Palmer Hall Chapel

Sunday, November 8, 2026, at 9 a.m. ☙ The Feast of St. Stephen (observed)
Holy Eucharist: Rite Two
St. Stephen's Episcopal Church ☙ Richmond, Virginia

Welcome to the Palmer Hall service

We are delighted you are here. Wherever you might be on your faith journey, we hope your experience here will strengthen and affirm you. We are sure that your presence among us today strengthens others, and we welcome you to join in everything that St. Stephen's offers. Every Sunday, we offer several different services of worship (at 8, 9 and 11:15 a.m., and 5:30 and 8 p.m.), each with its own character. At 9 a.m., two services are happening simultaneously—one in the main church, and this one which takes place in Palmer Hall Chapel.

The Palmer Hall service for some feels especially welcoming to families, particularly those with babies and children. Both of the 9 a.m. services—this one, and the one in the main church—include important roles for children, and people of all ages are welcome at any service. In Palmer Hall, our worship space includes a "soft space." This is an area with a rug, floor cushions, and children's books where children can move a bit more freely and comfortably than they can in rows of seating. Please accompany your child to the soft space if and when they want to visit it; this helps us ensure the safety and comfort of our whole community.

Both of the 9 a.m. services include Holy Eucharist. All are welcome at the altar in this place. To receive Communion, place your hands together, palms up. You may consume the bread and then drink from the wine in the larger chalice. If you prefer to intinct, touching the edge of the bread to the wine, please use one of the smaller cups. Gluten-free wafers are available upon request. If you prefer to receive a blessing, cross your arms on the front of your chest. Children who have been baptized are welcome to receive communion. The important thing is that you know God welcomes you and that this church welcomes you. Please come back often.

Prelude

Welcome

The Word of God

Opening Hymn *Demos gracias* *Sung by all, standing, several times.* Cesareo Gabarain



Translation: Let us give thanks to the Lord.

Opening Prayer

Leader Glory to the Holy One:
People **God beyond us, God with us, and God within us,**
Leader Ever living, everlasting, ever loving One,
People **As it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever.**

The Collect of the Day The Book of Common Prayer, page 237

Celebrant The Lord be with you.
People **And also with you.**
Celebrant Let us pray. *Silence is kept.*

We give you thanks, O Lord of glory, for the example of the first martyr Stephen, who looked up to heaven and prayed for his persecutors to your Son Jesus Christ, who stands at your right hand; where he lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, in glory everlasting. **Amen**.

Thanksgiving for Heroic Service: a Prayer for Veterans Day The Book of Common Prayer, page 839

O Judge of the nations, we remember before you with grateful hearts the men and women of our country who in the day of decision ventured much for the liberties we now enjoy. Grant that we may not rest until all the people of this land share the benefits of true freedom and gladly accept its disciplines. This we ask in the Name of Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The Lesson Acts 6:1-7 *Please sit.*

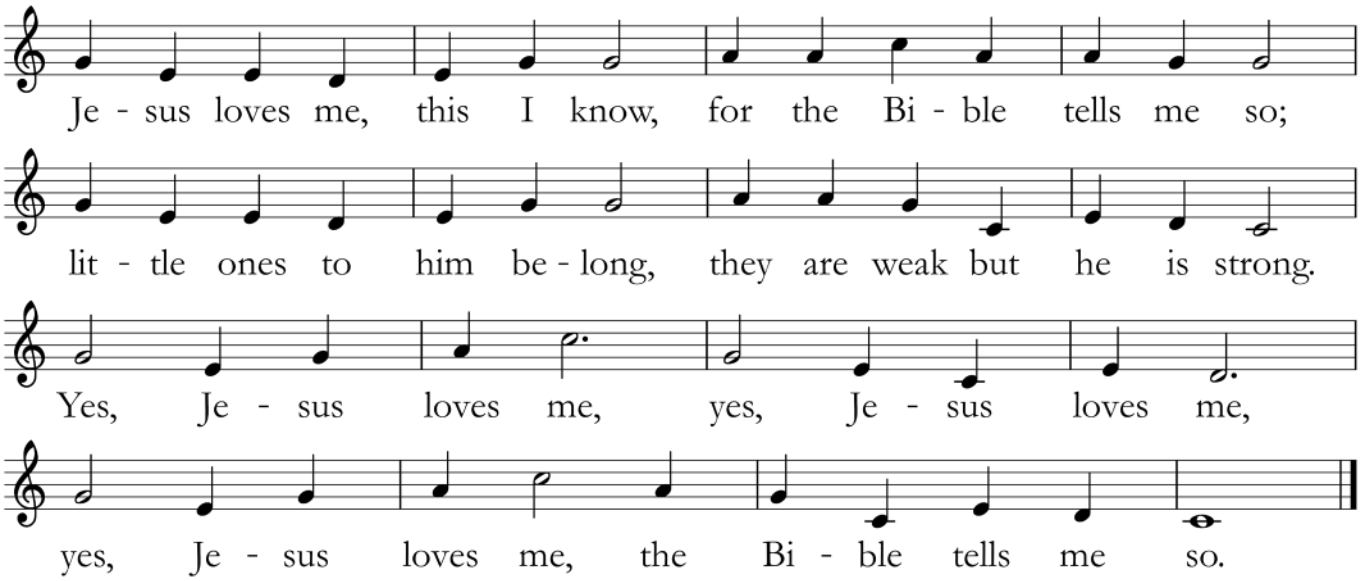
Reader A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

Now during those days, when the disciples were increasing in number, the Hellenists complained against the Hebrews because their widows were being neglected in the daily distribution of food. And the twelve called together the whole community of the disciples and said, "It is not right that we should neglect the word of God in order to wait on tables. Therefore, friends, select from among yourselves seven men of good standing, full of the Spirit and of wisdom, whom we may appoint to this task, while we, for our part, will devote ourselves to prayer and to serving the word." What they said pleased the whole community, and they chose Stephen, a man full of faith and the Holy Spirit, together with Philip, Prochorus, Nicanor, Timon, Parmenas, and Nicolaus, a proselyte of Antioch. They had these men stand before the apostles, who prayed and laid their hands on them. The word of God continued to spread; the number of the disciples increased greatly in Jerusalem, and a great many of the priests became obedient to the faith.

Reader The Word of the Lord.
People **Thanks be to God.**

The Gospel Song Jesus loves me *Jesus loves me*

Sung twice by all, standing, before and after the Gospel.



The Gospel Luke 4:14-21

Reader The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.

People **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

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."

Reader The Gospel of the Lord.

People **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

Wondering The Rev. Darren Steadman, St. Christopher's Lower School Chaplain

The children are invited to gather on the center rug.

The Creed *Said by all, standing.*

I believe in God above,
I believe in Jesus' love.
I believe God's Spirit too,
comes to tell me what to do.

I believe that I can be
kind and good,
dear Lord, like thee.

The Prayers of the People *Please stand.*

We give thanks for what is good and pray for the Church, the world and our local community, the sick, those who need our prayers, and those who have died. After each intercession, you are invited to speak aloud the particular prayer of your heart.

Leader In our prayers today, we put all thoughts and worries and hopes into the hands of God. You may like to hold your own hands in front of you as you pray.

Leader We place into the hands of God our difficulties and frustrations, and our hopes and our worries about the future.

Leader We place into the hands of God the leaders of every nation, the poor of our own and every land, those who live in fear, and all who hold the lives of others in their hands.

Leader We place into the hands of God our families, our friends, and our neighbors, those who live and work in our city, those who are unemployed, and all who pass through this city on their travels.

Leader We place into the hands of God all those we know who are suffering from sickness or sorrow or any other challenges.

Leader We place into the hands of God every good thing we celebrate, all of our joy, and the things for which we are grateful, [especially _____].

Leader We place into the hands of God all those who have died, [especially _____].

All **Loving God, accept these prayers for the sake of your Son, our friend Jesus Christ. Amen.**

The Peace The Book of Common Prayer, page 360

Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People **And also with you.**

The Ministers and People greet one another in the name of the Lord.

Announcements

The Holy Communion

Offertory Sentence

Walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself for us, an offering and sacrifice to God. Ephesians 5:2

All comes from God, so from what God has given, we offer gifts as we participate in God's work in the world. You may offer your gift online (use the QR code, or text STSTEPHENSRVA to 73256), or in the offering plates as they come by.

Offertory Anthem The Servant Song music and text: Richard Gillard, arr. Barry Rose

Will you let me be your servant, let me be as Christ to you?
Pray that I may have the grace to let you be my servant, too.

We are pilgrims on a journey, we are travelers on the road;
we are here to help each other walk the mile and bear the load.

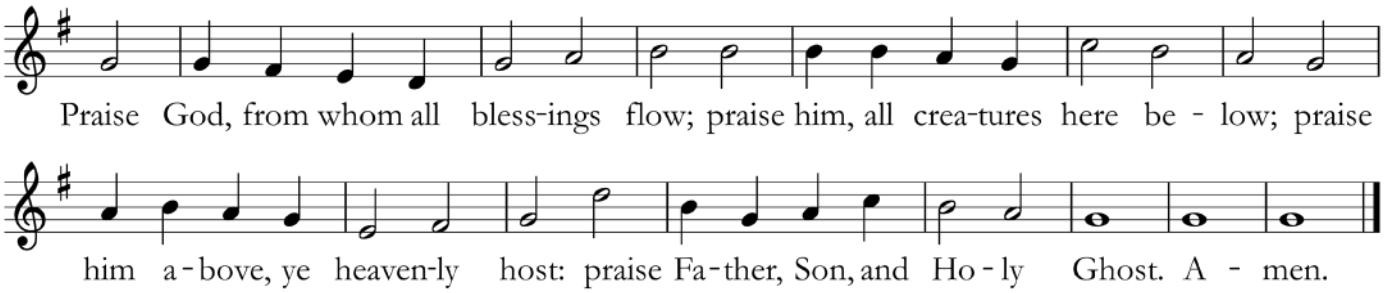
I will hold the Christ-light for you in the night-time of your fear;
I will hold my hand out to you, speak the peace you long to hear.

I will weep when you are weeping; when you laugh I'll laugh with you.
I will share your joy and sorrow 'til we've seen this journey through.

When we sing to God in heaven we shall find such harmony,
born of all we've known together of Christ's love and agony.

Won't you let me be your servant, let me be as Christ to you?
Pray that I may have the grace to let you be my servant, too. Amen.

At the Presentation *Sung by all, standing.* *Old 100th*



The children are invited to follow the ushers forward to sit on the rug in front of the altar for the Great Thanksgiving.

The Great Thanksgiving A New Zealand Prayer Book

Celebrant The Lord is here.

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

Celebrant Lift up your hearts.

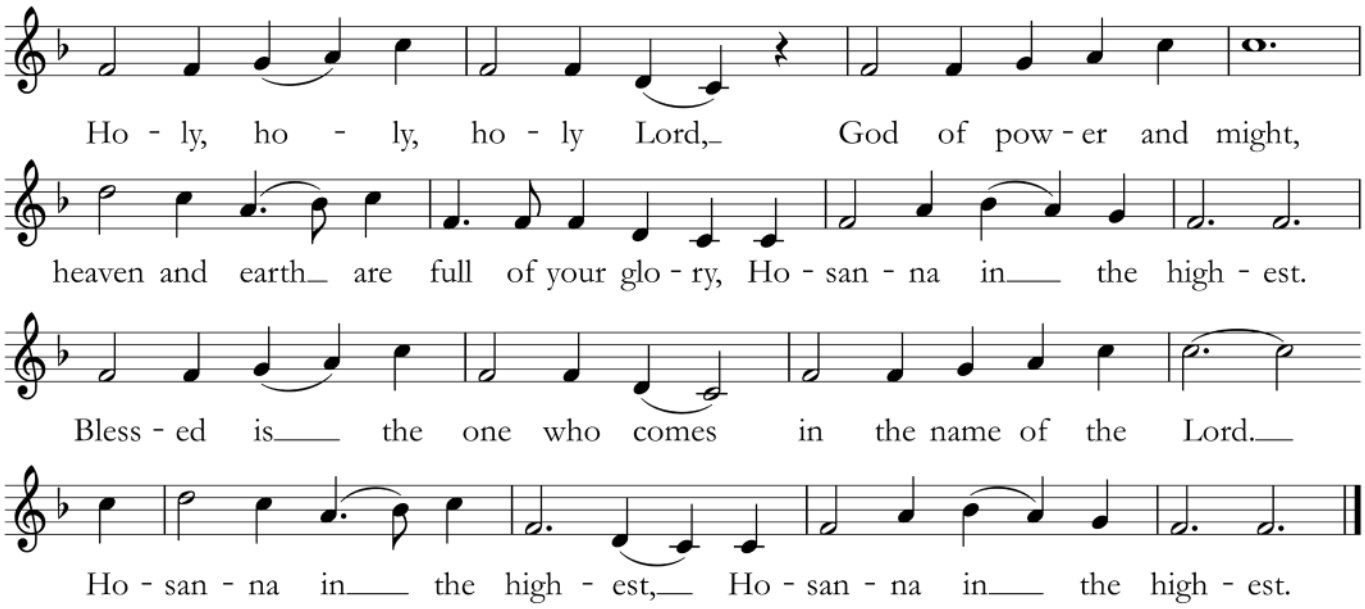
People **We lift them to the Lord.**

Celebrant Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People **It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

Celebrant God, you made us, and the world and everything in it. All the good we see comes from you. You have always loved us but people have not always loved you. You sent Jesus to show us how to live and to bring us back to you again. He died for us on the cross so that through your Spirit we can all be your people. And so with thanks we praise you, singing:

Sanctus *Sung by all.* *Land of Rest*



Celebrant

We are here because on the night before he died Jesus shared a meal with his friends. There he took some bread and gave thanks to you, God. He broke it into pieces, and gave it to them. 'This is my body,' he said, 'Do this, and know that I am with you." Later, he took a cup of wine and gave thanks to you. He shared it with them, and said 'This is my blood, which brings new life. Do this, and know that I am with you.' And so, remembering Jesus, who died, was raised to new life by you, and is alive forever, we are glad to share that life and live in him and proclaim the mystery of our faith:

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

Celebrant

Send your Holy Spirit so that this bread and wine can be for us the body and blood of Jesus, and through this food give us strength to live as your people. Help us to care for your world and for each other in the way that Jesus showed us. Until he comes again, with all your people in every time and every land, we worship you in songs of everlasting praise.

People **Blessing, honor and glory be yours, here and everywhere, now and forever. AMEN.**

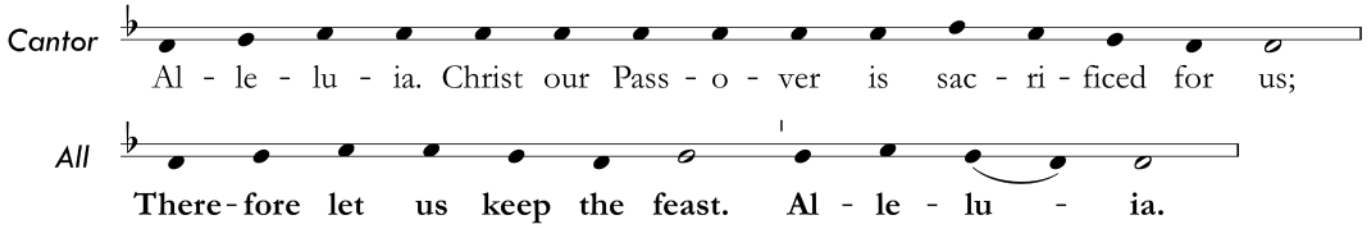
Celebrant And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

Celebrant and People The Book of Common Prayer, page 364

Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy Name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those
who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory,
for ever and ever. Amen.

The Breaking of the Bread

The Celebrant breaks the consecrated bread. A period of silence is kept. Mason Martens, S-152



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

Communion will be served at two stations, standing. All are welcome to come forward. To receive Communion, place your hands together, palms up. If you would like a gluten-free wafer, please tell the minister. If you prefer a blessing, please cross your arms on the front of your chest.

After Communion, the Celebrant says

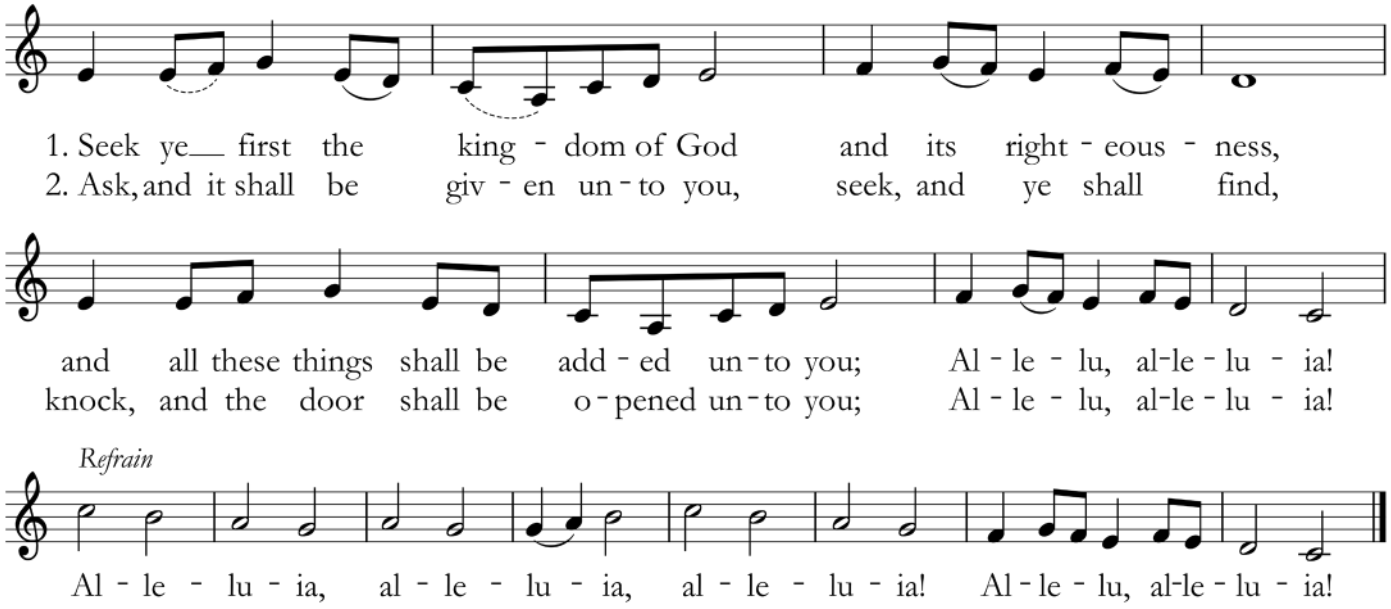
Let us pray. *Please stand.*

All **Lord God,**
you have renewed us with the living bread from heaven;
by it you nourish our faith,
increase our hope,
and strengthen our love:
teach us always to hunger for him who is the true and living bread,
and enable us to live by every word
that proceeds from out of your mouth;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Blessing Song Go now in peace *Sung by all, standing.* Natalie Sleeth

Go now in peace, go now in peace.
May the love of God surround you,
everywhere, everywhere you may go.

Hymn 711 Seek ye first the kingdom of God *Sung by all.* *Seek Ye First*



Dismissal The Book of Common Prayer, page 366

Leader Let us go forth in the name of Christ.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Postlude

Participants

CELEBRANT: The Rev. Cate Anthony

ASSISTING: The Rev. Darren Steadman, St. Christopher's Lower School Chaplain

MUSICIANS: St. Stephen's Choristers, Diana Chou, *director*; Karen Harris, *piano*

Reflection Questions

Today we celebrate the life of St. Stephen, our patron saint here at St. Stephen's church! Stephen was one of the first deacons of the early church. Deacons are special ministers whose role focuses on service and charity. In our reading from the Acts of the Apostles, Jesus' disciples call for the election of seven new deacons. The deacons in our story were charged with serving food to people without it, such as widows or orphans. It was their job to serve the community the way Jesus served his friends and followers: with integrity, compassion, and humility.

Here are some questions for further discussion with your family:

- Deacons are called to service and charity, especially to the poor and those in need. When have you served someone in need? What happened?
- St. Paul says deacons need to have dignity, integrity, faithfulness, and wisdom. What other character traits do you think someone in service should have?
- Our church is named after St. Stephen. What would you name a church? Why?

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, 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, 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 Keany, Jane Kelly, Judy Kidd, 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, Ann Page Moore, Lee W. Mumford, Sally Neff, 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, Margaret Thompson, Crystal Vines, Pam W., Timothy W., Ozzie Wade, Heather Walker, Suzanne Wallace, 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 *Marion Kemper Humphries.* **For those expecting a child,** especially Kristen and Hayden Glasstetter and Mason and Claire Mairead. **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 *Province de L'Eglise Anglicane Du Congo.* **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. 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.**

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