



CELTIC EVENSONG AND COMMUNION

at St. Stephen's Episcopal Church

The Fifth Sunday of Easter ☩ May 3, 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 *Suite antique*: Prelude John Rutter

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

Opening Annunciation Marie Howe

Even if I don't see it again—nor ever feel it
I know it is—and that if once it hailed me
it ever does—

And so it is myself I want to turn in that direction
not as towards a place, but it was a tilting
within myself,

as one turns a mirror to flash the light to where
it isn't—I was blinded like that—and swam
in what shone at me

only able to endure it by being no one and so
specifically myself I thought I'd die
from being loved like that.

Silence is held after the reading.

Hymn Come, my Way, my Truth, my Life *Sung by all, standing as able.* *The Call*



1 Come, my Way, my Truth, my Life: such a
2 Come, my Light, my Feast, my Strength: such a
3 Come, my Joy, my Love, my Heart: such a



way as gives us breath; such a truth as ends all
light as shows a feast; such a feast as mends in
joy as none can move; such a love as none can



strife; such a life as kill - eth death.
length; such a strength as makes _____ his guest.
part; such a heart as joys _____ in love.

A Prayer for the Evening

Speak to us this night, O God
Speak to us your truth.
Dwell with us this night, O God
Dwell with us in Love. **Amen.**

The Reading John 14:1-14 *Please sit.*

Reader A Reading from the Gospel according to John.

Jesus said, "Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father's house there are many dwelling places. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also. And you know the way to the place where I am going." Thomas said to him, "Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?" Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. If you know me, you will know my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him."

Philip said to him, "Lord, show us the Father, and we will be satisfied." Jesus said to him, "Have I been with you all this time, Philip, and you still do not know me? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, 'Show us the Father'? Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own; but the Father who dwells in me does his works. Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; but if you do not, then believe me because of the works themselves. Very truly, I tell you, the one who believes in me will also do the works that I do and, in fact, will do greater works than these, because I am going to the Father. I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If in my name you ask me for anything, I will do it."

Silence is held for one minute of reflection.

Reflection Becky Boyers

Silence is held for two minutes of reflection.

Music for Meditation *Molaimís go léir an tAon-Mhac Criost*

trad. Irish/Oliver Hynes

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, for 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.

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 Love's Old Sweet Song

J.L. Molloy, arr. Phil Coulter

Hymn *Ubi caritas*

Jacques Berthier

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

U-bi car-i - tas et a - mor, u-bi car-i - tas De-us i - bi est.

Translation: Where true charity and love dwell, God is there.

Verses: Your love, O Jesus Christ, has gathered us together. May your love, O Jesus Christ, be foremost in our lives. Let us love one another as God has loved us. Let us be one in love together in the one bread of Christ. The love of God in Jesus Christ will never have an end.

Blessing of Oil for Healing Ministries

Celebrant To Jesus came the untouchable sick, sinners and outcasts, foreigners and foes alike;

All **He touched and healed, welcomed and forgave. Jesus loved them all.**

Celebrant Jesus receives all who seek God's loving mercy.

All **We come to Jesus in our need, bringing with us the needs of the world.**

Celebrant Spirit of God, come upon this oil and upon all who seek the anointing of your healing; pour upon them the gift of your wholeness and the healing of your love, in the holy name of Christ. **Amen.**

The Grace And making her stand before all of them, they said to Jesus, “Teacher, this woman was caught in the very act of committing adultery. Now, in the Law Moses commanded us to stone such women. Now what do you say?” “Let anyone among you who is without sin be the first to throw a stone at her.” When they heard it, they went away, one by one, beginning with the elders; and Jesus was left alone with the woman... “Woman, where are they? Has no one condemned you?” She said, “No one, sir.” And he said, “Neither do I condemn you. From now on do not sin again.” **Amen.** *John 8:3b-5, 6b, 7, 9-10b, 11b*

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 Flower Duet

Léo Delibes

The Great Thanksgiving

Please stand.

Enriching Our Worship, Eucharistic Prayer 2

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 God thanks and praise.**

Celebrant We praise you and we bless you, holy and gracious God, source of life abundant. From before time you made ready the creation. Your Spirit moved over the deep and brought all things into being: sun, moon, and stars; earth, winds, and waters; and every living thing. You made us in your image, and taught us to walk in your ways. But we rebelled against you, and wandered far way; and yet, as a mother cares for her children, you would not forget us. Time and again you called us to live in the fullness of your love.

And so this day we join with Saints and Angels in the chorus of praise that rings through eternity, lifting our voices to magnify you as we sing:

Sanctus

This refrain is repeated as the cantor sings the verses.

Jacques Berthier



Sanc-tus, Sanc-tus, Sanc-tus Do-mi-nus De-us Sa-ba-oth, De-us Sa-ba-oth.

Translation: Holy, holy, holy Lord God of hosts.

Verses: Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might. Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

Celebrant Glory and honor and praise to you, holy and living God. To deliver us from the power of sin and death and to reveal the riches of your grace, you looked with favor upon Mary, your willing servant, that she might conceive and bear a son, Jesus the holy child of God. Living among us, Jesus loved us. He broke bread with outcasts and sinners, healed the sick, and proclaimed good news to the poor. He yearned to draw all the world to himself yet we were heedless of his call to walk in love. Then, the time came for him to complete upon the cross the sacrifice of his life, and to be glorified by you.

On the night before he died for us, Jesus was at table with his friends. He took bread, gave thanks to you, broke it, and gave it to them, and said:

All **“Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me.”**

Celebrant As supper was ending, Jesus took the cup of wine. Again, he gave thanks to you, gave it to them, and said:

All **“Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is poured out for you and for all for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me.”**

Celebrant Now gathered at your table, O God of all creation, and remembering Christ, crucified and risen, who was and is and is to come, we offer to you our gifts of bread and wine, and ourselves, a living sacrifice. Pour out your Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Body and Blood of Christ. Breathe your Spirit over the whole earth and make us your new creation, the Body of Christ given for the world you have made.

In the fullness of time bring us with all your saints, from every tribe and language and people and nation, to feast at the banquet prepared from the foundation of the world.

Through Christ and with Christ and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, to you be honor, glory, and praise, for ever and 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

Silence is held.

Blarney Pilgrim, arr. Larkin Bryant

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._ 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 Skye Boat Song
Cantilena
Maids of Mourne Shore

trad. Scottish, arr. Skaila Kanga
Robin Stopford
trad. Irish

Memorials

The flowers are given to the glory of God and in memory of Ellen Bowers Hofstead by Mr. and Mrs. Robert Cabaniss III.

Participants

Celebrant: The Rev. John Rohrs; **Deacon:** The Rev. John Jenkins; **Reflector:** Becky Boyers; **Subdeacon:** Pam Redd; **Reader:** Stephanie Peramas; **Intercessor:** Gayle Royals; **Chalice Bearers:** Howard Anderson, Alisa Booze Troetschel, Sam Davis, Synthia Waymack; **Musicians:** Matt Hassmer, *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 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

Copies of the parish prayer list are available at Information Central (the large table outside the parish office) and in the narthex (the vestibule inside the Three Chopt Road entrance to the church). To add someone to the prayer list, please contact Kitty Ball in the parish office, 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: "Annunciation" from *The Kingdom of Ordinary Time* by Marie Howe. W.W. Norton & Company ©2008. Used by permission.