

# CELTIC EVENSONG AND COMMUNION

AT ST. STEPHEN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

6000 Grove Avenue + Richmond, Virginia

December 10, 2006, at 5:30 p.m.

The Second Sunday of Advent

*Welcome to this evening service. 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.*

*In order to prepare for worship and allow for private prayer, we ask that silence be observed upon entering the nave, and ask that you turn off all electrical devices (cell phones, etc.). We are glad you are here.*

**Prelude** *My Shepherd Will Supply*

American tune

**Community Responses, Prayer and Confession** *Please stand at the sound of the bell.*

*Celebrant* Open our lips, O God,  
*All* **And our mouths shall proclaim your praise.**

*Celebrant* The earth is the Lord's and all that is in it;  
*All* **The world and all who dwell therein.**

*Celebrant* Holy God, Maker of all,  
*All* **Have mercy on us.**

*Celebrant* Jesus Christ, servant of the poor,  
*All* **Have mercy on us.**

*Celebrant* Holy Spirit, Breath of life,  
*All* **Have mercy on us.**

*Celebrant* I confess to God, and in the presence of all God's people, that I have sinned in thought, word, and deed, and I pray God to have mercy on me.  
*All* **May God have mercy on you, pardon and deliver you from your sins, and give you time to amend your life.**

*Celebrant* Amen.

*Celebrant* **We confess to God, and in the presence of all God's people, that we have sinned in thought, word, and deed, and we pray God almighty to have mercy on us.**

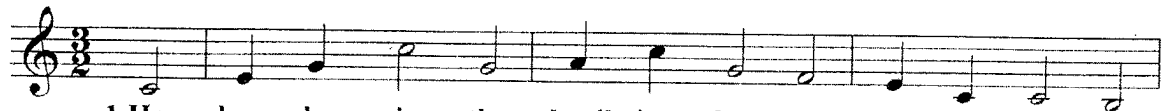
*Leader* May God have mercy on you, pardon and deliver you from your sins, and give you time to amend your life.

*Celebrant* **Amen.**

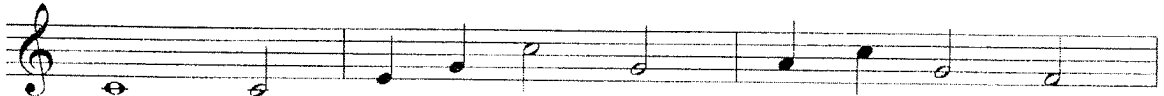
*Celebrant* Turn again, O God, and give us life  
*All* **That your people may rejoice in you.**

*Celebrant* Create in me a clean heart, O God,  
*All* **And renew a right spirit within me.**

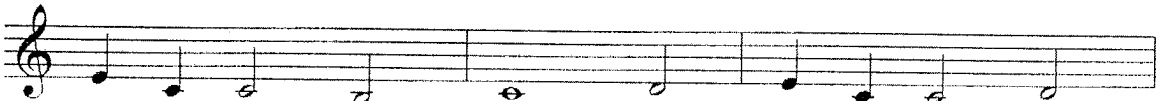
*Celebrant* Give us the joy of your saving help again,  
*All* **And sustain us with your bountiful Spirit. Amen.**



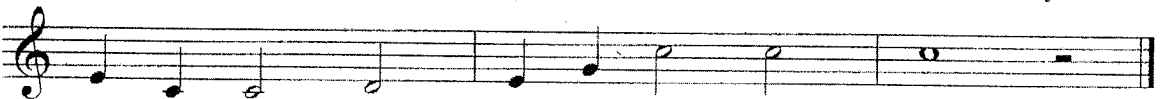
1. How love - ly is thy dwell - ing place, O Lord of hosts, to  
 2. Be - side thine al - tars, gra - cious Lord, the swal - lows find a  
 3. They who go through the des - ert vale will find it filled with  
 4. One day with - in thy courts ex - cels a thou - sand spent a -



me! My thirs - ty soul de - sires and longs with -  
 nest; how hap - py they who dwell with thee and  
 springs, and they shall climb from height to height till  
 way; how hap - py they who keep thy laws nor



in thy courts to be; in my ve - ry heart and  
 praise thee with - out rest, and hap - py they whose  
 Zi - on's tem - ple rings with praise to thee, in  
 from thy pre - cepts stray, for thou shalt sure - ly



flesh cry out, O liv - ing God, to thee.  
 hearts are set up - on the pil - grim's quest.  
 glo - ry throned, Lord God, great King of kings.  
 bless all those who live the words they pray.

**A Prayer for the Evening**

Living God, in you there is no darkness; shed upon us through this night the light of your forgiveness, your healing and your peace, that when we wake from sleep we may know once more the brightness of your presence; through our Savior Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

**The Reading** Luke 3:1-6 *Please sit.*

*Reader* A reading from the Gospel according to Luke.

In the fifteenth year of the reign of Emperor Tiberius, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, and Herod was ruler of Galilee, and his brother Philip ruler of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias ruler of Abilene, during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness. He went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, as it is written in the book of the words of the prophet Isaiah, "The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight. Every valley shall be filled, and every mountain and hill shall be made low, and the crooked shall be made straight, and the rough ways made smooth; and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.'"

*Reader* Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

*All* **Thanks be to God.**

*Silence is observed after the reading.*

**Reflection** The Rev. Abbott Bailey

*Two minutes of silence will follow.*

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

*Celebrant* Let us pray for ourselves and others.

*Leader 1* We hold before God: those for whom life is very difficult; those who have difficult decisions to make, and who honestly do not know what is the right thing to do.

*Celebrant* Lord, in your mercy.

*All* **Hear our prayer.**

*Leader 2* We hold before God: those who have difficult tasks to face, and who fear they may fail in them; those who have difficult temptations to face, and who know only too well that they may fall to them, if they try to meet them alone.

*Celebrant* Lord, in your mercy.

*All* **Hear our prayer.**

*Leader 3* We hold before God: those who know that they can be their own worst enemies.

*Celebrant* Lord, in your mercy.

*All* **Hear our prayer.**

*Leader 4* We hold before God: those who have difficult people to work with; those who have to suffer unjust treatment, unfair criticism, unappreciated work.

*Celebrant* Lord, in your mercy.

*All* **Hear our prayer.**

*Leader 5* We hold before God: those who are grieving because someone they loved has died; and any who are disappointed in something for which they hoped very much.

*Celebrant* Lord, in your mercy.

*All* **Hear our prayer.**

*Leader 6* We hold before God: those who are victims of violence, those who are neglected or misunderstood, those who are unemployed and frightened, and those who have no one to pray for them.

*Celebrant* Lord, in your mercy.

*All* **Hear our prayer.**

*Celebrant* Lord God, may our prayers, rising before you like incense, be pleasing to you; and may our outstretched hands be filled with your mercy, through Jesus Christ, your Son.

*All* **Amen.**

**Additional Prayers of Intercession and Thanksgiving** *Please be seated.*

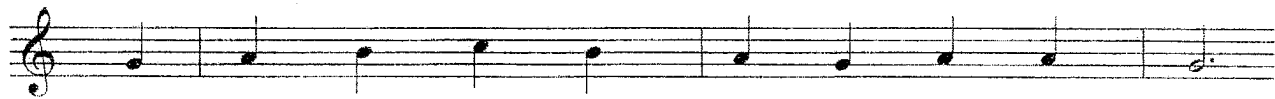
*During the instrumental music and hymn, and at any time hereafter, you are welcome to come forward to light a votive candle as a symbol of your prayer. Tapers and votives are on stands by the chancel steps and against the wall near the lectern and pulpit.*

Hymn *How Like a Gentle Spirit*

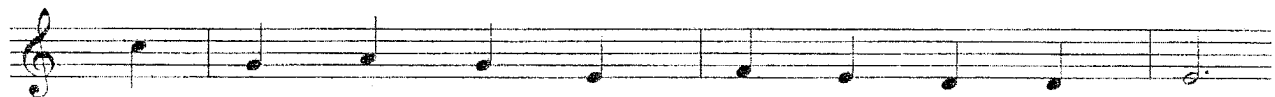
*Sursum corda*



1. How like a gen - tle spir - it deep with - in  
2. God like a moth - er ea - gle hov - ers near  
3. When in our vain pre - ten - sions we con - spire  
4. Through all our fret - ful claims of sex and race  
5. Let God be God wher - ev - er life may be;



God reins our fer - vent pas - sions day by day,  
on might - y wings of pow - er man - i - fest;  
to shape God's im - age as we see our own,  
the un - i - ver - sal love of God shines through,  
let ev - 'ry tongue bear wit - ness to the call;



and gives us strength to chal - lenge and to win  
God like a gen - tle shep - herd stills our fear,  
hark to the voice a - bove our own de - sire;  
for God is love trans - cend - ing style and place,  
all hu - man - kind is one by God's de - cree;



de - spite the per - ils of our cho - sen way.  
and com - forts us a - gainst a peace - ful breast.  
God is the sculp - tor, we the bro - ken stone.  
and all the i - dle op - tions we pur - sue.  
let God be God, let God be God for all.

**The Grace** See that ye be at peace among yourselves, and love one another.  
Follow the example of good men and women of old  
and God will comfort you and help you, both in this world  
and in the world which is to come.  
In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **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.**

*All now exchange a sign of peace, then please be seated.*

THE HOLY COMMUNION

*Alms basins are not passed through the congregation at this service.  
For your offerings, alms basins are located at each entrance to the church.*

**The 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.**

*The Celebrant proceeds*

It is our joy and delight to give you thanks and praise Emmanuel, God with us. We give you thanks and praise for your hallowing of human flesh. We rejoice at your light which shines out of darkness and enlightens all who seek you. We praise you that you brought forth new life in the family of Mary and Joseph as you do today from all who faithfully await the fulfillment of your word. We praise you that you were known first by poor shepherds and wise seekers as you are known today by the poor and outcast. We rejoice with the angels at your promise of peace for those who trust in you. We rejoice that the extraordinary is given birth in the ordinary places of life.

So with the angels who sing "Glory" and with all the saints and ancestors who have known you to be with us, we sing together:

**Sanctus** *The Cantor will sing through once; then all sing with Cantor.*

*St. Anne Mass, James MacMillan*

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 he, O  
 bless-ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -  
 san - na in the high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

We bless you for Jesus, born of the Spirit's love and a woman's body and blood. We bless you for Jesus who shows us how to live the fullness of our humanity and thus become one with you. We remember Jesus who laughed and wept and felt tiredness and fear; who praised Mary when she anointed him for death and blessed a woman of the city who washed his feet with tears. We remember Jesus who touched lepers and the sick and feasted with tax collectors and sinners. We remember Christ who lives on in all who courageously and faithfully bring forth the light of your love in earth's darkest places. We remember Jesus who, on the night before he died, shared a meal with his friends. He took bread,

*continued*

blessed it and broke it and gave it to them saying: "Take and eat. This is my own body given for you. Do this to remember me." After supper he took a cup of wine, gave thanks and gave it to them saying: "This is my life-blood given for you. Do this to remember me."

So we proclaim the mystery of faith:

**Christ has died.**

**Christ has risen.**

**Christ will come again.**

O God who is known to us in human flesh, send your Holy Spirit on us and on these material things of bread and wine, that they may be for us the body and blood of Christ, and we may be the body of Christ, food and life for the world.

We ask these things through Christ, with whom and in whom, in the unity of the Holy Spirit be glory now and forever. **Amen.**

*Celebrant* As Jesus taught us, we now pray.

*People and Celebrant*

**Our Father in heaven,  
hallowed be your Name,  
your kingdom come,  
your will be done,  
on earth as in heaven.**

**Give us today our daily bread.**

**Forgive us our sins,  
as we forgive those  
who sin against us.**

**Save us from the time of trial,  
and deliver us from evil.**

**For the kingdom, the power,  
and the glory are yours,  
now and for ever. Amen.**

**The Breaking of the Bread** *A period of silence is kept.*

**Lamb of God** *The Cantor will sing through once; then all sing with Cantor.*

*Blarney Pilgrim  
arr. by 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 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 be seated for closing music.*

## Music for Meditation *Suo Gan*

Gaelic tune

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

## Postlude *Planxty Hewlett*

Turlough O'Carolan

### Participants in the Service

*Reflector* The Rev. Abbott Bailey      *Celebrant* The Rev. David Anderson

*Cantor* Robin Yohe      *Lay Reader* Eddy Ross

*Readers* Anne Pole, Mary Virginia Scott, Sandy Roney, Carol Ann Ross, Pret Kopecky, Becky Trader

*Chalice Bearers* Martha Curry, Bob Marland, Steve Richardson, Linda Steward

*Greeters* Mary Virginia Scott, Sandy Roney, Carol Ann Ross

*Musicians* Amy Blake, *flute*; Cory Blake, *guitar*; Michael Simpson, *piano*

*Please join us for light refreshments following the service.*

*We'll gather in the lobby outside Palmer Hall Chapel.*

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*We welcome anyone who would like to help us with this service. We need people to help set up for the service, greet folks at the door, serve Communion, and read lessons and prayers.*

*If you'd like to help, please sign up at the reception after the service.*

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