



# CELTIC EVENSONG AND COMMUNION

at St. Stephen's Episcopal Church

The Eighth Sunday after Pentecost ☩ July 18, 2021 at 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 *Lark in the clear air*

Philip Keverin

*Please stand at the sound of the bell.*

Opening *Having Come This Far*

James Broughton

I've been through what my through was to be  
I did what I could and couldn't  
I was never sure how I would get there  
I nourished an ardor for thresholds  
for stepping stones and for ladders  
I discovered detour and ditch  
I swam in the high tides of greed  
I built sandcastles to house my dreams  
I survived the sunburns of love  
No longer do I hunt for targets  
I've climbed all the summits I need to  
and I've eaten my share of lotus

Now I give praise and thanks  
for what could not be avoided  
and for every foolhardy choice  
I cherish my wounds and their cures  
and the sweet enervations of bliss  
My book is an open life  
I wave goodbye to the absolutes  
and send my regards to infinity  
I'd rather be blithe than correct  
Until something transcendent turns up  
I splash in my poetry puddle  
and try to keep God amused

*Silence is kept.*

Hymn *Fairest Lord Jesus*

*St. Elizabeth*



1. Fair - est Lord Je - sus, Ru - ler of all na - ture, Son of  
2. Fair are the mead - ows, fair - er still the wood - lands, robed in the  
3. Fair is the sun - shine, fair - er still the moon - light, and all the



God, and Man the Son, thee will I cher - ish, thee will I  
bloom - ing garb of spring: Je - sus is fair - er, Je - sus is  
twink - ling star - ry host: Je - sus shines bright - er, Je - sus shines



hon - or, thou my soul's glo - ry, joy, and crown.  
pur - er, who makes the woe - ful heart to sing.  
pur - er than all the an - gels heav'n can boast.

## A Prayer for the Evening

Enduring presence, goal and guide, you go before and await our coming. Our thirst compels us beyond complaint to conversation, beyond rejection to relationship. Pour your love into our hearts that, refreshed and renewed, we may invite others to the living water given to us in Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

**The Reading** Mark 6:30-34, 53-56 *Please sit.*

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

The apostles gathered around Jesus, and told him all that they had done and taught. He said to them, "Come away to a deserted place all by yourselves and rest a while." For many were coming and going, and they had no leisure even to eat. And they went away in the boat to a deserted place by themselves. Now many saw them going and recognized them, and they hurried there on foot from all the towns and arrived ahead of them. As he went ashore, he saw a great crowd; and he had compassion for them, because they were like sheep without a shepherd; and he began to teach them many things.

When they had crossed over, they came to land at Gennesaret and moored the boat. When they got out of the boat, people at once recognized him, and rushed about that whole region and began to bring the sick on mats to wherever they heard he was. And wherever he went, into villages or cities or farms, they laid the sick in the marketplaces, and begged him that they might touch even the fringe of his cloak; and all who touched it were healed.

*Silence is observed after the reading.*

**Reflection** John Jenkins

*Two minutes of silence follow.*

**Music for Meditation** *Robin Adair*

arr. Doreen Smith

**The Prayers of the People** *Please stand as you are able.*

**Officiant** Let us pray for the church and the world.

**Leader** In the work we do this day,

**People** **May the risen Christ teach us.**

**Leader** In the challenges we face this day,

**People** **May the risen Christ guide us.**

**Leader** Through the people we meet this day,

**People** **May the risen Christ renew us.**

**Leader** As we respond to the hungers and hurts of this world,

**People** **May the risen Christ strengthen us.**

**Leader** O God of grace and glory, we remember before you this day all who have died.

*Silence*

**Leader** Give us grace to see in death the gate of eternal life,

**All** **so that in quiet confidence**  
**we may continue our course on earth,**  
**until, by your call,**  
**we are reunited with those who have gone before.**

**Officiant** May our lips praise you, O God, our hearts bless you, and our lives glorify you, through Jesus Christ our Savior. **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.*

Hymn Come with us, O blessed Jesus

*Werde munter*

1. Come with us, O bless - ed Je - sus, with us ev - er -  
2. Come with us, O might - y Sa - vior, God from God, and  
3. Come with us, O King of glo - ry, by an - gel - ic

more to be; and though leav - ing now thine al - tar, let us  
Light from Light; thou art God, thy glo - ry veil - ing, so that  
voic - es praised; in our hearts as in thy hea - ven, be en -

nev - er - more leave thee. Be thou one with us for - ev - er,  
we may bear the sight. Now we go to seek and serve thee,  
rap - tured an - thems raised. Let the might - y cho - rus ev - er

in our life thy love di - vine our own flesh and  
through our work as through our prayer; grant us light to  
sing its glad ex - ul - tant songs; let its hymns be

blood has ta - ken, and to us thou giv - est thine.  
see and know thee, in thy peo - ple ev - 'ry - where.  
heard for - ev - er - peace for which cre - a - tion longs.

**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 each entrance to the church.*

**At the Offertory** *Bi 'Iosa im Chroise*

Gerard Gillen

Be, O Jesus, in my heart, and each hour, be recalled.  
Be, O Jesus, in my heart, for repentance when I fall.  
Be, O Jesus, in my heart, be my companion constantly;  
So, O Jesus, faithful God, oh never, never part from me.

**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*     We praise you and we bless you, holy and gracious God, source of abundant life. From before time you made ready the creation. Your Spirit moved over the deep and brought all things into being. You made us in your image, and taught us to walk in your ways. But we rebelled against you, and wandered far away; 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 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.*    *Banks and Braes*

Ho - ly, Ho - ly, Ho - ly Lord, God of pow-er and God of might,  
Hea-ven 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*     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. Living among us, Jesus loved us. He broke bread with outcasts and sinners, healed the sick, and proclaimed good news to the poor. 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:

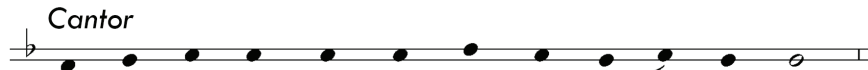
*All*              “Drink this, all of you: **This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is poured out for you and for all for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me.**”

*Celebrant*     Now gathered at your table and remembering Christ, crucified and risen, 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, and make us the Body of Christ given for the world you have made. In the fullness of time bring us 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.

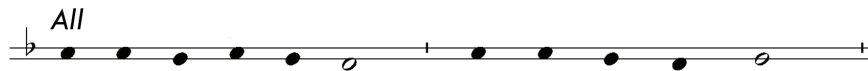
## The Lord's Prayer

*Cantor*

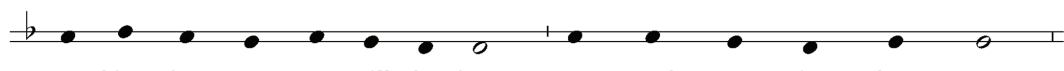


As our Sa - vior Christ has taught us, we now pray,

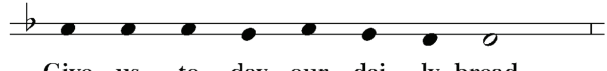
*All*



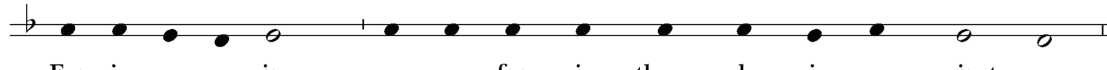
Our Fa - ther in hea - ven, hal - lowed be your Name,



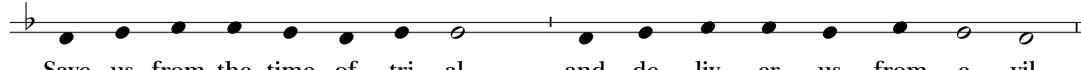
your king - dom come, your will be done, on earth as in hea - ven.



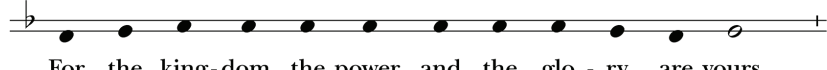
Give us to - day our dai - ly bread.




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

*A period of silence is kept.*

### Lamb of God

Be known to us

Gary James

*This refrain will be sung by the cantor, then by all, and repeated after each verse.*



Be known to us, Lord Je - sus, in the break - ing of the bread.

## 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 the bread at the chancel steps. If you prefer a gluten-free wafer, please tell the minister.

**Music for Communion**      *How can I keep from singing?*      arr. Cater  
Erin Shore      arr. Andrea Corr  
*Meditation*      Frank Bridge  
*Prayer*      Peter Tchaikovsky

**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**      Let us take care as we move through God's creation, for it does not belong to us. And may we be gentle with ourselves and with one another, for we are all the dwelling place of the most High. And the blessing of God Almighty, Father, Son and Holy Spirit be among you and remain with you always. Amen.

**Hymn**      Part in peace

*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.

*Please sit for the Music for Meditation.*

**Music for Meditation**      *Bonne nuit*      Jules Massenet

**Postlude**      Jesu, joy of our desiring      J.S. Bach

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



## Following the Service

Please join us for the Sunday Community Supper after the service. This meal is lovingly prepared for any and all who come, using locally-sourced ingredients, many from our farmers market, natural and organic whenever possible. We consider this supper an extension of God's generous provision for all at the altar in Holy Communion. Please come—your presence is the most important thing—and contribute only as you are able, if at all; like all our ministries at St. Stephen's, the Community Supper is sustained by donations from those able to give.

If you would like to know more about this church and how you might become more involved, we would love to tell you. We're glad you're here and hope you will come back often.

## Participants

**Celebrant:** Claudia Merritt; **Deacon:** Pat Wingo; **Reflector:** John Jenkins; **Lay Reader and Intercessor:** Susan Wilkes; **Musicians:** Anne O'Byrne, *cantor*; Alana Carithers, *violin*; Greg Vick, *piano*; **Setup Team:** Jessica Lange, JoAnn Pulliam, Joan Putney, Synthia Waymack; **Greeters:** Al Albiston, Nancy Matthews, Craig Merritt

## 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, *Caroline Brandt*, Mary Holly Bigelow, Randy Berrios, Lewis Best, Hannah and Zachary Bevis, Liz Brengel, Turner Bruneau, Charles Bryan, Andrew Bryant, Nancy Burns, Bill Bynum, Gary Cheeseman, Percy Cochran, Stephanie and Ron Coleman and family, Caswell Cooke, Mary Cooke, Nancy Davis, Virginia Davis, Hoyt Ellis, Silas Generelly, George Ginn, Judy Halsey, Rodger Hardy, Pat Harp, Emily Hart, Pat Hartsock, Lolly Hetherington, Bob Hines, Tom Hodges, Carol Cooke Holland, Virginia Hopper, Mary Hunter and Chuck Townsend, Champ Johnson, Ann O. Jones, Amy Youngblood Karnolt, *Gouthum Karadi*, Donna Kessler, Gail Kirby, Marilyn Kirkpatrick, Judy Knauf, Caleb Lambert, Helen Lewis, Ashley McFadden, Susan Minyard, Anne Natoli, Caroline Hughes Neal, Tolar Nolley, Lea O'Sullivan, Anne Owens, Gail Mayo Paredes, Ruth Partlow, Chrissie Payne, Brooke Pettitt, Jim and Sarah Cooke Picton, Wilde Poole and family, Ray Robertson, Linda Robinson, Paul Roper, Rosalia Ross, Jon Schmidt, Gordon Schmidt, Josie Schmidt, Jane Settle, Claire Shaffner, T. Logan Scott, Mary Frances Siersema, *Mike, Linda, and Jessica Soukup*, 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, Donny White, Calvin Winn, Gene Wrenne, Peggy Wright, Karen Young, Alex, Anthony and family, Christen, Colin and Allison, Dan, John, Martin, Paul, Stephen, Taylor, Tonya. **For those expecting a child**, especially Paul Willson and Maggie Hunter, Jeff and Kate Willson Donowitz, Allison Seay and Joshua Epley, Jenny and Lee Speight, and Brent and Jenny te Velde. **For all the blessings of this life**, including *the Rev. Pat Wingo's new ministry at St. Stephen's*. **For those who have died**, including *Evan Soukup and Lee Parr Phipps*. **For our missionaries**, Heidi Schmidt and Monica Vega, serving in Argentina. **In the Anglican Cycle of Prayer**, we pray for *Eglise Anglicane du Rwanda*. **For the women, men, and staff of the City Jail**. **For racial reconciliation and healing**. **For ReWork 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:** Cooper Murphy, 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.*

# The Ministry of Healing Prayer at St. Stephen's Church

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.

Before the pandemic, as a part of our Sunday evening service, we offered the ministries of healing prayer or anointing in the side chapels, during the administration of Communion. We look forward to being able to offer these ministries again. After such a difficult time in our community's life, we believe that healing will be more important than ever for many of us—those with much faith and those with little. Parish staff and healing prayer ministers are at work now on plans to incorporate these opportunities into the Celtic service again as soon as it is practical to do so.

If you have not been at this service during the time when healing prayer and anointing took place, you may be curious about it, so we are taking this opportunity to describe what happens at St. Stephen's Church, and what will happen again in the future. The invitation to take part in these ministries is for all, but you should not feel as if your participation is expected. The choice is yours and we simply encourage you to stay open; one never knows how God might reach us.

After you have received Communion, you may approach either a healing prayer minister or an anointer. 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 and company of others who bring us more fully into the presence of God.

**If you would like to receive anointing with healing oil**, you may 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.