



# CELTIC EVENSONG AND COMMUNION

at St. Stephen's Episcopal Church

The Fifth Sunday after the Epiphany ☩ February 8, 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

Dusk

Steven Bryant

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

## Opening

Mother Theresa

If we pray, we will believe;  
If we believe, we will love  
If we love, we will serve.

*Silence is held after the reading.*

## Hymn

Seek ye first the kingdom of God

*Sung by all, standing as able.*

*Seek Ye First*



1. Seek ye— first the king - dom of God and its right - eous - ness,  
2. Ask, and it shall be giv - en un - to you, seek, and ye shall find,



and all these things shall be add - ed un - to you; Al - le - lu, al - le - lu - ia!  
knock, and the door shall be o - pened un - to you; Al - le - lu, al - le - lu - ia!

*Refrain*



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu, al - le - lu - ia!

## 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 5:13-20      *Please sit.*

**Reader** A Reading from the Gospel according to Matthew.

Jesus said, "You are the salt of the earth; but if salt has lost its taste, how can its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything, but is thrown out and trampled under foot.

"You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hid. No one after lighting a lamp puts it under the bushel basket, but on the lampstand, and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.

"Do not think that I have come to abolish the law or the prophets; I have come not to abolish but to fulfill. For truly I tell you, until heaven and earth pass away, not one letter, not one stroke of a letter, will pass from the law until all is accomplished. Therefore, whoever breaks one of the least of these commandments, and teaches others to do the same, will be called least in the kingdom of heaven; but whoever does them and teaches them will be called great in the kingdom of heaven. For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven."

*Silence is held for one minute of reflection.*

**Reflection** Rob Nease

*Silence is held for two minutes of reflection.*

**Music for Meditation** *Fhear a' Bhàta* (The boatman)

trad. Scottish, arr. Ailie Robertson

**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.*

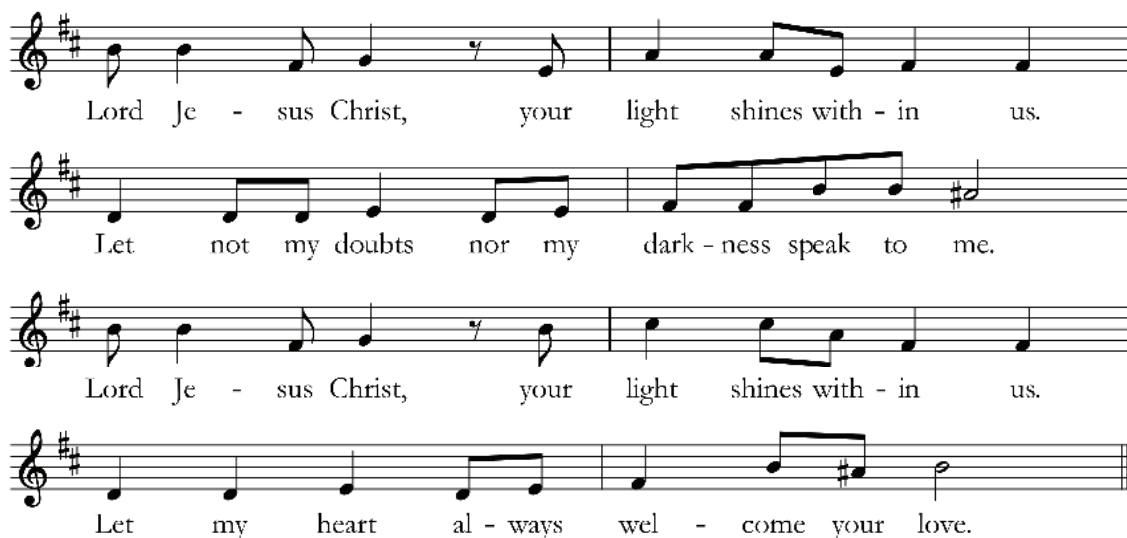
**Music for Meditation** Nocturne in C Major, Op. 102, No.1

Georg Goltermann

**Hymn** Lord Jesus Christ, your light shines within us

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 STSTEPHENS RVA to 73256.*



**At the Offertory**      *Mo li hua* (Jasmine flower)

trad. Chinese, arr. Brian Lockard

**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.

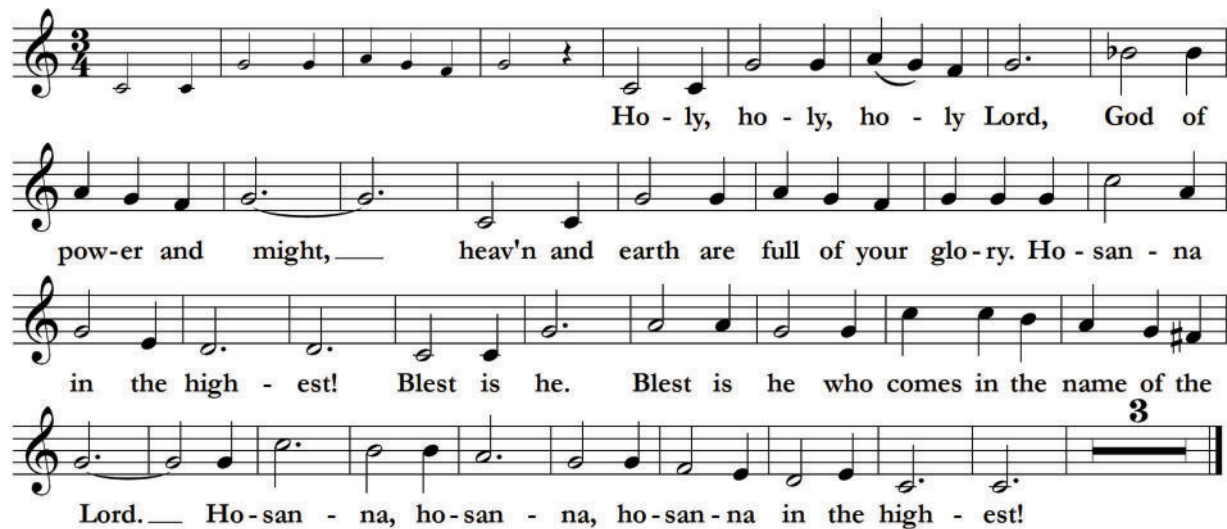
**People**      **God's spirit is here.**

**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, 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

The Hudson  
Cello Sonata, Op. 67: II. *Très lent*  
Navajo Vocab No. 4

Ola Gjeilo  
Mélanie Bonis  
Connor Chee

## 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

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

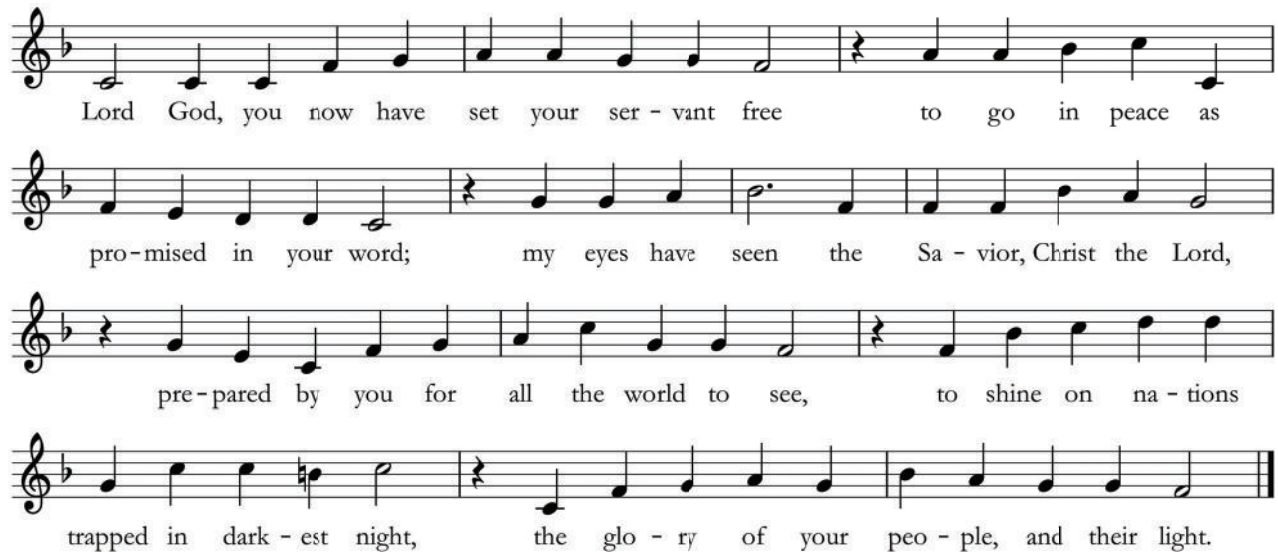
**Celebrant** May you recognize in your life the presence,  
power, and light of your soul.  
May you realize that you are never alone,  
that you have a special destiny here,  
that behind the façade of your life  
there is something beautiful and eternal happening.  
And may you learn to see yourself  
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 God, you now have set your servant free

*Sung by all.*

*Song I*



## 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

Ae fond kiss

trad. Scottish, arr. Healey Willan

## Postlude

I want to walk as a child of the light

arr. Anne Krentz Organ

*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 Herbert Stephen Casey and C. Coleman McGehee by Caroline Brandt; James Warner Hofstead by Mr. and Mrs. Robert Cabaniss III; and Rebecca Clary Harris by her family.

## Participants

**Celebrant:** The Rev. John Jenkins; **Deacon:** The Rev. Judy Webb Davis; **Reflector:** Rob Nease; **Subdeacon:** Kim Spensieri; **Reader:** Gabrielle Maes; **Intercessor:** Valerie Abbott; **Chalice Bearers:** Dave Davis, Guy Frank, Pam Redd, Earl Roney; **Musicians:** Lauren Clay, *cantor*; Peter Greydanus, *cello*; 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

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 Jamesieson, 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, *Susan Moore*, 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 birth of *Elizabeth Anne Clites to Maddie and Matthew Clites*. **For those expecting a child**, especially Ian Hayes and Corinne Torres, and Preston and Cate Kendig. **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 Hong Kong Sheng Kung Hui*. **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](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. 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.