



CELTIC EVENSONG AND COMMUNION

at St. Stephen's Episcopal Church

The Twenty-first Sunday after Pentecost ☩ October 18, 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

Prélude, Opus 18

César Franck

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

Opening

Wendell Berry, from *Manifesto: The Mad Farmer Liberation Front*

Ask the questions that have no answers.

Invest in the millennium.

Plant sequoias.

Say that your main crop is the forest

that you did not plant,

that you will not live to harvest.

Put your faith in the two inches of humus

that will build under the trees

every thousand years.

The opening readings throughout

the Season of Creation (October)

honor the late Wendell Berry's

life, labor, and prophetic witness.

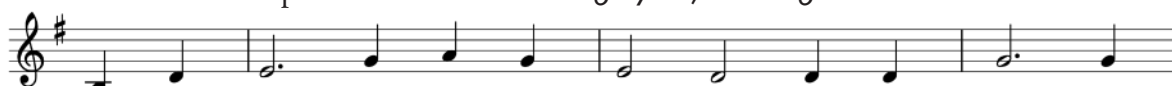
Silence is held after the reading.

Hymn

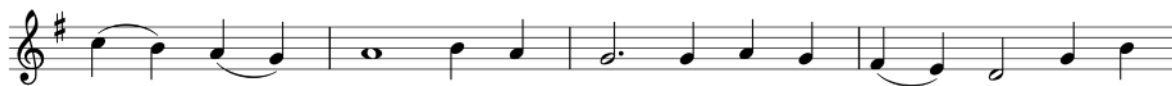
Draw us in the Spirit's tether

Sung by all, standing as able.

Union Seminary



1. Draw us in the Spir - it's teth - er, for when hum - bly
2. As dis - ci - ples used to gath - er in the name of
3. All our meals and all our liv - ing make as sac - ra -



in your name two or three are met to - geth - er, you are
Christ to sup, then with thanks to God the giv - er break the
ments of you, that by car - ing, help - ing, giv - ing, we may



in the midst of them. Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!
bread and bless the cup, Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!
be dis - ci - ples true. Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!



Touch we now your gar - ment's hem.
So now knit our friend - ship up.
We will serve with faith a - new.

A Prayer for the Evening

Iona Abbey Worship Book

Deacon Eternal God, maker of the skies above,
lowly Christ, Lover of the earth and its people,
unfettered Spirit, Giver of gracious gifts,

People **you are present among us.**

Deacon O hidden mystery,
sun behind all suns,
soul within all souls,
in all we touch, in all we meet,

People **you are present among us.**

Deacon As bearers of your image,
we come to be reshaped;

People **dependent on your mercy,
we ask to be made new. Amen**

The Reading Matthew 22:15-22 *Please sit.*

Reader A Reading from the Gospel according to Matthew.

The Pharisees went and plotted to entrap Jesus in what he said. So they sent their disciples to him, along with the Herodians, saying, "Teacher, we know that you are sincere, and teach the way of God in accordance with truth, and show deference to no one; for you do not regard people with partiality. Tell us, then, what you think. Is it lawful to pay taxes to the emperor, or not?" But Jesus, aware of their malice, said, "Why are you putting me to the test, you hypocrites? Show me the coin used for the tax." And they brought him a denarius. Then he said to them, "Whose head is this, and whose title?" They answered, "The emperor's." Then he said to them, "Give therefore to the emperor the things that are the emperor's, and to God the things that are God's." When they heard this, they were amazed; and they left him and went away.

Silence is held for one minute of reflection.

Reflection Susan Wilkes

Silence is held for two minutes of reflection.

Music for Meditation Largo (from *Symphony No. 9*)

Antonín Dvořák, arr. A. L. Christopherson

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;

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.**

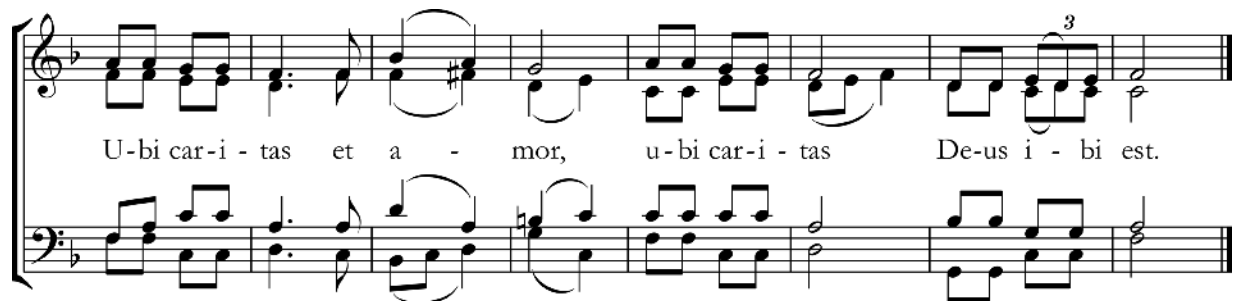
Candle Lighting, Additional Prayers

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 Star of the County Down traditional Irish, arr. Sunita Staneslow

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 STSTEPHENS RVA to 73256.



At the Offertory *Siúil a Ghra* traditional Irish, arr. Kathryn Cater and Sandy Norman

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 famers 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

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.

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

Jacques Berthier

Do - na no - bis pa - cem.

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	Linden Lea	traditional English, arr. Ralph Vaughan Williams
	I will arise and go to Jesus	traditional American, arr. David Hamilton
	Improvisation	Robert McCormick

After Communion	<i>Please stand.</i>	from In this Season of Waiting, Wild Goose Publications
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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

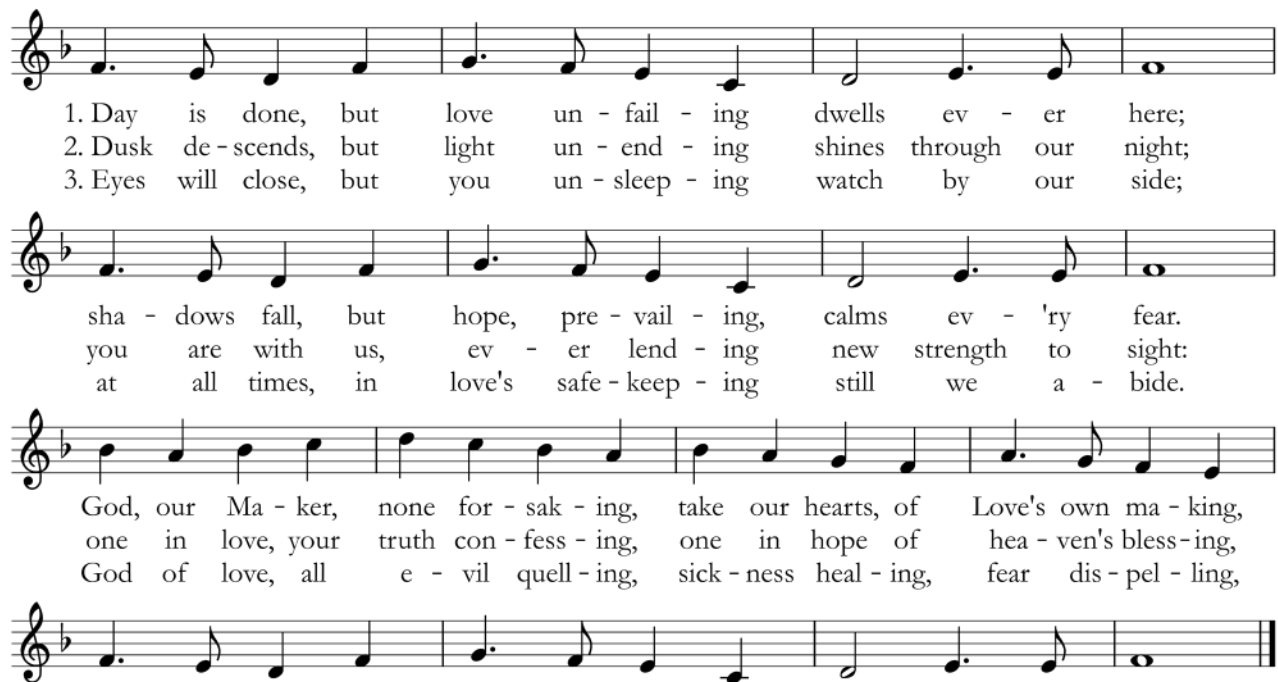
Celebrant Let us take care as we move through God's creation, for it does not belong to us. And may we be gentle with ourselves and with one another, for we are all the dwelling place of the most High. And the blessing of God the Creator, Redeemer and Giver of life, remain with you now and for ever. **Amen.**

Hymn

Day is done, but love unfailing

Sung by all.

Ar hyd y nos



1. Day is done, but love un - fail - ing dwells ev - er here;
2. Dusk de - scends, but light un - end - ing shines through our night;
3. Eyes will close, but you un - sleep - ing watch by our side;

sha - dows fall, but hope, pre - vail - ing, calms ev - 'ry fear.
you are with us, ev - er lend - ing new strength to sight:
at all times, in love's safe - keep - ing still we a - bide.

God, our Ma - ker, none for - sak - ing, take our hearts, of Love's own ma - king,
one in love, your truth con - fess - ing, one in hope of hea - ven's bless - ing,
God of love, all e - vil quell - ing, sick - ness heal - ing, fear dis - pel - ling,

watch our sleep - ing, guard our wak - ing, be al - ways near.
may we see, in love's pos - sess - ing, love's end - less light!
stay with us, our hearts in - dwell - ing, this e - ven - tide.

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 Afton Water

traditional Scottish, arr. Doreen Smith

Postlude

Let us ever walk with Jesus, Opus 21

Paul Manz

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 Gertrude Vanderhoof Albert and E. Dorse Albert by their daughter, Susan J. Albert.

Participants

CELEBRANT: The Rev. Cate Anthony; **DEACON:** The Rev. Judy Davis; **REFLECTOR AND SUBDEACON:** Susan Wilkes; **READER:** Sarah Shutt; **INTERCESSOR:** Gayle Royals; **CHALICE BEARERS:** Alisa Booze Troetschel, Lisa Cuseo-Ott, Gabrielle Maes, Cary Wyatt; **MUSICIANS:** Lauren Clay, *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

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, *Caroline Brandt*, Kathy Brock, Leslie Brockman, 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, Debbie Cuseo, Chris Davis, Rhonda Davis, Patricia Delany, Ham DeRosa, Davis Dunn Dillard, Stephen Drake Sr., Reid Ebert, Kristen Estes, William Everett, 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, David Kean, *Liz Woolford 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, Sallie, 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, 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 the blessings of this life**, especially for *the baptism of Miller Childs Peak*. **For those expecting a child**, especially Kristen and Hayden Glasstetter, Mason and Claire Mairead, Carlee and Robert Rhoton. **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 *Anglican Church of Canada*. **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.

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.

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, excerpt from "Manifesto: The Mad Farmer Liberation Front" from *The Country of Marriage*, 1973, Harcourt Brace Jovanovich, Inc. Printed with permission of the author.

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