



CELTIC EVENSONG AND COMMUNION

at St. Stephen's Episcopal Church

The Fourth Sunday after Pentecost ☩ June 21, 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 The Father's Love

Simon Lole

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

Opening "Briefly It Enters, and Briefly Speaks"

Jane Kenyon

I am the blossom pressed in a book,
found again after two hundred years. . . .
I am the maker, the lover, and the keeper. . . .
When the young girl who starves
sits down to a table
she will sit beside me. . . .
I am food on the prisoner's plate. . . .
I am water rushing to the wellhead,
filling the pitcher until it spills. . . .
I am the patient gardener
of the dry and weedy garden. . . .
I am the stone step,
the latch, and the working hinge. . . .
I am the heart contracted by joy. . . .
the longest hair, white
before the rest. . . .
I am there in the basket of fruit
presented to the widow. . . .
I am the musk rose opening
unattended, the fern on the boggy summit. . . .
I am the one whose love
overcomes you, already with you
when you think to call my name. . . .

Silence is held after the reading.

Hymn

Let us break bread together

Sung by all, standing as able.

Let Us Break Bread

1. Let us break bread to - gether on our knees; _____
2. Let us drink wine to - gether on our knees; _____

let us break bread to - gether on our knees; _____
let us drink wine to - gether on our knees; _____

Refrain
when I fall on my knees, with my face to the ris - ing

sun, O Lord, have mercy on me. _____

3. Let us praise God to - gether on our knees; _____
let us praise God to - gether on our knees; _____ *to Refrain*

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 10:24-39 *Please sit.*

Reader A Reading from the Gospel according to Matthew.

Jesus said to the twelve disciples, "A disciple is not above the teacher, nor a slave above the master; it is enough for the disciple to be like the teacher, and the slave like the master. If they have called the master of the house Beelzebul, how much more will they malign those of his household! So have no fear of them; for nothing is covered up that will not be uncovered, and nothing secret that will not become known. What I say to you in the dark, tell in the light; and what you hear whispered, proclaim from the housetops. Do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul; rather fear him who can destroy both soul and body in hell. Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? Yet not one of them will fall to the ground apart from your Father. And even the hairs of your head are all counted. So do not be afraid; you are of more value than many sparrows. Everyone therefore who acknowledges me before others, I also will acknowledge before my Father in heaven; but whoever denies me before others, I also will deny before my Father in heaven. Do not think that I have come to bring peace to the earth; I have not come to bring peace, but a sword.

For I have come to set a man against his father, and a daughter against her mother, and a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law; and one's foes will be members of one's own household.

Whoever loves father or mother more than me is not worthy of me; and whoever loves son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me; and whoever does not take up the cross and follow me is not worthy of me. Those who find their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it.”

Silence is held for one minute of reflection.

Reflection Stephanie Peramas

Silence is held for two minutes of reflection.

Music for Meditation *Céad míle fáilte romhat* (A hundred thousand welcomes, O Jesus) trad. Irish
arr. Fintan O’Carroll

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 ____].
We celebrate the jubilation of Juneteenth and the abolition of chattel slavery from this nation in 1865, even as we acknowledge that the nation’s promises of liberty and justice for all have yet to be fulfilled for all. Make us instruments of liberty, justice, and peace.

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.**

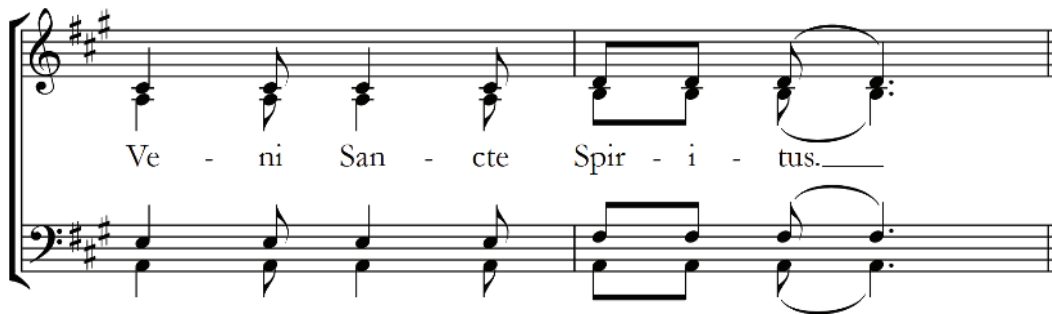
Candle Lighting, Additional Prayers

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 *From the Southland: I. Through moanin' pines* Harry Burleigh

Hymn *Veni Sancte Spiritus* Jacques Berthier

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



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 make a gift online by scanning the QR code or texting STSTEPHENSVA to 73256.



At the Offertory *Three Visions: II. Summerland*

William Grant Still

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

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 he, O bless-ed is___ he who comes in the name of the Lord.---

___ Ho - san - na in the_ high - est, ho - san - na in___ the high - est.

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. We ask this through Jesus who gave his body that we might be one and his blood that we might find new life. Through Christ, and with Christ, and in Christ, 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

4
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.

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 Nobody knows the trouble I've seen trad. spiritual, arr. Florence Price
Sometimes I feel like a motherless child trad. spiritual, arr. Samuel Coleridge-Taylor
Cinnamon Grove: II. Adagio cantabile Robert Nathaniel Dett

After Communion Please stand.

Celebrant Let us pray.

All **God of abundance,**
you have fed us with the bread of life and cup of salvation;
you have united us with Christ and one another;
and you have made us one with all your people in heaven and on earth.
Now send us forth in the power of your Spirit,
that we may proclaim your redeeming love to the world
and continue for ever in the risen life of Christ our Savior. Amen.

The Blessing

Celebrant Do not be daunted by the enormity of the world's grief.
Do justly, now.
Love mercy, now.
Walk humbly, now.
You are not obliged to complete the work, but neither are you free to abandon it.
And may God's blessing be with you,
Christ's peace be with you,
the Spirit's outpouring be with you, now and always. **Amen.**

Hymn There is a balm in Gilead *Sung by all. Balm in Gilead*

Refrain



There is a balm in Gil-e-ad, to make the wound-ed whole, there is a
balm in Gil - e - ad, to heal the sin - sick soul.

1. Some - times I feel dis - cour-aged, and think my work's in
2. If you can - not preach like Pe - ter, if you can - not pray like

Repeat Refrain

vain, but then the Ho - ly Spi - rit re - vives my soul a - gain.
Paul, you can tell the love of Je - sus, and say, "He died for all."

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 She moved through the fair trad. Irish/Fintan O'Carroll

Postlude This little light of mine trad. spiritual, arr. Margaret Bonds

During the postlude, you are welcome to remain to rest or pray, or to depart in silence.

Flower Memorials

The flowers are given to the glory of God and in memory of Horace Graham Buchanan, Jr.; John Michael Oslack; and Michaux Buchanan by their family; Joseph G. McCoy by Carol McCoy; and Mr. and Mrs. Robert E. Leitch by their family.

Participants

Celebrant: The Rev. John Rohrs; **Deacon:** The Rev. Judy Davis; **Reflector:** Stephanie Peramas; **Subdeacon:** Earl Roney; **Reader:** Sharon Machrone; **Intercessor:** Gayle Royals; **Chalice Bearers:** Lisa Cuseo-Ott, Chip Jamerson, Pam Redd, Cary Wyatt; **Musicians:** Quinn Bitsas, *cantor*; Vicky Hamrick, *oboe*; 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 and in the church vestibule.

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: "Briefly It Enters, and Briefly Speaks" by Jane Kenyon from *Otherwise: New & Selected Poems*. (Saint Paul: Graywolf Press, 1996). Used by permission.

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