

Kyrie

The Hymnal 1982, S-95, Richard Proulx

The musical score is written on two staves in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The first staff features three measures: the first measure is labeled 'Cantor' and contains the lyrics 'Lord, have mer - cy.'; the second measure is labeled 'All' and contains 'Lord, have mer - cy.'; the third measure is labeled 'Cantor' and contains 'Christ, have_ mer - cy.' The second staff features three measures: the first measure is labeled 'All' and contains 'Christ, have_ mer - cy.'; the second measure is labeled 'Cantor' and contains 'Lord, have_ mer - cy.'; the third measure is labeled 'All' and contains 'Lord, have_ mer - cy.' The melody consists of quarter and eighth notes with slurs.

A Prayer for the Evening

Lord, amid the noise and stress of daily life, help us to preserve a silence within. In moments of crisis may we turn to you, the center of our being, to find you awaiting us. Bless us with the vision of your changelessness and grant us peace. **Amen.**

The Reading John 3:1-17 *Please sit.*

Reader A Reading from the Gospel according to John.

There was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. He came to Jesus by night and said to him, "Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God; for no one can do these signs that you do apart from the presence of God." Jesus answered him, "Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above." Nicodemus said to him, "How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother's womb and be born?" Jesus answered, "Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. Do not be astonished that I said to you, 'You must be born from above.' The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit." Nicodemus said to him, "How can these things be?" Jesus answered him, "Are you a teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things?"

"Very truly, I tell you, we speak of what we know and testify to what we have seen; yet you do not receive our testimony. If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things? No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

"For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

"Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him."

Silence is held for one minute of reflection.

Reflection Rick Jeffrey

Silence is held for two minutes of reflection.

Music for Meditation John Irwin

trad. Irish/Turlough O'Carolan, arr. Michael Simpson

Prayers for Ourselves and Others

Please stand.

Deacon Let us pray for ourselves and others.

After each petition, you may offer prayers, either silently or aloud.

Leader We hold before God those for whom life is very hard; those who have thorny decisions to make, and who honestly do not know what is the right thing to do.

Leader Lord, in your mercy,

People **Hear our prayer.**

Leader We hold before God those who have demanding tasks to face and who fear they may fail in them; those who face challenging temptations and who know only too well that they may fall to them, if they try to meet them alone.

Leader Lord, in your mercy,

People **Hear our prayer.**

Leader We hold before God those who know that they can be their own worst enemies.

Leader Lord, in your mercy,

People **Hear our prayer.**

Leader We hold before God those who have difficult people to work with; those who have to suffer unjust treatment, unfair criticism, unappreciated work, and those who are unemployed and frightened.

Leader Lord, in your mercy,

People **Hear our prayer.**

Leader We hold before God all victims of violence, especially those we name now.

Leader Lord, in your mercy,

People **Hear our prayer.**

Leader We hold before God those who are neglected or misunderstood; those who are struggling with any kind of illness or infirmity, and those who have no one to pray for them.

Leader Lord, in your mercy,

People **Hear our prayer.**

Leader We hold before God the people, encounters, and blessings of life that elicit our gratitude and joy, [especially for ____].

Leader We hold before God our losses...

those who grieve for one who has died...

and we pray for those known to us who have died, [especially ____].

Leader Lord God, may our prayers, rising before you like incense, be pleasing to you; and may our outstretched hands be filled with your mercy, through Jesus Christ. **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 one 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 E-flat major, H. 24: Molto moderato

John Field

Hymn God is forgiveness

Sung by all, standing.

Jacques Berthier

The congregation will repeat this refrain several times.

God is for - give - ness. Dare to for - give, and God will be with you.

God is for - give - ness. Love and do not fear.

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 Black is the color of my true love's hair

arr. Ailie Robertson

The Great Thanksgiving

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.

The Hymnal 1982, S-124, David Hurd

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

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

Lamb of God, you take a - way the sins of the world: grant _____ us peace.

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.

The Hymnal 1982, S-161, David Hurd

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

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

Lamb of God, you take a - way the sins of the world: 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

Balm in Gilead
 Londonderry Air
 Twilight

trad. spiritual, arr. Harry T. Burleigh
 trad. Irish, arr. Sunita Staneslow
 Jennifer Haines

After Communion

Please stand.

Celebrant

Let us pray.

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

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

What wondrous love is this

Sung by all, standing.

Wondrous Love



1. What won - drous love is this, O my soul, O my soul? What
2. To God and to the Lamb I will sing, I will sing. To
3. And when from death I'm free, I'll sing on, I'll sing on. And



won - drous love is this, O my soul? What won - drous love is this that
God and to the Lamb I will sing. To God and to the Lamb who
when from death I'm free, I'll sing on. And when from death I'm free, I'll



caused the Lord of bliss to lay a - side his crown for my
is the great "I Am," while mil - lions join the theme, I will
sing and joy - ful be, and through e - ter - ni - ty I'll sing



soul, for my soul, to lay a - side his crown for my soul.
sing, I will sing. While mil - lions join the theme, I will sing.
on, I'll sing on. And through e - ter - ni - ty I'll sing on.

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 Motion and stillness

Ralph Vaughan Williams

Postlude *Wondrous Love*

arr. John Purifoy

Please feel free to depart during or after the Postlude, holding silence.



Participants

Celebrant: The Rev. Judy Davis; **Deacon:** The Rev. Cate Anthony; **Reflector:** Rick Jeffrey; **Subdeacon:** Sam Davis; **Reader:** Chip Jamerson; **Intercessor:** Mary Martin; **Chalice Bearers:** Alisa Booze Troetschel, Barbara Massey, Kim Spensieri; **Musicians:** Quinn Bitsas, *cantor*; Ellie Swanson, *flute*; Robert McCormick, *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 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

The parish prayer list is available in the narthex (the church vestibule) and at Information Central (the large table outside the parish office).

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.

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