



Palmer Hall Chapel

Sunday, March 1, 2026 at 9 a.m. ☩ The Second Sunday in Lent

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

Bless the Lord, my soul

Sung by all, standing, several times.

Jacques Berthier

Bless the Lord, my soul, and bless God's ho - ly name.

Bless the Lord, my soul, who leads me in - to life.

Opening Confession

adapted from Nathan Nettleton

Celebrant Jesus said: Before you offer your gift, go and be reconciled. As siblings in God's family, we come together to ask our Father for forgiveness.

All **Wondrous God,
we confess that we have not listened for your Word as we should.
We confess that we have placed obstacles in the way of our neighbors.
We are guilty of being proud and arrogant.
Forgive us for our foolish and harmful ways.
Forgive us for taking your amazing gift of grace for granted.
Redirect us, by your Spirit,
that we may be your faithful people once again. Amen.**

Celebrant The Lord is steadfast in love
and hears the prayers of all who come seeking mercy.
God reaches out to us in Jesus Christ
forgiving our sins
and nourishing us for life without limit.
Dear friends, your sins are forgiven.
Be at peace.

The Collect of the Day

Prayer Book, page 218

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Celebrant Let us pray. *Silence is kept.*

O God, whose glory it is always to have mercy: Be gracious to all who have gone astray from your ways, and bring them again with penitent hearts and steadfast faith to embrace and hold fast the unchangeable truth of your Word, Jesus Christ your Son; who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

The First Lesson Genesis 12:1-4a

Reader A reading from the Book of Genesis.

The LORD said to Abram, "Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you. I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you, and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and the one who curses you I will curse; and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed."

So Abram went, as the LORD had told him; and Lot went with him.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 121 *Said in unison, seated.*

Prayer Book, page 779

1 I lift up my eyes to the hills; *

from where is my help to come?

2 My help comes from the LORD, *

the maker of heaven and earth.

3 He will not let your foot be moved *

and he who watches over you will not fall asleep.

4 Behold, he who keeps watch over Israel *

shall neither slumber nor sleep;

5 The LORD himself watches over you; *

the LORD is your shade at your right hand,

6 So that the sun shall not strike you by day, *
nor the moon by night.

7 The LORD shall preserve you from all evil; *
it is he who shall keep you safe.

8 The LORD shall watch over your going out and your coming in, *
from this time forth for evermore.

The Gospel Song

Like a shepherd

Robert J. Dufford

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



The Gospel

John 3:1-17

Reader

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

People

Glory to you, Lord Christ.

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."

Reader

The Gospel of the Lord.

People

Praise to you, Lord Christ.

Wondering

The Rev. Cate Anthony

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

Please remain standing

- Deacon** Today we will each use a hand to guide us through our prayers. Hold your hands together and take a deep breath, becoming aware of God's presence here.
- Deacon** The thumb is closest to our heart. As we hold our thumbs, we remember what we hold closest to our hearts. We pray for our family, friends, and neighbors. We also rejoice in the good things that have happened this week, [especially _____].
- Deacon** We sometimes call our index finger our "pointer." As we hold our index fingers, we direct our prayers toward situations of great need. We pray for those who suffer in all places of conflict at home and abroad, including those people and places we name now, silently or aloud: _____.
- Deacon** Our tallest finger is also our strongest. As we hold our tallest fingers, we remember those who hold power in this world. We pray they will have the strength to seek justice and truth.
- Deacon** Our ring finger is our most fragile finger. As we hold our ring fingers, we think of those who find themselves in the most fragile moments of life. We pray especially for those who are sick and lonely. We remember also those who have died, [especially _____], and all those who grieve.
- Deacon** Our pinky is our smallest finger. As we hold our pinkies, we remember ourselves before God. We pray that God will grant us what we need, give us hearts to love and serve, and shield our joy.
- Deacon** Finally, we join our hands together, offering our prayers to God. Lord God, you promise to hear us when we pray. Draw close to us as we lift up our hearts to you, in the name of your son Jesus Christ. **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 STSTEPHENSVA to 73256), or in the offering plates as they come by.

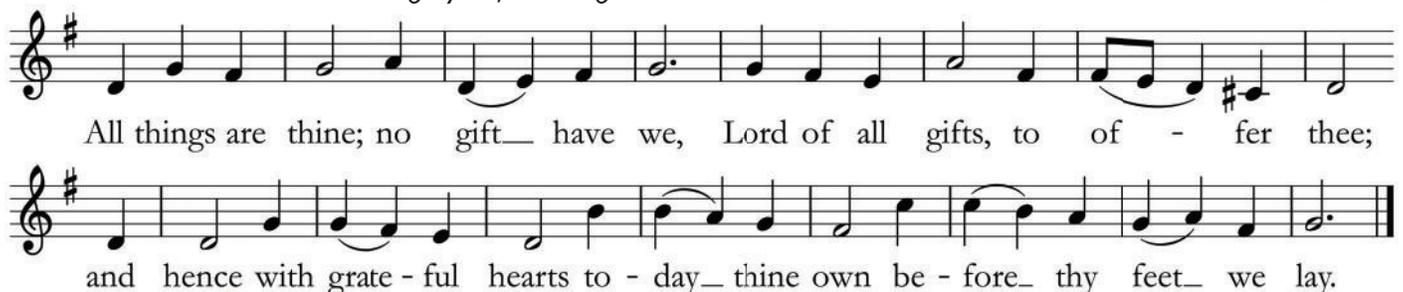


Offertory Music

At the Presentation

Sung by all, standing.

Gardiner



All things are thine; no gift_ have we, Lord of all gifts, to of - fer thee;
and hence with grate - ful hearts to - day_ thine own be - fore_ thy feet_ we lay.

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

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.

David Hurd, S-161



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

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

Lord God,

you have renewed us with the living bread from heaven;

by it you nourish our faith,

increase our hope,

and strengthen our love:

teach us always to hunger for him who is the true and living bread,

and enable us to live by every word that proceeds from out of your mouth;

through Jesus Christ our Lord.

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

Sung by all, standing.

Natalie Sleeth

Hymn 143, vs 1-4 The glory of these forty days

Sung by all.

Erhalt uns, Herr

Dismissal

Deacon Let us go forth in the name of Christ.
People **Thanks be to God.**

Prayer Book, page 366

Postlude



Participants

CELEBRANT: The Rev. Cate Anthony

DEACON: The Rev. Abby Kocher

MUSICIAN: Cindy Tilghman, *piano*

The Parish Prayer List

Loretta Albertis, Kay Alley, Leilani Allwine, Patricia Atkins-Smith, Sue Atkinson, 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., Kristen Estes, Jonathan Fava, 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, Tina 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, Brick Quinn, Cary Ragland, Luke Robertson, Jennifer Reed, Aleta Richards, Ryan Rohadfox, Kaley Rosenthal, James Saunders and Harriet Covey, Melissa Schick, Bob Schmidt, 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, Rick Wortham, Margaret P. Young. **For the blessings of this life**, especially the birth of *Richard Minor Hamrick V to Richard and Shania Hamrick*. **For those who have died**, especially *Rachel Estep and John Purcell*. **For those expecting a child**, especially Ian Hayes and Corinne Torres, 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 *Nippon Sei Ko Kai*. **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 and Lt. Jonathan Dean Hudson. *Names in italics were added this week. 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.

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