



Palmer Hall Chapel

Sunday, February 1, 2026 at 9 a.m. ☩ The Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany
Holy Eucharist: Rite Two
St. Stephen's Episcopal Church ☩ Richmond, Virginia

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.

Prelude

Welcome

The Word of God

Opening Hymn

Bright morning star

Sung by all, standing.

from Sing With Joy



Opening Prayer

Deacon Arise, shine, for the Light of God has come!
People **The glory of God shines over all.**
Deacon From the rising of the sun until its setting,
People **Your name is great, O God!**

The Collect of the Day

Prayer Book, page 215

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Celebrant Let us pray. *Silence is kept.*

Almighty and everlasting God, you govern all things both in heaven and on earth: Mercifully hear the supplications of your people, and in our time grant us your peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

The First Lesson Micah 6:1-8

Reader A reading from the Prophet Micah.

Hear what the LORD says:

Rise, plead your case before the mountains,
and let the hills hear your voice.

Hear, you mountains, the controversy of the LORD,
and you enduring foundations of the earth;
for the LORD has a controversy with his people,
and he will contend with Israel.

“O my people, what have I done to you?

In what have I wearied you? Answer me!

For I brought you up from the land of Egypt,
and redeemed you from the house of slavery;
and I sent before you Moses,
Aaron, and Miriam.

O my people, remember now what King Balak of Moab devised,
what Balaam son of Beor answered him,
and what happened from Shittim to Gilgal,
that you may know the saving acts of the LORD.”

“With what shall I come before the LORD,
and bow myself before God on high?

Shall I come before him with burnt-offerings,
with calves a year old?

Will the LORD be pleased with thousands of rams,
with tens of thousands of rivers of oil?

Shall I give my firstborn for my transgression,
the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?”

He has told you, O mortal, what is good;
and what does the LORD require of you
but to do justice, and to love kindness,
and to walk humbly with your God?

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 15

Said responsively by whole verse, seated.

Prayer Book, page 599

1 LORD, who may dwell in your tabernacle? *
who may abide upon your holy hill?

2 **Whoever leads a blameless life and does what is right, ***
who speaks the truth from his heart.

3 There is no guile upon his tongue;
 he does no evil to his friend; *
 he does not heap contempt upon his neighbor.

4 In his sight the wicked is rejected, *
but he honors those who fear the LORD.

5 He has sworn to do no wrong *
 and does not take back his word.

6 He does not give his money in hope of gain, *
nor does he take a bribe against the innocent.

7 Whoever does these things *
 shall never be overthrown.

The Gospel Song

God is so good (vs. 1–2)

from *Sing With Joy*

Sung by all, standing, before and after the Gospel.

1. God is so good. God is so good.
 2. God gives us light. God gives us light,
 God is so good. God's so good to me.
 God gives us light, God's so good to me.

The Gospel

Matthew 5:1-12

Reader

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

People

Glory to you, Lord Christ.

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.”

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.

The Creed

Said by all, standing.

I believe in God above,
I believe in Jesus' love.
I believe God's Spirit too,
comes to tell me what to do.

I believe that I can be
kind and good,
dear Lord, like thee.

The Prayers of the People, Form III

Please remain standing.

Prayer Book, page 387

Celebrant Let us pray for the church and the world.

Please remain standing. The Leader and the People pray responsively.

Leader Father, we pray for your holy Catholic Church;

People **That we all may be one.**

Leader Grant that every member of the Church may truly and humbly serve you;

People **That your Name may be glorified by all people.**

Leader We pray for all bishops, priests, and deacons;

People **That they may be faithful ministers of your Word and Sacraments.**

Leader We pray for all who govern and hold authority in the nations of the world;

People **That there may be justice and peace on the earth.**

Leader Give us grace to do your will in all that we undertake;

People **That our works may find favor in your sight.**

Leader We remember those who suffer in all places of conflict at home and abroad, including those people and places we name now, silently or aloud: _____. Have compassion on those who suffer from any grief or trouble.

People **That they may be delivered from their distress.**

Leader We pray for those who have died [especially ____]. Give to the departed eternal rest.

People **Let light perpetual shine upon them.**

Leader We praise you for your saints who have entered into joy;

People **May we also come to share in your heavenly kingdom.**

Leader [We pray/give thanks for ____.] Let us pray for our own needs and those of others.

The People may add their own petitions.

Celebrant Almighty God, to whom our needs are known before we ask, help us to ask only what accords with your will; and those good things which we dare not, or in our blindness cannot ask, grant us for the sake of your Son Jesus Christ our Lord. **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

Ascribe to the Lord the honor due his name; bring offerings and come into his courts.

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

Fairest Lord Jesus

music: Richard DeLong; text: 17th-century German

Fairest Lord Jesus, ruler of all nature,
O thou of God and man the Son,
Thee will I cherish, thee will I honor,
Thou, my soul's glory, joy and crown.

Fair are the meadows, fairer still the woodlands,
Robed in the blooming garb of spring;
Jesus is fairer, Jesus is purer,
Who makes the woeful heart to sing.

Fair is the sunshine, fairer still the moonlight,
And all the twinkling starry host;
Jesus shines brighter, Jesus shines purer
Than all the angels heav'n can boast.

At the Presentation

Sung by all, standing.

Old 100th

Musical notation for the Presentation song, consisting of two staves. The first staff contains the melody for the first line of the lyrics, and the second staff contains the melody for the second line. The lyrics are: '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.'

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

Common Worship, Prayer 2

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 Lord of all life, you created the universe, where all living things reflect your glory. You give us happy times and things to celebrate. In these we taste your kingdom, a feast for all your children. You made us all, each wonderfully different, to join with the angels and sing your praise:

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

We thank you, loving Father, because, when we turned away, you sent Jesus, your Son. He gave his life for us on the cross and shows us the way to live. Send your Holy Spirit that these gifts of bread and wine may be for us Christ's body and his blood.

On the night before he died, when darkness had fallen, Jesus took bread. He gave thanks, broke it, and shared it with his disciples, saying: "This is my body, given for you. Do this to remember me."

After they had eaten, he took the cup of wine, gave thanks, and shared it with his disciples, saying: "This is my blood, poured out for you and for many, for the forgiveness of sins."

So Father, with this bread and this cup we celebrate his love, his death, his risen life. As you feed us with these gifts, send your Holy Spirit, and change us more and more to be like Jesus our Savior.

Help us, Father, to love one another, as we look forward to that day when suffering is ended, and all creation is gathered in your loving arms. And now with blessed Stephen, Mary, Mother of God, and all your saints we give you glory, through Jesus Christ, in the strength of the Spirit, today and for ever. **AMEN.**

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

Celebrant and People

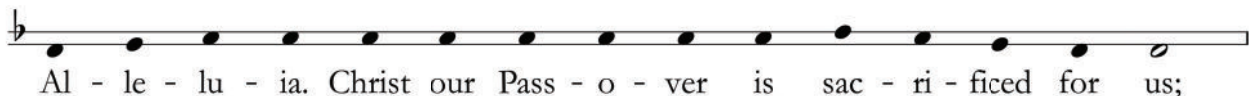
Prayer Book, page 364

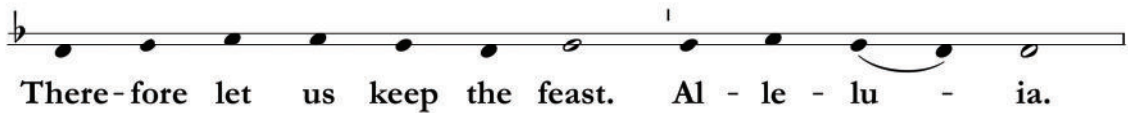
Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy Name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those
who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the 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, S-152

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

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

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 **God of glory,**
you nourish us with your Word
who is the bread of life:
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 Song Go Now in Peace

Sung by all.

Natalie Sleeth

Go now in peace, go now in peace.

May the love of God surround you,
everywhere, everywhere you may go.

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.**

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

MUSICIAN: St. Stephen's Choristers, Diana Chou, *director*; Karen Harris, *piano*

The Parish Prayer List

*Loretta Albertis, Leilani Allwine, Patricia Atkins-Smith, Sue Atkinson, Robert Baker, Elizabeth Bannerman, Lash Barksdale, Nancy Beale, Linda Bennett, Christine Boeteger, Emma Bolduc, Genie Borum, Julia Bouck, Gene Bowles, Sturges Brian, Kathy Brock, Leslie Brockman, Alex H. Brown, Pat Brown, Sarah Jo Bryce, Turner Bruneau, Matt Boyd, Patti Bullen, Tammy Carleton, Scott Carnohan, Paula Chambers, Michael Click, Nancy Cole, Sarah Cole, Susan Collier, Mary Cooke, Prior Cooper, Kathy Conrad, John Corey, Tracy Councill, Don Cowles, Michelle Crim, the Rt. Rev. Michael Curry, Debbie Cuseo, Chris Davis, Patricia Delany, Ham DeRosa, Terry Dickinson, Davis Dunn Dillard, *Stephen Drake Sr.*, Debbie Ferguson, Guy Frank, April Greenwood, Janis Hall, Rodger Hardy, Katie Hellebush, Dan Hill, Anna Hurdle, Alan Jameson, John Turner Jenkins, Lena Jones, Justin Jones-Nickerson, Jane Kelly, Dana King, Linda Lewis, Genie Lucyk, Margaret Lyle, Pam Lynch, Ross Mackenzie, Barbara Mathison, 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, Carolyn Mae Morgan, Lee W. Mumford, Ashley Nickerson, Mary Beth Noel, Sallie Nolte, Jan Orgain, Tricia Payne, Beth Pearce, Ernest Perry, Courtney Phillips, Scott Pittman, Wilde Poole and family, Lyn Presson, Alma Price, John Purcell, Brick Quinn, Luke Robertson, Ramona Ransone, Jennifer Reed, Aleta Richards, Ryan Rohadfox, Kaley Rosenthal, Robert Sass, James Saunders and Harriet Covey, Melissa Schick, T. Logan Scott, Todd Shelton, Bette Shiflett, Chrys Sills, Aiden Thomas Smith, Josh Spain, Regena Stith, Beth Thomas, Margaret Thompson, Brian Trollope, Kenneth Valke, Pam W., Timothy W., Ozzie Wade, Suzanne Wallace, Tom White, Terri Wilcox, Donna Williams, Steve Williams, Martha Wilson, Claire Wood, Emily H. Wood, Rosalyn Wootten, Sue Wootton, Young, Margaret P. Young. **For the blessings of this life**, especially *for the marriage of Elizabeth Perkins Parrish and Robert Edward Brailsford, Jr.* **For those who have died**, especially *Nanette Babin and Henry Linwood Snowa, Jr.* **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 England*. **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 Kitty Ball at kball@ststephensRVA.org.

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