



CELTIC EVENSONG AND COMMUNION

at St. Stephen's Episcopal Church

The Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost ☩ September 20, 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 and after the service to enjoy the community supper in the fellowship hall.

Throughout this bulletin, helpful guidance is printed in italics. Nursery care is available (infant-4); speak with a door greeter. 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 in the center aisle. 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

Deep river

traditional Spiritual, arr. Michael Simpson

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

Opening

Wild Geese

Mary Oliver

You do not have to be good.

You do not have to walk on your knees

for a hundred miles through the desert repenting.

You only have to let the soft animal of your body

love what it loves.

Tell me about despair, yours, and I will tell you mine.

Meanwhile the world goes on.

Meanwhile the sun and the clear pebbles of the rain

are moving across the landscapes,

over the prairies and the deep trees,

the mountains and the rivers.

Meanwhile the wild geese, high in the clean blue air,

are heading home again.

Whoever you are, no matter how lonely,

the world offers itself to your imagination,

calls to you like the wild geese, harsh and exciting —

over and over announcing your place

in the family of things.

Silence is held after the reading.

Hymn

Morning glory, starlit sky

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

1. Morn - ing glo - ry, star - lit sky, soar - ing
 2. O - pen are the gifts of God, gifts of
 3. Love that gives, gives ev - er more, gives with

mu - sic, schol - ar's truth, flight of swal - lows,
 love to mind and sense; hid - den is love's
 zeal, with ea - ger hands, spares not, keeps not,

au - tumn leaves, mem - ory's trea - sure, grace of youth:
 a - go - ny, love's en - deav - or, love's ex - pense.
 all out - pours, ven - tures all, its all ex - pands.

A Prayer for the Evening

adapted from A New Zealand Prayer Book

In darkness and in light,
 in trouble and in joy,
 help us, gracious God, creator of all,
 to trust your love,
 to serve your purpose,
 and to praise your name
 in time and eternity. **Amen.**

The Reading Matthew 20:1-16 *Please sit.***Reader** A Reading from the Gospel according to Matthew.

Jesus said, "The kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire laborers for his vineyard. After agreeing with the laborers for the usual daily wage, he sent them into his vineyard. When he went out about nine o'clock, he saw others standing idle in the marketplace; and he said to them, 'You also go into the vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right.' So they went. When he went out again about noon and about three o'clock, he did the same. And about five o'clock he went out and found others standing around; and he said to them, 'Why are you standing here idle all day?' They said to him, 'Because no one has hired us.' He said to them, 'You also go into the vineyard.' When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his manager, 'Call the laborers and give them their pay, beginning with the last and then going to the first.' When those hired about five o'clock came, each of them received the usual daily wage. Now when the first came, they thought they would receive more; but each of them also received the usual daily wage. And when they received it, they grumbled against the landowner, saying, 'These last worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat.' But he replied to one of them, 'Friend, I am doing you no wrong; did you not agree with me for the usual daily wage? Take what belongs to you and go; I choose to give to this last the same as I give to you. Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or are you envious because I am generous?' So the last will be first, and the first will be last."

*Silence is held for one minute of reflection.***Reflection** Roy Hoagland*Silence is held for two minutes of reflection.*

Music for Meditation Jacob's Ladder

traditional Spiritual, arr. Eugene Hancock

Prayers for Ourselves and Others Please stand.

from The Book of Common Prayer of Ireland

Deacon God has promised to hear the prayers of those who ask in faith; therefore, let us pray for the Church and the world.

In the silence following each petition the people may add their prayers either silently or aloud.

Leader Lord of your people: strengthen and renew your Church in all the world, and build us up in faith and love.

Leader Lord of creation: look with favor on the world you have made, and guide the nations in the ways of justice and of peace.

Leader Lord of relationship: comfort and sustain the communities in which we live and work; help us to love our neighbor as ourself; enable us to serve our families and friends, and to love one another as you love us.

Leader Lord of healing: relieve and protect all who suffer in body, spirit, and mind; sustain and deliver all who know danger, violence, or suffering throughout the world, [especially ____].

Leader Lord of blessing: receive our thanks and gratitude for the ways you fill our lives with goodness, faith, hope, opportunity and every nourishment and comforting kindness, [especially ____].

Leader Lord of life: in the strong hope of resurrection in Christ, come near to all who grieve at the loss or death of beloved ones.

Leader Lord of eternity: bind us together by your Holy Spirit in communion with your saints, that we may entrust ourselves, and one another, and our whole life to you. **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 *Sinfonia*, BWV 156

J. S. Bach

Hymn Bless the Lord, my soul

Jacques Berthier

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



Verses: It is God who forgives all your guilt, who heals every one of your ills, who redeems your life from the grave, who crowns you with love and compassion. The Lord is compassion and love, slow to anger and rich in mercy. God does not treat us according to our sins, nor repay us according to our faults.

The Grace Is not this the fast that I choose: to loose the bonds of injustice, to undo the thongs of the yoke, to let the oppressed go free, and to break every yoke? Is it not to share your bread with the hungry, and bring the homeless poor into your house; when you see the naked, to cover them, and not to hide yourself from your own kin? Then your light shall break forth like the dawn, and your healing shall spring up quickly. **Amen.**

- Isaiah 58:6-8a

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 Sally Gardens

traditional Irish, arr. Benjamin Britten

The Great Thanksgiving

Please stand.

A New Zealand Prayer Book, Prayer II

Celebrant The Lord is here.

People **God's Spirit is with us.**

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 offer thanks and praise.**

Celebrant It is right indeed, it is our joy and delight, O holy, everlasting God, at all times and in all places to give you thanks and praise through Christ your only Son. You are the source of all life and goodness; through your eternal Word you created all things from the beginning and formed us in your own image. When we turned away from you, you called us back to yourself and gave your Son to share our human nature. Through Christ Jesus you have made us your holy people.

Therefore, with the faithful who rest in him, with the angels who sing "Glory," and with all the saints and ancestors who have known you to be with us, we proclaim your great and glorious name together:

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 Blessed are you, most holy, in your Son, who washed his followers' feet.

All **"I am among you," he said, "as one who serves."**

Celebrant On that night before he died, he shared a meal with his friends. He took bread, blessed it and 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 a cup of wine, gave thanks to you, and gave it to them saying:

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

Celebrant Therefore with this bread and wine we recall your goodness to us. In this sacrament of the suffering and death of your Son, we now celebrate the wonder of your grace and proclaim the mystery of our faith,

All **Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come in glory.**

Celebrant God of all creation, you bring forth bread from the earth and fruit from the vine. Send your Holy Spirit upon us and these your gifts that we who receive them may indeed be the body of Christ, and we who share his cup draw strength from the one true vine.

All **Called to follow Christ, help us to reconcile and unite. Called to suffer, give us hope in our calling.**

Celebrant For you, O heavenly one, make all things new; you are the beginning and the end, the last and the first.

All **All praise, glory and love be yours, O Holy God, this and every day, from us and all people, here and everywhere. 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.*

Celebrant We break this bread to share in the body of Christ.

All **We who are many are one body, for we all share the one bread.**

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	Let us break bread together	traditional Spiritual, arr. Charles Callahan
	Lazy afternoon	Heather Percy
	Improvisation	Robert McCormick

After Communion	<i>Please stand.</i>	Enriching Our Worship 1
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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 God be your comfort, your strength;
God be your hope and support;
God be your light and your way;
and the blessing of God,
Creator, Redeemer and Giver of life,
remain with you now and for ever. **Amen.**

Hymn Surely it is God who saves me

Sung by all.

Thomas Merton

Sure - ly it is God who saves me; trust - ing him, I shall not fear.
Make his deeds known to the peo - ples; tell out his ex - alt - ed Name.

For the Lord de - fends and shields me and his sav - ing help is near.
Praise the Lord, who has done great things; all his works his might pro - claim.

So re - joice as you draw wa - ter from sal - va - tion's liv - ing spring;
Zi - on, lift your voice in sing - ing; for with you has come to dwell,

in the day of your de - liv - 'rance thank the Lord, his mer - cies sing.
in your ve - ry midst, the great and Ho - ly One of Is - ra - el.

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 remain seated for the Music for Meditation.*

Music for Meditation *Cantabile* from Sonata in G

Georg Philipp Telemann

Postlude *Willafford*

traditional Shetlandic, arr. Sunita Staneslow

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

Memorial

The flowers are given to the glory of God and in memory of Dr. Robin Mayer and Dr. Walter Mayer by their family.

Participants

Celebrant: The Rev. John Jenkins; **Deacon:** The Rev. John Rohrs; **Reflector:** Roy Hoagland; **Subdeacon:** Anne Townsend; **Reader:** Alisa Booze Troetschel; ; **Intercessor:** Audra Tuttle; **Chalice Bearers:** Nancy Atkins, Sam Davis, Guy Frank, Chip Jamerson **Musicians:** Quinn Bitsas, *cantor*; Sue deJesus, *flute*; 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 outside the parish office and in the narthex (the vestibule inside the Three Chopt Road entrance to the church).

To add someone to the prayer list, please contact Kitty Ball in the parish office, kball@ststephensRVA.org.

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, Kathy Brock, Leslie Brockman, Alex H. Brown, Pat Brown, Sarah Jo Bryce, Turner Bruneau, Matt Boyd, Patti Bullen, Frances Caldwell, *John Caperton*, Tammy Carleton, Scott Carnohan, Paula Chambers, Michael Click, Nancy Cole, Sarah Cole, Susan Collier, Mary Cooke, Prior Cooper, Kathy Conrad, John Corey, Don Cowles, Michelle Crim, Shirley Crim, Lake Curry, the Rt. Rev. Michael Curry, Debbie Cuseo, Chris Davis, Rhonda Davis, Patricia Delany, Ham DeRosa, Davis Dunn Dillard, Stephen Drake Sr., Reid Ebert, Kristen Estes, Jonathan Fava, Debbie Ferguson, Guy Frank, April Greenwood, Vishal 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, Charleigh Jones, 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, *Justin Jones 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, Susan Porter, 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, Judy Ward, Tom White, Terri Wilcox, Steve Wilson, Donna Williams, Steve Williams, Martha Wilson, Claire Wood, Emily H. Wood, Rosalyn Wootten, Sue Wootton, Bill Wright, J. Morgan Wright, Margaret P. Young. **For those who have died**, especially *Jean Lane*. **For the blessings of this life**, especially *the baptisms of Lucas McKinley Allocca, Elizabeth Anne Clites, Campbell Thomas Flynn, Harrison Cole Hooe, and Edward Clifton Rider, the marriage of Callie Fleet and Jackson Southworth, and the birth of Harriet Elizabeth Watson to Tim and Megan Watson*. **For those expecting a child**, especially Kristen and Hayden Glasstetter, Mason and Claire Mairead, Carlee and Robert Rhoton, and Coleman and Jessica Stewart. **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 Diocese of Bor – Province of the Episcopal Church of South Sudan*. **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**: CPT Anna Broadbent-Evelyn, and Caroline Finn.

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. "Wild Geese" by Mary Oliver from *Owls and Other Fantasies* (Beacon Press: Boston, 2003). Used by permission.

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