



# CELTIC EVENSONG AND COMMUNION

at St. Stephen's Episcopal Church

The Third Sunday after Pentecost ☩ June 14, 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. Throughout this bulletin, guidance is printed in italics. Nursery care is available (infant-4); speak with a door greeter. A "soft space" is also available in the Chapel of the*

*Good Shepherd, the side chapel nearest the parish house, where children and parents can continue to participate in the service if and when they need more room than a church pew provides. Children must be accompanied by a parent while using the soft space. 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 by the baptismal font. 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, Op. 71: III. Lento assai

Moritz Moszkowski

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

**Opening** Forgiveness

Temple Cone

I've heard that deaf children,  
in a room where music is played,  
grow calm, begin to rock slightly  
as the sounds, moving through air,  
move them, too. It's this way  
with forgiveness; it goes unheard

for a while, delivers us  
into a rhythm we can't help,  
like a weather front. In the end,  
we can't even say  
who gave or received, only that air  
still trembles, that walls fold around.

*Silence is held after the reading.*

**Hymn** Christ, mighty Savior *Sung by all, standing as able.*

*Innisfree Farm*



1. Christ, might - y Sa - vior, Light of all cre - a - tion,  
2. Now comes the day's end as the sun is set - ting;  
3. There - fore we come now eve - ning rites to of - fer,  
4. Give heed, we pray you, to our sup - pli - ca - tion:  
5. Though bo - dies slum - ber, hearts shall keep their vi - gil,



you make the day - time ra - dant with the sun - light, and to the night give  
mir - ror of day - break, pledge of re - sur - rec - tion; while in the hea - vens  
joy - ful - ly chant - ing ho - ly hymns to praise you, with all cre - a - tion  
that you may grant us par - don for of - fens - es, strength for our weak hearts,  
for ev - er rest - ing in the peace of Je - sus, in light or dark - ness,



glit - ter - ing a - dorn - ment, stars in the hea - vens.  
choirs of stars ap - pear - ing hal - low the night - fall.  
join - ing hearts and voic - es, sing - ing your glo - ry.  
rest for ach - ing bo - dies, sooth - ing the wear - y.  
wor - ship - ing our Sa - vior now and for - ev - er.

## A Prayer for the Evening

from A New Zealand Prayer Book

Lord, it is night. The night is for stillness. Let us be still in the presence of God. It is night after a long day. What has been done has been done; what has not been done has not been done; let it be. The night is dark. Let our fears of the darkness of the world and of our own lives rest in you. The night is quiet. Let the quietness of your peace enfold us, all who are dear to us, and all who have no peace. The night heralds the dawn. Let us look expectantly to a new day, new joys, new possibilities. In your name we pray. **Amen.**

**The Reading** Matthew 9:35-10:8 *Please sit.*

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

Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues, and proclaiming the good news of the kingdom, and curing every disease and every sickness. When he saw the crowds, he had compassion for them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. Then he said to his disciples, "The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; therefore ask the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest."

Then Jesus summoned his twelve disciples and gave them authority over unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to cure every disease and every sickness. These are the names of the twelve apostles: first, Simon, also known as Peter, and his brother Andrew; James son of Zebedee, and his brother John; Philip and Bartholomew; Thomas and Matthew the tax collector; James son of Alphaeus, and Thaddaeus; Simon the Cananaean, and Judas Iscariot, the one who betrayed him.

These twelve Jesus sent out with the following instructions: "Go nowhere among the Gentiles, and enter no town of the Samaritans, but go rather to the lost sheep of the house of Israel. As you go, proclaim the good news, 'The kingdom of heaven has come near.' Cure the sick, raise the dead, cleanse the lepers, cast out demons. You received without payment; give without payment.

*Silence is held for one minute of reflection.*

**Reflection** Bill Davis

*Silence is held for two minutes of reflection.*

**Music for Meditation** *Land of Rest*

arr. Michael Simpson

**Prayers for Ourselves and Others** *Please stand.*

adapted from the Iona Abbey Worship Book

**Deacon** Let us pray for the church and the world.

**Leader** We bring to God someone whom we have met or remembered today and for whom we want to pray.

*You may offer prayers silently or aloud.*

**Leader** Lord, in your mercy,

**All** **Hear our prayer.**

**Leader** We bring to God someone who is hurting tonight and needs our prayer.

*You may offer prayers silently or aloud.*

**Leader** Lord, in your mercy,

**All** **Hear our prayer.**

**Leader** We bring to God a troubled situation in our world tonight.

*You may offer prayers silently or aloud.*

**Leader** Lord, in your mercy,

**All** **Hear our prayer.**

Leader We bring to God someone whom we find hard to forgive or trust.

*You may offer prayers silently or aloud.*

Leader Lord, in your mercy,

All **Hear our prayer.**

Leader We bring to God our gratitude and joy for the blessings of life, [especially for \_\_\_\_\_].

*You may offer prayers silently or aloud.*

Leader Lord, in your mercy,

All **Hear our prayer.**

Leader We bring before God our losses... *You may offer prayers silently or aloud.*

Our heart for those who mourn...

and for those who have died...

[especially \_\_\_\_].

Leader Lord in your mercy,

All **Hear our prayer.**

Leader We bring ourselves to God.

All **that we might be healed  
and drawn to love each other  
as God loves us. 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** Rain in Jiang'nan

He Tu, arr. OctoEast Ensemble

**Hymn** *Veni Sancte Spiritus*

Jacques Berthier

*Sung by all, standing. The congregation will repeat the refrain as the cantor sings the verses.*

The image shows the musical notation for the hymn 'Veni Sancte Spiritus'. It consists of two staves: a treble clef staff on top and a bass clef staff on the bottom. The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 4/4. The melody is written in the treble clef, and the bass line is in the bass clef. The lyrics 'Ve - ni San - cte Spir - i - tus.' are written below the treble staff. The music features a simple, hymn-like melody with a steady bass line.

*Translation: Come, Holy Spirit.*

Verses: Come, Holy Spirit, from heaven shine forth with your glorious light. Light in our hearts the flame of your love, that in the darkness of the world, it may glow and reach to all forever.

**The Grace** Listen to these words of Jesus, words that we can trust:

Iona Worship Book

“Don’t be afraid.”

“I love you.”

“Abide in my love.”

“Your sins are forgiven.”

“I will be with you always.”

Write these words in our hearts, loving God, let them take root in our living. **Amen.**

**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 to make a gift online, scan the QR code or text STSTEPHENSVA to 73256.*



**At the Offertory** How can I keep from singing

Robert Lowry, arr. Kathryn Cater

**The Great Thanksgiving** Please stand.

Eucharistic Prayer Canon G written by the Rev. Janet Trisk for the Order of the Holy Cross, Anglican Church of South Africa

*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.**

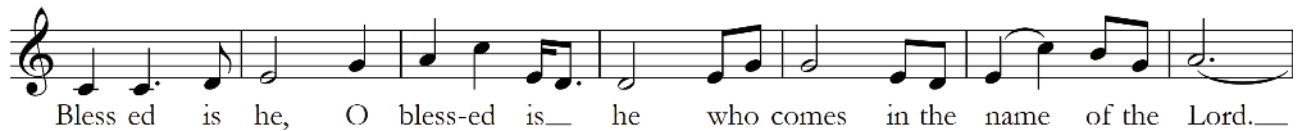
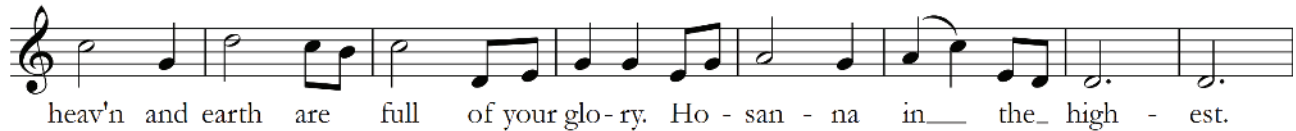
*Celebrant* O God of mystery and promise, you invite us to discover you in the intimate places of ourselves and our lives. You invite us to discover you within the complexities of our humanity, in passionate and tender loving, in struggle and pain, in confusion and unknowing, in flashes of insight and wisdom. You also call us beyond ourselves to places of imagination, beyond the silent stars, in the deep rhythms of the ocean, in the unending cycles of day and night, seasons of life and death.

With saints and ancestors, with the seas and earth and sky, with animals and birds, with our friends and those unknown to us, with all creation we join in the song of your unending glory:

### Sanctus

*Sung by all.*

from *St. Anne's Mass*, James MacMillan



*Celebrant* We praise you that in Jesus you make known to us the wonder and richness of our humanity. We give thanks for his life-giving love, for his healing touch, for his vulnerability and for his gentleness.

Before he gave up his life, he shared his humanity, his flesh and blood with his friends. He took bread, gave thanks for it, broke it and gave it to them saying:

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

*Celebrant* So too after they had eaten, he took wine, gave thanks for it and gave it to them saying:

*All* **“This is my blood, poured out in love for you. Do this to remember me.”**

*Celebrant* So we proclaim the mystery of faith:


*All* **Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

*Celebrant* Come now, Spirit of God, bless these holy gifts, and as we eat and drink these bodily things, make us one body, food for the world, one blood to be poured out for the life of all. Touch us with your gentle creativity and fire us with longing for the new age of justice and peace.

We ask this through Jesus who gave his body that we might be one and his blood that we might find new life. With him, and through him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, be to you, O God, all honor and glory forever. **AMEN.**


## The Lord's Prayer

*Cantor*

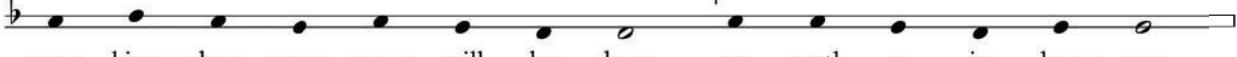


As our Sa - vior Christ has taught us, we now pray,


*All*



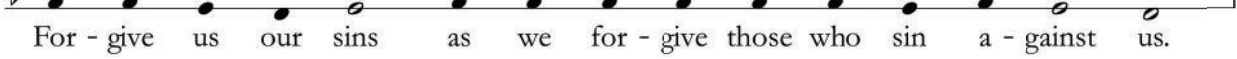
Our Fa - ther in hea - ven, hal - lowed be your Name,



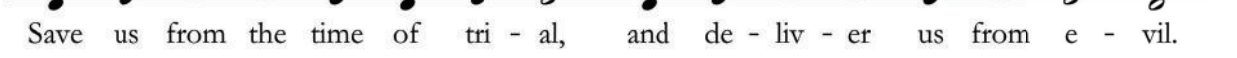
your king - dom come, your will be done, on earth as in hea - ven.



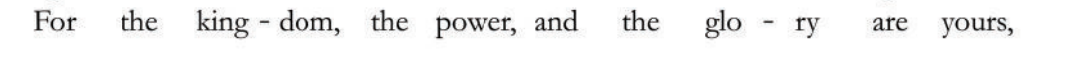
Give us to - day our dai - ly bread.




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,

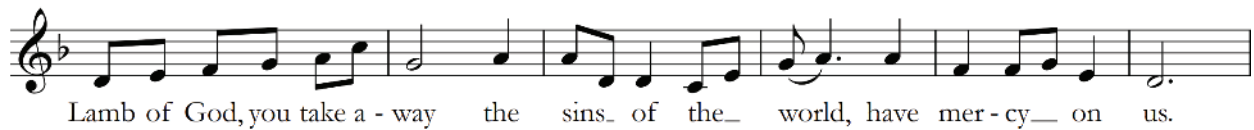
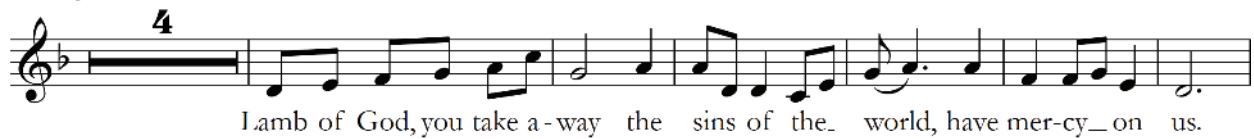


now and for ev - er. A - men.

## The Breaking of the Bread

Silence is held.

from *St. Anne's Mass*, James MacMillan



## 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** *Ljósið* (The light) Ólafur Arnalds  
Prelude Dmitri Shostakovich, arr. Levon Atovmyan  
Miles apart 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

*Celebrant* May the stillness of God be yours this night, that you may sleep in peace.  
May the awareness of the angels be yours this night, that you may be alert to unseen mysteries.  
And may the life of Christ be yours this night, that you may be truly alive and kindled to love.  
And God's Blessing be with you, Christ's peace be with you, the Spirit's outpouring be with you,  
now and always. **Amen.**

## Hymn

God, be the love to search and keep me

Sung by all.

St. Clement



1. God, be the love to search and keep me; God, be the  
2. Bird to my - self the name of Ho - ly; great cloud of  
3. Christ in the eyes of all who see me, Christ in the  
prayer to move my voice; God, be the strength to  
wit - ness - es end - fold; with proph - ets, a - pos - tles,  
ears that hear my voice, Christ in the hearts of  
now up - hold me: O Christ, sur - round me with your love.  
an - gels wit - ness: O Christ, sur - round me with your love.  
all who know me: O Christ, sur - round me with your love.

## 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

It was a lover and his lass

Ralph Vaughan Williams

## Postlude

Be thou my vision

trad. Irish, arr. Sharon Wilson

*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 Caroline Myers Cooke and Richard Caswell Cooke; Caroline Cooke Holland and William Dinsmore Holland; and Elizabeth Campbell Myers by Anne Gordon Curran; and in memory of E. Holcombe Palmer by his friends.

## Participants

**Celebrant:** The Rev. Judy Davis; **Deacon:** The Rev. John Jenkins; **Reflector:** Bill Davis; **Subdeacon:** Barbara Massey; **Reader:** Tyler Curtis; **Intercessor:** Katy Groover; **Chalice Bearers:** Howard Anderson, Nancy Atkins, Sarah Shutt, Anne Townsend; **Musicians:** Abby Outlaw, *cantor*; Alyssa Evans, *violin*; Alana Carithers, *violin*; 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 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](mailto: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: "Forgiveness" by Temple Cone, from *No Loneliness*. FutureCycle Press ©2009. Printed by permission.