

CELTIC EVENSONG AND COMMUNION

AT ST. STEPHEN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH
6000 Grove Avenue + Richmond, Virginia

April 15, at 5:30 p.m.
The Second Sunday of Easter

Welcome to this evening service. In order to prepare for worship and allow for private prayer, we ask that silence be observed upon entering and that you turn off all electrical devices (cell phones, etc.). 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 also welcome children to this service. However, if you should want nursery care, please ask a greeter for directions. We are glad you are here.

Prelude *O Waly Waly*

English melody, arr. Daniel Burton

Opening Poem "The Peace of Wild Things" by Wendell Berry *Please stand at the sound of the bell.*

When despair for the world grows in me
and I wake in the night at the least sound
in fear of what my life and my children's lives may be,
I go and lie down where the wood drake
rests in his beauty on the water, and the great heron feeds.
I come into the peace of wild things
who do not tax their lives with forethought
of grief. I come into the presence of still water.
And I feel above the day-blind stars
waiting with their light. For a time
I rest in the grace of the world, and am free.

Hymn *Now It Is Evening*

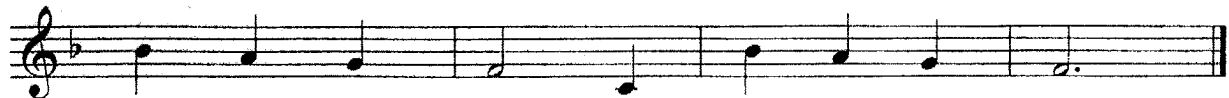
Evening Hymn



1. Now it is eve - ning: lights of the cit - y bid us re - mem - ber
2. Now it is eve - ning: lit - tle ones sleep - ing bid us re - mem - ber
3. Now it is eve - ning: food on the ta - ble bids us re - mem - ber
4. Now it is eve - ning: here in our meet - ing may we re - mem - ber



Christ is our light. Man - y are lone - ly; who will be neigh - bor?
Christ is our peace. Some are ne - glect - ed; who will be neigh - bor?
Christ is our life. Man - y are hun - gry; who will be neigh - bor?
Christ is our friend. Some may be strang - ers; who will be neigh - bor?



Where there is car - ing, Christ is our light.
Where there is car - ing, Christ is our peace.
Where there is shar - ing, Christ is our life.
Where there's a wel - come, Christ is our friend.

A Prayer for the Evening

Jesus our inspiration, you come in the evening as our doors are shut, and bring peace. Grant us sleep tonight, and courage tomorrow to go wherever you lead. **Amen.**

The Reading John 20:19-31 *Please sit.*

Reader: A reading from the Gospel according to John.

When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you." When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained." But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord." But he said to them, "Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands, and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe." A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe." Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!" Jesus said to him, "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe." Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book. But these are written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.

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. Gary D. Jones

Two minutes of silence will follow.

Music for Meditation *The Salley Gardens*

English melody

Prayers for Ourselves and Others *Please stand.*

Celebrant: Let us pray for ourselves and others. (*In the silences that follow each petition, please feel free to pray for particular people and situations, either silently or aloud.*)

Leader 1: We pray for all who work through the power of Christ, serving the needs of the poor and healing the wounds of injustice, division and materialism in our society.

Celebrant: Lord, in your mercy,

People: **Hear our prayer.**

Leader 2: We pray for the elderly, the sick and the lonely among us: that they may receive comfort, companionship and care from those around them.

Celebrant: Lord, in your mercy,

People: **Hear our prayer.**

Leader 3: We pray that those who have been persecuted or seriously wronged by others may experience warmth and love with Christ, and be able to forgive those who have hurt them.

Celebrant: Lord, in your mercy,

People: **Hear our prayer.**

Leader 4: We pray that when we are discouraged, we may find strength in the signs of a loving and faithful God in those around us, and the joy of the Holy Spirit within us.

Celebrant: Lord, in your mercy,

People: **Hear our prayer.**

Leader 5: We pray for those whom we love but no longer see; those who have gone beyond the veil of this mortal life, that their souls and the souls of all the departed may rest in peace.

Celebrant: Lord, in your mercy,

People: **Hear our prayer.**

Leader 6: We pray for all those who have asked for our prayers and for those who have no one to pray for them.

Celebrant: Lord, in your mercy.

People: **Hear our prayer.**

Celebrant: Lord Jesus, support the sick, the dying, and all for whom this night will be a trial. And as you look upon us this evening, may the light of your countenance pass beyond our sins, even to the depths of our hearts; and bring to birth there a deep and trustful love, that we may be instruments of your peace. **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.

Music for Meditation *Simple Gifts*
Dun Aluinn

American melody, arr. Daniel Burton
Irish melody, arr. Daniel Burton



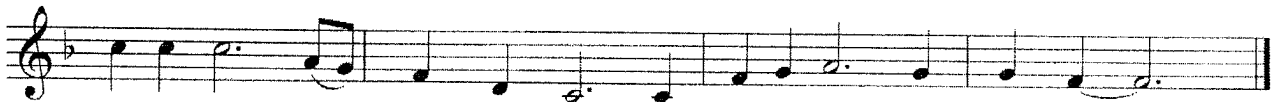
1. My life flows on in end - less song, a - bove earth's la - men - ta - tion.
 2. Through all the tu - mult and the strife, I hear that mu - sic ring - ing.
 3. What though my joys and com - forts die? I know my Sa - vior liv - eth.
 4. The peace of Christ makes fresh my heart, a foun - tain ev - er spring - ing!



I hear the clear, though far - off hymn that hails a new cre - a - tion.
 It finds an ech - o in my soul. How can I keep from sing - ing?
 What though the dark - ness gath - er round? Songs in the night he giv - eth.
 All things are mine since I am his! How can I keep from sing - ing?



No storm can shake my in - most calm while to that Rock I'm cling - ing. Since



love is Lord of heav'n and earth, how can I keep from sing - ing?

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.*

At the Offertory *Brother James' Air*

J. A. L. Bain, arr. John Helgen

Eucharistic Prayer "Canon G" *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.**

O God of mystery and promise, you invite us to discover you in the intimate places of ourselves and our lives.

You invite us to discover you within the complexities of our humanity, in passionate and tender loving, in struggle and pain, in confusion and unknowing, in flashes of insight and wisdom.

You also call us beyond ourselves to places of imagination, beyond the silent stars, in the deep rhythms of the ocean, in the unending cycles of day and night, seasons of life and death.

With saints and ancestors, with the seas and earth and sky, with animals and birds, with our friends and those unknown to us, with all creation we join in the song of your unending glory:

Sanctus *Sung by all.*

Jacques Berthier

Cantor will sing refrain. All will repeat twice. As the congregation continues to repeat the refrain, Cantor will sing verses.



Verses: Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest. Blest is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.

We praise you that in Jesus you make known to us the wonder and richness of our humanity. We give thanks for his life-giving love, for his healing touch, for his vulnerability and for his gentleness.

Before he gave up his life, he shared his humanity, his flesh and blood with his friends. He took bread, gave thanks for it, broke it and gave it to them saying:

Together

“This is my own body given for you. Do this to remember me.”

So too after they had eaten, he took wine, gave thanks for it and gave it to them saying:

Together

“This is my blood, poured out in love for you. Do this to remember me.”

So we proclaim the mystery of faith

Together

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

The Presider continues

Come now, Spirit of God, and as we eat and drink these bodily things,
make us one body, food for the world, one blood to be poured out for the
life of all.

Touch us with your gentle creativity and fire us with longing for the new
age of justice and peace.

We ask this through Jesus who gave his body that we might be one
and his blood that we might find new life.

With him, and through him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, be
to you, O God, all honour and glory forever. **Amen.**

As Christ has taught us we are bold to say

Our Father in heaven

hallowed by 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

Anthem *Dona Nobis*

Jacques Berthier

Cantor will sing once; all repeat, continually, as Cantor sings verses.



*Cantor: Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, grant us peace.*

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.

You are welcome to be seated until you come forward to receive. Use either standing station near the pulpit or lectern.

Music during Communion

Crimond
Cha till mor mo bhean

Jesse Irvine, arr. Daniel Burton
Scottish melody, arr. Sunita Staneslow

After Communion *Please stand or kneel.*

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.

Blessing

Celebrant: Now may the Spirit of God, who brooded over the waters and brought order out of chaos, find a home in our hearts and settle our minds as we sleep that tomorrow we may wake and live to God's glory. Amen.

Hymn *The King of Love My Shepherd Is*

St. Columba



1 The King of love my shep-herd is, whose good-ness
2 Where streams of liv-ing wa-ter flow, my ran-somed
* 3 Per-verse and fool-ish oft I strayed, but yet in
* 4 In death's dark vale I fear no ill with thee, dear
5 Thou spread'st a ta-ble in my sight; thy unc-tion
6 And so through all the length of days thy good-ness



1 fail-eth nev-er; I noth-ing lack if
2 soul he lead-eth, and where the ver-dant
3 love he sought me, and on his shoul-der
4 Lord, be-side me; thy rod and staff my
5 grace be-stow-eth; and oh, what trans-port
6 fail-eth nev-er: Good Shep-herd, may I



1 I am his, and he is mine for ev-er.
2 pas-tures grow, with food ce-less-tial feed-eth.
3 gent-ly laid, and home, re-joic-ing, brought me.
4 com-fort still, thy cross be-fore to guide me.
5 of de-light from thy pure chal-ice flow-eth!
6 sing thy praise with-in thy house for ev-er.

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 *When Long before Time*

American melody, arr. Anne Krentz Organ

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

Postlude *Wind that Shakes the Barley*

Irish melody, arr. Sunita Staneslow



Participants

Celebrant: The Rev. Mary Anne Akin *Reflector:* The Rev. Gary D. Jones

Lay Reader: Bob Marland

Chalice Bearers: Ann Witt, Martha Curry, Anne Pole, Judy Davis

Greeters: Will Cooke, Gene Barham, Joyce Gasparovic

Musicians: Elizabeth Dechent, *harp*; Sue West, *flute*; Michael Simpson, *piano*

Cantor: Michael Holland

Child Care Available

Child care is available for infants and children up to age five, from 5:15-6:45 p.m., during the Celtic service. The Nursery and child care rooms are located on the Lower Level. You are also welcome to bring your children to church with you, or to pick them up to bring them to Communion.

Following the Service

Please join us for a reception following this service.

Weather permitting, we will gather in the Garden between the church and parish house.

If you would like to know more about this church and how you might plug in, we would love to tell you. As a start, please fill out one of the visitor's cards in the pew in front of you, and drop it in one of the collection plates at the entrances to the church. And, of course, call on us anytime.

Opening poem by Wendell Berry; The Eucharistic Prayer written by the Rev. Janet Trisk for the Order of the Holy Cross in Grahamstown, South Africa. The Prayer for the Evening: *A New Zealand Prayer Book*, Harper Collins, 1997. Prayers and blessings adapted from the following sources: The Northumbria Community, *Celtic Daily Prayer: Prayers and Readings from the Northumbria Community*, Harper Collins, 2002; 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.

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