



# CELTIC EVENSONG AND COMMUNION

at St. Stephen's Episcopal Church

The Seventh Sunday of Easter ☩ May 17, 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**      *Prélude* (from *Prélude, fugue et variation*)

César Franck

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

**Opening**      Eve's Journey

Margaret Mackinnon

In the tender light of late afternoon,  
Eve at last arrives. She's climbed  
the shaded slope, but even in Paradise,  
there are perilous trails. Surely,  
she is weary. Perhaps it took her days.  
Her face bears the marks of her travels.  
But she's been told of the tree  
and has come to see it now. And here,  
on this high ground, the great canopy  
fills the air. Bats and monkeys  
and golden orioles gather round  
its generous branches, heavy with fruit.  
And now, does she eat and somehow see  
beyond the hand-sized, heart-shaped leaves?  
See within the figs, where eager wasps  
lay their eggs, live and die within  
a few short hours—  
life and death and death and life again.  
A brief astonishment, over all too soon.  
This flawed interlude given her,  
an ancient story older than her own—  
and all of it now hers to understand,  
or not to understand at all. And one day,  
she will be a solitary walker along  
some wind-worn shore, a landscape  
far beyond the easy garden with its easy blooms.  
And she'll remember all of this again:  
How she held beauty and remorse  
within her arms and heard the hum  
of angels' voices—innocent and glorious,  
carried around her on a steady wind.

*Silence is held after the reading.*

**Hymn**

Be thou my vision

*Sung by all, standing as able.**Slane*

1. Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart;  
 2. Be thou my wisdom, and thou my true word;  
 3. I High King of heaven, when victory is won,  
 all else be naught to me, save that thou art:  
 I ever with thee and thou with me, Lord;  
 may I reach heaven's joys, bright heaven's Sun!  
 thou my best thought, by day or by night,  
 thou my great Father; thine own may I be;  
 Heart of my heart, what - ev - er be - fall,  
 wa - king or sleep - ing, my pres - ence my light.  
 thou in me dwell - ing, and I one with thee.  
 still be my vi - sion, O Ru - ler of all.

**A Prayer for the Evening**

We seek the grace of healing, O God.

At the heart of the brokenness around us  
 and in the hidden depths of our own souls  
 we seek your touch of healing, O God,  
 for there you reside.

In the hidden depths of life, O God,  
 there you reside. **Amen.**

**The Reading** John 17:1-11 *Please sit.*

*Reader* A Reading from the Gospel according to John.

Jesus looked up to heaven and said, "Father, the hour has come; glorify your Son so that the Son may glorify you, since you have given him authority over all people, to give eternal life to all whom you have given him. And this is eternal life, that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent. I glorified you on earth by finishing the work that you gave me to do. So now, Father, glorify me in your own presence with the glory that I had in your presence before the world existed.

"I have made your name known to those whom you gave me from the world. They were yours, and you gave them to me, and they have kept your word. Now they know that everything you have given me is from you; for the words that you gave to me I have given to them, and they have received them and know in truth that I came from you; and they have believed that you sent me. I am asking on their behalf; I am not asking on behalf of the world, but on behalf of those whom you gave me, because they are yours. All mine are yours, and yours are mine; and I have been glorified in them. And now I am no longer in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, protect them in your name that you have given me, so that they may be one, as we are one."

*Silence is held for one minute of reflection.*

**Reflection** Kim Spensieri

*Silence is held for two minutes of reflection.*

**Music for Meditation** Bendemeer's Stream

trad. Irish, arr. Sylvia Woods

**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** Londonderry Waltz

trad. Irish, arr. Serban Nichifor

## 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.

## 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 STSTEPHENSRYA to 73256.*



## At the Offertory

Arietta

Samuel Coleridge-Taylor

## 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.



## 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** *Yoimachi-gusa* (Evening primrose) Ōno Tadasuke

**Postlude** Mingulay Boat Song trad. Hebrides, arr. Sunita Staneslow  
*During the postlude, you are welcome to remain to rest or pray, or to depart in silence.*

## Memorials

The flowers are given to the glory of God and in memory of Anna Stockdell and Barbara Stockdell by Dede Stockdell Welch.

## Participants

**Celebrant:** The Rev. Cate Anthony; **Deacon:** The Rev. John Jenkins; **Reflector:** Kim Spensieri; **Subdeacon:** Anne Townsend; **Reader:** Gabrielle Maes; **Intercessor:** Guy Frank; **Chalice Bearers:** Katy Groover, Mary Martin, Susan Wilkes, Cary Wyatt; **Musicians:** Quinn Bitsas, *cantor*; Chris Ertell, *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.

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: "Eve's Journey" by Margaret Mackinnon in *The Christian Century*, November, 2024. Reprinted with permission.

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