and the one in the main church—include important roles for children, and people of all ages are welcome at any service. In Palmer Hall, our worship space includes a “soft space.” This is an area with a rug, floor cushions, and children's books where children can move a bit more freely and comfortably than they can in rows of seating. Please accompany your child to the soft space if and when they want to visit it; this helps us ensure the safety and comfort of our whole community.

Both of the 9 a.m. services include Holy Eucharist. All are welcome at the altar in this place. To receive Communion, place your hands together, palms up. You may consume the bread and then drink from the wine in the larger chalice. If you prefer to intinct, touching the edge of the bread to the wine, please use one of the smaller cups. Gluten-free wafers are available upon request. If you prefer to receive a blessing, cross your arms on the front of your chest. Children who have been baptized are welcome to receive communion. The important thing is that you know God welcomes you and that this church welcomes you. Please come back often.

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## Prelude

## Welcome

### The Word of God

#### Opening Hymn

Light one candle, vs. 1-2

*Sung by all several times, standing.*

Natalie Sleeth

1. Light one can - dle for hope, one bright can - dle for hope,  
2. Light one can - dle for peace, one bright can - dle for peace,

He brings hope to ev - 'ry heart, He comes! He comes!  
He brings peace to ev - 'ry heart, He comes! He comes!

## Lighting of the Advent Wreath

**Leader** For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; the night is far gone, the day is near.  
**Deacon** People of God: awake! The day is coming soon when you shall see God face to face. Remember the ways and the works of God. God calls you out of darkness to walk in the light of his coming.  
You are God's children.  
**People** **Lord, make us one as we walk with Christ today and for ever. Amen.**

## The Collect of the Day

Prayer Book, page 211

**Celebrant** The Lord be with you.

**People** **And also with you.**

**Celebrant** Let us pray. *Silence is kept.*

Merciful God, who sent your messengers the prophets to preach repentance and prepare the way for our salvation: Give us grace to heed their warnings and forsake our sins, that we may greet with joy the coming of Jesus Christ our Redeemer; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

**The Lesson** Isaiah 11:1-10 *Please sit.*

**Reader** A reading from the Prophet Isaiah.

A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse,  
and a branch shall grow out of his roots.

The spirit of the LORD shall rest on him,  
the spirit of wisdom and understanding,  
the spirit of counsel and might,  
the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD.

His delight shall be in the fear of the LORD.

He shall not judge by what his eyes see,  
or decide by what his ears hear;  
but with righteousness he shall judge the poor,  
and decide with equity for the meek of the earth;  
he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth,  
and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked.

Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist,  
and faithfulness the belt around his loins.

The wolf shall live with the lamb,  
the leopard shall lie down with the kid,  
the calf and the lion and the fatling together,  
and a little child shall lead them.

The cow and the bear shall graze,  
their young shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox.

The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp,  
and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den.

They will not hurt or destroy  
on all my holy mountain;  
for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the LORD  
as the waters cover the sea.

On that day the root of Jesse shall stand as a signal to the peoples; the nations shall inquire of him, and his dwelling shall be glorious.

**Reader** The Word of the Lord.

**People** **Thanks be to God.**

**Psalms 72:1-7, 18-19** *Said responsively by whole verse, seated.*

Prayer Book, page 779

1 Give the King your justice, O God, \*  
and your righteousness to the King's Son;

**2 That he may rule your people righteously \*  
and the poor with justice;**

3 That the mountains may bring prosperity to the people, \*  
and the little hills bring righteousness.

**4 He shall defend the needy among the people; \***

**he shall rescue the poor and crush the oppressor.**

**5 He shall live as long as the sun and moon endure, \***  
from one generation to another.

**6 He shall come down like rain upon the mown field, \***  
**like showers that water the earth.**

**7 In his time shall the righteous flourish; \***  
there shall be abundance of peace till the moon shall be no more.

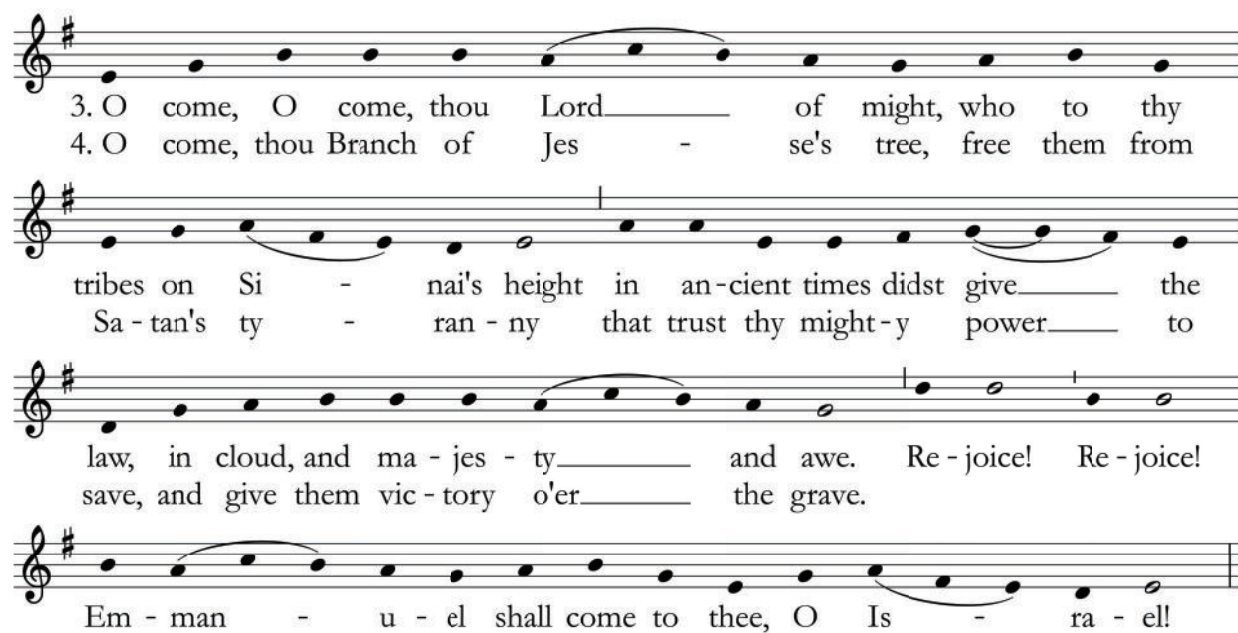
**18 Blessed be the LORD God, the God of Israel, \***  
**who alone does wondrous deeds!**

**19 And blessed be his glorious Name for ever! \***  
and may all the earth be filled with his glory.  
Amen. Amen.

**The Gospel Song**      *Sung by all, standing.*

**Hymn 56**      O come, O come Emmanuel (vs. 3 & 4)

*Veni, veni, Emmanuel*



3. O come, O come, thou Lord of might, who to thy  
4. O come, thou Branch of Jesse's tree, free them from  
tribes on Sinai's height in ancient times didst give the  
Sa-tan's tyranny that trust thy mighty power to  
law, in cloud, and majesty and awe. Re-joice! Re-joice!  
save, and give them victory o'er the grave.  
Em-man-u-el shall come to thee, O Is-ra-el!

**The Gospel**      Matthew 3:1-12

**Reader**      The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

**People**      **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near." This is the one of whom the prophet Isaiah spoke when he said,

"The voice of one crying out in the wilderness:

'Prepare the way of the Lord,  
make his paths straight.'"

Now John wore clothing of camel's hair with a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. Then the people of Jerusalem and all Judea were going out to him, and all the region along the Jordan, and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins.

But when he saw many Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism, he said to them, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bear fruit worthy of repentance. Do not presume to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our ancestor'; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.

"I baptize you with water for repentance, but one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor and will gather his wheat into the granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire."

Reader        The Gospel of the Lord.  
People        **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

**Wondering**     The Rev. Abby Kocher  
*The children are invited to gather on the center rug.*

<b>The Creed</b>	<i>Said by all, standing.</i>	
I believe in God above,		I believe that I can be
I believe in Jesus' love.		kind and good,
I believe God's Spirit too,		dear Lord, like thee.
comes to tell me what to do.		

**The Prayers of the People**     *Please remain standing.*  
*We give thanks for what is good and pray for the Church, the world and our local community, the sick, those who need our prayers, and those who have died.*

Leader        In patience and in hope let us offer our prayers to God, saying with one voice: we rejoice with joy and singing  
People        **for the coming of the Lord is near.**

Leader        For all who walk in God's Holy Way: those in the pews and in the pulpits; those at home and on the streets; for all who ponder God's promise in their hearts, and all who carry the good news into the world, we rejoice with joy and singing

People        **for the coming of the Lord is near.**

Leader        For the nations and their leaders: that eyes may be opened and ears unstopped, and that peace and justice break forth in every land. We pray especially for those in the Middle East, Eastern Europe, and all places of conflict. We rejoice with joy and singing

People        **for the coming of the Lord is near.**

Leader        For all the world: heaven and earth, the seas, and all that is in them. For the early and the late rains, and the precious crop from the earth. For the gathering darkness and the light of hope. We rejoice with joy and singing

People        **for the coming of the Lord is near.**

Leader        For this community and all who live in it, each member of the whole body. Strengthen our hearts, dear God, that our joy may be complete in you. [We pray especially for \_\_\_\_\_.] We rejoice with joy and singing

People        **for the coming of the Lord is near.**

Leader        For all who are nearest to you, O God: the lonely, the out-of-work, the sick, the fearful, the cold, and the hungry. For the one who is sorry, and the one who is ashamed. It is you, our God of hope, who sets all prisoners free. We rejoice with joy and singing

People        **for the coming of the Lord is near.**

Leader        For all the departed [especially \_\_\_\_\_], and all who remember, we rejoice with joy and singing  
People        **for the coming of the Lord is near.**

Leader        We are waiting, O God, with all the patience we can muster. Beloved of angels and archangels, Lover of saints and sinners, God our Savior, to you alone we pray.

People        **Amen.**

## The Peace

Prayer Book, page 360

**Celebrant** The peace of the Lord be always with you.

**People** **And also with you.**

*The Ministers and People greet one another in the name of the Lord.*

## Announcements

## The Holy Communion

### Offertory Sentence

Walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself for us, an offering and sacrifice to God. Ephesians 5:2

*All comes from God, so from what God has given, we offer gifts as we participate in God's work in the world. You may offer your gift online (use the QR code, or text STSTEPHENS RVA to 73256), or in the offering plates as they come by.*



### Offertory Anthem

Come, thou Redeemer of the earth

Barry Rose

Come, thou Redeemer of the earth,  
And manifest thy virgin birth:  
Let every age adoring fall;  
Such birth befits the God of all.

Thy cradle here shall glitter bright,  
And darkness breathe a newer light,  
Where endless faith shall shine serene,  
And twilight never intervene.

Begotten of no human will,  
But of the Spirit, thou art still  
The Word of God in flesh arrayed,  
The promised fruit to man displayed.

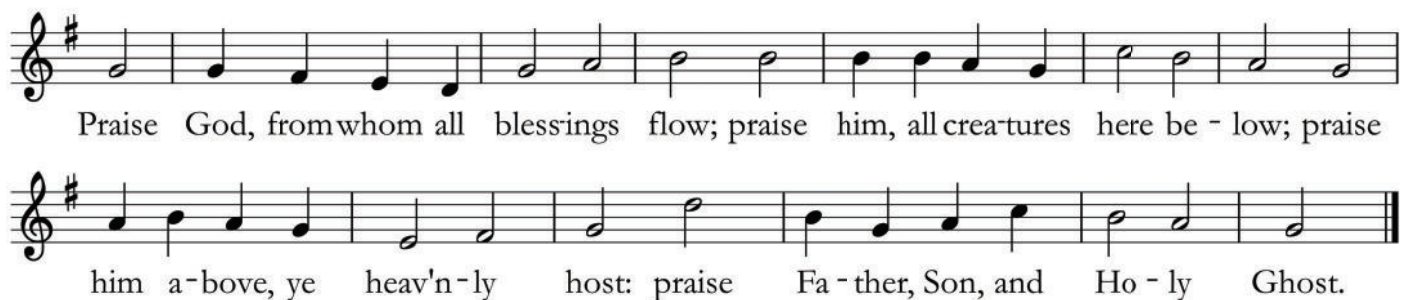
All laud to God the Father be,  
All praise, eternal Son, to thee:  
All glory, as is ever meet,  
To God the Holy Paraclete. Amen.

O equal to thy Father, thou!  
Gird on thy fleshly mantle now;  
The weakness of our mortal state  
With deathless might invigorate.

### At the Presentation

*Sung by all, standing.*

*Old 100th*



Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise him, all creatures here be - low; praise him a - bove, ye heav'n - ly host: praise Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost.

*The children are invited to follow the ushers forward to sit on the rug in front of the altar for the Great Thanksgiving.*

### The Great Thanksgiving

*Eucharistic Prayers, Sam Wells and Abby Kocher, p. 58*

**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 God thanks and praise.**

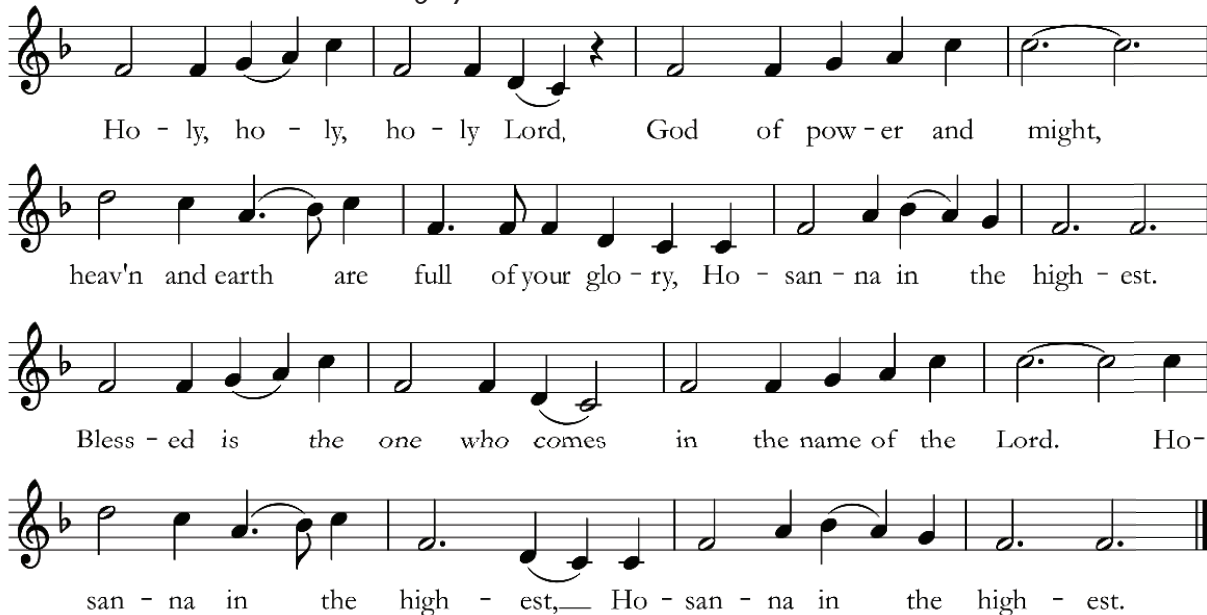
### *Celebrant*

It is a good and joyful thing to give our thanks to you, Lord God of hosts, O ancient of days, for from of old you have called forth life. You brought into being every detail of creation and gave birth to your covenant people. When the time drew near, you called upon Bethlehem to bear the hope you promised, and summoned Mary to bear your holy child. By your grace the child grew to be the one to bear not only our sins but the sins of the world. In his dying and rising you gave birth to everlasting life for all your children. And so with your people on earth and all the company of heaven we sing your praise and join the unending hymn:

### **Sanctus**

*Sung by all.*

*Land of Rest*



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.  
Bless - ed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -  
san - na in the high - est, — Ho - san - na in the high - est.

### *Celebrant*

God of Mary, whose womb bore the sacred fruit of our salvation, bring forth from this fruit of the vine your cup of blessing. As we remember around this table your Son's saving passion poured out for us, send your Holy Spirit upon your church to make us bearers of your Christ, your mercy, and your hope. Sanctify this bread and cup that they may be for us the body and blood of Jesus our Lord; who, at supper with his disciples, took bread, gave you thanks, broke the bread, and gave it to them, saying, 'Take, eat: this is my body which is given for you; do this in remembrance of me.' After supper he took the cup. Again he gave you thanks, and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Drink this, all of you: this is my blood of the new covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me." Great is the mystery of faith.

**All**            **Christ has died.**  
                  **Christ is risen.**  
                  **Christ will come again.**

### *Celebrant*

God of holy expectation, let your face shine upon us and your dawn break upon us that we may be saved. Make your church expectant in faith as we labor for what we cannot yet see. Come and dwell with your people who yearn to be restored, to be forgiven, to belong. Let the warmth of your face shine upon those who seek the peace long promised for Bethlehem and all your waiting world. Bring us, with the saints who have looked for your coming, to the day when we and all your children shall celebrate in your holy presence, one God, Father, Son, and holy Spirit,

**All**            **AMEN.**



*Celebrant* And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

*Celebrant and People*

Prayer Book, page 364

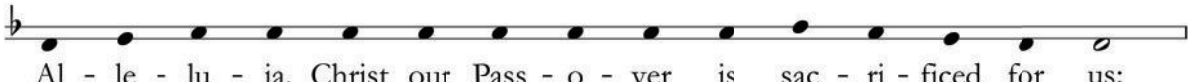
**Our Father, who art in heaven,  
hallowed be thy Name,  
thy kingdom come,  
thy will be done,  
on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread.**

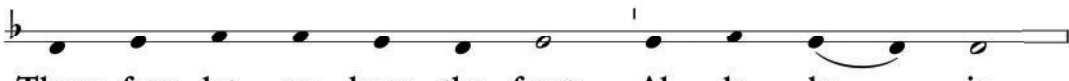
**And forgive us our trespasses,  
as we forgive those  
who trespass against us.  
And lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom,  
and the power, and the glory,  
for ever and ever. Amen.**

### The Breaking of the Bread

*The Celebrant breaks the consecrated bread. A period of silence is kept.*

Mason Martens

*Cantor*   
Al - le - lu - ia. Christ our Pass - o - ver is sac - ri - ficed for us;

*All*   
There - fore let us keep the feast. Al - le - lu - ia.

### The Invitation

*Celebrant*

The gifts of God for the people of God.

### At the Communion of the People

*Communion will be served at two stations, standing. All are welcome to come forward. To receive Communion, place your hands together, palms up. If you would like a gluten-free wafer, please tell the minister. If you prefer a blessing, please cross your arms on the front of your chest.*

*After Communion, the Celebrant says*

Let us pray. Please stand.

*All* **Loving God,  
we give you thanks  
for restoring us in your image  
and nourishing us with spiritual food  
in the Sacrament of Christ's Body and Blood.  
Now send us forth  
a people, forgiven, healed, renewed;  
that we may proclaim your love to the world  
and continue in the risen life of Christ our Savior. Amen.**

**The Blessing Song** Go Now in Peace

*Sung by all, standing.*

Natalie Sleeth

**Go now in peace, go now in peace.  
May the love of God surround you,  
everywhere, everywhere you may go.**

**Hymn 67**

Comfort, comfort ye my people

*Sung by all.*

*Psalm 42*

**Dismissal**

Prayer Book, page 366

*Deacon* Let us go forth in the name of Christ.

*People* **Thanks be to God.**

**Postlude**

## Participants

CELEBRANT: The Rev. Cate Anthony

DEACON: The Rev. Abby Kocher

MUSICIANS: St. Stephen's Choristers, Diana Chou, *director*; Judy Fiske, *piano*

## The Parish Prayer List

Cassell V. Adamson, Leilani Allwine, Richelle Anderson, Patricia Atkins-Smith, Sue Atkinson, Robert Baker, Elizabeth Bannerman, Lash Barksdale, Nancy Beale, Ken Blaisdell, Christine Boeteger, Genie Borum, Julia Bouck, Gene Bowles, Sturges Brian, Leslie Brockman, Alex H. Brown, Pat Brown, Sarah Jo Bryce, Turner Bruneau, Matt Boyd, Patti Bullen, Tammy Carleton, Scott Carnohan, Paula Chambers, Nancy Cole, Sarah Cole, Susan Collier, Mary Cooke, Prior Cooper, Kathy Conrad, John Corey, Don Cowles, Michelle Crim, the Rt. Rev. Michael Curry, Barbara Dagger, Chris Davis, Patricia Delany, Jackie Dering, Ham DeRosa, Terry Dickinson, Davis Dunn Dillard, Susan Dull, Guy Frank, April Greenwood, Janis Hall, Rodger Hardy, Katie Hellebush, Dan Hill, Anna Hurdle, Alan Jamesieson, Lena Jones, Justin Jones-Nickerson, Jane Kelly, Dana King, Linda Lewis, Genie Lucyk, Joy Luke, Margaret Lyle, Pam Lynch, Ross Mackenzie, Barbara Mathison, Satin Matthews, Adrienne Maxwell, Michael McCabe, Schnucki McCabe, Morgan McCall, Stratton and Robin McCrady, Gertrude McLean, Nancy Meath, Jack Miller, Mary Miller, B. Millner, Susan Minyard, Sallie Moncol, Ashley Nickerson, Mary Beth Noel, Sallie Nolte, Jan Orgain, Tricia Payne, Beth Pearce, Ernest Perry, Courtney Phillips, Scott Pittman, Wilde Poole and family, Bob Pope, Lyn Presson, Luke Robertson, Ramona Ransone, Jason R., Ray, Jennifer Reed, Aleta Richards, *Ryan Rohadfox*, Kaley Rosenthal, Robert Sass, James Saunders and Harriet Covey, Melissa Schick, T. Logan Scott, *Todd Shelton*, Bette Shiflett, Maj. David Shuford, Jr., Chrys Sills, Aiden Thomas Smith, Mary Stagg, Regena Stith, Margaret Thompson, Kenneth Valke, Timothy W., Ozzie Wade, Carol and Don Wakeley, Suzanne Wallace, Tom White, Terri Wilcox, Donna Williams, Steve Williams, Martha Wilson, Claire Wood, Emily H. Wood, Rosalyn Wootton, Sue Wootton, Young, Margaret P. Young. **For those who have died**, especially *Bill Armstrong, Marsha Gillis, and Elizabeth Greene*. **For those expecting a child**, especially Maddie and Matthew Clites, Ian Hayes and Corinne Torres, *Preston and Cate Kendig*, and Michelle and Dane Olsson. **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 Church of Bangladesh*. **For ReWork Richmond. For an end to gun violence. For peace and reconciliation** in Haiti, Iraq, Iran, Israel/Palestine, Nigeria, 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, 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 Mary Feldman at [mfeldman@ststephensRVA.org](mailto:mfeldman@ststephensRVA.org).*

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