



# CELTIC EVENSONG AND COMMUNION

at St. Stephen's Episcopal Church

The Seventh Sunday of Easter: The Sunday after Ascension Day

May 12, 2024 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 by the baptismal font. The church is open for prayer from 7 a.m. to 6 p.m., Monday through Friday.*

*From 5:10, the church is ready for prayer and rest. Please observe silence inside the church and thank you for remembering to "silence" all devices.*

**Prelude**      Andantino

Brian Crain

*Please stand at the sound of the bell.*

**Opening**      From Out the Cave

Joyce Sutphen

When you have been  
at war with yourself  
for so many years that  
you have forgotten why,  
when you have been driving  
for hours and only  
gradually begin to realize  
that you have lost the way,  
when you have cut  
hastily into the fabric,  
when you have signed  
papers in distraction,  
when it has been centuries  
since you watched the sun set  
or the rain fall, and the clouds,  
drifting overhead, pass as flat  
as anything on a postcard;

when, in the midst of these  
everyday nightmares, you  
understand that you could  
wake up,  
you could turn  
and go back  
to the last thing you  
remember doing  
with your whole heart:  
that passionate kiss,  
the brilliant drop of love  
rolling along the tongue of a green leaf,  
then you wake,  
you stumble from your cave,  
blinking in the sun,  
naming every shadow  
as it slips.

*Silence is held after the reading.*

**Hymn**

We the Lord's people

*Sung by all, standing.**Decatur Place*

1. We the Lord's peo - ple, heart and voice u - nit - ing,  
 2. This is the Lord's house, home of all his peo - ple,  
 3. This is the Lord's day, day of God's own mak - ing,  
 4. In the Lord's ser - vice bread and wine are of - fered,



praise him who called us out of sin and dark - ness in - to his  
 school for the faith - ful, ref - uge for the sin - ner, rest for the  
 day of cre - a - tion, day of re - sur - rec - tion, day of the  
 that Christ may take them, bless them, break, and give them to all his



own light, that he might a - noint us a roy - al priest - hood.  
 pil - grim, ha - ven for the wea - ry; all find a wel - come.  
 Spi - rit, sign of hea - ven's ban - quet, day for re - joic - ing.  
 peo - ple, his own life im - part - ing, food ev - er - last - ing.

**A Prayer for the Evening**

For the many gifts you have bestowed on us  
 Each day and night, each sea and land  
 Each weather fair, each calm, each wild  
 Thanks be to you, O God. **Amen.**

**The Reading** John 17:6-19 *Please sit.*

**Reader** A Reading from the Gospel according to John.

Jesus prayed for his disciples, "I have made your name known to those whom you gave me from the world. They were yours, and you gave them to me, and they have kept your word. Now they know that everything you have given me is from you; for the words that you gave to me I have given to them, and they have received them and know in truth that I came from you; and they have believed that you sent me. I am asking on their behalf; I am not asking on behalf of the world, but on behalf of those whom you gave me, because they are yours. All mine are yours, and yours are mine; and I have been glorified in them. And now I am no longer in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, protect them in your name that you have given me, so that they may be one, as we are one. While I was with them, I protected them in your name that you have given me. I guarded them, and not one of them was lost except the one destined to be lost, so that the scripture might be fulfilled. But now I am coming to you, and I speak these things in the world so that they may have my joy made complete in themselves. I have given them your word, and the world has hated them because they do not belong to the world, just as I do not belong to the world. I am not asking you to take them out of the world, but I ask you to protect them from the evil one. They do not belong to the world, just as I do not belong to the world. Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth. As you have sent me into the world, so I have sent them into the world. And for their sakes I sanctify myself, so that they also may be sanctified in truth."

*Silence is held for one minute of reflection.*

**Reflection** The Rev. John Jenkins

*Silence is held for two minutes of reflection.*

**Prayers for Ourselves and Others** *Please stand.*

Deacon Let us pray for ourselves and the world.

Leader Loving God, enliven the Church for its mission,

People **That we may be salt of the earth and light to the world.**

Leader Breathe fresh life into your people.

People **Give us power to reveal Christ in our daily lives.**

Leader Creator of all, lead us into your ways of justice and peace,

People **That we may respect one another in freedom and truth.**

Leader Awaken in us a sense of wonder for the earth and all that is in it.

People **Teach us to care creatively for this fragile world.**

Leader God of truth, inspire with your wisdom those whose decisions affect the lives of others.

People **That all may live with integrity and courage.**

Leader Give grace to all those whose lives are linked with ours.

People **May we serve Christ in one another, and love as Christ loves us.**

Leader Receive the gratitude of our hearts, [especially \_\_\_\_].

*The people may add their intercessions either silently or aloud.*

Leader Open our hearts with compassion to suffering throughout the world, for the earth's plants, animals and ecosystems, and for all who bear the wounds of human violence, indifference, abuse, conflict, and aggression.

*The people may add their intercessions either silently or aloud.*

Leader We pray for all who mourn and for those who have died, [especially \_\_\_\_].

*The people may add their intercessions either silently or aloud.*

Leader Lord, you have called us to serve you.

People **Grant that we may walk in your presence:  
your love in our hearts,  
your truth in our minds,  
your strength in our wills,  
until, at the end of our journey,  
we know the joy of our homecoming  
and the welcome of your embrace,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

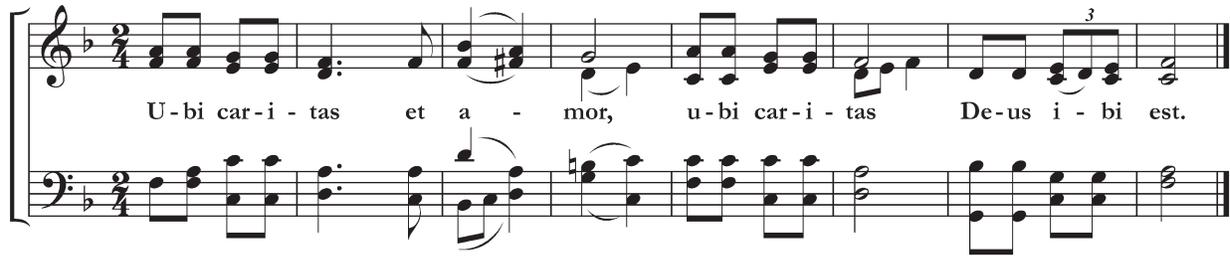
**Candle Lighting, Additional Prayers**

*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.*

**Hymn** *Ubi caritas*

Jacques Berthier

Sung by all, standing. The refrain will be sung by the cantor, then repeated by all as the cantor sings the verses.



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

**Blessing of Oil for Healing Ministries**

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

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

*Celebrant* He 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, the gift of your wholeness, and the mercy of Jesus' love. **Amen.**

**The Grace**

In Christ Jesus you are all children of God through faith. As many of you as were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. There is no longer Jew or Greek, there is no longer slave or free, there is no longer male and female; for all of you are one in Christ Jesus. **Amen.** *Galatians 3:26-28*

**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."*

**The Holy Communion**

**Welcome and Announcements**

*All comes from God, so from all God has given into our care, we offer gifts from our gratitude. Please place offerings (or scan QR) into the basket near the baptismal font or food pantry items into the baskets by the main entrance.*



Rolf Lovland

**At the Offertory** Nocturne

**The Great Thanksgiving**

*Please stand.*

*Enriching Our Worship, Eucharistic Prayer 2*

*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* We praise you and we bless you, holy and gracious God, source of life abundant. From before time you made ready the creation. Your Spirit moved over the deep and brought all things into being: sun, moon, and stars; earth, winds, and waters; and every living thing. You made us in your image, and taught us to walk in your ways. But we rebelled against you, and wandered far way; and yet, as a mother cares for her children, you would not forget us. Time and again you called us to live in the fullness of your love.

And so this day we join with Saints and Angels in the chorus of praise that rings through eternity, lifting our voices to magnify you as we sing:

**Sanctus**

*This refrain is repeated as the cantor sings the verses.*

Jacques Berthier



Translation: Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might.

**Celebrant** Glory and honor and praise to you, holy and living God. To deliver us from the power of sin and death and to reveal the riches of your grace, you looked with favor upon Mary, your willing servant, that she might conceive and bear a son, Jesus the holy child of God. Living among us, Jesus loved us. He broke bread with outcasts and sinners, healed the sick, and proclaimed good news to the poor. He yearned to draw all the world to himself yet we were heedless of his call to walk in love. Then, the time came for him to complete upon the cross the sacrifice of his life, and to be glorified by you.

On the night before he died for us, Jesus was at table with his friends. He took bread, gave thanks to you, broke it, and gave it to them, and said:

**All** **“Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you.  
Do this for the remembrance of me.”**

**Celebrant** As supper was ending, Jesus took the cup of wine. Again, he gave thanks to you, gave it to them, and said:

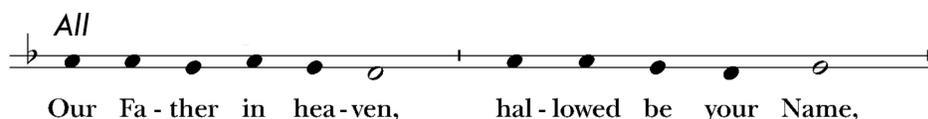
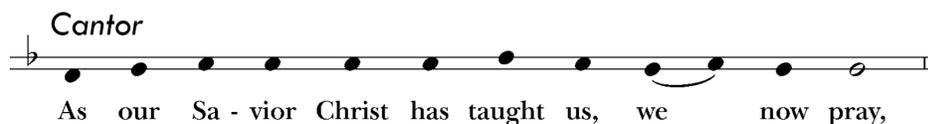
**All** **“Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is poured out for you and for all for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me.”**

**Celebrant** Now gathered at your table, O God of all creation, and remembering Christ, crucified and risen, who was and is and is to come, we offer to you our gifts of bread and wine, and ourselves, a living sacrifice. Pour out your Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Body and Blood of Christ. Breathe your Spirit over the whole earth and make us your new creation, the Body of Christ given for the world you have made.

In the fullness of time bring us with all your saints, from every tribe and language and people and nation, to feast at the banquet prepared from the foundation of the world.

Through Christ and with Christ and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, to you be honor, glory, and praise, for ever and ever. **AMEN.**

## The Lord's Prayer



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**

*Silence is held.*

*Blarney Pilgrim, arr. Larkin Bryant*

Lamb of God, you take a - way the  
 sins of the world: have mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the  
 sins of the world: have mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the  
 sins of the world: grant us peace. 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**      Christ, mighty Savior      arr. Anne Krentz Organ  
                                         Shenandoah      trad., arr. Daniel Burton  
                                         Still      Ola Gjeilo

**After Communion**      *Please stand.*

*Celebrant*      Let us pray.

*All*      **God of abundance,  
you have fed us with the bread of life and cup of salvation;  
you have united us with Christ and one another;  
and you have made us one with all your people  
in heaven and on earth.  
Now send us forth in the power of your Spirit,  
that we may proclaim your redeeming love to the world  
and continue for ever in the risen life of Christ our Savior. Amen.**

## The Blessing

*Celebrant*      Deep peace of the running waves to you.  
Deep peace of the flowing air to you.  
Deep peace of the shining stars to you.  
Deep peace of the quiet earth to you.  
Deep peace of the gentle night to you.  
Deep peace of the God of peace to you.  
And the blessing of God Almighty, Father, Son and Holy Spirit  
be among you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

**Hymn**      The duteous day now closeth      *Sung by all, standing.*      *O Welt, ich muss dich lassen*



1. The du-teous day now clos-eth, each flow'r and tree re-pos-eth, shade  
2. Now all the heav'n-ly splen-dor breaks forth in starlight ten-der from  
3. Though long our mor-tal blind-ness has missed God's lov-ing-kind-ness and



creeps o'er wild and wood: let us, as night is fall-ing, on  
my-riad worlds un-known; and we, this mar-vel see-ing, for-  
plunged us in-to strife; yet when life's day is o-ver, shall



God our Ma-ker call-ing, give thanks to him, the Giv-er good.  
get our sel-fish be-ing for joy of beau-ty not our own.  
death's fair night dis-cov-er the fields of ev-er-last-ing life.

## 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.**

**Music for Meditation** The Peaceful Wood

Hilton Rufty

**Postlude** How can I keep from singing

Robert Lowry, arr. Kathryn Cater

*Please feel free to depart during or after the Postlude, holding silence.*



## Memorials

The flowers are given to the glory of God and in memory of Eloise Donkle Wells Atkinson by her family, and Nancy Davis by Dave, Ellie, and Iffet Davis.

## Participants

**Celebrant and Reflector:** The Rev. John Jenkins; **Deacon:** The Rev. Cate Anthony; **Subdeacon:** Dave Davis; **Reader/Intercessor:** Gardner Campbell; **Chalice Bearers:** Sam Davis, Guy Frank, Chip Jamerson, Barbara Massey; **Musicians:** Kelsey Snyder, *cantor*; Treesa Gold, *violin*; Brent te Velde, *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 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

The parish prayer list is available in the narthex (the church vestibule) and at Information Central (the large table outside the parish office).

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: "From Out the Cave" by Joyce Sutphen, from *Straight Out of View*, Beacon Press, 1995. Reprinted with permission.

St. Stephen's Episcopal Church ☎ 6000 Grove Avenue Richmond, Virginia 23226 ☎ 804.288.2867 ☎ [ststephensRVA.org](http://ststephensRVA.org)