



CELTIC EVENSONG AND COMMUNION

at St. Stephen's Episcopal Church

The Fifth Sunday of Easter ☩ April 28, 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.

This weekend, we recognize the 50th anniversary of women in the priesthood in the Episcopal Church. In celebration of that anniversary, today's services feature a number of music selections composed by women or that highlight the role of women in the church. Notes with additional information about these pieces can be picked up at Information Central or found online at ststephensRVA.org/music-notes. Tonight's opening reading is from the Rev. Carter Heyward. In 1974, she was one of the "Philadelphia Eleven," a group of women whose ordinations eventually paved the way for the recognition of women as priests in the Episcopal Church in 1976.

Prelude Be still, my soul

arr. Sally DeFord

Please stand at the sound of the bell.

Opening

The Rev. Carter Heyward

Love is a choice—not simply, or necessarily, a rational choice, but rather a willingness to be present to others without pretense or guile. Love is a conversion to humanity—a willingness to participate with others in the healing of a broken world and broken lives. Love is the choice to experience life as a member of the human family, a partner in the dance of life, rather than as an alien in the world or as a deity above the world, aloof and apart from human flesh.

Silence is held after the reading.

Hymn

Come, my Way, my Truth, my Life

Sung by all, standing.

The Call



1 Come,	my	Way,	my	Truth,	my	Life:	such	a
2 Come,	my	Light,	my	Feast,	my	Strength:	such	a
3 Come,	my	Joy,	my	Love,	my	Heart:	such	a



way	as	gives	us	breath;	such	a	truth	as	ends	all
light	as	shows	a	feast;	such	a	feast	as	mends	in
joy	as	none	can	move;	such	a	love	as	none	can



strife;	such	a	life	as	kill	-	eth	death.
length;	such	a	strength	as	makes	_____	his	guest.
part;	such	a	heart	as	joys	_____	in	love.

A Prayer for the Evening

God be in my head, and in my understanding;
God be in my eyes, and in my looking;
God be in my mouth, and in my speaking;
God be in my heart, and in my thinking;
God be at my end, and at my departing. **Amen.**

The Reading John 15:1-8 *Please sit.*

Reader A Reading from the Gospel according to John.

Jesus said to his disciples, "I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinegrower. He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing. Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples."

Silence is held for one minute of reflection.

Reflection The Rev. Penny Nash

Silence is held for two minutes of reflection.

Music for Meditation Bendemeer's Stream

trad. Irish, arr. Sylvia Woods

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 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.

Music for Meditation

The Call

Ralph Vaughan Williams

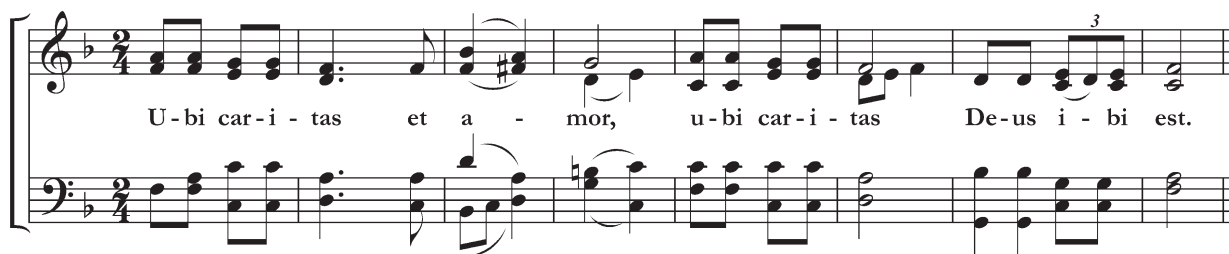
There is a spirit that delights to do no evil

Ned Rorem

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.



The Grace Love your enemies, and do good, expecting nothing in return. 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. **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."

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.



At the Offertory Air

Reynaldo Hahn

The Great Thanksgiving

Please stand.

Enriching Our Worship, Eucharistic Prayer 3

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.**

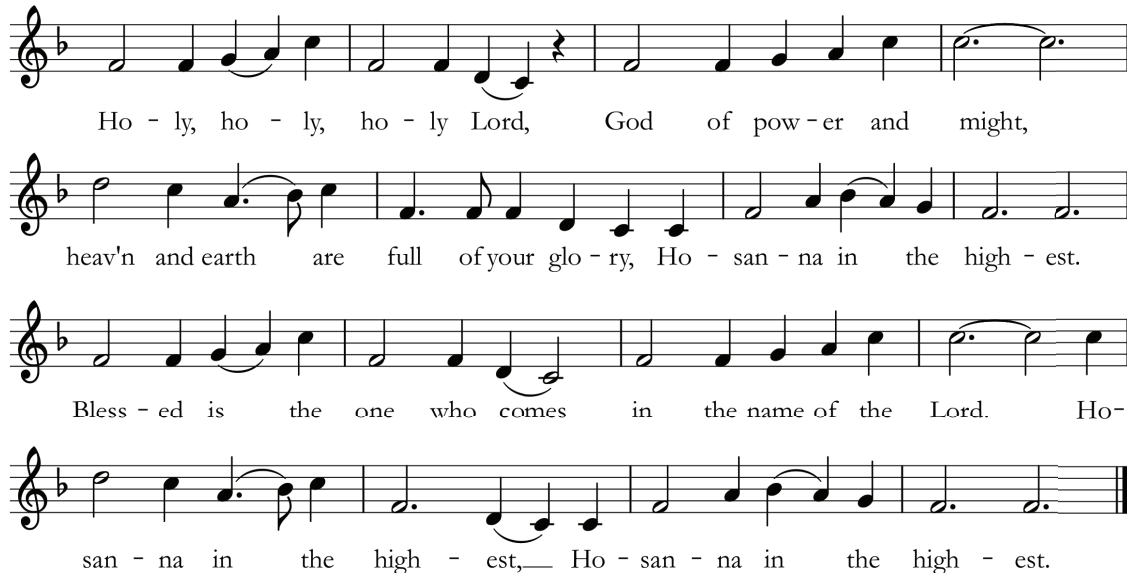
Celebrant We praise you and we bless you, holy and gracious God, source of life abundant. From before time you made ready the creation. Your Spirit moved over the deep and brought all things into being: sun, moon, and stars; earth, winds, and waters; and every living thing. You made us in your image, 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

Sung by all.

Land of Rest



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and might,
heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry, Ho - san - na in the high - est.
Bless - ed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -
san - na in the high - est, Ho - san - na in the high - est.

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.”**

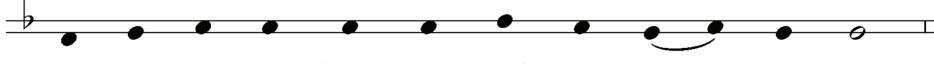
Celebrant Now gathered at your table, O God of all creation, and remembering Christ, crucified and risen, who was and is and is to come, we offer to you our gifts of bread and wine, and ourselves, a living sacrifice. Pour out your Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Body and Blood of Christ. 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.**

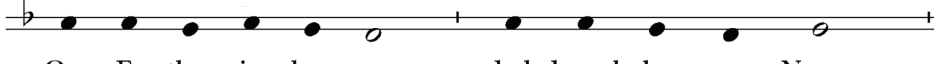
The Lord's Prayer

Cantor

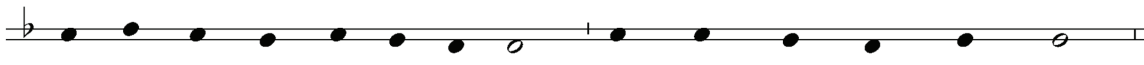


As our Sa - vior Christ has taught us, we now pray,

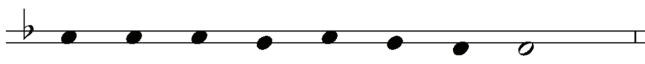
All



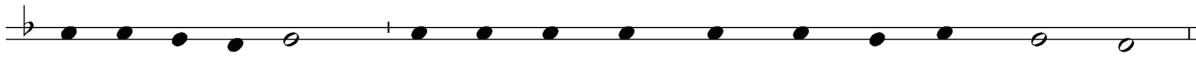
Our Fa - ther in hea - ven, hal - lowed be your Name,



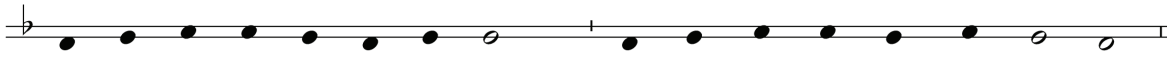
your king - dom come, your will be done, on earth as in hea - ven.



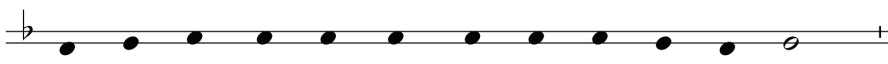
Give us to - day our dai - ly bread.



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,



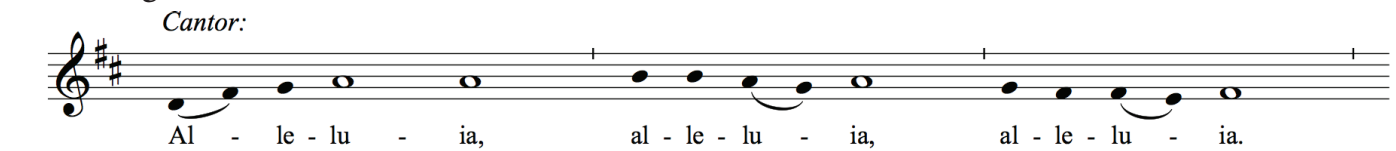
now and for ev - er. A - men.

The Breaking of the Bread

Silence is held.

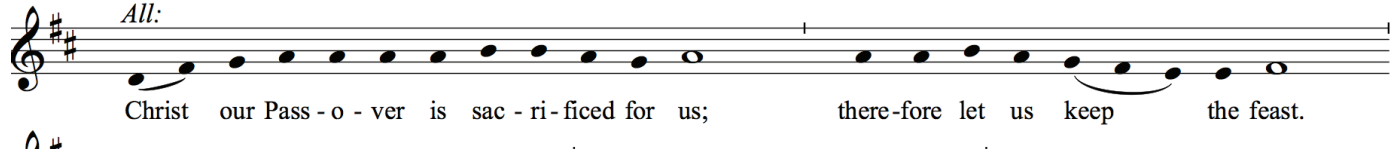
David Hurd

Cantor:

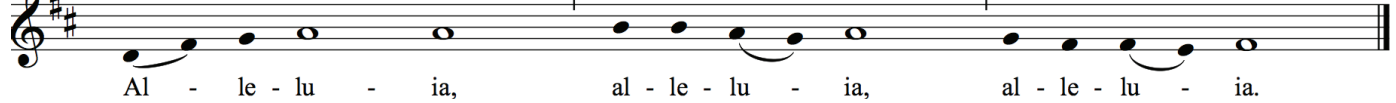


Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

All:



Christ our Pass - o - ver is sac - ri - ficed for us; there - fore let us keep the feast.



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

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

Abide with me
Lochaber No More
Aria

arr. Anne Krentz Organ
trad. Scottish, arr. Sunita Staneslow
J.S. Bach

After Communion

Please stand.

Celebrant Let us pray.
All **Lord Jesus Christ,**
you have put your life into our hands;
now we put our lives into yours.
Take us, renew us and remake us.
What we have been is past;
what we shall be, through you,
still awaits us.
Lead us on.
Take us with you. Amen.

The Blessing

St. Clare of Assisi

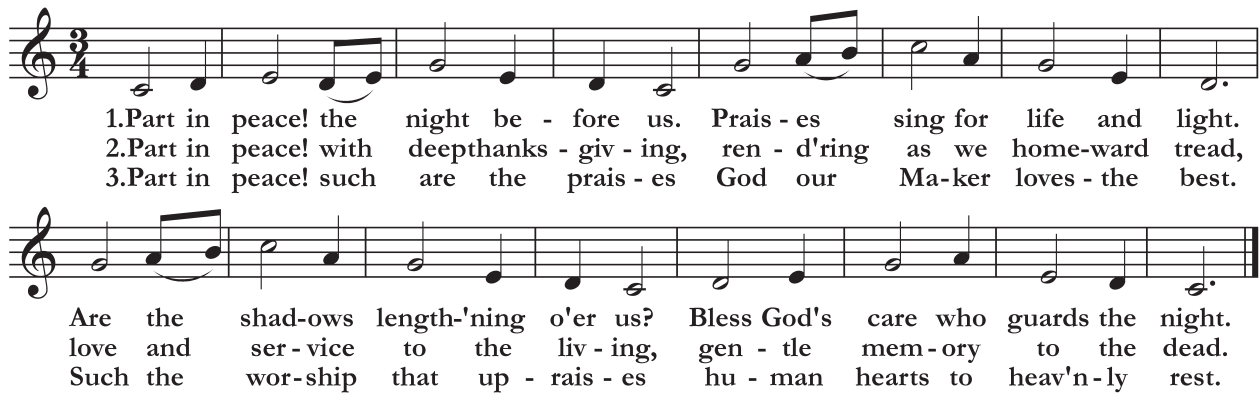
Celebrant Live without fear;
your creator has made you holy,
has always protected and sustained you,
and loves you as a mother.
Therefore, go in peace to follow the good road
and may God's blessing be with you always. **Amen.**

Hymn

Part in peace!

Sung by all, standing.

Charlestown



1. Part in peace! the night be - fore us. Prais - es sing for life and light.
2. Part in peace! with deep thanks - giv - ing, ren - d'ring as we home-ward tread,
3. Part in peace! such are the prais - es God our Ma - ker loves - the best.

Are the shad - ows length - 'ning o'er us? Bless God's care who guards the night.
love and ser - vice to the liv - ing, gen - tle mem - ory to the dead.
Such the wor - ship that up - rais - es hu - man hearts to heav'n - ly rest.

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 *Brother James' Air*

arr. Deborah Govenor

Postlude

How Beautiful upon the Mountains

John Carter

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



Participants

Celebrant: The Rev. John Jenkins; **Deacon:** The Rev. Will Stanley; **Reflector:** The Rev. Penny Nash;

Subdeacon: Pam Redd; **Reader/Intercessor:** Annette Sparks; **Chalice Bearers:** Al Albiston, Dave Davis,

Iffet Araniti-Davis, Mary Martin; **Musicians:** Lauren Clay, *cantor*; Vicky Hamrick, *oboe*; 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 your 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.

continued

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

*Charles Adams, Becky Anthony, Rubylane Armstrong, Robert Baker, Elizabeth Bannerman, Lash Barksdale, Sandra Barnthouse, Nancy Beale, Nancy Beeler, Kay Best, Christine Boeteger, Denise Bondy, Genie Borum, Julia Bouck, Viola Cleo Bradshaw, Liz Brengel, Elaine Brown, Pat Brown, Turner Bruneau, Sturges Bryan, Patti Bullen, Ann Campbell, Scott Carnohan, Percy Cochran, Stephanie Coleman, Susan Collier, Caswell Cooke, Mary Cooke, Prior Cooper, Michelle Crim, the Most Rev. Michael Curry, Steven Dalle Mura, Chris Davis, Nancy Davis, Ken Dibble, Mary Fish, Guy Frank, *Larry Fuccella*, Frank Ginty, Grace, Mary Hancock, Rodger Hardy, Marion Hargrove, Marianne Harmuth, Reese Harrington, Katie Hellebush, Bob Hines, King Charles III, Tom Hodges, Anna Hurdle, Esther Hutchison, Julie and Tom Imeson, the Rt. Rev. Shannon Johnston, Gouthum Karadi, the Katz family, *Mary Jane Kelley*, Jane Kelly, Donna Kessler, Dana King, Stoney Koschak, Margee Krebs, Hanns Kuttner, Caleb Lambert, *Jodie Lockhart*, Brenda Lorenz, Genie Lucyk, Joy Luke, Margaret Lyle, Ross Mackenzie, Peggy Maguire, Nick Martina, Karen and Steve Matteo, Barbara Mathison, Michael McCabe, Stratton and Robin McCrady, Jenks McCory, Melissa, Jack Miller, Mary Miller, Hoyt Minyard, Susan Minyard, Caroline Hughes Neal, Tolar Nolley, Anne P., Tricia Payne, Jim and Sarah Cooke Picton, Wilde Poole and family, Bob Pope, Bryson Raquet, Wick Raquet, Richard Rennolds, Linda Robinson, Paul Roper, Brenda Quinn, James Saunders and Harriet Covey, Frances Scales, T. Logan Scott, Charlie Seilheimer, *Will Selden*, Margie Sesler, Jane Settle, Aiden Thomas Smith, Josh Spain, Reilly Starr, Joy Stevenson, Hew Stith, Regena Stith, Dorothy Suskind, Ron Swain, Jim Teachey, Will Thompson, Tim, Nelson Toebe, Langdon Tollett, Kenneth Valke, Crystal Vines, Cordelia Vogel, Timothy W., Ozzie Wade, Suzanne Wallace, Baird Weisleder, Tom White, Betty Williams, Nelson Williams, Mary Wiltshire, Trevor Wingate, Karen Young, Margaret P. Young. **For those who have died, especially *Nancy Bruni, Teon Harvey, and Thomas Walker*. For those expecting a child, especially Emily and Andrew Morris. For the blessings of this life, including the birth of *Elizabeth Raye Einhaus*, and the baptisms of *Annabel Hart Corey, Henry Boushall Holzbach, Grace Covington Irby, Henry James Irby, Lauren Grace Maynard Irby, Basil Quinerly Jones, William Felix Mullery, Sawyer Everett Sheehan, Jane Branch Stephenson, James Chapman Thacker, and Briggs Boushall Valentine*. 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 Church of Bangladesh*. For the women, men, and staff of the City Jail. For racial reconciliation and healing. For ReWork Richmond. For an end to gun violence. For peace and reconciliation in Haiti, Iraq, Israel/Palestine, North Korea, South Sudan, Syria, and Ukraine, and at our borders. For those serving overseas in the military or diplomatic service: Senior Airman Cooper Murphy, US Army Special Forces. Names in italics have been added to the prayer list this week. n 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 Mary Feldman at mfeldman@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 quotation by the Rev. Carter Heyward.