



CELTIC EVENSONG AND COMMUNION

AT ST. STEPHEN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

July 1, 2007, at 5:30 p.m.
The Fifth Sunday of Pentecost

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 *Amazing Grace*

American melody, arr. John Purifoy

Opening Poem *Please stand at the sound of the bell.*

Of course I have always known you
are present in the clouds, and the
black oak I especially adore, and the
wings of birds. But you are present
too in the body, listening to the body,
teaching it to live, instead of all
that touching, with disembodied joy.
We do not do this easily. We have
lived so long in the heaven of touch,
and we maintain our mutability, our
physicality, even as we begin to
apprehend the other world. Slowly we
make our appreciative response.
Slowly appreciation swells to
astonishment. And we enter the dialogue
of our lives that is beyond all under-
standing or conclusion. It is mystery.
It is love of God. It is obedience.

An excerpt from "Six Recognitions of the Lord," from Thirst, by Mary Oliver



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

For the quietness that surrounds us
 and your promise of peace deep within us
 for the stillness of sleep for our bodies
 and the hope of healing for our souls
 thanks be to you, O God. **Amen.**

The Reading Luke 9:51-62 *Please sit.*

Reader: A reading from the Gospel according to Luke.

When the days drew near for him to be taken up, he set his face to go to Jerusalem. And he sent messengers ahead of him. On their way they entered a village of the Samaritans to make ready for him; but they did not receive him, because his face was set toward Jerusalem. When his disciples James and John saw it, they said, "Lord, do you want us to command fire to come down from heaven and consume them?" But he turned and rebuked them. Then they went on to another village. As they were going along the road, someone said to him, "I will follow you wherever you go." And Jesus said to him, "Foxes have holes, and birds of the air have nests; but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay his head." To another he said, "Follow me." But he said, "Lord, first let me go and bury my father." But Jesus said to him, "Let the dead bury their own dead; but as for you, go and proclaim the kingdom of God." Another said, "I will follow you, Lord; but let me first say farewell to those at my home." Jesus said to him, "No one who puts a hand to the plow and looks back is fit for the kingdom 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. Gary D. Jones

Two minutes of silence will follow.

Music for Meditation *Beach Spring*

American melody, arr. Rachel Porter

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 *My Life Flows On* Please stand.

How Can I Keep from Singing



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 *Land of Rest*

American melody, arr. David Cherwien

The Eucharistic Prayer Please stand.

Celebrant: The Lord is with us.

All: **God's Spirit is here.**

Celebrant: Look with kindness, O God, on Your people gathered here before You. Send forth the power of Your Spirit so that these gifts may become for us the Body and Blood of Your beloved Son, Jesus, the Christ, in whom we have become Your own.

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 who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -
 san - na in the high - est, Ho - san - na in the high - est.

Celebrant: Loving God, You are always thinking about Your people. You never forget us. You sent Your Son, Jesus, who gave His life for us and who came to forgive us and taught us to forgive each other.

On the very night He was betrayed, Jesus took bread and gave You thanks. He broke it and gave it to His disciples, saying, "Take, eat, this is My body which is given for you; do this in remembrance of Me."

In the same way, after supper He took the cup and gave You thanks. He gave it to them, saying, "Drink this, all of you; this is My blood of the new covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Do this as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

Celebrant: Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

All: **Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.**

Celebrant: Almighty God, our Heavenly Father, in Your tender mercy, send us the Spirit of the Lamb. **Amen.**

Celebrant: As Jesus taught us, we now pray.

All: **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.**

continued

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 *All sing.*

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.

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 *Amazing Grace*
Wondrous Love

American melody, arr. Daniel Burton
 American melody, arr. John Purifoy

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 *Peace before Us Please stand.*

Martin's Song



1. Peace be - fore us, peace be hind us, peace
2. Love be - fore us, love be - hind us, love
3. Light be - fore us, light be - hind us, light
4. Christ be - fore us, Christ be - hind us, Christ



un-der our feet. Peace with - in us, peace o-ver us, let all a - round us be peace.
un-der our feet. Love with - in us, love o-ver us, let all a - round us be love.
un-der our feet. Light with - in us, light o-ver us, let all a - round us be light.
un-der our feet. Christ with - in us, Christ o-ver us, let all a - round us be Christ.

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 *Holy Manna*

American melody, arr. Anne Krentz Organ

Participants

Celebrant: The Rev. Abbott Bailey *Reflector:* The Rev. Gary D. Jones
Lay Reader: Anne Gordon Curran
Chalice Bearers: Susie Wiltshire, Pam Strickland, Jim Teachey, Robin Reifsnider
Greeter: Lucy Stockdell
Musicians: Sue West, *flute*; Elizabeth Dechent, *harp*; 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.

The Eucharistic Prayer written by the Rev. Janet Trisk for the Order of the Holy Cross in Grahamstown, South Africa. 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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ST. STEPHEN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH
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