



CELTIC EVENSONG AND COMMUNION

at St. Stephen's Episcopal Church

Palm Sunday

April 14, 2019, 5:30 p.m.

Welcome. In order to prepare for worship and allow for private prayer, we ask that silence be observed upon entering and that you turn off cell phones. We are aware that many people who attend this service come from other churches and faith traditions, and we are delighted to have many who consider St. Stephen's to be their second church home. The typical mixture of faith traditions represented at this service makes up a community we especially cherish. We are glad you are here.

Prelude *Ah, Holy Jesus*

Johann Crüger, arr. Dale Wood

Please stand at the sound of the bell.

Opening "The Poet Thinks about the Donkey"

Mary Oliver

On the outskirts of Jerusalem
the donkey waited.
Not especially brave, or filled with understanding,
he stood and waited.

*How horses, turned out into the meadow,
leap with delight!*

*How doves, released from their cages,
clatter away, splashed with sunlight!*

But the donkey, tied to a tree as usual, waited.
Then he let himself be led away.

Then he let the stranger mount.

Never had he seen such crowds!

And I wonder if he at all imagined what was to happen.

Still, he was what he had always been: small, dark,
obedient.

I hope, finally, he felt brave.

I hope, finally, he loved the man who rode so lightly
upon him,

as he lifted one dusty hoof and stepped, as he had to,
forward.

Kyrie eleison

Mass for St. Bartholomew's, William Traftka

All: Ky-ri-e e-lei-son, Ky-ri-e e-lei-son, Ky-ri-e e-

lei-son. Cantor sings "Christe eleison." All: Ky-ri-e e-

lei-son, Ky-ri-e e-lei-son, Ky-ri-e, Ky-ri-e e-lei-son.

A Prayer for the Evening

Teach us, Loving God, not to hold on to life too tightly. Teach us to hold it lightly, not carelessly, but lightly, easily. Teach us to take it as a gift, to enjoy and cherish while we have it, and to let it go gracefully and thankfully when the time comes. The gift is great, but the Giver is greater still. You, O God, are the Giver, and in You is the life that never dies. **Amen.**

The Reading Luke 19:28-40

Please sit.

Reader A reading from the Gospel according to Luke.

After telling a parable to the crowd at Jericho, Jesus went on ahead, going up to Jerusalem. When he had come near Bethphage and Bethany, at the place called the Mount of Olives, he sent two of the disciples, saying, "Go into the village ahead of you, and as you enter it you will find tied there a colt that has never been ridden. Untie it and bring it here. If anyone asks you, 'Why are you untying it?' just say this, 'The Lord needs it.'" So those who were sent departed and found it as he had told them. As they were untying the colt,

its owners asked them, "Why are you untying the colt?" They said, "The Lord needs it." Then they brought it to Jesus; and after throwing their cloaks on the colt, they set Jesus on it. As he rode along, people kept spreading their cloaks on the road. As he was now approaching the path down from the Mount of Olives, the whole multitude of the disciples began to praise God joyfully with a loud voice for all the deeds of power that they had seen, saying,

"Blessed is the king
who comes in the name of the Lord!
Peace in heaven,
and glory in the highest heaven!"

Some of the Pharisees in the crowd said to him, "Teacher, order your disciples to stop." He answered, "I tell you, if these were silent, the stones would shout out."

Silence is observed after the reading.

Reflection Allison Seay

Two minutes of silence follow.

Music for Meditation *The Gentle Maiden*

Irish melody

Prayers for Ourselves and Others *Please stand.*

Celebrant Let us pray for the church and the world.

Leader We bring to God someone whom we have met or remembered today and for whom we want to pray.

Silence

Celebrant Lord in your mercy.

All **Hear our prayer.**

Leader We bring to God someone who is hurting tonight and needs our prayer.

Silence

Celebrant Lord in your mercy.

All **Hear our prayer.**

Leader We bring to God a troubled situation in our world tonight.

Silence

Celebrant Lord in your mercy.

All **Hear our prayer.**

Leader We bring to God someone whom we find hard to forgive or trust.

Silence

Celebrant Lord in your mercy.

All **Hear our prayer.**

Leader We bring ourselves to God.

All **that we might be healed
and drawn to love each other
as God loves us.**

Additional Prayers of Intercession and Thanksgiving *Please sit.*

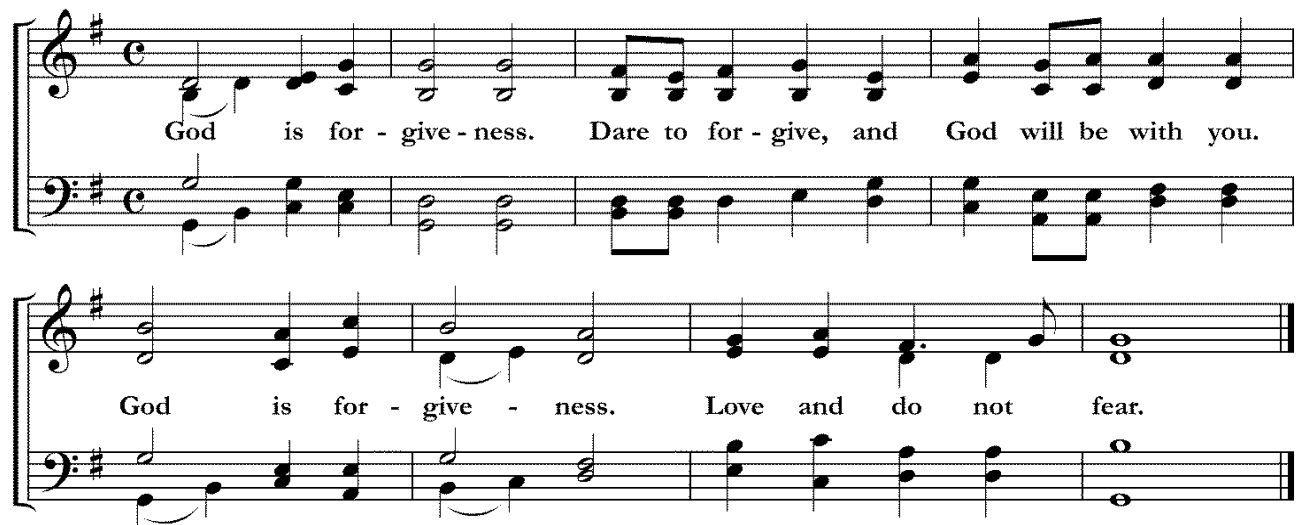
During the instrumental music and hymn, and at any time thereafter, you are welcome to proceed to any of the stations of votive candles to light a candle as a symbol of your prayer.

Music for Meditation

*David of the White Rock
Watermark*

Welsh melody, arr. Skaila Kanga
Enya

This refrain will be repeated several times.



The Grace Now my friends, all that is true, all that is noble, all that is just and pure, all that is lovable and gracious, whatever is excellent and admirable; with these let us fill our hearts, and the God of heaven will be with us. **Amen.**

The Peace Christ, the Good Shepherd, bind us with a bond of love that cannot be broken. My sisters and brothers, the peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you. **And also with you.**

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

After exchanging the Peace, please be seated.

Welcome and Announcements

The Holy Communion

Offering plates are not passed through the congregation at this service.

For your offerings, baskets are located at each entrance to the church.

At the Offertory *Pueri Hebraeorum*

plainsong

Translation: The children of the Hebrews, carrying olive branches, went forth to meet the Lord, crying out and saying: Hosanna in the highest. The children of the Hebrews threw their garments in the road and cried out, saying: Hosanna to the Son of David. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Eucharistic Prayer *Please stand.*

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 It is right to thank you and praise you giver of life, beloved of the poor and forgotten. We praise you for the prophets who in spite of persecution spoke your challenging word. We praise you that in Jesus you chose to be born in a stable and revealed to poor shepherds. We praise you for his mother, Mary, your willing servant, and for Mary Magdalene, first witness of the resurrection; and for all the women and men who have been trusted and empowered by you. With all the unremembered, outcast, with the poor and needy, with the trusting and hopeful in all the ages we praise you singing:

Ho-ly, ho-ly, ho-ly Lord, God of pow-er and
 might, hea-ven and earth are full of your glo-ry. Ho - san - na, ho - san - na, ho -
 san-na in the high - est. Bless-ed is he who comes in the name of the
 Lord. Ho - san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san-na in the high - est!

Celebrant We praise you for Jesus Christ, born of peasant parents, friend of lepers and tax collectors, who chose a life given up for others. On the night before he died he shared a meal with his friends. He took bread, gave thanks and broke it and gave it to them saying:

All **"This is my own body given for you. Do this to remember me."**

Celebrant After supper he took a cup of wine, blessed it and gave it to them saying:

All **"This is my life-blood poured out for you. Do this to remember me."**

Celebrant Therefore according to his command, O Father,

All We remember his death,
 We proclaim his resurrection,
 We await his coming in glory;

Celebrant Come now Holy Spirit of God. Come upon us and upon these gifts of bread and wine, that in sharing this feast we may become the body of Christ. Break down walls of selfishness and fear and bring us all to the new age in which none go hungry and all are fed. Through Christ, with Christ and in Christ, in the unity of the holy Spirit, be all honour and glory now and forever. **AMEN.**

The Lord's Prayer

Celebrant 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

A period of silence is kept.

Lamb of God

Mass for St. Bartholomew's, William Trafka

Cantor: Je - sus, Lamb of God, have mer - cy on us.

Je - sus, bear - er of our sins, have mer - cy on us.

Je - sus, Re - deem - er, re - deem - er of the world, **All:** do - na no - bis

pa - cem, do - na no - bis pa - cem, do - na no - bis pa - cem.

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 are welcome to receive Communion. You may be seated until you come forward to receive. When you receive the consecrated bread, you consume it and then move to one of the cups of consecrated wine. The first cup you come to is for drinking, and the second, and smaller cup next to it is only for those who choose to "intinct" or touch the tip of their bread to the wine. You may also choose to receive Communion in only one kind. Either the bread or the wine alone is a full Communion. If you would like a gluten-free wafer, please tell the minister.

Music during Communion

Care selve
Blessed Jesus
Wondrous Love

G.F. Handel
Bob Chilcott
American melody, arr. Michael Larkin

After Communion

Please stand.

Celebrant

Let us pray.

All

**God of compassion,
in this eucharist we know again your forgiveness
and the healing power of your love.
Grant that we who are made whole in Christ
may bring that forgiveness and healing to this broken world,
in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Closing Prayer

Saint Francis de Sales (1567-1622)

Celebrant Do not look forward in fear
to the changes in life;
rather look to them with full hope,
that as they arise, God,
whose very own you are,
will lead you safely through all things;
and when you cannot stand it,
God will carry you in His arms.

Do not fear what may happen tomorrow;
the same everlasting Father
who cared for you today
will take care of you then and every day.

God will either shield you from suffering,
or will give you unfailing strength to bear it.

Be at peace and put aside
all anxious thoughts and imaginations.

Hymn What wondrous love is this

Wondrous Love

1. What won-drous love is this, O my soul, O my soul? What
2. To God and to the Lamb I will sing, I will sing. To
3. And when from death I'm free, I'll sing on, I'll sing on. And

won-drous love is this, O my soul? What won-drous love is this that
God and to the Lamb I will sing. To God and to the Lamb who
when from death I'm free, I'll sing on. And when from death I'm free, I'll

caused the Lord of bliss to lay a-side his crown for my
is the great "I Am," while mil-lions join the theme, I will
sing and joy-ful be, and through e-ter-ni-ty I'll sing

soul, for my soul, to lay a-side his crown for my soul.
sing, I will sing. While mil-lions join the theme, I will sing.
on, I'll sing on. And through e-ter-ni-ty I'll sing on.

The 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.

All Thanks be to God.

Please sit for the Music for Meditation.

Music for Meditation *When Jesus Wept*

William Billings, arr. Charles Calahan

Postlude *Largo*

Jean-Marie Leclair

Please feel free to depart in silence during the Postlude, as you wish. Please come back often.

Following the Service

Please join us for our Sunday Community Supper following this service. Contribute as you are able, but don't worry if you do not have any money. Your presence is the most important thing. If you would like to know more about this church and how you might plug in, we would love to tell you. We're glad you're here.

Participants

Celebrant: Gary Jones; **Deacon and Reflector:** Allison Seay; **Subdeacon:** Lee Williams; **Lay Reader:** John Purcell; **Intercessor:** Sal Anselmo; **Chalice Bearers:** Al Albiston, Millie Cain, Alice Meadows, Mary Ashburn Pearson, Josie Schmidt, Susan Wilkes; **Musicians:** Stephanie Hill Blackwood, *cantor*; Naima Burrs, *violin*; Michael Simpson, *piano*; **Setup/Greeter Team:** Lisa Blouch, Lori Gettler, JoAnn Pulliam, Laura Watkins; **Healing Prayer Ministers:** Jonathan Mosher, Kerry Byrne, Nancy Hein, Sara Mackey; **Anointers:** Sam Davis, Synthia Waymack.

The Parish Prayer List

Burns Ackerly, Jennifer Andrews and family, Walker Angus, Robert Baker, Lash Barksdale, Michelle Barté, Lib Bartenstein; Lisa, Joel, Zachary and Hannah Bevis; Doug Blue, Susan L. Booker, Liz Brengel, Rogers Brewbaker, Pat Brown, Rod Brown, Turner Bruneau, Charles Bryan, Judy Buchanan, Kenny Burton, Grace Coleman, Rick Crim, Gordon Davis, Alex Del Bueno, Ernest Dempsey, Nicole Duran, Charlotte Elliot, Carter Filer, Hughes Fleming, Peter Florin, Guy Frank, Jim Frye, Rodger Hardy, Roy Heifner, Margaret Henderson, Lolly Hetherington, Claudia Hicks, Isabelle Hulsey, Jennifer Hulsey, Larry Jones, Judy Knauf, Bryan Kessler, Donna Kessler, Lynn and Dan Kraftson, Caleb Lambert, Erin LaSyone, Michael Link, Eleanor Lynch, Richard Majer, L. Newby Mauck, Nancy McCabe, Bette McElman, Rodney Melton, Susan Minyard, Jon Moss, Ray Moss, Bridgett O'Grady, Sean O'Grady, Anne Owens, Amy Perdue, Jim and Sarah Cooke Picton, Wilde Poole and family, Suzanne Ratchford, Pamela Reid, Elsie Richards, Janet Ritchie, Paul Roper, Kaley Rosenthal, *Josie Schmidt*, Ashley Scott, T. Logan Scott, Jane Settle, Jody Sherman, Mary Frances Siersema, Jonathan Smith, Tom Smith, Bill Smithdeal, *Jonathan Spurling*, Graden Stewart, LaSheka Thomas, Phyllis Thompson, Alden Thornton, Evelyn Tinsman, Chip Tompkins, Ginger Townsend, Anne Turnbull, Peter Von Szilassy, Bebe West, Jim White, Donny White, Rob Whittet, William Wilson, Jan Woodard, Mary Kathryn Woodward, Peggy Wright, Woo Sub Yun, Alex, Taylor, Tonya. **For those expecting a child**, especially Marshall and Lindsey Bigelow, Anna Patricia Diaz and Raphael Salvatore Burgess, *Jeff and Sara Dubois*, Billy and Aubrey Moore, Lowndes and Katie Peple, Andrew and Whitney Robertson, Matthew and Anne Sims Thompson. **For all the blessings of this life**, especially the birth of *Elizabeth Alden Armfield to Sarah and Billy Armfield*, the birth of *Archer Smith Burke to Kristen and Smith Burke*, the birth of *Hunter Cook Lester to Nancy and Lee Lester*. **For those who have died. For our mission partners** in Azua, Padre Manuel Estevez and the congregations of Reconciliación and San Jorge. **For our missionaries**, Heidi Schmidt and Monica Vega, serving in Argentina. **In the Anglican Cycle of Prayer**, we pray for the *Episcopal Church in Jerusalem & the Middle East*. **For the women, men, and staff of the City Jail. For racial reconciliation and healing. For the RE:work RICHMOND project. For peace and reconciliation** in Iraq, Israel/Palestine, North Korea, South Sudan, Syria, and Ukraine, and at our borders. **For those serving overseas in the military or diplomatic service:** SrA John W. S. Davis III, SgM Charles M. Gill, Spc Talbott Holloway, Sgt Henry M. Matthews III, Ens Connor Partlow, Cpt Russell Timmons. *Names in italics were added to the prayer list this week.*

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, 1991; Wild Goose Worship Group, *A Wee Worship Book*, Glasgow: Wild Goose, 1999. *The Rite Stuff*, ©1998, by Church Publishing Incorporated, all rights reserved, used by permission. All copyrighted music by permission, under OneLicense #A710911. Opening: "The Poet Thinks about the Donkey" from *Thirst*, by Mary Oliver, Beacon Press, 2006. Used with permission.

The Ministry of Healing Prayer at St. Stephen's

Jesus was known for many things in the first century. He was considered a social prophet and a rabbi. He was known as a teacher of wisdom and the leader of a new movement. And he was known far and wide as a healer. As one New Testament scholar has pointed out, "More healing stories are told about Jesus than about any other figure in the Jewish tradition" (Borg, *The Heart of Christianity*). Jesus also sent his disciples out to heal others, and he promised that they would do greater things than he had done. The ministries of healing prayer and anointing have been part of the Christian experience from the very beginning.

As a part of our Sunday evening service, we offer the ministries of healing prayer or anointing in the side chapels, during the administration of Communion. After you have received Communion, we invite you to approach either a healing prayer minister or an anointer, if you wish. If you would like to rest for a moment in silent prayer with a minister who will lay hands on your shoulders, we invite you to approach one of the vested healing prayer ministers who will be standing next to a chair at the head of either side chapel. Alternatively, you may choose to present yourself for a briefer anointing offered by a vested anointer who will be standing at the outside wall of each chapel.

If you wish to sit for a moment with a healing prayer minister, it is often helpful if you tell the person your name and the concern for which you are asking prayer. The healing prayer minister will lay hands on you and join with you in silently opening ourselves to God and offering our prayer concern to the healing One who is with us always. This is not a ministry of magical incantations. Instead, it is simply about fellow pilgrims opening ourselves more completely to the healing love of God. Much as a group of friends once brought a paralytic to Jesus so that Jesus might heal him, so we sometimes benefit from the loving care of others who bring us more fully into the presence of God.

If you would like to receive anointing with healing oil, simply approach the anointer with open hands. In keeping with ancient tradition, he or she will anoint your forehead and hands, as an act of healing and consecrating your life anew to God. This sacramental act is briefer than the time of healing prayer, but there are over 400 instances of such anointing with fragrant oil in the Bible. When we present ourselves in this way, we are joining in a longstanding, sacred act of union with the Divine.

Healing prayer and anointing will continue after the service ends, so we welcome any who wish to remain in prayer to do so. When you leave, therefore, we invite you to leave silently, in order to maintain an atmosphere that is conducive to prayer. Whether or not you choose to present yourself for healing prayer or anointing on any given night, you can contribute to the climate of healing by offering your personal prayers. Pray for yourself, of course, and please pray that all who worship here may know the healing love of God in their lives.