



Celtic Evensong & Communion

September 18, 2022 - 5:30 p.m.

Epiphany Episcopal Church &
Community of Faith United Methodist Church

Welcome. In order to prepare for worship and allow for private prayer, we ask that silence be observed upon entering and that you turn off cell phones. Offering plates are not passed through the congregation at this service but are located at the entrances to the church and the offering will benefit the Food Distribution Ministry. We are aware that persons here come from several faith traditions and are delighted for your presence. The mixture of faith traditions that makes up this community are cherished. We are glad you are here.

Prelude

Opening

"The Silence in Us"

Rachel Naomi Remen

"Perhaps the most important thing we bring to another person is the silence in us, not the sort of silence that is filled with unspoken criticism or hard withdrawal. The sort of silence that is a place of refuge, of rest, or acceptance of someone as they are. We are all hungry for this other silence. It is hard to find. In its presence we can remember something beyond the moment, a strength on which to build a life. Silence is a place of great power and healing."

Hymn

The King of Love My Shepherd Is

UMH 138

If you are singing, the use of a mask is respectfully requested – thank you

1. The King of love my Shepherd is, Whose goodness faileth never;
I nothing lack if I am his, And he is mine for ever.
2. Where streams of living water flow, My ransomed soul he leadeth,
And where the verdant pastures grow, With food celestial feedeth.
3. Perverse and foolish oft I strayed, But yet in love he sought me,
And on his shoulder gently laid, And home, rejoicing, brought me.
4. In death's dark vale I fear no ill, With thee, dear Lord, beside me;
Thy rod and staff my comfort still, Thy cross before to guide me.
5. Thou spread'st a table in my sight; Thy unction, grace bestoweth:
And O what transport of delight From thy pure chalice floweth!
6. And so through all the length of days, Thy goodness faileth never;
Good Shepherd, may I sing thy praise, Within thy house for ever

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.

A Lesson from the New Testament

Luke 16:1-13

Silence is observed after the reading

Reflection

Dina Widlake

Music for Meditation

Praying for Ourselves & Others

Let us pray for ourselves and the world.

Loving God, enliven the Church for its mission,
That we may be salt of the earth and light to the world.

Breathe fresh life into your people.

Give us power to reveal Christ in our daily lives.

Creator of all, lead us and all people into the ways of justice and peace,

That we may respect one another in freedom and truth.

Awaken in us a sense of wonder for the earth and all that is in it.

Teach us to care creatively for our fragile world.

God of truth, inspire with your wisdom those whose decisions affect the lives of others.

That all may act with integrity and courage.

Give grace to all those whose lives are linked with ours.

May we serve Christ in one another, and love as Christ loves us.

Let us now name before God those for whom we offer our personal prayers, either silently or aloud.

The people may add their intercessions either silently or aloud.

Lord, you have called us to serve you. Grant that we may walk in your presence: your love in our hearts, your truth in our minds, your strength in our wills, until, at the end of our journey, we know the joy of our homecoming and the welcome of your embrace, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

*During the instrumental, the hymn and at any time hereafter,
you are welcome to come forward to light a votive candle as a symbol of your prayers.
Tapers and votive candles are in front of the chancel step as well as behind the chairs.
Please free to go to any of these places to light a candle.*

Music for Meditation

Hymn

Take, O Take Me As I Am

#3119

Take, O take me as I am; summon out what I shall be;
set your seal upon my heart and live in me. *(repeat 3 times)*

The Grace

See that you be at peace among yourselves and love one another. Follow the example of good persons 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 Creator, the Savior and our Sustainer. 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.
After exchanging the Peace, please be seated.*

The Prayer of Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

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:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest.**

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

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:

"This is my own body, given for you. Do this to remember me."

After supper he took a cup of wine, blessed it and gave it to them saying:

"This is my life-blood poured out for you. Do this to remember me."

So we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

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

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name,
Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses
as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil,
for thine is the kingdom,
and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

The Invitation

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.

The Giving of Bread & Cup

*All are welcome to receive Communion.
Gluten free elements are available.*

Music during Communion

Prayer after Communion

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

May joy and nothing less find you on the way. May you be blessed and a blessing. And may light guide you, and countless others, all the way home.

Hymn

The Summons

#2130

Will you come and follow me if I but call your name?
Will you go where you don't know and never be the same?
Will you let my love be shown? Will you let my name be known,
will you let my life be grown in you and you in me?

Will you leave yourself behind if I but call your name?
 Will you care for cruel and kind and never be the same?
 Will you risk the hostile stare should your life attract or scare?
 Will you let me answer prayer in you and you in me?

Will you let the blinded see if I but call your name?
 Will you set the prisoners free and never be the same?
 Will you kiss the leper clean and do such as this unseen,
 and admit to what I mean in you and you in me?

Will you love the "you" you hide if I but call your name?
 Will you quell the fear inside and never be the same?
 Will you use the faith you've found to reshape the world around,
 through my sight and touch and sound in you and you in me?

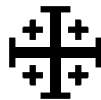
Lord your summons echoes true when you but call my name.
 Let me turn and follow you and never be the same.
 In Your company I'll go where Your love and footsteps show.
 Thus I'll move and live and grow in you and you in me.

Dismissal

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. **Thanks be to God.**

Postlude

Please feel free to depart during the Postlude and to join one another for a reception in the narthex following the service



One emphasis of Celtic Christianity is an emphasis on serving the poor. The two faith communities sponsoring tonight's service have been a part of serving the poor in Western Fairfax in particular and northern Virginia in general for decades. Epiphany Episcopal Church has partnered with Community of Faith since 1998 to provide care for person living with food insecurity. It seemed only fitting that the faith communities who work together also have time to worship together and in doing so, offer to the broader community another style of praising God.

In addition to tonight's service which occurs the third Sunday of each month, Epiphany offers a contemplative worship experience the first Sunday of the month at 5:30PM. An offering is not taken during this service however offering plates are placed by the door and the offering benefits *The Food Pantry*, a grocery distribution ministry of both congregations.

Musicians: First Light Ensemble; Dr. Mary Ann East; *Celebrants:* Rev. Dina Widlake, Rev. Rob Vaughn

Epiphany Episcopal Church

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