



CELTIC EVENSONG AND COMMUNION

at St. Stephen's Episcopal Church

The Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost ☩ August 23, 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 To the woods

Amy and Cory Blake

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

Opening Shoulders

Naomi Shihab Nye

A man crosses the street in rain,
stepping gently, looking two times north and south,
because his son is asleep on his shoulder.

No car must splash him.
No car drive too near to his shadow.

This man carries the world's most sensitive cargo
but he's not marked.

Nowhere does his jacket say FRAGILE,
HANDLE WITH CARE.

His ear fills up with breathing.
He hears the hum of a boy's dream
deep inside him.

We're not going to be able
to live in this world
if we're not willing to do what he's doing
with one another.

The road will only be wide.
The rain will never stop falling.

Silence is held after the reading.

Hymn

Though I may speak with bravest fire

Sung by all, standing as able.

O Waly, Waly

1. Though I may speak with bravest fire, and have the
2. Though I may give all I possess, and strive
3. Come, Spirit, come, our hearts control; our spirit

gift to all inspire, and have not love, my words are
so my love profess, but not love, by love with
long to be made whole. Let inward love guide every

vain, as sounding brass, and hopeless gain.
in, the profit soon turns strangely thin.
deed; by this we worship and are freed.

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 16:13-20 *Please sit.*

Reader A Reading from the Gospel according to Matthew.

When Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, "Who do people say that the Son of Man is?" And they said, "Some say John the Baptist, but others Elijah, and still others Jeremiah or one of the prophets." He said to them, "But who do you say that I am?" Simon Peter answered, "You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God." And Jesus answered him, "Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father in heaven. And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not prevail against it. I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven." Then he sternly ordered the disciples not to tell anyone that he was the Messiah.

Silence is held for one minute of reflection.

Reflection Nancy Heishman

Silence is held for two minutes of reflection.

Music for Meditation Scarborough Fair

English folk ballad, arr. Blake

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 Let all mortal flesh

arr. Mark Hayes

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 STSTEPHENS RVA to 73256.



At the Offertory *Milonga*

Jorge Cardoso
3

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,

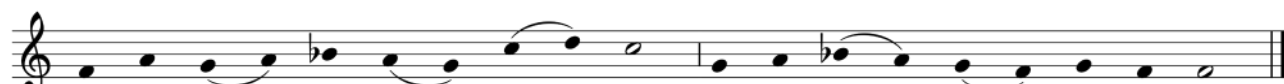
now and for ev - er. A - men.

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



Be known to us, Lord Je - sus, in the break - ing of the bread.

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

Largo in G, RV 435

In Christ there is no East or West

Improvisation

Antonio Vivaldi

trad. spiritual, arr. Blake

Robert McCormick

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

Deep peace of the running waves to you.

Deep peace of the flowing air to you.

Deep peace of the shining stars to you.

Deep peace of the quiet earth to you.

Deep peace of the gentle night to you.

Deep peace of the God of peace to you.

The Blessing of the Creator, to you.

The Blessing of the Risen Son, to you.

The Blessing of the Light-giving Spirit, to you.

May the Holy Three give you light, love and peace

this night and for ever. **Amen.**

Hymn

God be with you till we meet again

Sung by all.

Randolph



1. God be with you till we meet a - gain; lov - ing coun - sels guide, up - hold you,
2. God be with you till we meet a - gain; un - seen wings pro - tect - ing — hide you,
3. God be with you till we meet a - gain; when life's per - ils thick con - found you,
4. God be with you till we meet a - gain; with the oil of joy a - noint you,



with a Shepherd's care en - fold you: God be with you till we meet a - gain.
dai - ly man - na still pro - vide you: God be with you till we meet a - gain.
put un - fail - ing arms a - round you: God be with you till we meet a - gain.
lov - ing min - i - stries ap - point you: God be with you till we meet a - gain.

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 The King of love my shepherd is trad. Irish hymn, arr. Blake

Postlude To the sea Grace Blake

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 C. Coleman McGehee and Carden C. McGehee, Jr. by Caroline Brandt.

Participants

Celebrant: The Rev. John Jenkins; **Deacon:** The Rev. Judy Webb Davis; **Reflector:** Nancy Heishman; **Subdeacon:** Susan Wilkes; **Reader:** Alice Phillips; ; **Intercessor:** David Hodge; **Chalice Bearers:** Guy Frank, Barbara Massey, Alice Meadows, Sarah Shutt; **Musicians:** Lauren Clay, *cantor*; Amy Blake, *flute*; Cory Blake, *guitar*; 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.

continued

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, *Visbal Iab Gunti*, Janis Hall, Rodger Hardy, David Harrell, Emma Hassmer, Katie Hellebush, *Trey Harrington*, Dan Hill, Ron Hunt, Anna Hurdle, Ginny Moncure Jamerson, Alan Jameson, John Turner Jenkins, Charles Johnson, Lena Jones, David Kean, Jane Kelly, *Brian Kemp*, 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, *Ross Southward*, 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 Wootton, Sue Wootton, Rick Wortham, Bill Wright, J. Morgan Wright, Margaret P. Young. **For the blessings of this life**, especially for *the baptisms of Sepidar and William Ryan Chappell and the marriage of Emma Connelly and David Hanson*. **For those who have died** especially the Rev'd Dr. Paul "Peter" Hogg and Mary Ann Scherer. **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 of the Province of West Africa*. **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@ststephensRVA.org.

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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: "Shoulders" by Naomi Shihab Nye, from *Red Suitcase*. © BOA Editions, Ltd., 1994. Reprinted with permission.