



CELTIC EVENSONG AND COMMUNION

at St. Stephen's Episcopal Church

The Feast of St. Francis of Assisi ☩ October 4, 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 All creatures of our God and King

arr. Jennifer Haines

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

Opening

Wendell Berry

What is good for the world will be good for us. That requires that we make the effort to know the world and to learn what is good for it. We must learn to cooperate in its processes, and to yield to its limits. But even more important, we must learn to acknowledge that the creation is full of mystery; we will never entirely understand it.

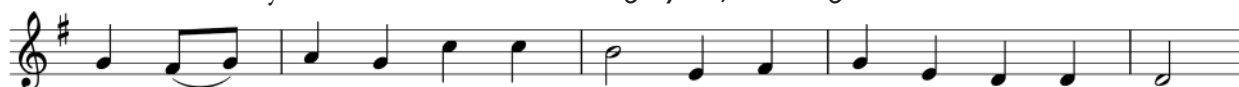
We must abandon arrogance and stand in awe. We must recover the sense of the majesty of creation, and the ability to be worshipful in its presence. For I do not doubt that it is only on the condition of humility and reverence before the world that our species will be able to remain in it.

Silence is held after the reading.

Hymn For the beauty of the earth

Sung by all, standing as able.

Dix



1. For the___ beau - ty of the earth, for the beau - ty of the skies,
2. For the___ beau - ty of each hour of the day and of the night,
3. For the___ joy of ear and eye, for the heart and mind's de - light,



for the___ love which from our birth o - ver and a - round us lies,
hill and___ vale, and tree and flower, sun and moon and stars of light,
for the___ mys - tic har - mo - ny link - ing sense to sound and sight,



Christ our God, to you we raise this our hymn of grate - ful praise.

A Prayer for the Evening

A New Zealand Prayer Book

Deacon Lord, it is night. The night is for stillness.

People **Let us be still in the presence of God.**

Deacon It is night after a long day.

People **What has been done has been done;
what has not been done has not been done;
let it be.**

Deacon The night is dark.

People **Let our fears of the darkness of the world and of our own lives
rest in you.**

Deacon The night is quiet.

People **Let the quietness of your peace enfold us,
all dear to us,
and all who have no peace.**

Deacon The night heralds the dawn.

People **Let us look expectantly to a new day,
new joys,
new possibilities.**

Deacon In your name we pray. **Amen.**

The Reading Luke 12:13-21 *Please sit.*

Reader A Reading from the Gospel according to Luke.

Someone in the crowd said to Jesus, "Teacher, tell my brother to divide the family inheritance with me." But he said to him, "Friend, who set me to be a judge or arbitrator over you?" And he said to them, "Take care! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed; for one's life does not consist in the abundance of possessions." Then he told them a parable: "The land of a rich man produced abundantly. And he thought to himself, 'What should I do, for I have no place to store my crops?' Then he said, 'I will do this: I will pull down my barns and build larger ones, and there I will store all my grain and my goods. And I will say to my soul, 'Soul, you have ample goods laid up for many years; relax, eat, drink, be merry.' But God said to him, 'You fool! This very night your life is being demanded of you. And the things you have prepared, whose will they be?' So it is with those who store up treasures for themselves but are not rich toward God."

Silence is held for one minute of reflection.

Reflection George Zehmer

Silence is held for two minutes of reflection.

Music for Meditation *Y deryn pur* (The dove)

trad. Welsh

Prayers for Ourselves and Others *Please stand.*

from Season of Creation for Episcopal Parishes

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

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

Leader In the beginning,

People **God was.**

Leader Here and now,

People **God is.**

Leader In the future,

People **God will be.**

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. *Silence*

Leader God, Giver of life,
People **Hear our prayer.**

Leader Breath of life, receive our thanks for the beauty of our local habitat and all who dwell in it, and grant us the wisdom and will to conserve it. *Silence*

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. *Silence*

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. *Silence*

Leader God, Giver of life,
People **Hear our prayer.**

Leader Author of the book of nature, receive our gratitude for places of restoration and healing, and continue to bless those places that feed our lives and spirits. *Silence*

Leader God, Giver of life,
People **Hear our prayer.**

Leader Wise Creator, whose works are full of mystery, give us wonder and appreciation for your creatures with whom we find ourselves in conflict. *Silence*

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 _____]. *Silence*

Leader God, Giver of life,
People **Hear our prayer.**

Leader Divine Physician, heal our communities, especially those where neglect, greed, or violence inflict suffering upon people and other creatures. *Silence*

Leader God, Giver of life,
People **Hear our prayer.**

Leader Comforter of all the earth, sustain the people of this congregation who desire or need your presence and help. *Silence*

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 _____]. *Silence*

Leader God, Giver of life,
People **Hear our prayer.**

Leader In our time and in your time, O God, fulfill our prayers as is best for us and may your kingdom come, your will be done. **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.

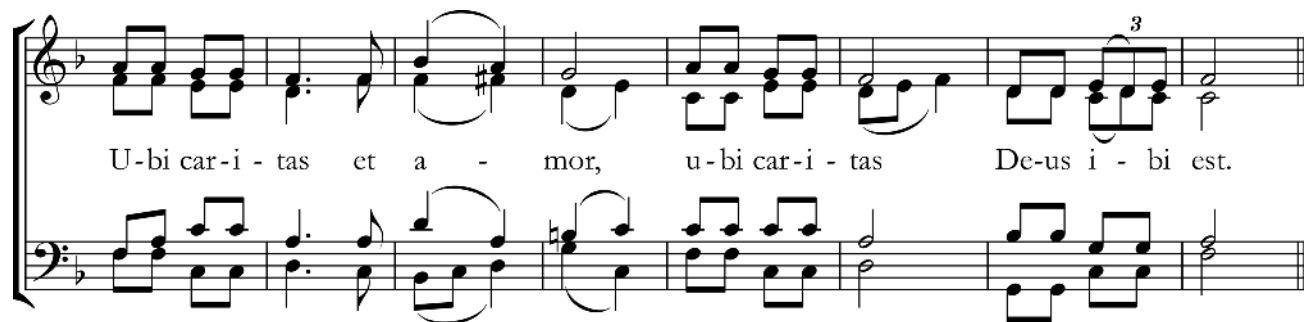
Music for Meditation *Scenes from Dinétah: Horned Toad*

Connor Chee

Hymn *Ubi caritas*

Jacques Berthier

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



Translation: Where true charity and love dwell, God is there.

Verses: Your love, O Jesus Christ, has gathered us together. May your love, O Jesus Christ, be foremost in our lives. Let us love one another as God has loved us. Let us be one in love together in the one bread of Christ. The love of God in Jesus Christ will never have an end.

The Grace When he came to himself he said, "How many of my father's hired hands have bread enough and to spare, but here I am dying of hunger! I will get up and go to my father, and I will say to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son; treat me like one of your hired hands.' So he set off and went to his father. But while he was still far off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion; he ran and put his arms around him and kissed him. **Amen.** *Luke 15:17-20*

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 *Terra beata*

trad. English hymn, arr. Jennifer Haines

The Great Thanksgiving *Please stand.*

A Celebration Guide for Episcopal Parishes, Eucharistic 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 in all times and in all places to thank and praise you, Creator of all. We praise you here, at the falls of the James: where piedmont opens to coastal plain, and forest and farm meet suburb and city. We praise you at a time when the body of earth is broken again and again. We give thanks for our place in the story of salvation. Our ancestors journeyed with you in creation and migration. They depended on the land, were displaced from the land and displaced others from their lands. They knew you in tents and cities, on mountains and by wells, in families and in dreams, and through wilderness prophets who spoke of cedars and listened to ravens.

Together with angels and ancestors, with dogwood and magnolia, cardinal and sparrow, white-tail deer and roving black bear, we join our voices with all creation in this ancient honor song:

Sanctus

Sung by all.

Jacques Berthier



Sanc-tus, Sanc-tus, Sanc-tus Do-mi-nus De-us Sa-ba-oth, De-us Sa-ba-oth.

Translation: Holy, holy, holy Lord God of hosts.

Celebrant We give thanks to you for Jesus, whose first bed was a feed trough. He was baptized in the Jordan, tested in the wilderness, he traveled in fishing boats and told parables of farmers and seeds, labor and wages, yeast and bread. On the night before he died, Jesus took bread, food of the poor, the work of field and hearth, he gave thanks, broke it and gave it to his friends saying:

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

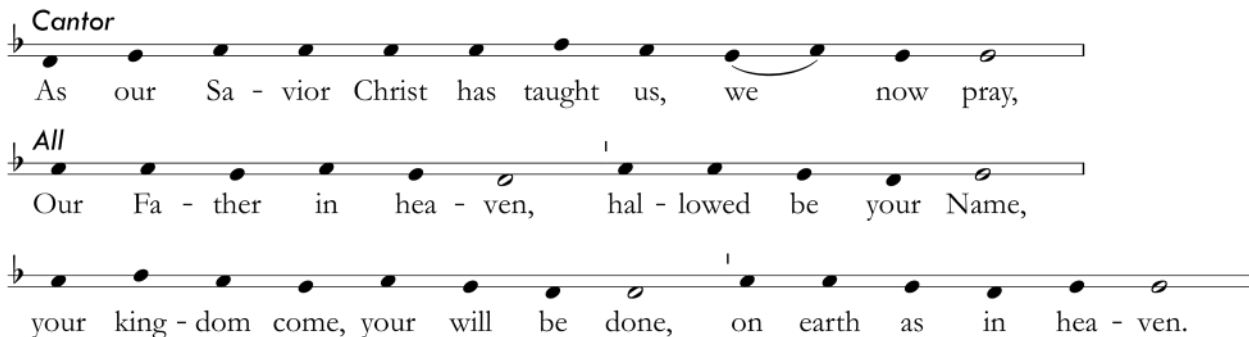
Celebrant Again after supper he took the cup of wine, fruit of the land, gave thanks and gave it to his friends saying:

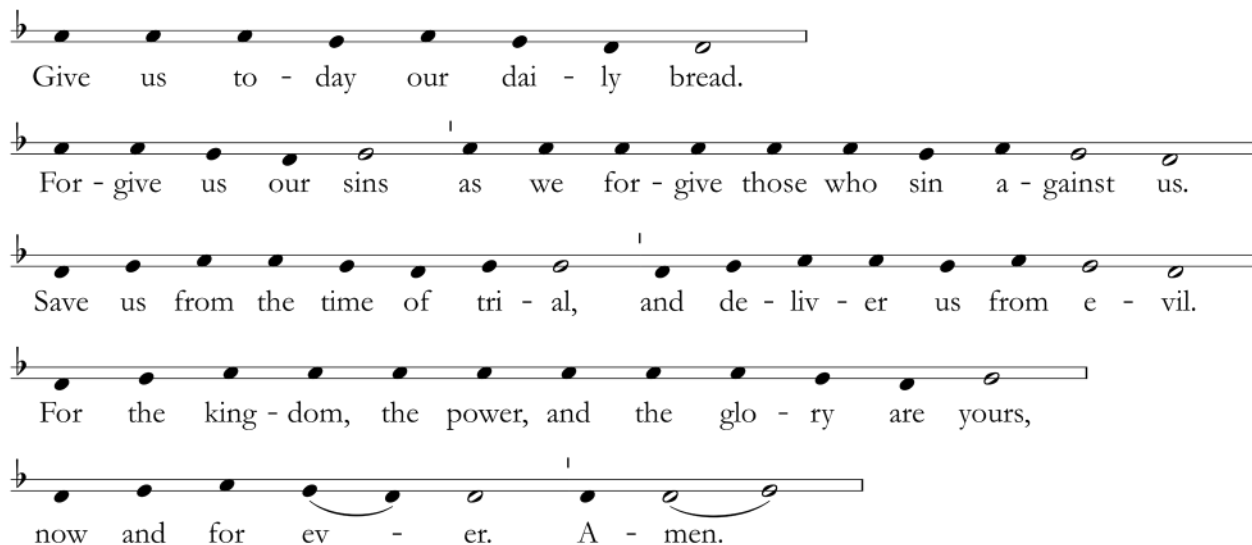
All **“This is my life-blood poured out for you. Do this to remember me.”**

Celebrant Remembering Jesus’ life, death and resurrection and awaiting his coming kingdom, we offer you this bread and this cup. Holy Creator, send your Spirit on these gifts so that we know Jesus in them and are gathered together with everyone who shares this sacred meal of justice and community. Fill us with the courage and love of Jesus, that we may strive for justice and peace, respect the dignity of every human being, and safeguard the integrity of creation. Bring us with all your saints to your commonwealth of sparrow and lily, child and beggar, which is both now and yet to come.

All honor and glory are yours, Creator, Christ, and Spirit, now and forever. **AMEN.**

The Lord’s Prayer



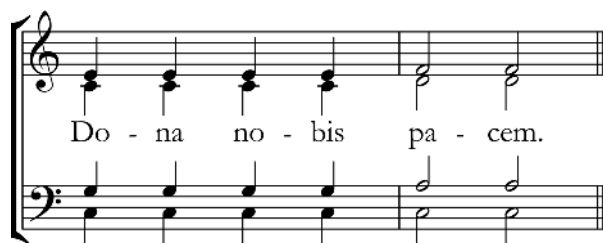


The Breaking of the Bread

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

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

Jacques Berthier



Translation: Grant us peace.

Verses: Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us. Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us. Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, grant us peace.

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

For the beauty of the earth
Cockles and mussels
Sandpainting No. 9: Abalone

arr. John Purifoy
trad. Irish, arr. Mark Blatchly
Connor Chee

After Communion

Please stand.

from In this Season of Waiting, Wild Goose Publications

Celebrant

The earth still waits for its healing...

All

**May we who are part of that waiting
take and use the dreaming times
to re-imagine the world;
inhabit and use the liminal times
to discover the patterns of God;
embrace and use the quickening times
to learn how to live and love;
thus may our watching and waiting
join with that of Emmanuel
to realize God's Kingdom
here on earth. Amen.**

The Blessing

Celebrant

Now, may the Lord Christ go before you to prepare your way;
Christ beside you, be companion to you everywhere you go;
Christ beneath you, strengthen and uphold you when you fall or fail;
Christ behind you, finish and complete what you must leave undone;
Christ within you, give you faith and courage, love and hope;
And Christ above you, bless and keep you, now and evermore. **Amen.**

Hymn

Lord, make us servants of your peace

Sung by all.

O Waly, Waly



1. Lord, make us ser - vants of your peace: where there is
2. Where all is doubt, may we sow faith; where all is
3. Je - sus, our Lord, may we not seek to be con -
4. May we not look for love's re - turn, but seek to
5. And when we die, we are re - born through death's dark
hate, may we sow love; where there is hurt, may we for -
gloom, may we sow hope; where all is night, may we sow
soled, but to con - sole, nor look to un - der - stand - ing
love un - self - ish - ly, for in our giv - ing we re -
night to end - less day. Lord, make us ser - vants of your
give; where there is strife, may we make one.
light; where all is tears, may we sow joy.
hearts, but look for hearts to un - der - stand.
ceive, and in for - giv - ing are for - giv'n.
peace to wake at last in heav - en's light.

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 All creatures of our God and King

arr. Anne Krentz Organ

Postlude *Simple Gifts*

arr. John Purifoy

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 William Penn Stanley by his family and John Wortham Christian, III, by his family.

Participants

CELEBRANT: The Rev. John Jenkins; **DEACON:** The Rev. Cate Anthony; **REFLECTOR:** George Zehmer; **SUBDEACON:** Sam Davis; **READER:** Guy Frank; **INTERCESSOR:** Gabrielle Maes; **CHALICE BEARERS:** Valerie Abbott, Tony Anthony, Nancy Atkins, Alisa Booze Troetsche; **MUSICIANS:** Quinn Bitsas, *cantor*; Alyssa Evans, *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.

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: Wendell Berry, *The Art of the Commonplace: The Agrarian Essays of Wendell Berry* (Berkeley, CA: Counterpoint Press, 2003). Printed with permission of the author.

St. Stephen's Episcopal Church ☞ 6000 Grove Avenue Richmond, Virginia 23226 ☞ 804.288.2867 ☞ ststephensRVA.org