



CELTIC EVENSONG AND COMMUNION

at St. Stephen's Episcopal Church

The Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost ☩ August 16, 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 *Innisfree Farm*

Richard Wayne Dirksen, arr. Anne Krentz Organ

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

Opening The Word

Tony Hoagland

Down near the bottom
of the crossed-out list
of things you have to do today,

between "green thread"
and "broccoli," you find
that you have penciled "sunlight."

Resting on the page, the word
is beautiful. It touches you
as if you had a friend
and sunlight were a present
he had sent from someplace distant
as this morning—to cheer you up,

and to remind you that,
among your duties, pleasure
is a thing

that also needs accomplishing.
Do you remember?
that time and light are kinds

of love, and love
is no less practical
than a coffee grinder

or a safe spare tire?
Tomorrow you may be utterly
without a clue,

but today you get a telegram
from the heart in exile,
proclaiming that the kingdom

still exists,
the king and queen alive,
still speaking to their children,

—to any one among them
who can find the time
to sit out in the sun and listen.

Silence is held after the reading.

Hymn

Will you let me be your servant

*Sung by all, standing as able.**Servant Song*

1. Will you let me be your ser - vant, let me be as Christ to you?
2. We are pil - grims on a jour - ney, fel - low trav - 'lers on the road.
3. I will hold the Christ-light for you in the night-time of your fear;
4. Will you let me be your ser - vant, let me be as Christ to you?



Pray that I may have the grace to let you be my ser - vant, too.
 We are here to help each oth - er walk the mile and bear — the load.
 I will hold my hand out to you, speak the peace you long — to hear.
 Pray that I may have the grace to let you be my ser - vant, too.

A Prayer for the Evening

from Iona Abbey Worship Book

God be in my head, and in my understanding;
 God be in my eyes, and in my looking;
 God be in my mouth, and in my speaking;
 God be in my heart, and in my thinking;
 God be at my end, and at my departing. **Amen.**

The Reading Matthew 15: 21-28 *Please sit.***Reader** A Reading from the Gospel according to Matthew.

Jesus left that place and went away to the district of Tyre and Sidon. Just then a Canaanite woman from that region came out and started shouting, "Have mercy on me, Lord, Son of David; my daughter is tormented by a demon." But he did not answer her at all. And his disciples came and urged him, saying, "Send her away, for she keeps shouting after us." He answered, "I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel." But she came and knelt before him, saying, "Lord, help me." He answered, "It is not fair to take the children's food and throw it to the dogs." She said, "Yes, Lord, yet even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their masters' table." Then Jesus answered her, "Woman, great is your faith! Let it be done for you as you wish." And her daughter was healed instantly. *Silence is held for one minute of reflection.*

Reflection The Rev. John Rohrs*Silence is held for two minutes of reflection.***Music for Meditation** *Fhear a' Bhàta*

trad. Scottish, arr. Ailie Robertson

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, including those people and places we now name.

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 Carrickfergus

trad. Irish, arr. Phil Coulter

Hymn My spirit is longing for you

William Bradley Roberts

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



The Grace

Love your enemies, do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return. Your reward will be great, and you will be children of the Most High; for God is kind to the ungrateful and the wicked. Be merciful, just as God is merciful. Do not judge, and you will not be judged; do not condemn, and you will not be condemned. Forgive, and you will be forgiven; give, and it will be given to you.
Amen. -Luke 6:35-38a

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 *En prière*

Gabriel Fauré

The Great Thanksgiving

Please stand.

Enriching Our Worship, Eucharistic Prayer 3

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 our thanks and praise.**

Celebrant All thanks and praise are yours at all times and in all places, our true and loving God; through Jesus Christ, your eternal Word, the Wisdom from on high by whom you created all things. You laid the foundations of the world and enclosed the sea when it burst out from the womb; you brought forth all creatures of the earth and gave breath to humankind. Wondrous are you, Holy One of Blessing, all you create is a sign of hope for our journey; and so as the morning stars sing your praises we join the heavenly beings and all creation as we shout with joy:

Sanctus

Sung by all.

Banks and Braes, arr. Larkin Bryant/Robert Feol



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow-er and God of might,
Hea-ven and earth are full of your glo-ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est.
Bless-ed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord, Ho -
san - na in the high - est, Ho - san - na in the high - est.

Celebrant Glory and honor are yours, Creator of all, your Word has never been silent; you called a people to yourself, as a light to the nations, you delivered them from bondage and led them to a land of promise. Of your grace, you gave Jesus to be human, to share our life, to proclaim the coming of your holy reign and give himself for us, a fragrant offering. Through Jesus Christ our Redeemer,

you have freed us from sin, brought us into your life, reconciled us to you, and restored us to the glory you intend for us.

We thank you that on the night before he died for us Jesus took bread, and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, gave it to his friends and said:

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

Celebrant After supper Jesus took the cup of wine, said the blessing, gave it to his friends and said:

All **"This is my life-blood given for you. Do this to remember me."**

Celebrant And so, remembering all that was done for us: the cross, the tomb, the resurrection and ascension, longing for Christ's coming in glory, and presenting to you these gifts your earth has formed and human hands have made, we acclaim you, O Christ:

All **Dying, you destroyed our death. Rising, you restored our life. Christ Jesus, come in glory!**

Celebrant Send your Holy Spirit upon us and upon these gifts of bread and wine that they may be to us the Body and Blood of your Christ. Grant that we, burning with your Spirit's power, may be a people of hope, justice and love. Giver of Life, draw us together in the Body of Christ, and in the fullness of time gather us with all your people into the joy of our true eternal home. 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 are you now and for ever. AMEN.**

The Lord's Prayer

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

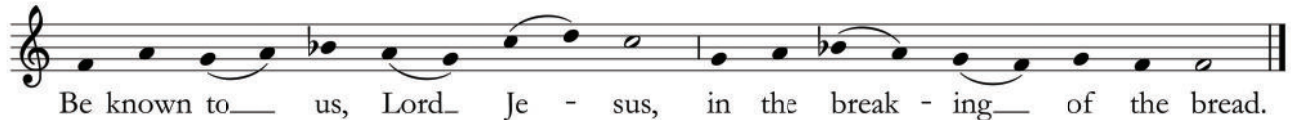
All
Our Fa - ther in hea - ven, hal - lowed be your Name,
your king - dom come, your will be done, on earth as in hea - ven.
Give us to - day our dai - ly bread.
For - give us our sins as we for - give those who sin a - gainst us.
Save us from the time of tri - al, and de - liv - er us from e - vil.
For the king - dom, the power, and the glo - ry are yours,
now and for ev - er. A - men.

The Breaking of the Bread

The Celebrant breaks the bread. A period of silence is held.

This antiphon will be sung by the cantor, then by all, and repeated after each verse.

Mason Martens



Cantor:

1. The bread which we break, alleluia, is the communion of the body of Christ. *Antiphon*
2. One body are we, alleluia, for though many we share one bread. *Antiphon*

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

Steal away

trad. Spiritual, arr. Harry Burleigh

Adagio from Sonata in G minor, Opus 5/5

Arcangelo Corelli

We contain multitudes

Ólafur Arnalds

After Communion

Please stand.

Enriching Our Worship Vol. 1

Celebrant

Let us pray.

All

Loving God,

we give you thanks

for restoring us in your image

and nourishing us with spiritual food

in the Sacrament of Christ's Body and Blood.

Now send us forth

a people forgiven, healed, renewed;

that we may proclaim your love to the world

and continue in the risen life of Christ our Savior. Amen.

The Blessing

Celebrant

May this new night of rest

Repair the wear of time,

Restore your vision of a deeper light,

Heal the wounds of disappointments,

And restore youth of heart

For the adventure

That awaits you tomorrow.

May the blessing of God,

Creator, Redeemer and Giver of life,

remain with you now and for ever. **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 *Ar hyd y nos*

trad. Welsh, arr. Mark Albrecht

Postlude *Beach Spring*

trad. American, arr. Rachel Porter

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

Memorials

The flowers are given in to the glory of God and in memory of Mr. and Mrs. James Dunn Mason, Sr., Dr. and Mrs. James Dunn Mason, Jr. and Mr. and Mrs. Alexander Hamilton Mason by Sarah Mason Ayers; of John H. Beebe, Jr. and William H Beebe by their family; and of Alma Baker Downes and Vachel Augustine Downes by Fern Downes Newsom and family.

Participants

Celebrant and Reflector: The Rev. John Rohrs; **Deacon:** The Rev. Judy Davis; **Subdeacon:** Synthia Waymack;

Reader: Daniel Mullery; **Intercessor:** Sara Mackey; **Chalice Bearers:** Howard Anderson, Chip Jamerson,

Barbara Massey, Anne Townsend; **Musicians:** Matt Hassmer, *cantor*; 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.

continued

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, Ben Barbot, 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, Frances Caldwell, Tammy Carleton, Scott Carnohan, Paula Chambers, Michael Click, Nancy Cole, Sarah Cole, Susan Collier, Mary Cooke, Prior Cooper, Kathy Conrad, John Corey, Tracy Councill, Don Cowles, Michelle Crim, Shirley Crim, the Rt. Rev. Michael Curry, Debbie Cuseo, Chris Davis, Patricia Delany, Ham DeRosa, Davis Dunn Dillard, Stephen Drake Sr., Reid Ebert, Kristen Estes, Jonathan Fava, Debbie Ferguson, Guy Frank, April Greenwood, Janis Hall, Rodger Hardy, 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, Frank Maloney, Barbara Mathison, Adrienne Maxwell, Michael 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, Jennifer Reed, Luke Robertson, Kaley Rosenthal, Aleta Richards, Emily Robinson, Ryan Rohadfox, David Ruffin and family, Bette Shiflett, Chrys Sills, Aiden Thomas Smith, Josh Spain, Aaron Spicer, Margie Spicer, Regena Stith, Beth Thomas, Bruce Thomas, Margaret Thompson, Brian Trollope, Crystal Vines, Pam W., Timothy W., Ozzie Wade, Heather Walker, 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, Bill Wright, J. Morgan Wright, Margaret P. Young. **For those who have died** especially *the Right Rev. Bob Gordon Jones*. **For those expecting a child**, especially Kristen and Hayden Glasstetter, Mason and Claire Mairead, Carlee and Robert Rhoton, 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 *Church in Wales*. **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. To ask that someone remain on the list for more or less time, please call the office or email Kitty Ball, 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: "The Word" by Tony Hoagland, from *Sweet Ruin*. © University of Wisconsin Press, 1992. Reprinted with permission.