



CELTIC EVENSONG AND COMMUNION

at St. Stephen's Episcopal Church

The Feast of Saint Mary Magdalene (transferred) ☩ July 26, 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

Berceuse

John Ireland

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

Opening

Adapted from *Saying Yes To Our Lives*

Mirabai Starr

You do not need to chant all night
in a temple in the Himalayas.
You don't have to be the newest
incarnation of Mary Magdalene.
It is not necessary to read or write spiritual books.
You are not required to know the difference between
Mahayana and Theravada Buddhism or memorize the Beatitudes.

All you have to do
to walk the path
of the ordinary mystic
is to cultivate a gaze of wonder
and step onto the road.

Keep walking.
Rest up, and walk again.
Fall down, get up, walk on.

Pay attention to the landscape.
To the ways it changes and the ways it stays the same.
Be alert to surprises and turn
with the turning of the seasons.
Honor your body, train your mind,
and keep your heart open against all odds.

Say yes to what is,
even when it is uncomfortable
or embarrassing or heartbreaking.

Hurl your handful of yes
into the treetops
and then lift your face as the rain of yes
drops its grace all over you,
all around you, and settles deep inside you.

Silence is held after the reading.

Hymn

You satisfy the hungry heart

*Sung by all, standing as able.**Finest Wheat*

You sat - is - fy the hun - gry heart with gift of fin - est wheat; Come,



give to us, O sav - ing Lord, the bread of life to eat.



1. As when the shep - herd calls his sheep, they know and heed his voice, so

2. With joy - ful lips we sing to you our praise and grat - i - tude, that

3. Is not the cup we bless and share the blood of Christ out - poured? Do

4. You give your-self to us, O Lord; then self - less let us be, to

to Refrain

when you call your fam - 'ly, Lord, we fol - low and re - joice.

you should count us wor - thy, Lord, to share this heav'n - ly food.

not one cup, one loaf, de - clare our one - ness in the Lord?

serve each oth - er in your name in truth and char - i - ty.

A Prayer for the Evening

Eternal Spirit, living God,

in whom we live and move and have our being,

all that we are, have been, and shall be is known to you,

to the very secret of our hearts

and all that rises to trouble us.

Living flame burn into us,

cleansing wind, blow through us,

fountain of water, well up within us,

that we may love and praise in deed and in truth. **Amen.****The Reading** John 20:11-18 *Please sit.***Reader** A Reading from the Gospel according to John.

Mary stood weeping outside the tomb. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb; and she saw two angels in white, sitting where the body of Jesus had been lying, one at the head and the other at the feet. They said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping?" She said to them, "They have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid him." When she had said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not know that it was Jesus. Jesus said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping? Whom are you looking for?" Supposing him to be the gardener, she said to him, "Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have laid him, and I will take him away." Jesus said to her, "Mary!" She turned and said to him in Hebrew, "Rabbouni!" (which means Teacher). Jesus said to her, "Do not hold on to me, because I have not yet ascended to the Father. But go to my brothers and say to them, 'I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.'" Mary Magdalene went and announced to the disciples, "I have seen the Lord"; and she told them that he had said these things to her.

Silence is held for one minute of reflection.

Reflection Margaret Mackinnon

Silence is held for two minutes of reflection.

Music for Meditation *Ar hyd y nos*

trad. Welsh, arr. Douglas Townshend

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 *Berceuse*

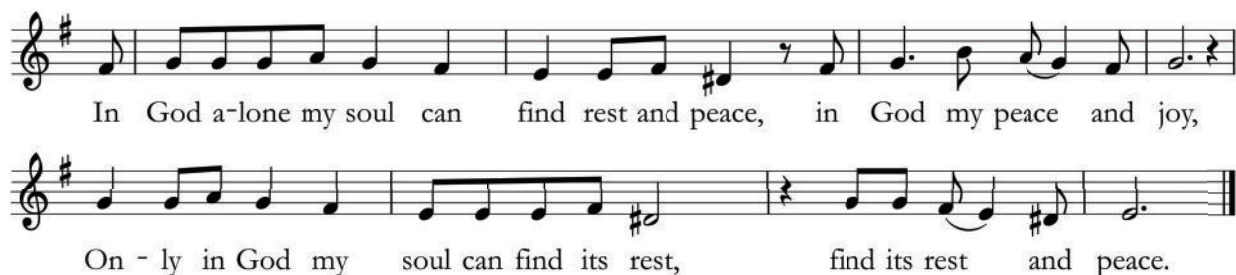
Gabriel Fauré

Hymn

In God alone my soul

Jacques Berthier

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



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.

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 STSTEPHENS RVA to 73256.



At the Offertory The day thou gavest

arr. Jayne Southwick Cool

The Great Thanksgiving

Please stand.

Iona Worship Book

Celebrant The Lord is with us.

People **God's spirit is here.**

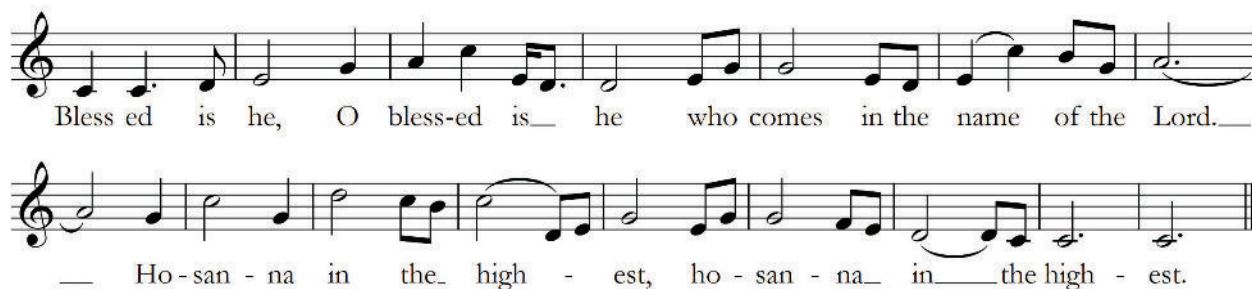
Celebrant Look with kindness, O God, on your people gathered here before you. We praise you for the prophets who in spite of persecution spoke your challenging word. We praise you that in Christ you chose to be born in a stable and revealed to poor shepherds. We praise you for Mary Magdalene, first witness 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





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.”**

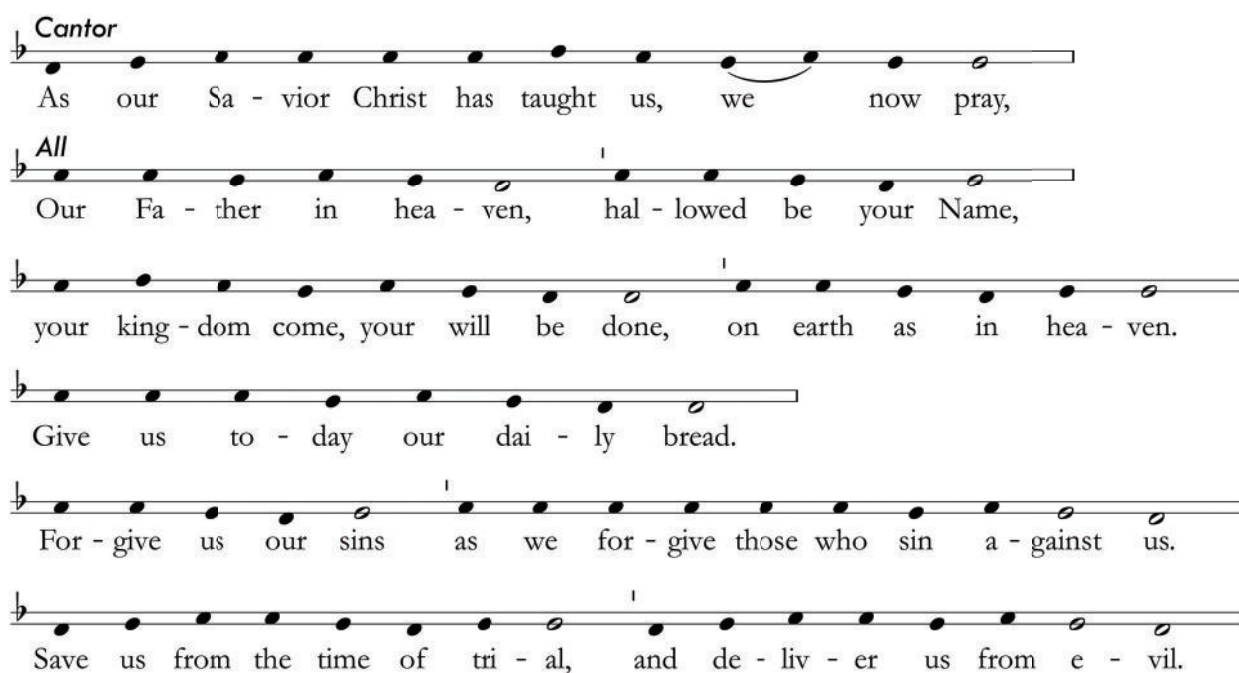
Celebrant So we proclaim the mystery of faith:

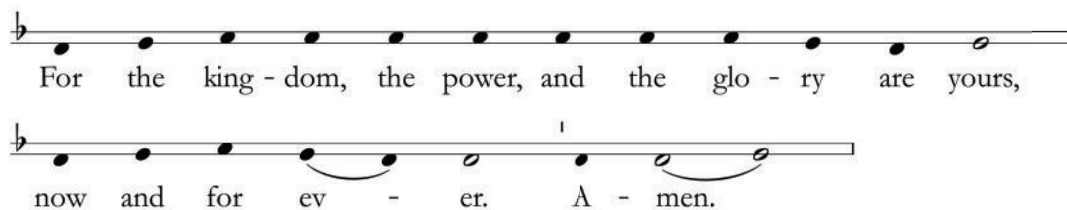
All **Christ has died;
Christ is risen;
Christ will come again.**

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





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

Bread of the world
By Kell's Waters
Improvisation

Ana Hernández
trad. Welsh, arr. Daniel Burton
Robert McCormick

After Communion

Please stand.

Celebrant Let us pray.
All Creator of all,
we give you thanks and praise,
that when we were still far off
you met us in your Son and brought us home.
May we who share Christ's body
live his risen life;
we who drink his cup
bring life to others;
we whom the Spirit lights
give light to the world. Amen.

The Blessing

St. Clare of Assisi

Celebrant

Live without fear;
your creator has made you holy,
has always protected and sustained you,
and loves you as a mother.
Therefore, go in peace to follow the good road
and may God's blessing be with you always. **Amen.**

Hymn

The first one ever

Sung by all.

Ballad

1 The first one ev-er, oh, ev-er to know of the
2 The first one ev-er, oh, ev-er to know of Me-
3 The first ones ev-er, oh, ev-er to know of the
birth of Je-sus, was the maid Ma-ry, was
si-ah, Je-sus, when he said, "I am he," was the Sa-
ris-ing of Je-sus, his glo-ry to be, were
Ma-ry the maid of Gal-i-lee, and
mar-i-tan wo-man who drew from the well, and
Ma-ry, Jo-an-na, and Mag-da-lene, and
bless-ed is she, is she who be-lieves. Oh,
is bless-ed she, is she who per-ceives. Oh,
bless-ed are they, are they who see. Oh,
bless-ed is she who bel-ieves in the Lord, oh,
bless-ed is she who per-ceives the Lord, oh,
bless-ed are they who see the Lord, oh,
bless-ed is she who be-lieves. She was
bless-ed is she who per-ceives. 'Twas the Sa-
bless-ed are they who see. They were
Ma-ry the maid of Gal-i-lee, and
mar-i-tan wo-man who drew from the well, and
Ma-ry, Jo-an-na, and Mag-da-lene, and
bless-ed is she, is she who be-lieves.
bless-ed is she, is she who per-ceives.
bless-ed are they, are they who see.

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 Savior, like a shepherd lead us arr. Deborah Govener

Postlude Let us ever walk with Jesus Paul Manz

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

Flowers

The flowers are given to the glory of God and in memory of Helen Noell Branch, J. Read Branch, and Grace Branch Moore by their family; and in honor of Bob and Clarice Dibble on the occasion of their 50th wedding anniversary by Ken and Sherlyn Dibble.

Participants

Celebrant: The Rev. Will Stanley; **Deacon:** The Rev. John Rohrs; **Reflector:** Margaret Mackinnon; **Subdeacon:** Barbara Massey; **Reader:** Sara Mackey; **Intercessor:** Mary Martin; **Chalice Bearers:** Nancy Atkins, Alisa Booze Troetschel, Guy Frank, Chip Jamerson; **Musicians:** Quinn Bitsas, *cantor*; Alyssa Evans, *violin*; 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. Eerdmans 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: adapted from *Saying Yes To Our Lives* by Mirabai Starr. Used with permission of the author.

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