

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
Gerrie Vergona 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.



**Your throne, O God,
is forever and ever.**

| Hymnal | The Word of God | BCP |
|---------------|---|------------|
| 660 | Processional Hymn: <i>“O Master, let me Walk With Thee ”</i> | |
| | Open Acclamation | 355 |
| | Collect of the Day | Insert |
| | First Lesson: <i>Song of Solomon 2:8-13</i> | Insert |
| | <i>Psalm 45</i> | Insert |
| | Second Lesson: <i>Letter of James 1:17-27</i> | Insert |
| | Gradual: <i>“Word of God Speak”</i> | Insert |
| | Gospel: <i>Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23</i> | Insert |
| | Sermon — <i>The Rev. Paul A. Van Sant, Sr.</i> | |
| | The Nicene Creed | 358 |
| | Prayers of the People Form VI | 392 |
| | Confession and Absolution | 393 |
| | The Peace | |
| | Offertory: <i>Psalm 15 “Lord, Who May Dwell In Your House”</i> | Insert |

HOLY COMMUNION

The Great Thanksgiving

| | | |
|------|--|-----|
| | Eucharistic Prayer A | 361 |
| S120 | Sursum Corda | |
| S125 | Sanctus | |
| S136 | Memorial Acclimation | 363 |
| | The Lord’s Prayer | 364 |
| | Breaking of the Bread | |
| S152 | Fraction Anthem | |
| | Communion Hymns: | |
| 325 | <i>“Let Us Break Bread Together”</i> | |
| 556 | <i>“Rejoice ye Pure in Heart”</i> | |
| 656 | <i>“Blest are the Pure in Heart”</i> | |
| | Post Communion Prayer | 365 |
| | Blessing | |
| | Announcements | |
| 344 | Closing Hymn: <i>“Lord Dismiss us With Thy Blessing”</i> | |
| | Dismissal | |

| | |
|---------------------|--|
| Ushers 9:00 am | Mary Storey, Glenn Mortimer, Bill Bodine |
| Lector 9:00 am | Robert Virtue |
| LEM 9:00 am | Bill Bodine |
| Altar Guild 9:00 am | Valerie Thompson |
| Ushers 9:00 am | Al Thompson, Valerie Thompson |

Sanctuary Candle

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



Reminder!

Our Annual Fair Known as,
“Dignified Junque”
 Saturday September 4th
 8-12pm

And Don’t Forget to Bake

For
 JoAnn Smithson



Altar Flowers

Altar Flowers are given to the
 Glory of God
Sans Memorial



Mark Your Calendars!

Sunday, August 29, 2021

One service only @ 9 AM—to recognize
 Gerianne Murphy as she moves to Dela-
 ware. A reception to follow in the Parish
 Hall.

Please sign up so we may have an accurate
 count.

&

25th Annual Blessing of the Bikes

Saturday, October 23rd, 12-4pm
 Blessing @ 2pm Rain or Shine



Welcome to St. Stephen's Episcopal Church

The Sunday Gospel readings return to Mark's Gospel today. This passage recounts one of the occasions when Jesus took the Pharisees and other experts on the Law to task for putting more emphasis on ceremonial and dietary rules than on the "weightier" requirements of God. It is not outer conformity to the Law but an inner change that brings us into a right relationship with God and with others.

For the remainder of this Church year, we read portions of the "Wisdom Literature" of the Hebrew scriptures. Even though some of the books are ascribed to writers of an earlier time, these books come from the last few centuries before Christ. The Song of Solomon is a wedding song in which a bride and groom are portrayed expressing their love and desire. In the Wisdom tradition these passages are taken as allegories of God's love for the people and our love for God. God comes to us to ravish us with the divine love and to join us in the divine life.

Today we begin reading through the letter of James. This epistle encourages us to live our faith in concrete actions of love and mercy. True religion is based on carrying out its faith in lives of righteousness and mercy.

As the people of God we gather to remember what God has done, to remember God's principles for living, and to realign ourselves with God. Out of our relationship with God, re-established in our liturgical and sacramental encounter, comes the power to confront and overcome evil, and the righteousness which draws others to God.

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

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Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost
Proper 17

August 29, 2021
9 AM

Collect of the Day

Lord of all power and might, the author and giver of all good things: Graft in our hearts the love of your Name; increase in us true religion; nourish us with all goodness; and bring forth in us the fruit of good works; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God for ever and ever. Amen.

First Reading

Song of Solomon 2:8-13

The voice of my beloved! Behold, he comes, leaping upon the mountains, bounding over the hills. My beloved is like a gazelle, or a young stag. Behold, there he stands behind our wall, gazing in at the windows, looking through the lattice. My beloved speaks and says to me: "Arise, my love, my fair one, and come away; for lo, the winter is past, the rain is over and gone. The flowers appear on the earth, the time of singing has come, and the voice of the turtle-dove is heard in our land. The fig tree puts forth its figs, and the vines are in blossom; they give forth fragrance. Arise, my love, my fair one, and come away.

Psalm 45

- 1 My heart is stirring with a noble song;
let me recite what I have fashioned for the king; *
my tongue shall be the pen of a skilled writer.
- 2 You are the fairest of men; *
grace flows from your lips,
because God has blessed you for ever.
- 7 Your throne, O God, endures for ever and ever, *
a scepter of righteousness is the scepter of your kingdom;
you love righteousness and hate iniquity.
- 8 Therefore God, your God, has anointed you *
with the oil of gladness above your fellows.
- 9 All your garments are fragrant with myrrh, aloes, and cassia, *
and the music of strings from ivory palaces makes you glad.
- 10 Kings' daughters stand among the ladies of the court; *
on your right hand is the queen,
adorned with the gold of Ophir.

Second Reading

Letter of James 1:17-27

Every good endowment and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change. Of his own will he brought us forth by the word of truth that we should be a kind of first fruits of his creatures. Know this, my beloved brethren. Let every man be quick to hear, slow to speak, slow to anger, for the anger of man does not work the righteousness of God. Therefore put away all filthiness and rank growth of wickedness and receive with meekness the implanted word, which is able to save your souls. But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves. For if any one is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man who observes his natural face in a mirror; for he observes himself and goes away and at once forgets what he was like. But he who looks into the perfect law, the law of liberty, and perseveres, being no hearer that forgets but a doer that acts, he shall be blessed in his doing. If any one thinks he is religious, and does not bridle his tongue but deceives his heart, this man's religion is vain. Religion that is pure and undefiled before God and the Father is this: to visit orphans and widows in their affliction, and to keep oneself unstained from the world.

Holy Gospel

Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23

Now when the Pharisees gathered together to him, with some of the scribes, who had come from Jerusalem, they saw that some of his disciples ate with hands defiled, that is, unwashed. (For the Pharisees, and all the Jews, do not eat unless they wash their hands, observing the tradition of the elders; and when they come from the market place, they do not eat unless they purify themselves; and there are many other traditions which they observe, the washing of cups and pots and vessels of bronze.) And the Pharisees and the scribes asked him, "Why do your disciples not live according to the tradition of the elders, but eat with hands defiled?" And he said to them, "Well did Isaiah prophesy of you hypocrites, as it is written, 'This people honors me with their lips, but their heart is far from me; in vain do they worship me, teaching as doctrines the precepts of men.' You leave the commandment of God, and hold fast the tradition of men." And he called the people to him again, and said to them, "Hear me, all of you, and understand: there is nothing outside a man which by going into him can defile him; but the things which come out of a man are what defile him." For from within, out of the heart of man, come evil thoughts, fornication, theft, murder, adultery, coveting, wickedness, deceit, licentiousness, envy, slander, pride, foolishness. All these evil things come from within, and they defile a man."