

# CELTIC EVENSONG AND COMMUNION

at St. Stephen's Episcopal Church

Trinity Sunday ☩ May 30, 2021, 5:30 p.m.



*Welcome. To prepare for worship and allow for private prayer, please observe silence upon entering and exiting. We know that many who attend this service come from other faith traditions, or none at all; it is our honor to welcome you. This is a community we cherish and we are very glad you are here.*

**Prelude**     *The Swan*

Camille Saint-Saëns

*Please stand at the sound of the bell.*

**Opening**     *Canticle of the Similes*

Annie Lighthart

The kingdom of heaven is within you like a ship  
in a bottle, like a chick in an egg, like the oak  
in the acorn or the heart within your heart,  
like the scene in a book that is a scene in a book  
the author writes as you read it, both of you rapt,  
both suddenly aware of love running through  
like the ocean in the bottle, like the sleeping current  
in the acorn and eggshell, like the heart with-  
in your heart that is the sunny child of that realm,  
the one who unlatches the door and stands  
looking out, the one who hums a little-known  
barely-heard hymn that nonetheless rains down  
like a great storm, that gentles like a hand.

*Silence is kept.*

**Hymn**     All praise to thee, O God, this night

*Tallis' Canon*



1. All praise to thee, O God, this night, for all the bless-ings of the light. Keep  
2. Praise God, from whom all bless-ings flow; praise him, all crea-tures here be - low; praise



me, O keep me, King of kings, be - neath thine own al - might - y wings.  
him a - bove, ye heav'n - ly host; praise Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost.

## A Prayer for the Evening

Lord, amid the noise and stress of daily life, help us to preserve a silence within.

In moments of crisis may we turn to you, the center of our being, to find you awaiting us.

Bless us with the vision of your changelessness and grant us peace. **Amen.**

**The Reading**     **John 3:1-17**     *Please sit.*

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

There was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. He came to Jesus by night and said to him, "Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God; for no one can do these signs that you do apart from the presence of God." Jesus answered him, "Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above." Nicodemus said to him, "How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother's womb and be born?"

Jesus answered, "Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. Do not be astonished that I said to you, 'You must be born from above.' The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit." Nicodemus said to him, "How can these things be?" Jesus answered him, "Are you a teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things?"

"Very truly, I tell you, we speak of what we know and testify to what we have seen; yet you do not receive our testimony. If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things? No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

"For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life. Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him."

*Silence is observed after the reading.*

**Reflection** Allison Seay

*Two minutes of silence follow.*

**Music for Meditation** *Tryggare kan ingen vara*

arr. Anne Krentz Organ

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

**Celebrant** God has promised to hear the prayers of those who ask in faith; therefore, let us pray for the Church and the world.

*In the silence following each petition the people may add their prayers either silently or aloud.*

**Leader** Lord of your people: strengthen and renew your Church in all the world, and build us up in faith and love.

**Leader** Lord of creation: look with favor on the world you have made, and guide the nations in the ways of justice and of peace.

**Leader** Lord of relationships: comfort and sustain the communities in which we live and work; help us to love our neighbors as ourselves; enable us to serve our families and friends, and to love one another as you love us.

**Leader** Lord of all healing: relieve and protect those who are suffering; be with those who have special concerns, and deliver all who know danger, violence, or suffering.

**Leader** Lord of peace: in your hands are the living and the dead. We pray for all who have died, [especially \_\_\_\_] and we acknowledge those who sacrificed their lives in heroic service for this nation, recalling their gifts of strength and courage.

**Celebrant** Lord of eternity: bind us together by your Holy Spirit in communion with your saints, that we may entrust ourselves, and one another, and our whole life to you. **Amen.**

**Additional Prayers of Intercession and Thanksgiving** *Please sit.*

*During the music that follows, and any time thereafter, you may proceed to any station of votives and light a candle as a symbol of your prayers.*

**Music for Meditation** *The town I loved so well*  
*Shenandoah*

arr. Phil Coulter  
arr. David Downes and Mairead Nesbitt



1. Lord of all hope - ful - ness, Lord of all joy, whose trust ev - er  
 2. Lord of all ea - ger - ness, Lord of all faith, whose strong hands were  
 3. Lord of all kind - li - ness, Lord of all grace, your - hands swift to  
 4. Lord of all gen - tle - ness, Lord of all calm, whose voice is con -



child - like no cares could des - troy, be there at our wak - ing, and  
 skilled at the plane and the lathe, be there at our la - bors, and  
 wel - come, your arms to em - brace, be there at our hom - ing, and  
 tent - ment, whose pres - ence is balm, be there at our sleep - ing, and



give us, we pray, your bliss in our hearts, Lord, at the break of the day.  
 give us, we pray, your strength in our hearts, Lord, at the noon of the day.  
 give us, we pray, your love in our hearts, Lord, at the eve of the day.  
 give us, we pray, your peace in our hearts, Lord, at the end of the day.

**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.*

**Welcome and Announcements** *Please be seated.*

## The Holy Communion

*For your offerings, alms basins are located at the entrance to the church and at each exit.*

**At the Offertory** *The Gift of Love*

Hal Hopson

### 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 Christ you chose to be born in a stable and revealed to poor shepherds. We praise you for Mary, 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:

Sanctus

Sung by all.

William Trafka

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 honor and glory now and forever. AMEN.

The Lord's Prayer

*Celebrant*  
 As our Sa - vior Christ has taught us, we now pray,  
*Celebrant and People*  
 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**

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.

**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 are welcome to receive Communion at the chancel steps When given the consecrated bread, please return to your seat before removing your mask to consume it. If you prefer a gluten-free wafer, please tell the minister.*

**Music for Communion**

- Slane*
- Servant Song*
- Ar hyd y nos*
- Be thou my vision*

- arr. Anne Krentz Organ
- arr. Mario Pearson
- arr. Mark Albrecht
- arr. Larry Shackley

**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

**Celebrant** May the Peace of God go with you,  
                  wherever God may send you.  
May the Love of Christ guide you  
                  through the wilderness and protect you through the storm.  
May the joy of the Holy Spirit keep you  
                  alert to mystery and wonder.  
And when you come to God's household,  
                  may the door be open wide for you to enter into your joy.  
And the blessing of God Almighty, Father, Son and Holy Spirit  
                  be among you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

## Hymn

Day is done

*Ar hyd y nos*

1. Day is done, but love un-fail-ing dwells ev-er here;  
2. Dusk de-scends, but light un-end-ing shines through our night;  
3. Eyes will close, but you un-sleep-ing watch by our side;  
shad-ows fall, but hope, pre-vail-ing, calms ev-'ry fear.  
you are with us, ev-er lend-ing new strength to sight:  
at all times, in love's safe-keep-ing still we a-bide.  
God, our Ma-ker, none for-sak-ing, take our hearts, of  
one in love, your truth con-fess-ing, one in hope of  
God of love, all e-vil quell-ing, sick-ness heal-ing,  
Love's own mak-ing, watch our sleep-ing, guard our wak-ing, be al-ways near.  
hea-ven's bless-ing, may we see, in love's pos-sess-ing, love's end-less light!  
fear dis-pel-ling, stay with us, our hearts in-dwell-ing, this e-ven-tide.

## 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**      *Song of the Wood*

Jared Denhard

**Postlude**      *Mélodie*

Marc-Antoine Charpentier

*Please feel free to depart in silence during the Postlude, as you wish.*



## Receiving Communion

While some of our safety protocols are being relaxed as public health metrics improve, we continue to wear masks, and we continue to administer Holy Communion in one kind, the bread. When you come forward to receive, please keep your mask on and wait to consume the bread once you have returned to your seat in the pew.

## Participants

**Celebrant:** John Jenkins

**Deacon and Reflector:** Allison Seay

**Lay Reader and Intercessor:** Jennifer Matthews

**Musicians:** Stephanie Hill, *cantor*; Jacqueline Spears, *cello*; Greg Vick, *piano*

**Greeters:** Beth Crews, Kristen Estes

**Ushers:** Patty Atkins-Smith, Guy Frank, Earl Roney

**Setup Team:** Marty McIntosh, Darla Perry, Joan Putney

## The Parish Prayer List

Chris Abbot, Burns Ackerly, William Angus, Sr., Lucja Aniol, Anne Arrington, Beth Avery, Robert Baker, Jennifer Ryan Ball, Lash Barksdale, Sandra Barnthouse, Mary Holly Bigelow, Randy Berrios, Lewis Best, Ellen Blackburn, Liz Brengel, Turner Bruneau, Charles Bryan, Andrew Bryant, Nancy Burns, Bill Bynum, Percy Cochran, Stephanie and Ron Coleman and family, William V. Collins, Caswell Cooke, Mary Cooke, Nancy Davis, Virginia Davis, Hoyt Ellis, Silas Generelly, George Ginn, Judy Halsey, Rodger Hardy, Pat and Reno Harp, Emily Hart, Pat Hartsock, Lolly Hetherington, Bob Hines, Tom Hodges, Carol Cooke Holland, Virginia Hopper, Mary Hunter and Chuck Townsend, Ann O. Jones, Donna Kessler, Gail Kirby, Marilyn Kirkpatrick, Judy Knauf, Ashleigh Kohlitz, Caleb Lambert, Ashley McFadden, Susan Minyard, Anne Natoli, Caroline Hughes Neal, Lea O'Sullivan, Anne Owens, Gail Mayo Paredes, Kenneth Parsons, Chrissie Payne, Brooke Pettitt, Jim and Sarah Cooke Picton, Wilde Poole and family, Ray Robertson, Linda Robinson, Earl Roney, *Paul Roper, Caroline Rose*, Rosalia Ross, Gordon Schmidt, Josie Schmidt, Jane Settle, T. Logan Scott, Mary Frances Siersema, Josh Spain, Reilly Starr, Graden Stewart, William Stewart, Lucy Stockdell, Arnold Strulson, Mary Taylor Walsh and Samuel Taylor Sosnowski, LaSheka Thomas, Carol Todd, Mark Trawizki, Durwood Usry, Peter Von Szilassy, *Ozzie Wade*, Donny White, Calvin Winn, Gene Wrenne, Peggy Wright, Karen Young, Alex, Anthony and family, Christen, Colin and Allison, Dan, John, Martin, Paul, Taylor, Tonya. **For those expecting a child**, especially Tylar and Adam Hoying, Paul Willson and Maggie Hunter, Jeff and Kate Willson Donowitz, Allison Seay and Joshua Epley, Jenny and Lee Speight, Daniel and Jessica Mullery, and Brent and Jenny te Velde. **For all the blessings of this life**, including the marriage of *Kathryn Clinard and Bradley Whitwell*. **For those who have died**. **For our missionaries**, Heidi Schmidt and Monica Vega, serving in Argentina. **In the Anglican Cycle of Prayer**, we pray for *the Anglican Church of Melanasia*. **For the women, men, and staff of the City Jail**. **For racial reconciliation and healing**. **For RE:work RICHMOND**. **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:** Captain David G. Shuford, Jr., USMC, and MASN Ian M. Witschey.

*Names in italics were added to the prayer list this week.*

*In 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 the Rev. Cate Anthony at [canthony@ststephensRVA.org](mailto:canthony@ststephensRVA.org).*

# Announcements

## Summer schedule begins today

The traditional summer worship schedule for St. Stephen's Church begins today, with services at 8 a.m., 10 a.m., and 5:30 p.m. Both the 10 a.m. and 5:30 p.m. services are livestreamed and are available on-demand.

In July, two popular offerings will return: the Sunday Community Supper right after the Celtic service, and sung Compline at 8 p.m.! The outdoor supper is donation-based and open to all, whether or not you're a parishioner, whether or not you attend the Celtic service or Compline. Join us!

## Memorial Day

The parish office will be closed tomorrow in observance of Memorial Day. This means there will be no service of Morning Prayer, and the café will be closed on Monday. The food pantry/grocery store WILL be open on Memorial Day, 1 p.m.-3 p.m.

## Contemplative Chapel open to all WEDNESDAYS, 6:30 P.M.

The Rev. John Jenkins offers a weekly online session of "Holy Reading," or Lectio Divina, and centering prayer. Using a short passage of Scripture, participants are guided through a meditative engagement with the passage, followed by a time of centering prayer.

Everyone is invited; you do not have to have any experience with these ancient contemplative traditions in order to join in fully. Read more at [ststephensRVA.org/contemplativechapel](https://ststephensRVA.org/contemplativechapel), where you can sign up to receive information from John and a link to the Zoom sessions.

## Visit our farmers market SATURDAYS | 8 A.M.-NOON

Our farmers market continues outdoors on Saturdays, 8 a.m. to noon, with fresh, local produce, prepared foods, plants, cut flowers, and arts and crafts. To see who will be here each Saturday, visit [ststephensRVA.org/vendors](https://ststephensRVA.org/vendors). Given that masks are no longer required for outdoor events, the market has lifted the requirement that customers wear masks while they shop.

## Changes to our public health protocols

Beginning with today's services, St. Stephen's Church has lifted the requirement for advance sign-up to attend worship, and we are no longer leaving alternate pews vacant. We are also now permitting congregational singing. This is possible because of improving public health metrics. We continue to offer Communion bread only, and require that all who come inside, regardless of vaccination status, wear masks that cover the nose and mouth. Thanks for your patience and understanding as we continue to strive to keep everyone in our church safe. More information about our gradual "opening up," including weekday offerings, is available at [ststephensRVA.org/latestnews](https://ststephensRVA.org/latestnews).

## You make our ministries possible

Thanks to all who have made a pledge for 2021 or have made a gift to support the vital ministries of St. Stephen's Church. The pledges and gifts we receive from you are crucial to the work we do. If you are not an official "member" of St. Stephen's but you take part in worship, visit the café or the farmers market or other offerings, we hope you know how much your presence enriches our life.

If you would like to pay your pledge, become a pledging member of St. Stephen's, or make a gift out of gratitude, you may give electronically ([ststephensRVA.org/give](https://ststephensRVA.org/give)), set up a regular payment through your bank's bill pay, or mail checks to St. Stephen's Church, 6000 Grove Avenue, Richmond, Virginia 23226. Thank you!

## Enjoy the café outdoors and curbside WEEKDAYS 7 A.M.-2 P.M.; SATURDAY 7:30 A.M.-12:30 P.M.; SUNDAY, 8:30 A.M.-NOON

Visit our café for made-to-order smoothies and espresso drinks, freshly brewed coffee and tea, breakfast and lunch, and snacks. Our menu is available at [cafeatststephens.org](https://cafeatststephens.org).

The café's summer hours begin this week, which means it will open at 7 a.m. and close at 2 p.m. Saturday hours remain 7:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m., and the café is now open Sunday mornings from 8:30 a.m. until noon.