



CELTIC EVENSONG AND COMMUNION

at St. Stephen's Episcopal Church

All Saints' Day ☩ November 1, 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.

Starting at 5:10 p.m. 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 The Road Home

Stephen Paulus

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

Opening Translation

Temple Cone

We come from the dark side of a star, you say.

I say we're from the salt depths of a tear,

Fleeing a sorrow that would swallow us whole.

Either way, every animal senses we don't belong,

Even the geese, who clamor through the barnyard,

Even the sheep, who cry when we grab their dank wool.

Therefore each gospel opens with "Let me begin again."

The letters bullet over the ocean of every page,

Hummingbirds praying for nectar on the far shore.

For there is a body hidden within the lover's body,

The deep flesh a vanishing point we drive towards

Across Wisconsin cornfields, under a naked sky.

Yes, the coward watches the same stars as the executioner,

For the winter wind bears the iron scent of mackerel

And dark birds gaze from rooftops, following our steps.

We've wandered so long in exile, we've forgotten

We carry the holy city in the circuits of our blood,

Each skull Jerusalem, each iris the blueprint of the temple.

Silence is held after the reading.

Hymn

For all the saints

*Sung by all, standing as able.**Sine Nomine*

1. For all the saints, who from their la - bors rest, who thee — by
 2. Thou wast their rock, their fort - ress, and their might: — thou, Lord, their
 3. O may thy sol - diers, faith - ful, true, and bold, — fight as the
 4. O blest com - mun - ion, fel - low - ship di - vine! — We feeble

faith be - fore the world con - fessed, thy Name, O — Je - sus,
 Cap - tain in the well - fought fight; — thou, in the dark - ness
 saints who nobly fought of old, and win, with — them, the
 strug - gle, they in glo - ry shine; yet all are — one in

be for e - ver — blessed. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!
 dearest, the one — true — Light. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!
 vic - tor's crown of — gold. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!
 thee, for all — are — thine. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

A Prayer for the Evening

from Ojibwe Evening Prayer

Great Spirit God,
 we give you thanks for another day on this earth.
 We give you thanks for this day
 to enjoy the compassionate goodness of you, our Creator.
 We acknowledge with one mind
 our respect and gratefulness to all the sacred cycle of life.
 Bind us together in the circle of compassion
 to embrace all living creatures and one another. **Amen.**

The Reading Matthew 5:1-12 *Please sit.***Reader** A Reading from the Gospel according to Matthew.

When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain; and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. Then he began to speak, and taught them, saying:

“Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

“Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

“Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

“Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

“Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.

“Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

“Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

“Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness’ sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

“Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.”

Silence is held for one minute of reflection.

Reflection Joshua Rockett

2 *Silence is held for two minutes of reflection.*

Prayers for Ourselves and Others *Please stand.*

Deacon Let us pray for the revealing of the reign of God in the cosmos, now and always.

During the silence after each prayer, the people offer their own prayers, either silently or aloud.

Leader Creator of earth, sea, and sky, kindle the fire of your Spirit within us that we may be bold to heal and defend the earth, and pour your blessing upon all who work for the good of the planet.

Leader God, Giver of life,

People **Hear our prayer.**

Leader Source of life, heal and redeem the wounds of your creation, and visit the places and people who suffer from our indifference, neglect, and greed. We remember especially those who suffer in all places of conflict, at home and abroad.

Leader God, Giver of life,

People **Hear our prayer.**

Leader Lover of all you have made, we thank you for the wondrous diversity of your creatures, and we pray for their well-being.

Leader God, Giver of life,

People **Hear our prayer.**

Leader Giver of all good gifts, awaken us daily to our dependence upon your bounty, and make us always thankful for the abundance of your blessings, [especially _____].

Leader God, Giver of life,

People **Hear our prayer.**

Leader Comforter of all the earth, we place before you our prayers of hope and concern for the world. Turn us toward one another to offer the holy comfort of your sustaining spirit, especially among the people of this congregation who seek your presence and help. We pray especially for our country, as we prepare for elections this week.

Leader God, Giver of life,

People **Hear our prayer.**

Leader Rock and refuge of all your creatures, receive into everlasting mercy all those who have died, [especially _____].

Leader God, Giver of life,

People **Hear our prayer.**

Leader Triune God, the light of all who know you, come and fill our hearts with your love. Help us speak when many keep silent, help us stand for what is right when many sit in indifference. Increase our faith and charity, until your kingdom comes and heaven and earth rejoice in everlasting glory; through your Son, our Savior Jesus Christ. **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

Steal away

arr. Harry Burleigh

Hymn

In the Lord I'll be ever thankful

Jacques Berthier

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



Verses:

In the Lord I'll be ever thankful; in the Lord I will rejoice! Look to God, do not be afraid. Lift up your voices, the Lord is near. You are my salvation; I trust in you, I shall not be afraid, you are my strength; you are my song. I call upon the Lord God who is worthy of praise. The Lord shall save me.

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

Pie Jesu (from Requiem)

Gabriel Fauré

The Great Thanksgiving

Please stand.

Eucharistic Prayer written by the Rev. Janet Trisk
for the Order of the Holy Cross,
Anglican Church of South Africa

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 God thanks and praise.

Celebrant

O God of mystery and promise, you invite us to discover you in the intimate places of ourselves and our lives. You invite us to discover you within the complexities of our humanity, in passionate and tender loving, in struggle and pain, in confusion and unknowing, in flashes of insight and wisdom. You also call us beyond ourselves to places of imagination, beyond the silent stars, in the deep rhythms of the ocean, in the unending cycles of day and night, seasons of life and death.

With saints and ancestors, with the seas and earth and sky, with animals and birds, with our

friends and those unknown to us, with all creation we join in the song of your unending glory:

Sanctus

Sung by all.

Michael Simpson



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and might,—
heaven and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.— Ho - san - na in the high - est.

Celebrant We praise you that in Jesus you make known to us the wonder and richness of our humanity. We give thanks for his life-giving love, for his healing touch, for his vulnerability and for his gentleness.

Before he gave up his life, he shared his humanity, his flesh and blood with his friends. He took bread, gave thanks for it, broke it and gave it to them saying:

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

Celebrant So too after they had eaten, he took wine, gave thanks for it and gave it to them saying:

All **“This is my blood, poured out in love for you. Do this to remember me.”**

Celebrant So we proclaim the mystery of faith:

All **Christ has died.**

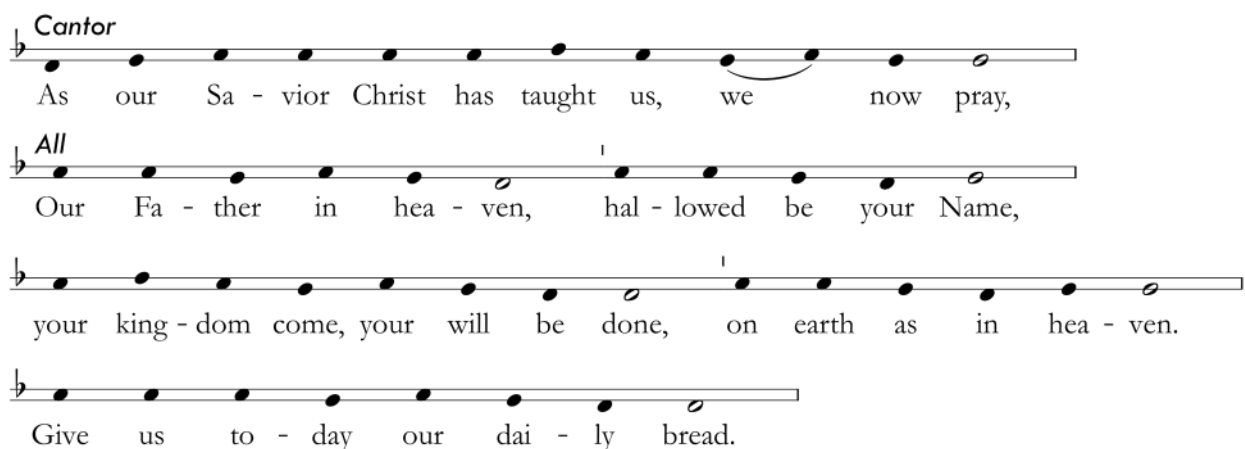
Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

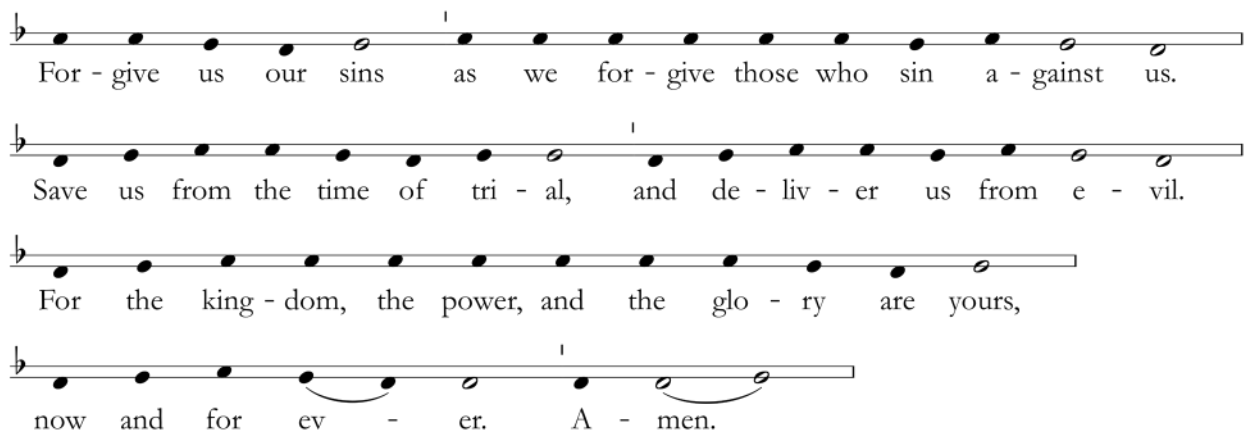
Celebrant Come now, Spirit of God, bless these holy gifts, and as we eat and drink these bodily things, make us one body, food for the world, one blood to be poured out for the life of all. Touch us with your gentle creativity and fire us with longing for the new age of justice and peace.

We ask this through Jesus who gave his body that we might be one and his blood that we might find new life. With him, and through him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, be to you, O God, all honor and glory forever. **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.

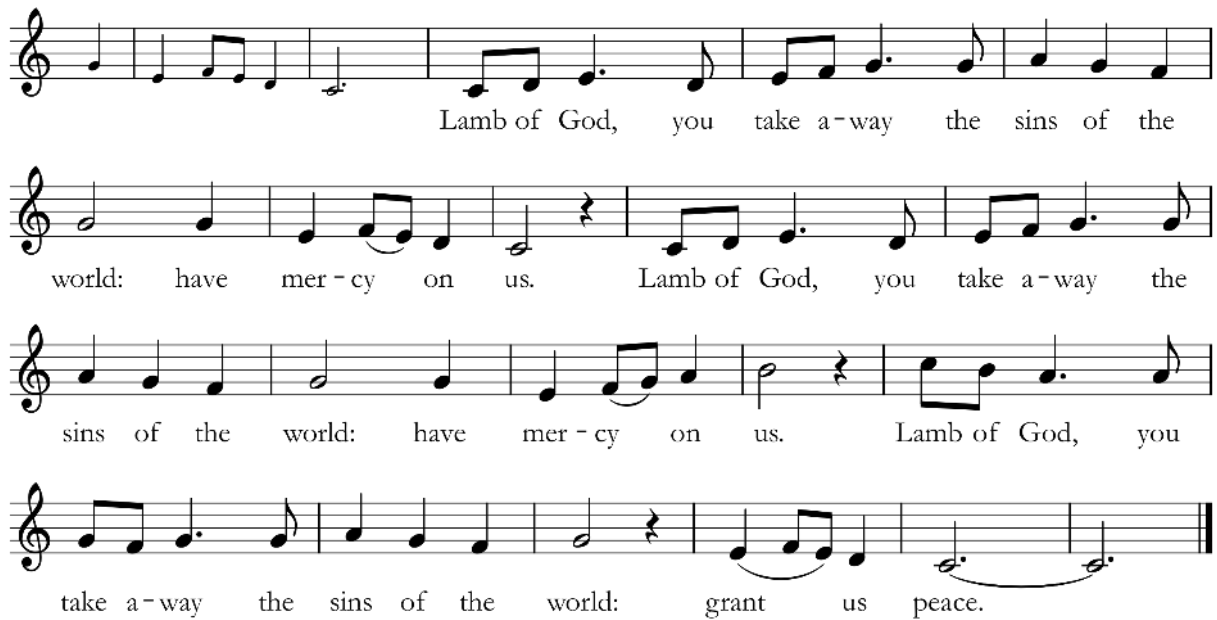


The Breaking of the Bread

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

Sung by all.

Michael Simpson



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

At the River

Deep River

Improvisation

arr. Aaron Copland

trad. Spiritual, arr. Samuel Coleridge-Taylor

Robert McCormick

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

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

How lovely is thy dwelling-place

Sung by all.

Brother James' Air



1. How love - ly is thy dwell - ing - place, O Lord of hosts, to me!
2. Be - side thine al - tars, gra - cious Lord, the swal - lows find a nest;
3. They who go through the de - sert vale will find it filled with springs,
4. One day with - in thy courts ex - cels a thou - sand spent a - way;



My thirst - y soul de - sires and longs with - in thy courts to be;
how hap - py they who dwell with thee and praise thee with - out rest,
and they shall climb from height to height till Zi - on's tem - ple rings
how hap - py they who keep thy laws nor from thy pre - cepts stray,



my ve - ry heart and flesh cry out, O liv - ing God, for thee.
and hap - py they whose hearts are set up - on the pil - grim's quest.
with praise to thee, in glo - ry throned, Lord God, great King of kings.
for thou shalt sure - ly bless all those who live the words they pray.

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 Shenandoah

American folk song, arr. Kim Robertson

Postlude We shall overcome

arr. Adolphus Hailstork

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 Carter Sommers by his friends; Florence S. and Robert W. Cabaniss, Sr., by Mr. and Mrs. Robert W. Cabaniss III; Durwood Usry by his family; Brandon Scholder by Eliza Scholder; and Judy Y. Lane and Brenda P. Reid by Martin Lane. The Vigil Candle is also offered in memory of Judy Y. Lane and Brenda P. Reid by Martin Lane.

Participants

CELEBRANT: The Rev. John D. Rohrs; **DEACON:** The Rev. John W. A. Jenkins; **SUBDEACON:** Synthia Waymack; **READER:** Bill Davis; **INTERCESSOR:** Andrea Tuttle; **REFLECTOR:** Joshua Rockett; **CHALICE BEARERS:** Alisa Booze Troetschel, Barbara Massey, Sarah Shutt, Lauren Voyles; **MUSICIANS:** Quinn Bitsas, *cantor*; Vicky Hamrick, *oboe*; 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.

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: "Translation" by Temple Cone, 2013. Printed with permission of the author.

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