



CELTIC EVENSONG AND COMMUNION

at St. Stephen's Episcopal Church

The 20th Anniversary of the Celtic Service  February 1, 2026 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

Brother James' Air

Six Studies in English Folksong: IV. Lento

Give me Jesus

trad. Scottish, arr. Joseph Martin

Ralph Vaughan Williams

trad. spiritual, arr. Bethany K. Smith

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

Opening

Praying

Mary Oliver

It doesn't have to be
the blue iris, it could be
weeds in a vacant lot, or a few
small stones; just
pay attention, then patch

a few words together and don't try
to make them elaborate, this isn't
a contest but the doorway
into thanks, and a silence in which
another voice may speak.

Silence is held after the reading.

Hymn

Lord of all hopefulness

Sung by all, standing as able.

Slane



1. Lord of all hope - ful - ness, Lord of all joy,
2. Lord of all ea - ger - ness, Lord of all faith,
3. Lord of all kind - li - ness, Lord of all grace,
4. Lord of all gen - tle - ness, Lord of all calm,

whose trust, ev - er child - like, no cares could des - troy,
whose strong hands were skilled at the plane and the lathe,
your hands swift to wel - come, your arms to em - brace,
whose voice is con - tent - ment, whose pres - ence is balm,

be there at our wak - ing, and give us, we pray,
be there at our la - bors, and give us, we pray,
be there at our hom - ing, and give us, we pray,
be there at our sleep - ing, and give us, we pray,

your bliss in our hearts, Lord, at the break of the day.
your strength in our hearts, Lord, at the noon of the day.
your love in our hearts, Lord, at the eve of the day.
your peace in our hearts, Lord, at the end of the day.

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 Matthew 5:1-12 *Please sit.*

Reader A Reading from the Gospel according to Matthew.

When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain; and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. Then he began to speak, and taught them, saying: "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted. Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth. Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled. Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy. Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God. Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God. Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you."

Silence is held for one minute of reflection.

Reflection The Rev. John Jenkins

Silence is held for two minutes of reflection.

Music for Meditation *Hama-chidori* (Beach plover)

Hirota Ryūtārō

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 and every people into the 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 ____].

You may offer prayers, silently or aloud.

Leader Open our hearts with compassion to suffering throughout the world: the earth's plants, animals, and ecosystems, and all who bear the wounds of human violence, indifference, and aggression, including those people and places we name now, silently or aloud.

You may offer prayers, silently or aloud.

Leader We pray for our losses... *You may offer prayers, silently or aloud.*
for those who mourn...
and for those who have died...
[especially ____].

You may offer prayers, 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.

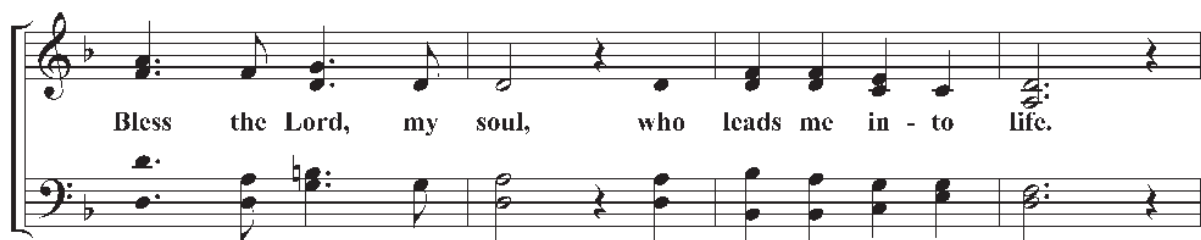
Candle Lighting, Additional Prayers

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 Sandpainting No. 1: White Shell Connor Chee
The lark in the clear air trad. Irish, arr. Joseph Martin

Hymn Bless the Lord, my soul Jacques Berthier

The refrain will be repeated several times as the cantor sings the verses.



The Grace Then Peter approached and said to him, "Lord, how many times will my brother sin against me and I shall forgive him? As many as seven times?" Jesus says to him, "I tell you, not as many as seven times, but as many as seventy times seven." **Amen.** *Matthew 18:21-22*

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 *En prière*

Gabriel Fauré

The Great Thanksgiving

Please stand.

Eucharistic Prayer written by the Rev. Janet Trisk
for the Order of the Holy Cross,
Anglican Church of South Africa

Celebrant The Lord is with us.

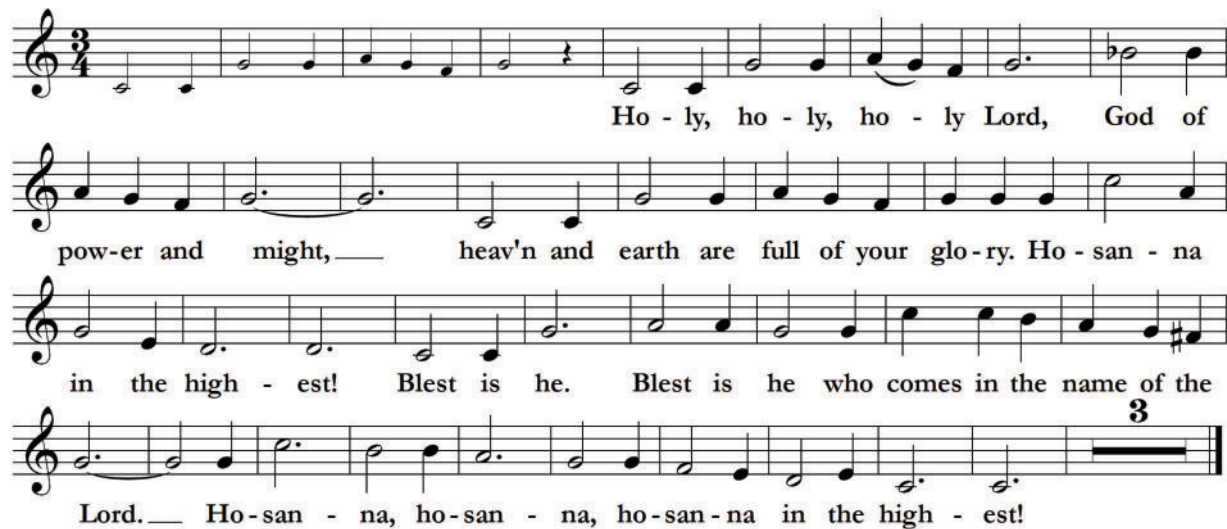
People **God's spirit is here.**

Celebrant Look with kindness, O God, on your people gathered here before you. We praise you for the prophets who in spite of persecution spoke your challenging word. We praise you that in Christ you chose to be born in a stable and revealed to poor shepherds. We praise you for Mary Magdalene, first witness of the resurrection; and for all the women and men who have been trusted and empowered by you. With all the unremembered, outcast, with the poor and needy, with the trusting and hopeful in all the ages we lift our voices to magnify you as we sing:

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. Blest is he who comes in the name of the
Lord. — Ho - san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est!

Celebrant Loving God, you are always thinking about your people. You never forget us. You sent your son, Jesus, who gave his life for us and who came to forgive us and taught us to forgive each other. On the very night he was betrayed, Jesus gathered his friends, took bread and said the blessing. He 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 the cup, gave thanks and gave it to them, saying,

All **“This is my life-blood given for you. Do this to remember me.”**

Celebrant So we proclaim the mystery of faith:

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

Celebrant Send your Spirit upon us and upon these gifts of bread and wine that they may be to us the Body and Blood of your Christ, in whom we have become your own. Grant that we, burning with your Spirit's power, may be a people of hope, justice and love. 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 be God, 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.

Michael Simpson

Lamb of God, you take a - way the sins
of the world. Lamb of God, have mer - cy on us.
Lamb of God, you take a - way the sins of the world. Lamb of
God, have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the
sins of the world. Lamb of God, Lamb of God,
Lamb of God, 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

Beach Spring

American melody, arr. Anne Krentz Organ

Slane

trad. Irish hymn, arr. John Carter

How can I keep from singing

Robert Lowry, arr. Kathryn Cater/Sandy Norman

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

John O'Donohue, from *To Bless the Space Between Us*

Celebrant

May you recognize in your life the presence,
power, and light of your soul.
May you realize that you are never alone,
that you have a special destiny here,
that behind the façade of your life
there is something beautiful and eternal happening.
And may you learn to see yourself
with the same delight,
pride, and expectation
with which God sees you in every moment.
And God's Blessing be with you,
Christ's peace be with you,
the Spirit's outpouring be with you,
now and always. **Amen.**

Hymn

Lord, make us servants of your peace

Sung by all.

O Waly Waly



1. Lord, make us ser - vants of your peace: where there is
2. Where all is doubt, may we sow faith; where all is
3. Je - sus, our Lord, may we not seek to be con -
4. May we not look for love's re - turn, but seek to
5. And when we die, we are re - born through death's dark
hate, may we sow love; where there is hurt, may we for -
gloom, may we sow hope; where all is night, may we sow
soled, but to con - sole, nor look to un - der - stand - ing
love un - self - ish - ly, for in our giv - ing we re -
night to end - less day. Lord, make us ser - vants of your
give; where there is strife, may we make one.
light; where all is tears, may we sow joy.
hearts, but look for hearts to un - der - stand.
ceive, and in for - giv - ing are for - giv'n.
peace to wake at last in heav - en's light.

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. *Please sit for the Music for Meditation.*

Music for Meditation

Shenandoah

American melody, arr. David Downes and Mairead Nesbitt

Postlude

Buinessan

trad. Scottish, arr. John Purifoy

During the postlude, you are welcome to remain to rest or pray, or to depart in silence.

Memorials

The flowers are given to the glory of God and in memory of E. Randolph “Randy” Wootton, Sr. by Lois Ayers. The vigil candle in the Chapel of the Holy Spirit is given in memory of Jamie Knight.

Participants

Celebrant: The Rev. Cate Anthony; **Deacon:** The Rev. John Rohrs; **Reflector:** The Rev. John Jenkins; **Subdeacon:** Sam Davis; **Reader:** Tony Anthony; **Intercessor:** Alisa Booze Troetschel; **Chalice Bearers:** Lisa Cuseo-Ott, Katy Groover, Gabrielle Maes, Alice Meadows; **Musicians:** Abby Outlaw, *cantor*; Sue DeJesus, *flute*; Diana Chou and Michael Simpson, *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. 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: “Praying,” from *Thirst*, by Mary Oliver, (Boston; Beacon Press ©2006). Used by permission.