



CELTIC EVENSONG AND COMMUNION

at St. Stephen's Episcopal Church

The Sixth Sunday after Pentecost ☩ July 5, 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 Come, thou fount of every blessing

American folk hymn, arr. Chris Rice

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

Opening Manifesto: The Mad Farmer Liberation Front

Wendell Berry

Love the quick profit, the annual raise,
vacation with pay. Want more
of everything ready-made. Be afraid
to know your neighbors and to die.
And you will have a window in your head.
Not even your future will be a mystery
any more. Your mind will be punched in a card
and shut away in a little drawer.
When they want you to buy something
they will call you. When they want you
to die for profit they will let you know.
So, friends, every day do something
that won't compute. Love the Lord.
Love the world. Work for nothing.
Take all that you have and be poor.
Love someone who does not deserve it.
Denounce the government and embrace
the flag. Hope to live in that free
republic for which it stands.
Give your approval to all you cannot
understand. Praise ignorance, for what man
has not encountered he has not destroyed.
Ask the questions that have no answers.
Invest in the millennium. Plant sequoias.
Say that your main crop is the forest
that you did not plant,
that you will not live to harvest.
Say that the leaves are harvested
when they have rotted into the mold.
Call that profit. Prophesy such returns.

Put your faith in the two inches of humus
that will build under the trees
every thousand years.
Listen to carrion – put your ear
close, and hear the faint chattering
of the songs that are to come.
Expect the end of the world. Laugh.
Laughter is immeasurable. Be joyful
though you have considered all the facts.
So long as women do not go cheap
for power, please women more than men.
Ask yourself: Will this satisfy
a woman satisfied to bear a child?
Will this disturb the sleep
of a woman near to giving birth?
Go with your love to the fields.
Lie down in the shade. Rest your head
in her lap. Swear allegiance
to what is nighest your thoughts.
As soon as the generals and the politicians
can predict the motions of your mind,
lose it. Leave it as a sign
to mark the false trail, the way
you didn't go. Be like the fox
who makes more tracks than necessary,
some in the wrong direction.
Practice resurrection.

Silence is held after the reading.

Hymn

Come to me, O weary traveler

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

1. Come to me, O wea - ry trav - 'ler; come to me with your dis -
 2. Do not fear, my yoke is eas - y; do not fear, my bur - den's
 3. Take my yoke and leave your trou - bles; take my yoke and come with
 4. Rest in me, O wea - ry trav - 'ler; rest in me and do not



tress; come to me, you hea - vy bur - dened; come to me and find your rest.
 light; do not fear the path be - fore you; do not run from me in fright.
 me. Take my yoke, I am be - fore you; take and learn hu - mi - li - ty.
 fear. Rest in me, my heart is gen - tle; rest and cast a - way your care.

A Prayer for the Evening

Lord, amid the noise and stress of daily life, help us to preserve a silence within. In moments of crisis may we turn to you, the center of our being, to find you awaiting us. Bless us with the vision of your changelessness and grant us peace. **Amen.**

The Reading Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30 *Please sit.*

Reader A Reading from the Gospel according to Matthew.

Jesus said to the crowd, "To what will I compare this generation? It is like children sitting in the marketplaces and calling to one another, 'We played the flute for you, and you did not dance; we wailed, and you did not mourn.' For John came neither eating nor drinking, and they say, 'He has a demon'; the Son of Man came eating and drinking, and they say, 'Look, a glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners!' Yet wisdom is vindicated by her deeds." At that time Jesus said, "I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and the intelligent and have revealed them to infants; yes, Father, for such was your gracious will. All things have been handed over to me by my Father; and no one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son chooses to reveal him. Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light."

Silence is held for one minute of reflection.

Reflection Tyler Curtis

Silence is held for two minutes of reflection.

Music for Meditation Lazy afternoon

Heather Percy

Prayers for Ourselves and Others *Please stand.*

Deacon Let us keep silence before God, and through our minds and imaginations offer prayers which words might not contain.

Within the "inner room" of your soul and in the time between each petition, open to receive or offer that which arises.

Leader There is a time for every purpose under heaven. . .

Silence

Leader A time for gratitude... [especially for ____].

Silence

Leader A time for what we have to lay down...

Silence

Leader A time for what we have to pick up...

Silence

Leader A time for confronting what we are avoiding...

Silence

Leader A time for holding compassion for ourselves and others...

Silence

Leader A time for recognizing what we hope for...

Silence

Leader A time for standing for what is true, just, and good...

Silence

Leader A time to pray for those who have died, [especially _____].

Silence

Leader In our time and in your time, O God, fulfill our prayers as is best for us and may your kingdom come. **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 American Tapestry

Joseph Martin

Hymn In God alone my soul

Jacques Berthier

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

The image shows two staves of musical notation in G major (one sharp). The first staff contains the melody for the first line of the hymn: "In God a-lone my soul can find rest and peace, in God my peace and joy,". The second staff contains the melody for the second line: "On - ly in God my soul can find its rest, find its rest and peace." The lyrics are written below the notes.

Verses: For God alone my soul waits in silence; from God comes my salvation. God alone is my rock and my salvation. For God alone I wait in silence; for my hope is in God. God alone is my rock, my salvation, God is my fortress; I shall not be shaken.

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 Then Peter approached and said to him, “Lord, how many times will my brother sin against me and I shall forgive him? As many as seven times?” Jesus says to him, “I tell you, not as many as seven times, but as many as seventy times seven.” **Amen.** *Matthew 18:21-22*

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 It is well with my soul

American hymn, arr. Bethany K. Smith

The Great Thanksgiving

Please stand.

Iona Worship Book

Celebrant The Lord is with us.

People **God’s spirit is here.**

Celebrant Look with kindness, O God, on your people gathered here before you. We praise you for the prophets who in spite of persecution spoke your challenging word. We praise you that in Christ you chose to be born in a stable and revealed to poor shepherds. We praise you for Mary Magdalene, first witness of the resurrection; and for all the women and men who have been trusted and empowered by you. With all the unremembered, outcast, with the poor and needy, with the trusting and hopeful in all the ages we lift our voices to magnify you as we sing:

Sanctus

Sung by all.

from St. Anne’s Mass, James MacMillan

4
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 Loving God, you are always thinking about your people. You never forget us. You sent your son, Jesus, who gave his life for us and who came to forgive us and taught us to forgive each other. On the very night he was betrayed, Jesus gathered his friends, took bread and said the blessing. He broke it and gave it to them, saying,

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

Celebrant After supper he took the cup, gave thanks and gave it to them, saying,

All **“This is my life-blood given 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 Send your Spirit upon us and upon these gifts of bread and wine that they may be to us the Body and Blood of your Christ, in whom we have become your own. Grant that we, burning with your Spirit’s power, may be a people of hope, justice and love. 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 be God, now and for ever. AMEN.**


The Lord’s Prayer

Cantor

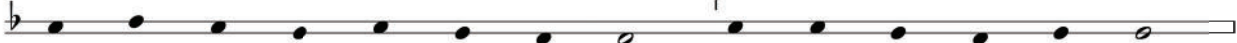


As our Sa - vior Christ has taught us, we now pray,


All




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



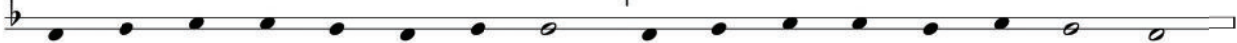
your king - dom come, your will be done, on earth as in hea - ven.




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

Silence is held.

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

The musical score consists of three staves of music in a single system. The first staff begins with a treble clef, a key signature of one flat (B-flat), and a time signature of 4/4. The melody is written on a five-line staff. The lyrics are: "Lamb of God, you take a-way the sins of the world, have mer-cy on us." The second staff continues the melody with the lyrics: "Lamb of God, you take a - way the sins_ of the_ world, have mer- cy_ on us." The third staff concludes the melody with the lyrics: "Lamb of God, you take a - way the sins_ of the world, grant_ us peace." The music ends with a double bar line.

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 We are climbing Jacob's ladder trad. Spiritual, arr. Eugene Hancock
The Green Room Wayne Gratz
The twisting of the hay rope (*Casadh an Tsúgáin*) trad. Irish,
arr. George Winston

After Communion Please stand.

Celebrant Let us pray.
All **Loving God,
we give you thanks
that in the sacrament of Christ's Body and Blood,
you awaken us to your indwelling Presence
and our true life.
Help us to recognize and honor
your Presence in one another,
to treat each other with reverence and humility,
and to become, more and more,
the people we already are in you. 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

Go, my children, with my blessing

Sung by all.

Ar hyd y nos

1. Go, my chil - dren, with my bless - ing, nev - er a - lone;
 2. Go, my chil - dren, sins for - giv - en, at peace and pure,
 3. Go, my chil - dren, fed and nour - ished, clos - er to me;
 wak - ing, sleep - ing, I am with you, you are my own;
 here you learned how much I love you, what I can cure;
 grow in love and love by serv - ing, joy - ful and free.
 in my love's bap - tis - mal riv - er I have made you mine for - ev - er,
 here you heard my Son's dear sto - ry, here you touched him, saw his glo - ry,
 Here my Spir - it's pow - er filled you, here his ten - der com - fort stilled you;
 Go, my chil - dren, with my bless - ing, you are my own.
 Go, my chil - dren, sins for - giv - en, at peace and pure.
 Go, my chil - dren, fed and nour - ished, joy - ful and free.

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 Navajo Prelude No. 3

Connor Chee

Postlude

Prelude on *Ar hyd y nos*

trad. Welsh, arr. Bethany K. Smith

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:** Tyler Curtis; **Subdeacon:** Barbara Massey;
Reader: Alisa Booze Troetschel; **Intercessor:** Guy Frank; **Chalice Bearers:** Lisa Cuseo-Ott, Earl Roney, Anne Townsend,
 Cary Wyatt; **Musicians:** Matt Hassmer, *cantor*; Sue deJesus, *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 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 your 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, Kay Alley, Leilani Allwine, Patricia Atkins-Smith, Elizabeth Bannerman, Lash Barksdale, Nancy Beale, Linda Bennett, Christine Boeteger, Emma Bolduc, Genie Borum, Julia Bouck, Sturges Brian, Kathy Brock, Leslie Brockman, Alex H. Brown, Pat Brown, Sarah Jo Bryce, Turner Bruneau, Matt Boyd, Patti Bullen, Tammy Carleton, Scott Carnohan, *Valerie Cary*, 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., Reid Ebert, Kristen Estes, Jonathan Fava, Debbie Ferguson, Guy Frank, April Greenwood, Janis Hall, Rodger Hardy, Sara Hargrove, David Harrell, Emma Hassmer, Katie Hellebush, Dan Hill, Ron Hunt, Anna Hurdle, Ginny Moncure Jamerson, Alan Jameson, John Turner Jenkins, *Charles Johnson*, Lena Jones, David Kean, Jane Kelly, Linda Lewis, Eva Lindsay, Ashley Loughan, Genie Lucyk, Margaret Lyle, Pam Lynch, Barbara Mathison, Adrienne Maxwell, Adelia Mayer, Michael McCabe, Schnucki McCabe, Morgan McCall, Gertrude McLean, Nancy Meath, Jack Miller, Mary Miller, Tina Millner, Susan Minyard, Lee W. Mumford, Shelby Nichols, Ashley Nickerson, Mary Beth Noel, Sallie Nolte, Pauline O'Neill, Jan Orgain, Tricia Payne, Beth Pearce, Ivan Peramas, 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, 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, *Greg Vining*, Pam W., Timothy W., Ozzie Wade, Suzanne Wallace, Tom White, Terri Wilcox, Steve Wilson, Donna Williams, Steve Williams, Martha Wilson, Claire Wood, Emily H. Wood, Rosalyn Wootten, Sue Wootton, Rick Wortham, J. Morgan Wright, Margaret P. Young. **For those who have died**, especially *Robert Collins and Charlie Williamson*. **For those expecting a child**, especially Mason and Claire Mairead, Coleman and Jessica Stewart, 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 *Anglican Church of South America*. **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:** Col. Matthew Bryce Dibble, USAF, CPT Anna Broadbent-Evelyn, and Caroline Finn.

Names in italics were added to the prayer list this week. In order to keep our prayer list current and facilitate the intentionality and mindfulness with which we pray, we print names on the list for three months or less. If you would like for someone to remain on the list for more (or less) time, please call the office or email Kitty Ball at [kball@](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: "Manifesto: The Mad Farmer Liberation Front" by Wendell Berry, from *The Country of Marriage*, 1973, Harcourt Brace Jovanovich, Inc. © by owner. Reprinted with permission.

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