

St. Stephen's Episcopal Church

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A parish of the Episcopal Diocese of New Jersey

The Rt. Rev. William H. (Chip) Stokes, Bishop

The Rev. Paul A. Van Sant, Sr., Rector

Gerianne Murphy Treasurer

Esther Graham Music Director

Colleen Goodhue, Parish Administrator

Tom O'Brien, Sexton

Wardens and Vestry 2021

Stefanie Rotsaert Rector's Warden

Richard Smithson, Property Warden

Debbie Fisher, Marge Pomykala, Peter Quigley

Pat Russo, Maryann Payne, Dottie Kaster

Kay Karlick, Tom Larson, Ken Seda

Joanne Smithson, Clerk

Mission Statement

To proclaim the faith that our years have engendered: to use the diversity of our Episcopal experience while working toward a common goal; to teach the young about Jesus and to reach out and affect the lives of those in the community.

"Wherefore by their fruits you shall know them." Matthew 7:20

Welcome to St. Stephen's Church!

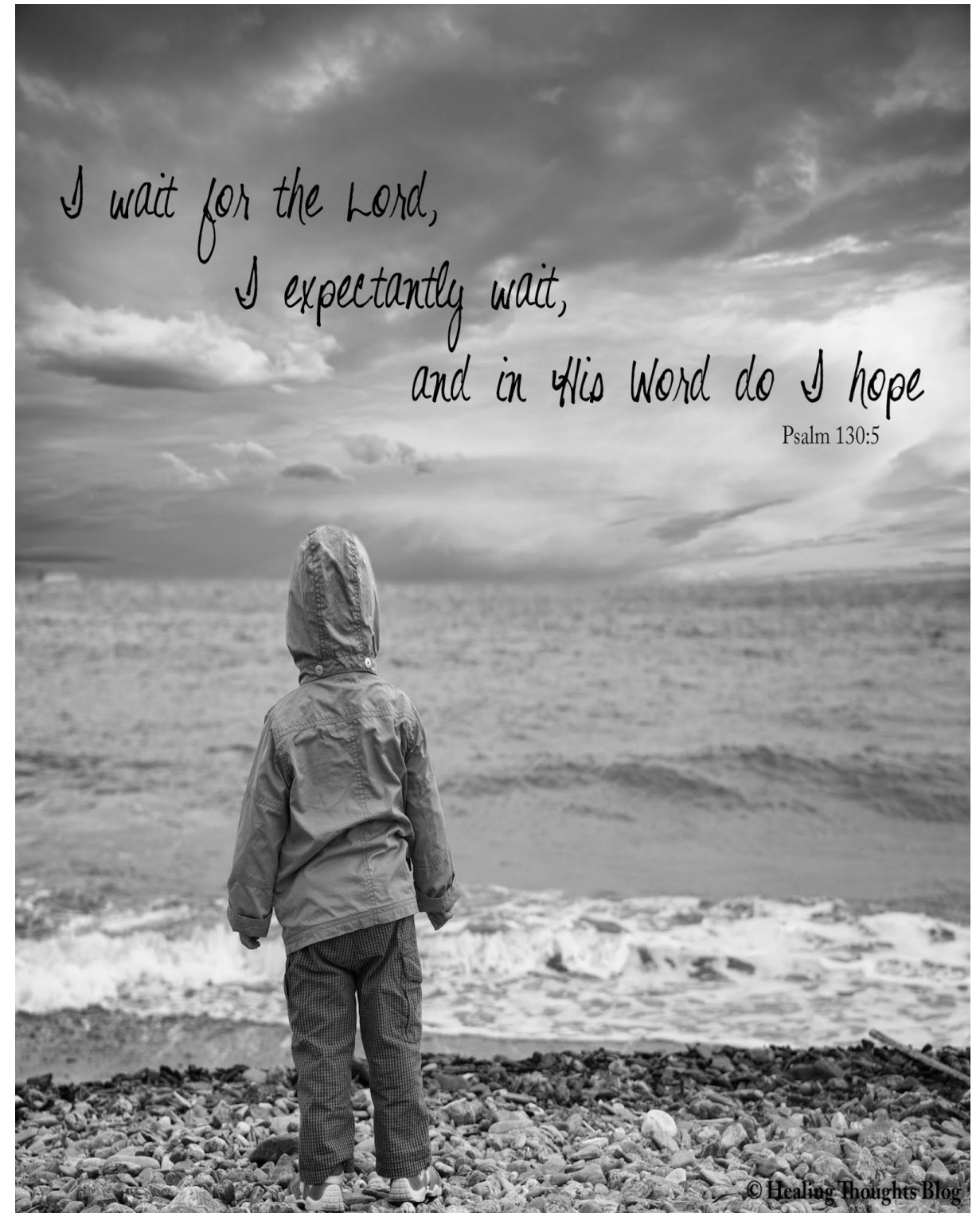
We thank you for joining us for worship today. Please stay for coffee hour, and sign our guest book at the podium in the Narthex. If you are looking for a church home, you have just found it. We would love to have you at St. Stephen's. Arrangements for weddings and baptisms can be made by speaking directly with the Rev. Paul A. Van Sant, Sr., Rector.

To Report Illness, Hospitalization, etc.

Please notify the church office 732-350-2121 of any illnesses or hospitalizations.

If it is an emergency you may also reach Stefanie Rotsaert, Rector's Warden at 732-350-2904 or

Father Paul at his home 609-268-2864.



**ELEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST PROPER 14
HOLY EUCHARIST RITE II**

**AUGUST 8, 2021
8 & 10 AM**

Hymnal	The Word of God	BCP
Open Acclamation		355
Collect of the Day		Insert
First Lesson: <i>Second Book of Samuel 18:5-9, 15, 31-33</i>		Insert
<i>Psalms 130</i>		Insert
Second Lesson: <i>Letter to the Ephesians 4:25-5:2</i>		Insert
Gospel: <i>John 6:35, 41-51</i>		Insert
Sermon — Susan L. Clarke, M. Div.		
The Nicene Creed		358
Prayers of the People Form VI		392
Confession and Absolution		393
The Peace		

HOLY COMMUNION

The Great Thanksgiving		
	Eucharistic Prayer A	361
S120	Sursum Corda	
S125	Sanctus	
S136	Memorial Acclamation	363
	The Lord's Prayer	364
	Breaking of the Bread	
S152	Fraction Anthem	
	Post Communion Prayer	365
	Blessing	
	Announcements	
	Dismissal	

**ELEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
PROPER 14**

AUGUST 8, 2021

Serving in the Liturgy today:

Lector 8:00 am	Bill Bodine
LEM 8:00 am	Stefanie Rotsaert
Altar Guild 8:00 am	Debbie Fisher, David Fisher
Ushers 8:00 am	Mary Storey, Glenn Mortimer, Bill Bodine
Lector 10:00 am	Robert Virtue
LEM 10:00 am	Stefanie Rotsaert
Altar Guild 10:00 am	Valerie Thompson
Ushers 10:00 am	Al Thompson, Valerie Thompson

Sanctuary Candle

The Sanctuary Candle is given to
The Glory of God
Sans Memorial



Altar Flowers

Altar Flowers are given to the
Glory of God
by

Marjorie Redfern in loving memory of
her husband Arthur, her sister Evelyn,
and her brother Bernard.



ST. STEPHEN'S PRAYER CHAIN

is in need of additional members. The Prayer Chain is a dedicated group of parishioners who will pray for any who are in need. If you are interested or would like further information, please contact Greta Pearl at 732-350-7584 for details.

Greta is the contact when placing, on the Prayer Chain, your name or the names of family, neighbors, or friends who would like prayers for healing, comfort, or any other purpose.

Mark Your Calendars!

Sunday, August 29, 2021

One service only @ 9 AM—to recognize Gerianne Murphy as she moves to Delaware.

A reception to follow in the Parish Hall. Please sign up so we may have an accurate count.

Welcome to St. Stephen's Episcopal Church

We continue to hear Jesus' discourse on the bread of life today. Continuing last week's theme of Jesus himself as the source of nourishment for our new life in him, a further level of meaning is introduced. This was astounding to Jesus' hearers (and would be to us if we were not already so used to it), for he is not simply speaking of a "spiritual" communion with him. He is speaking of his own flesh, his own life. He is the food of eternal life.

As the prophet Nathan foretold after David's adultery with Bathsheba, his family falls apart. A son of David rapes his own sister, setting the brothers at each other's throats. Then David's son, Absalom, starts a rebellion against his father and almost wins. David still loves the young man and orders that his life be spared. His generals, however, kill Absalom. David grieves the death of his son and the great kingdom is never the same again.

Today's reading from the Letter to the Ephesians continues from last week's discussion of our unity in the Spirit, to the new way of living which is the result of that unity, and to its deepest and most profound implication: namely, our new life is one identity, both as individuals and as a people, with Jesus himself. What he is, we are becoming.

In the Eucharist we take the material things of this world and, in giving thanks over them, we offer them to be taken up into the life of God. And this is true also of our selves who are represented by the bread and wine. We are part of a people whose story goes back to the ancient Hebrews: a people who have at the center of our existence God calling us to be bearers of the divine presence in the world.

From *The Rite Light: Reflections on the Sunday Readings and Seasons of the Church Year*.

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Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost Proper 14

August 8, 2021
8 & 10AM

Collect of the Day

Grant to us, Lord, we pray, the spirit to think and do always those things that are right, that we, who cannot exist without you, may by you be enabled to live according to your will; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

First Reading

Second Book of Samuel 18:5-9, 15, 31-33

And the king ordered Jo'ab and Abi'shai and It'tai, "Deal gently for my sake with the young man Ab'salom." And all the people heard when the king gave orders to all the commanders about Ab'salom. So the army went out into the field against Israel; and the battle was fought in the forest of E'phraim. And the men of Israel were defeated there by the servants of David, and the slaughter there was great on that day, twenty thousand men. The battle spread over the face of all the country; and the forest devoured more people that day than the sword. And Ab'salom chanced to meet the servants of David. Ab'salom was riding upon his mule, and the mule went under the thick branches of a great oak, and his head caught fast in the oak, and he was left hanging between heaven and earth, while the mule that was under him went on. And ten young men, Jo'ab's armor-bearers, surrounded Ab'salom and struck him, and killed him. And behold, the Cushite came; and the Cushite said, "Good tidings for my lord the king! For the LORD has delivered you this day from the power of all who rose up against you." The king said to the Cushite, "Is it well with the young man Ab'salom?" And the Cushite answered, "May the enemies of my lord the king, and all who rise up against you for evil, be like that young man." And the king was deeply moved, and went up to the chamber over the gate, and wept; and as he went, he said, "O my son Ab'salom, my son, my son Ab'salom! Would I had died instead of you, O Ab'salom, my son, my son!"

Psalm 130

- 1 Out of the depths have I called to you, O LORD;
LORD, hear my voice; *
let your ears consider well the voice of my supplication.
- 2 If you, LORD, were to note what is done amiss, *
O Lord, who could stand?
- 3 For there is forgiveness with you; *
therefore you shall be feared.
- 4 I wait for the LORD; my soul waits for him; *
in his word is my hope.
- 5 My soul waits for the LORD,
more than watchmen for the morning, *
more than watchmen for the morning.
- 6 O Israel, wait for the LORD, *
for with the LORD there is mercy;
- 7 With him there is plenteous redemption, *
and he shall redeem Israel from all their sins.

Second Reading

Letter to the Ephesians 4:25-5:2

Therefore, putting away falsehood, let every one speak the truth with his neighbor, for we are members one of another. Be angry but do not sin; do not let the sun go down on your anger, and give no opportunity to the devil. Let the thief no longer steal, but rather let him labor, doing honest work with his hands, so that he may be able to give to those in need. Let no evil talk come out of your mouths, but only such as is good for edifying, as fits the occasion, that it may impart grace to those who hear. And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, in whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. Let all bitterness and wrath and anger and clamor and slander be put away from you, with all malice, and be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you. Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children. And walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.

Holy Gospel

John 6:35, 41-51

Jesus said to them, "I am the bread of life; he who comes to me shall not hunger, and he who believes in me shall never thirst. The Jews then murmured at him, because he said, "I am the bread which came down from heaven." They said, "Is not this Jesus, the son of Joseph, whose father and mother we know? How does he now say, 'I have come down from heaven'?" Jesus answered them, "Do not murmur among yourselves. No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws him; and I will raise him up at the last day. It is written in the prophets, 'And they shall all be taught by God.' Every one who has heard and learned from the Father comes to me. Not that any one has seen the Father except him who is from God; he has seen the Father. Truly, truly, I say to you, he who believes has eternal life. I am the bread of life. Your fathers ate the manna in the wilderness, and they died. This is the bread which comes down from heaven, that a man may eat of it and not die. I am the living bread which came down from heaven; if any one eats of this bread, he will live for ever; and the bread which I shall give for the life of the world is my flesh."