



CELTIC EVENSONG AND COMMUNION

at St. Stephen's Episcopal Church

Sunday of the Passion: Palm Sunday ☩ Sunday, March 29, 2025 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 available at entrances. When you want to be known here, place a welcome card (in all pews, or submit online) in the basket by the baptismal font. The church is open for prayer from 7 a.m. to 6 p.m., Monday through Thursday. From 5:10, the church is ready for prayer and rest. Please observe silence inside the church and remember to silence all devices.

Prelude A Lenten Prelude

Charles Callahan

Please stand at the sound of the bell.

Opening The Poet Thinks about the Donkey

Mary Oliver

On the outskirts of Jerusalem
the donkey waited.
Not especially brave, or filled with understanding,
he stood and waited.
How horses, turned out into the meadow,
leap with delight!
How doves, released from their cages,
clatter away, splashed with sunlight.
But the donkey, tied to a tree as usual, waited.
Then he let himself be led away.
Then he let the stranger mount.
Never had he seen such crowds.
And I wonder if he at all imagined what was to happen.
Still, he was what he had always been: small, dark, obedient.
I hope, finally, he felt brave.
I hope, finally he loved the man who rode so lightly upon him.
As he lifted one dusty hoof and stepped, as he had to, forward.

A period of silence is kept.

Kyrie

Sung by all.

from Mass for St. Bartholomew's, William Trafka

All: Ky-ri-e e-lei-son, Ky-ri-e e-lei-son,
Ky-ri-e e-lei-son. *Cantor or choir sings "Christe eleison."*
All: Ky-ri-e e-lei-son, Ky-ri-e e-lei-son, Ky-ri-e, Ky-ri-e e-lei-son.

Translation: Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

A Prayer for the Evening

from the Wild Goose Big Book

We gather at this solemn time, O God, aware of the costliness of human history. In the face of hostility between nations and neighbors, you have come to us in Jesus Christ, offering us the gift of peace, calling us to serve as peacemakers. In this time of worship, renew in us the hope that you will turn our swords into ploughshares, and by the power of the Holy Spirit, lead the world you love away from the study of war to the promise of peace with justice for all your peoples. **Amen.**

The Reading Matthew 21:1-11 *Please sit.*

Reader A Reading from the Gospel according to Matthew.

When Jesus and his disciples had come near Jerusalem and had reached Bethphage, at the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two disciples, saying to them, "Go into the village ahead of you, and immediately you will find a donkey tied, and a colt with her; untie them and bring them to me. If anyone says anything to you, just say this, 'The Lord needs them.' And he will send them immediately." This took place to fulfill what had been spoken through the prophet, saying, "Tell the daughter of Zion, Look, your king is coming to you, humble, and mounted on a donkey, and on a colt, the foal of a donkey."

The disciples went and did as Jesus had directed them; they brought the donkey and the colt, and put their cloaks on them, and he sat on them. A very large crowd spread their cloaks on the road, and others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. The crowds that went ahead of him and that followed were shouting, "Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest heaven!"

When he entered Jerusalem, the whole city was in turmoil, asking, "Who is this?" The crowds were saying, "This is the prophet Jesus from Nazareth in Galilee."

Silence is held for one minute of reflection.

Reflection Mike Maruca

Silence is held for two minutes of reflection.

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, either silently or aloud.

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.

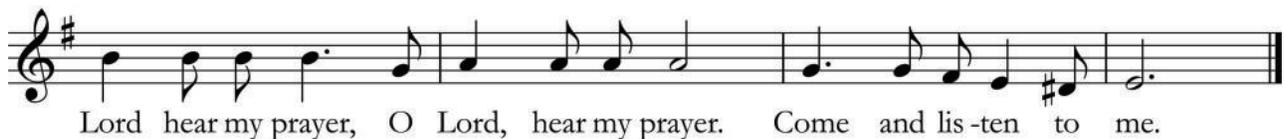
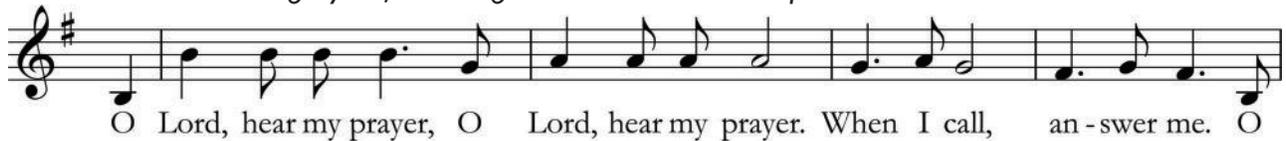
Music for Meditation *Love Unknown*

arr. Matthew Corl

Hymn O Lord, hear my prayer

Jacques Berthier

Sung by all, standing. This refrain will be repeated several times.



The Grace Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will hardship, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. **Amen.**

—Romans 8:35, 37-39

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."

The Holy Communion

Welcome and Announcements

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 There in God's garden

arr. Anne Krentz Organ

The Great Thanksgiving

A New Zealand Prayer Book, Prayer II

The people remain standing.

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; male and female you created us. 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.

from Mass for St. Bartholomew's, William Traftka

Ho-ly, ho-ly, ho-ly Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glo-ry. Ho - san - na, ho - san - na, ho -
san-na in the high - est. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the
Lord. Ho - san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

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

Silence is held.

Sung by all.

from *Mass for St. Bartholomew's*, William Trafka

Je - sus, Lamb of God, have mer - cy on us.

Je - sus, bear - er of our sins, have mer - cy on us. Je - sus, Re - deem - er, Re -

deem - er of the world. Do - na no - bis pa - cem, do - na no - bis

pa - cem, do - na no - bis — pa - cem.

Translation: Give us your 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 Peaceful Wood

arr. Hilton Rufty

The Turtle Dove (Fare thee well)

trad. English folk ballad, arr. Lizzie Peacock

Dalur (Valley)

Ólafur Arnalds

A Gethsemane Vigil

Please sit in a posture of prayer or kneel through the end of the service. Hold silence as you depart.

Reading Matthew 26:30-41a

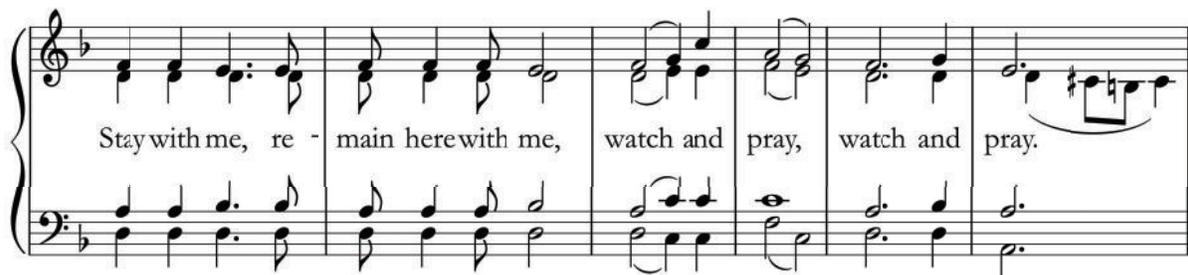
When they had sung the hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives. Then Jesus said to them, "You will all become deserters because of me this night; for it is written, 'I will strike the shepherd, the sheep of the flock will be scattered.' But after I am raised up, I will go ahead of you to Galilee." Peter said to him, "Though all become deserters because of you, I will never desert you." Jesus said to him, "Truly I tell you, this very night, before the cock crows, you will deny me three times." Peter said to him, "Even though I must die with you, I will not deny you." And so said all the disciples. Then Jesus went with them to a place called Gethsemane; and he said to his disciples, "Sit here while I go over there and pray." He took with him Peter and the two sons of Zebedee, and began to be grieved and agitated. Then he said to them, "I am deeply grieved, even to death; remain here, and

stay awake with me.” And going a little farther, he threw himself on the ground and prayed, “My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from me; yet not what I want but what you want.” Then he came to the disciples and found them sleeping; and he said to Peter, “So, could you not stay awake with me one hour? Stay awake and pray that you may not come into the time of trial.”

Hymn Stay with me

Jacques Berthier

The refrain will be sung by the cantor, then repeated by all as the cantor sings the verses.



Closing Gethsemane

Mary Oliver

The grass never sleeps.
 Or the roses.
 Nor does the lily have a secret eye that shuts until morning.
 Jesus said, wait with me. But the disciples slept.
 The cricket has such splendid fringe on its feet,
 and it sings, have you noticed, with its whole body,
 and heaven knows if it ever sleeps.
 Jesus said, wait with me. And maybe the stars did, maybe
 the wind wound itself into a silver tree, and didn't move,
 maybe
 the lake far away, where once he walked as on a
 blue pavement,
 lay still and waited, wild awake.
 Oh the dear bodies, slumped and eye-shut, that could not
 keep the vigil, how they must have wept,
 so utterly human, knowing this too
 must be a part of the story.

Music for Meditation Were you there?

African American spiritual
 arr. Harry T. Burleigh

The congregation departs in silence after the music.



Memorial

The Palm Sunday arrangements are given to the glory of God and in memory of William Astor Stanley by his family.

Participants

Celebrant: The Rev. John Jenkins; **Deacon:** The Rev. Judy Webb Davis; **Reflector:** Mike Maruca; **Subdeacon:** Allison Koschak; **Reader:** Josh Rockett; **Reader/Intercessor:** Gayle Royals; **Chalice Bearers:** Nancy Atkins, Guy Frank, Chip Jamerson, Kim Spensieri; **Musicians:** Matthew Hassmer, *cantor*; Alana Carithers, *violin*; Robert McCormick, *piano*

The Parish Prayer List

Copies of the parish prayer list are available in the church vestibule (inside the Three Chopt Road entrance) and at Information Central (outside the parish office).

Holy Week and Easter at St. Stephen's Church

Information about the services of Holy Week and Easter is available in a brochure at Information Central, in the Spirit (the weekly printed newsletter inserted into your bulletin) and on our website at ststephensRVA.org/holy-week.

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.

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: "The Poet Thinks about the Donkey" from *Thirst* by Mary Oliver [Boston: Beacon Press, 2006]. Closing: "Gethsemane" from *Thirst* by Mary Oliver [Boston: Beacon Press, 2006]. Reprinted by permission.

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