Celtic Evensong and Communion

The Feast of St. Stephen (observed)

November 8, 2026, at 5:30 p.m.

St. Stephen's Episcopal Church ☙ Richmond, Virginia

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 *Ständchen* Franz Schubert

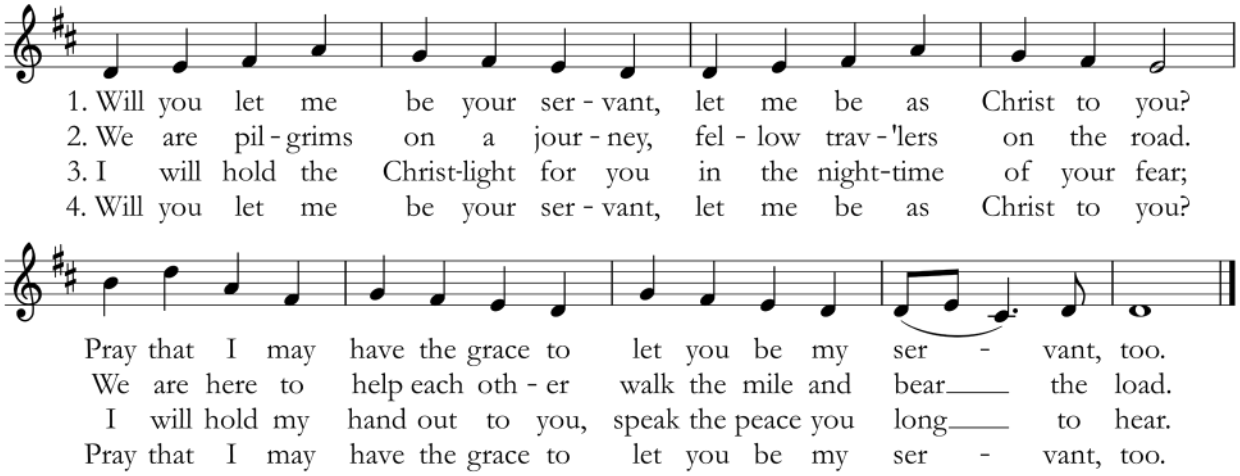
Please stand at the sound of the bell, as you are able.

Opening The Spirit is Breathing Dom Helder Camara

All those with eyes to see,
women and men with ears for hearing
detect a coming dawn;
a reason to go on.
They seem small, these signs of dawn,
perhaps ridiculous.
All those with eyes to see,
women and men with ears for hearing
uncover in the night
a certain gleam of light;
They see the reason to go on.

Silence is held after the reading.

Hymn Will you let me be your servant? *Sung by all, standing as able.* *Servant Song*



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 Luke 4:14-21 *Please sit.*

Reader A Reading from the Gospel according to Luke.

Jesus, filled with the power of the Spirit, returned to Galilee, and a report about him spread through all the surrounding country. He began to teach in their synagogues and was praised by everyone. When he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, he went to the synagogue on the sabbath day, as was his custom. He stood up to read, and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written: "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor."

And he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant, and sat down. The eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him. Then he began to say to them, "Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing."

Silence is held for one minute of reflection.

Reflection The Rev. Will Stanley

Silence is held for two minutes of reflection.

Music for Meditation *Pictures from Bashu:* II. Echoes in the valley Huang Huwei

Prayers for Ourselves and Others *Please stand.*

Deacon Let us keep silence before God, and through our minds and imaginations offer prayers which words might not contain.

Within the "inner room" of your soul and in the time between each petition, open to receive or offer that which arises.

Leader There is a time for every purpose under heaven.

Silence

Leader A time for gratitude… [especially for ____].

Silence

Leader A time for what we have to lay down…

Silence

Leader A time for what we have to pick up…

Silence

Leader A time for confronting what we are avoiding…

Silence

Leader A time for holding compassion for ourselves and others…

Silence

Leader A time for recognizing what we hope for…

Silence

Leader A time for standing for what is true, just, and good…

Silence

Leader A time to pray for those who have died, [especially _____].

Silence

Leader In our time and in your time, O God, fulfill our prayers as is best for us and may your kingdom come. **Amen.**
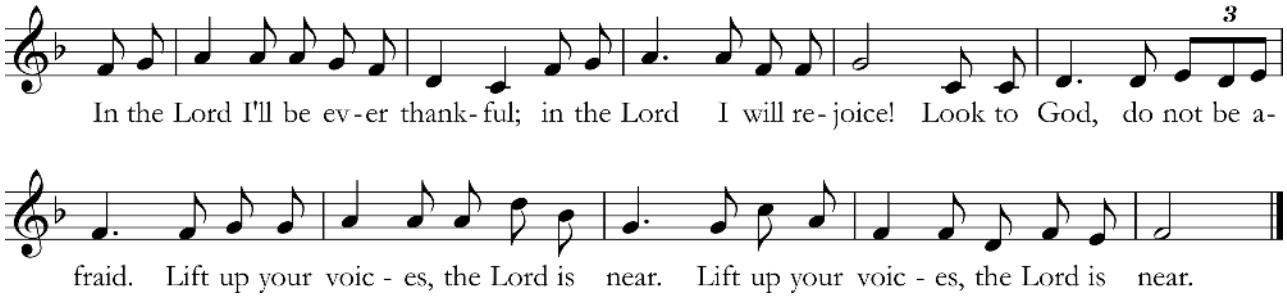
Candle Lighting, Additional Prayers

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 My Lagan Love trad. Irish, arr. Phil Coulter

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: 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.

Blessing of Oil for Healing Ministries

Celebrant To Jesus came the untouchable sick, sinners and outcasts, foreigners and foes alike;

All **He touched and healed, welcomed and forgave. Jesus loved them all.**

Celebrant Jesus receives all who seek God's loving mercy.

All **We come to Jesus in our need, bringing with us the needs of the world.**

Celebrant Spirit of God, come upon this oil and upon all who seek the anointing of your healing;
pour upon them the gift of your wholeness and the healing of your love,
in the holy name of Christ. **Amen.**

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 STSTEPHENSRVA to 73256.

At the Offertory Navajo Vocable No. 3 Connor Chee

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.**

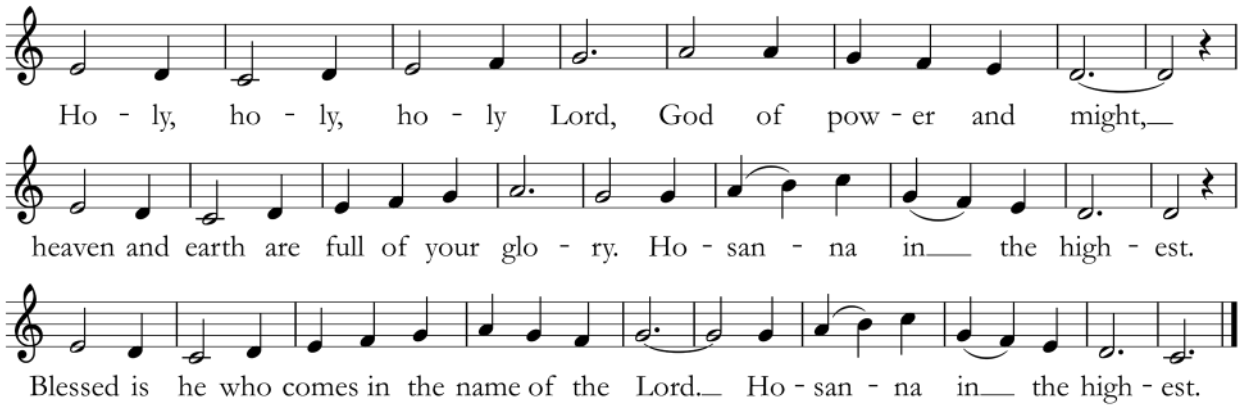
Celebrant Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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



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."**

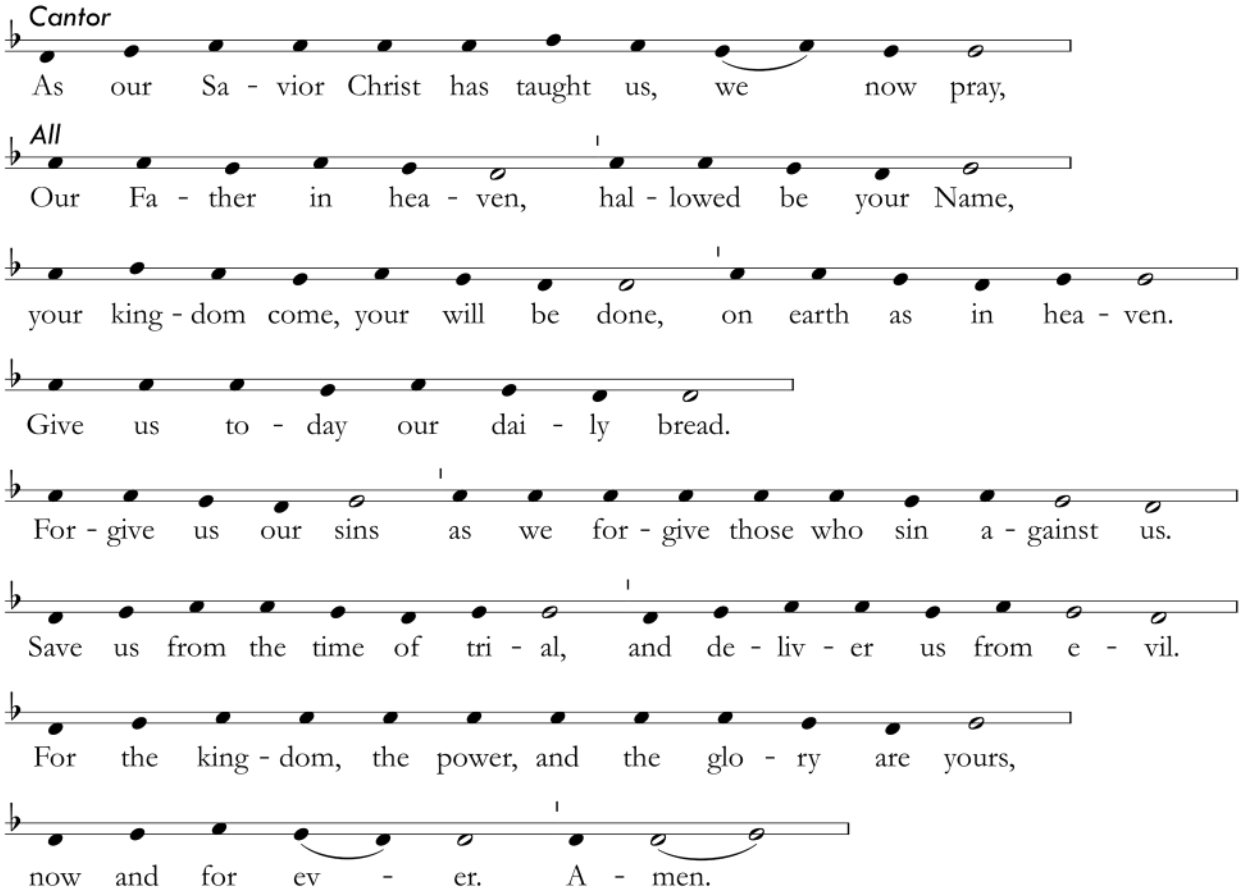
Celebrant So we proclaim the mystery of faith:

All **Christ has died.**
Christ is risen.
Christ will come again.

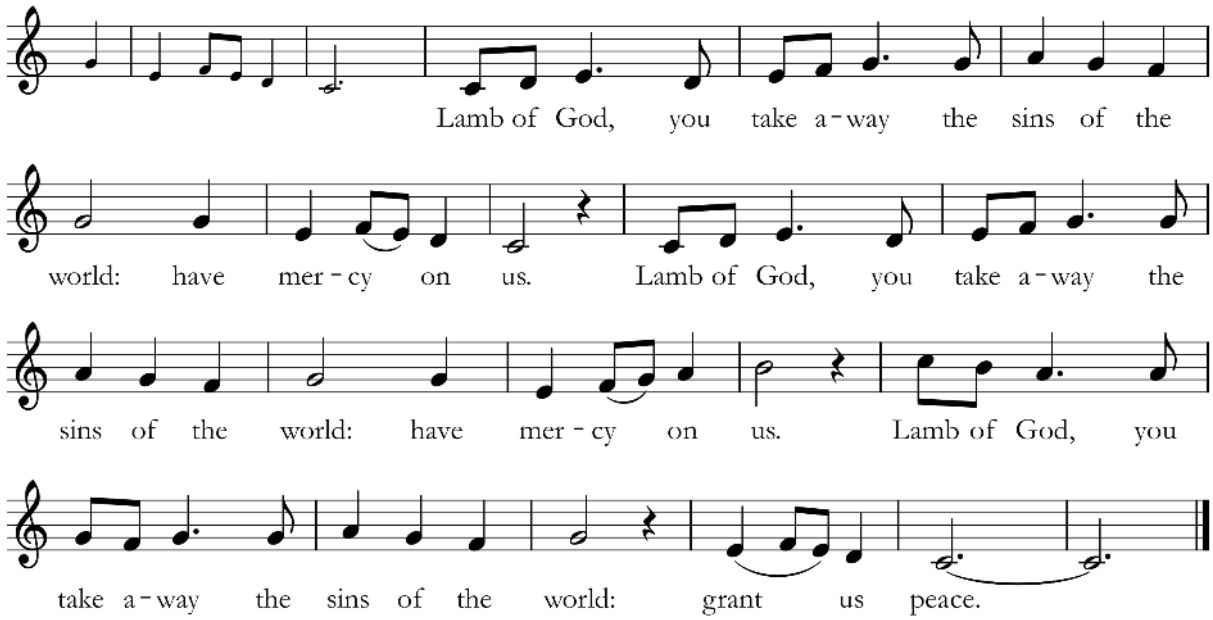
Celebrant Come now, Spirit of God, bless these holy gifts, and as we eat and drink these bodily things, make us one body, food for the world, one blood to be poured out for the life of all. Touch us with your gentle creativity and fire us with longing for the new age of justice and peace.

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



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
Sandpainting No. 6: Southern Clouds — Connor Chee
Servant Song — Richard Gillard, arr. Mario Pearson
Beach Spring — American melody, arr. Sarah Rimkus

After Communion *Please stand.*

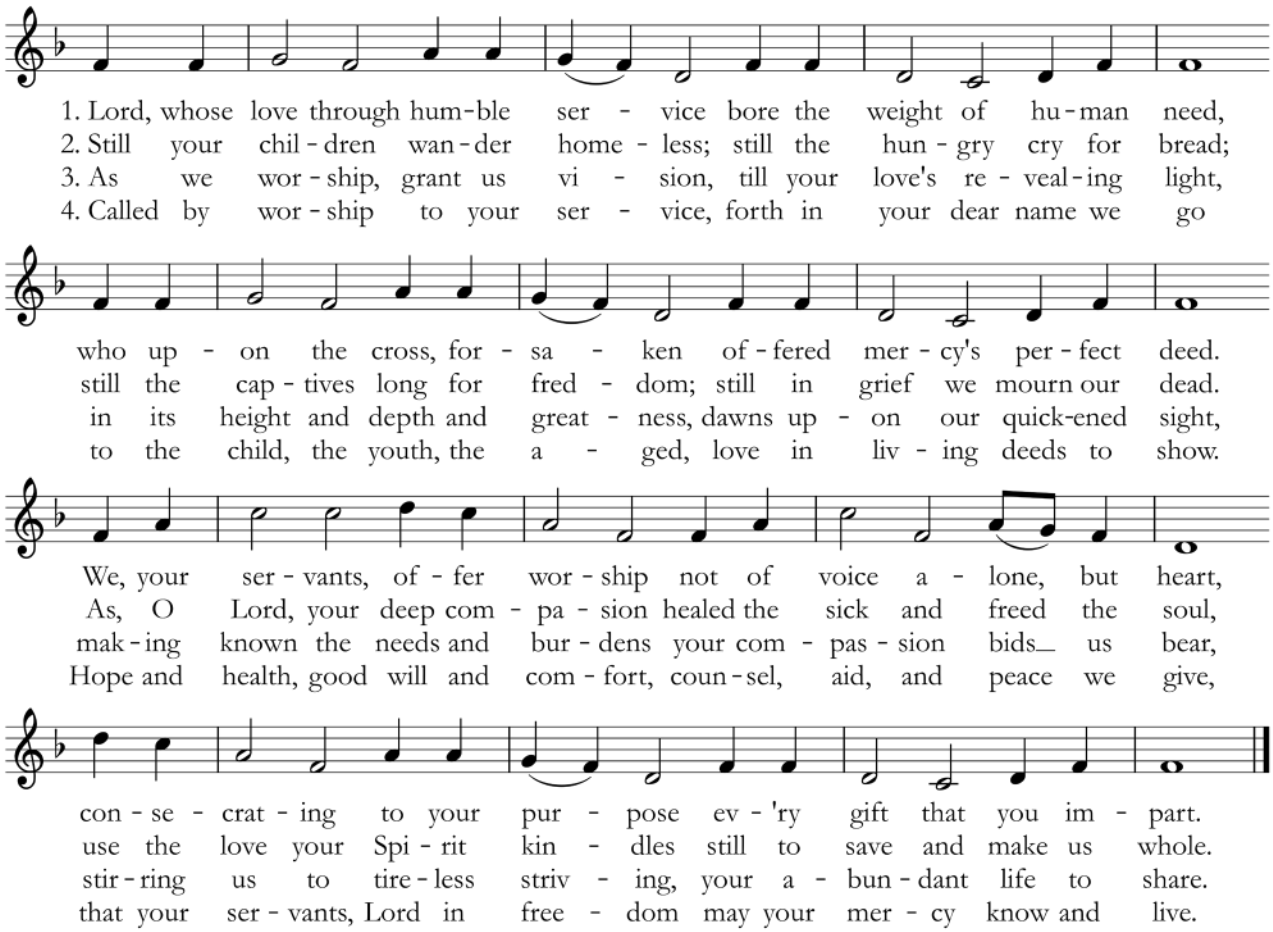
Celebrant Let us pray.

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 Do not be daunted
by the enormity of the world's grief.
Do justly, now.
Love mercy, now.
Walk humbly, now.
You are not obliged to complete the work,
but neither are you free to abandon it.
And may God's blessing be with you,
Christ's peace be with you,
the Spirit's outpouring be with you,
now and always. **Amen.**

Hymn Lord, whose love through humble service *Sung by all.* *Beach Spring*



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 Flow gently, sweet Afton trad. Scottish, arr. Kim Robertson

Postlude *Beach Spring* American melody, arr. Anne Krentz Organ

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 Jan Price by her family.

Participants

CELEBRANT: The Rev. John Jenkins; REFLECTOR AND DEACON: The Rev. Will Stanley; SUBDEACON: Chip Jamerson; READER: Guy Frank; INTERCESSOR: Sara Mackey; CHALICE BEARERS: Lisa Cuseo-Ott, Evan-Nilsa Karlson, Barbara Massey, Lauren Voyles; MUSICIANS: Matt Hassmer, *cantor*; David Garcia, *oboe*; 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 church vestibule. To ask that a name be added to or removed from the prayer list, please contact Kitty Ball in the office, 804.288.2867 or **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: Dom Helder Camara, "The Spirit is Breathing" in *Imaging the Word: An Arts and Lectionary Resource*, ed. Kenneth T. Lawrence (Cleveland, OH: United Church Press, 1994) p78. Printed with permission.