



CELTIC EVENSONG AND COMMUNION

at St. Stephen's Episcopal Church

The Second Sunday of Easter ☩ April 12, 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 Cherry blossom

Robin Spielberg

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

Opening "The Call"

George Herbert

Come, my Way, my Truth, my Life:
Such a way as gives us breath;
Such a truth as ends all strife,
Such a life as killeth death.

Come, my Joy, my Love, my Heart:
Such a joy as none can move,
Such a love as none can part,
Such a heart as joys in love.

Come, my Light, my Feast, my Strength:
Such a light as shows a feast,
Such a feast as mends in length,
Such a strength as makes his guest.

Silence is held after the reading.

Hymn Lo, the winter's past *Sung by all, standing as able.*

Robinson Chapel



1. Lo, the win - ter's past. For the rain is gone; the flowers ap - pear.
2. Beau - ti - ful and fair, like a gar - den, our be - lov - ed's face,
3. Love is strong as death, ycs, and strong - cr yct, its frcts of fir



Time of sing - ing has be - gun, lark and tur - tle - dove.
clus - tered hen - na, Shar - on's rose, ra - diant to our eyes.
floods of wa - ters can - not drown, nei - ther quench its flame.



Rise, then, come a - way, as the vines burst in - to blos - som here,
Hon - ey, milk, and wine, fill our cups with o - ver - flow - ing grace,
Burn - ing still through tears, dia - mond pris - ms for our hearts' de - sire,



rich with fra - grance, drenched with sun, shim - mer - ing with God's love.
feed our souls where God be - stows ban - quets of love's sur - prise.
spread an arc - ing rain - bow crown 'round the be - lov - ed's name.

A Prayer for the Evening

Jesus our inspiration, you come in the evening as our doors are shut, and you bring peace; the peace you give the world cannot. Grant us sleep tonight, and courage tomorrow to follow wherever you lead. **Amen.**

The Reading John 20:19-31 *Please sit.*

Reader A Reading from the Gospel according to John.

When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you." When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained."

But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord." But he said to them, "Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands, and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe."

A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe." Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!" Jesus said to him, "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe."

Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book. But these are written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.

Silence is held for one minute of reflection.

Reflection Dave Davis

Silence is held for two minutes of reflection.

Music for Meditation Give me your hand

trad. Irish

Prayers for Ourselves and Others *Please stand as you are able.*

Deacon Let us pray for the church and the world.

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

Leader In the work we do this day,

People **May the risen Christ teach us.**

Leader In the challenges we face this day,

People **May the risen Christ guide us.**

Leader Through the people we meet this day,

People **May the risen Christ renew us.**

Leader As we respond to the hungers and hurts of this world, especially to those who suffer in all places of conflict, at home and abroad,

People **May the risen Christ compel us.**

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 We remember all who have died, [especially _____].

The people may add their intercessions either silently or aloud.

Leader Give to the departed eternal rest;

People **And let light perpetual shine upon them.**

Leader Let us pray for our own needs and the needs of others, [especially _____].

The people may add their intercessions either 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 Believe me (The Gentle Maiden)

trad. Irish, arr. Phil Coulter

Hymn *Adoramus te, Domine*

Jacques Berthier

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

The image shows a musical score for the hymn 'Adoramus te, Domine'. It features a grand staff with a treble clef on the top line and a bass clef on the bottom line. The key signature has one flat (B-flat). The melody is written in the treble clef, and the accompaniment is in the bass clef. The lyrics 'A-do-ra-mus te, Do-mi-ne.' are written below the treble staff. The score includes a repeat sign at the end.

Translation: We adore you, O Lord.

Verses: With the angels and archangels; with patriarchs and prophets; with the Virgin Mary, Mother of God; with the Apostles and evangelists; with all the martyrs of Christ; with all who witness to the Gospel of the Lord; with all your people of the Church throughout the world.

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."

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 *Berceuse*

John Ireland

Eucharistic Prayer *Please stand as you are able.*

Enriching Our Worship, Eucharistic Prayer 3

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 our thanks and praise.**

Celebrant All thanks and praise are yours at all times and in all places, our true and loving God; through Jesus Christ, your eternal Word, the Wisdom from on high by whom you created all things. You laid the foundations of the world and enclosed the sea when it burst out from the womb; you brought forth all creatures of the earth and gave breath to humankind. Wondrous are you, Holy One of Blessing, all you create is a sign of hope for our journey; and so as the morning stars sing your praises we join the heavenly beings and all creation as we shout with joy:

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 Glory and honor are yours, Creator of all, your Word has never been silent; you called a people to yourself, as a light to the nations, you delivered them from bondage and led them to a land of promise. Of your grace, you gave Jesus to be human, to share our life, to proclaim the coming of your holy reign and give himself for us, a fragrant offering. Through Jesus Christ our Redeemer, you have freed us from sin, brought us into your life, reconciled us to you, and restored us to the glory you intend for us.

We thank you that on the night before he died for us Jesus took bread, and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, gave it to his friends and said:

All **“Take and eat. This is my own body given for you. Do this to remember me.”**

Celebrant After supper Jesus took the cup of wine, said the blessing, gave it to his friends and said:

All **“This is my life-blood given for you. Do this to remember me.”**

Celebrant And so, remembering all that was done for us: the cross, the tomb, the resurrection and ascension, longing for Christ’s coming in glory, and presenting to you these gifts your earth has formed and human hands have made, we acclaim you, O Christ:

All **Dying, you destroyed our death. Rising, you restored our life. Christ Jesus, come in glory!**

Celebrant Send your Holy Spirit upon us and upon these gifts of bread and wine that they may be to us the Body and Blood of your Christ. Grant that we, burning with your Spirit’s power, may be a people of hope, justice and love. Giver of Life, draw us together in the Body of Christ, and in the fullness of time gather us with all your people into the joy of our true eternal home. 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 are you now and for ever. AMEN.**

The Lord’s Prayer

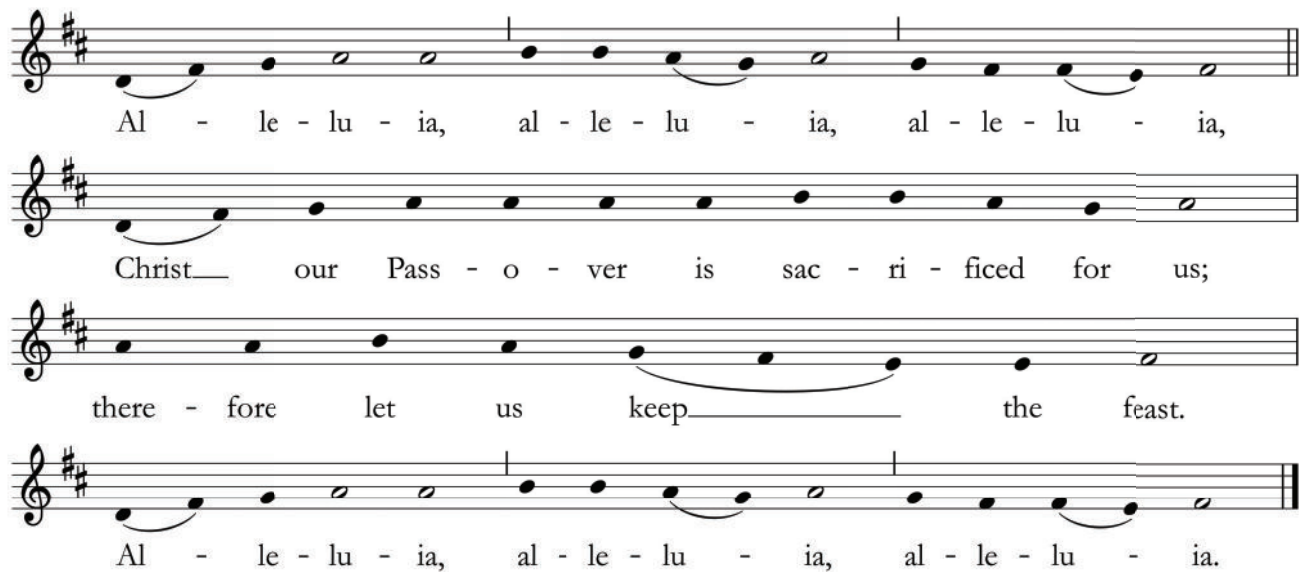
Cantor
As our Sa - vior Christ has taught us, we now pray,

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.

The Hymnal 1982, S-154, David Hurd



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia,
Christ our Pass - o - ver is sac - ri - ficed for us;
there - fore let us keep the feast.
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, 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

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

Jacaranda Blue

Jolin Jiang

Banks of Sullane/*Paiste Fionn*

trad. Irish, arr. Kathryn Cater/Sandy Norman

Amazing Grace

arr. Jennifer Haines

After Communion

Please stand.

Celebrant Let us pray.

All **Lord Jesus Christ,**
you have put your life into our hands;
now we put our lives into yours.
Take us, renew us and remake us.
What we have been is past;
what we shall be, through you,
still awaits us.
Lead us on.
Take us with you. Amen.

The Blessing

E. Carson Brisson

Celebrant May joy and nothing less find you on the way.
May you be blessed and a blessing.
And may light guide you, and countless others, all the way home.
And the blessing of God Almighty, Father, Son and Holy Spirit
be among you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

Hymn

Breathe on me, breath of God

Sung by all.

Nova Vita



1. Breathe on me, Breath of God, fill me with life a - new,
2. Breathe on me, Breath of God, un - til my heart is pure,
3. Breathe on me, Breath of God, till I am whol - ly thine,
4. Breathe on me Breath of God, so shall I nev - er die;

that I may love what thou dost love, and do_ what thou wouldst do.
un - til with thee I will one will to do_ or to en - dure.
till all this earth - ly part of me glows with_ thy fire di - vine.
but live with thee the per - fect life of thine_ e - ter - ni - ty.

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 *Six Studies in English Folksong: II. Andante sostenuto* Ralph Vaughan Williams

Postlude *Llywn on (The ash grove)* trad. Welsh, arr. Jeffrey Howard/Douglas Townshend
During the postlude, you are welcome to remain to rest or pray, or to depart in silence.

Participants

Celebrant: The Rev. John Jenkins; **Deacon:** The Rev. Will Stanley; **Reflector:** Dave Davis; **Subdeacon:** Kim Spensieri; **Reader:** Tyler Curtis; **Intercessor:** Gabrielle Maes; **Chalice Bearers:** Alisa Booze Troetschel, Sam Davis, Katy Groover, Sarah Shutt; **Musicians:** Lauren Clay, *cantor*; Ellie Swanson, *flute*; 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

continued

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, 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, David Harrell, Katie Hellebush, Dan Hill, Anna Hurdle, Alan Jameson, John Turner Jenkins, Lena Jones, Justin Jones-Nickerson, Jane Kelly, Linda Lewis, Ashley Loughan, 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, Tina Millner, Susan Minyard, Sallie Moncol, Susan Moore, Lee W. Mumford, Shelby Nichols, 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, Jamey Price, Julia Putney-Brandt, Brick Quinn, Cary Ragland, Luke Robertson, Jennifer Reed, Aleta Richards, Emery Rivera, Ryan Rohadfox, Bette Shiflett, Chrys Sills, Aiden Thomas Smith, Josh Spain, Aaron Spicer, Margie Spicer, Regena Stith, Beth Thomas, Bruce 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, J. Morgan Wright, Margaret P. Young. **For the blessings of this life**, especially for the births of *Charles Joseph Baker V to Ellie and Charlie Baker and Lucy Dollings Barrett to Grace and Richard Barrett, Jr.* **For those who have died**, especially *Robley D. Bates and Phillip McLaughlin.* **For those expecting a child**, especially Preston and Cate Kendig and Megan and Tim Watson. **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 *Igreja Anglicana de Mocambique e Angola.* **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, Caroline Finn, and Lt. Jonathan Dean Hudson. *Names in italics were added to the prayer list this week.*

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 Call" by George Herbert. Public Domain.

St. Stephen's Episcopal Church ☎ 6000 Grove Avenue Richmond, Virginia 23226 ☎ 804.288.2867 ☎ ststephensRVA.org