

**St. Stephen's Episcopal Church**

**180 Route 539, Whiting, NJ 08759**

**Phone: 732-350-2121, Fax: 732-350-6000**

**ssechurch@gmail.com**

**www.saintstephenswhiting.org**

**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

Greg Mathews, Parish Administrator

Tom O'Brien, Sexton

**Wardens and Vestry 2023**

Stefanie Bodine, Rector's Warden

Peter Quigley, Property Warden

Shelagh Bluni, Marge Pomykala, Joanne Soriano

Dottie Kaster, Maryann Payne, Robert Virtue

Bill Bodine, Kay Karlick, Richard Smithson

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!**

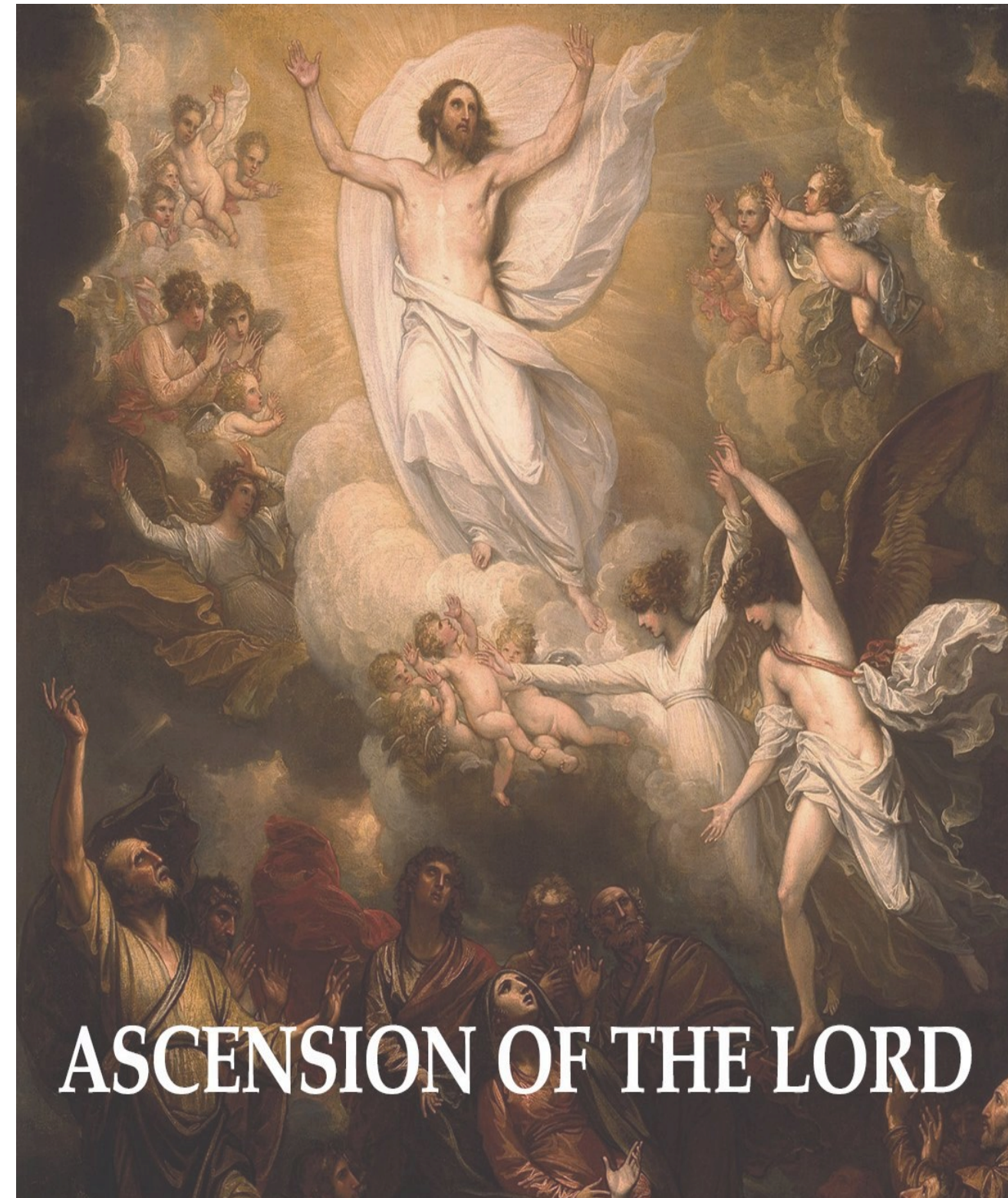
We thank you for joining us for worship today. Please stay for coffee hour, and sign our guest book at the podium in the Narthex. If you are looking for a church home, you have just found it. We would love to have you at St. Stephen's. Arrangements for weddings and baptisms can be made by speaking directly 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 Bodine, Rector's Warden at 732-350-2904 or

Father Paul at his home 609-268-2864.



**ASCENSION OF THE LORD**



<i>Hymnal</i>	<i>The Word of God</i>	<i>BCP</i>
497	Processional Hymn: “How bright appears the morning star” Easter Acclamation	355
S280	Gloria Collect of the Day First Lesson: <i>Acts 1:6-14</i> <b>Psalm 68</b> Second Lesson: <i>1 Peter 4:12-14; 5:6-11</i> Gradual: “Word of God, speak” (Lyrics below) Gospel: <i>John 17:1-11</i>	<i>Insert</i> <i>Insert</i> <i>Insert</i> <i>Insert</i> <i>Insert</i>
	Sermon — <i>The Rev. Paul A. Van Sant, Sr.</i> The Nicene Creed Confession and Absolution The Peace Announcements Offertory Anthem Doxology: “All things come of thee O Lord”	358 393
<b>HOLY COMMUNION</b>		
	Eucharistic Prayer D	372
S120	Sursum Corda	
S125	Sanctus	
S140	Memorial Acclamation The Lord’s Prayer	368 364
	Breaking of the Bread	
S152	Fraction Anthem Communion Hymns:	
325	“Let us break bread together”	
450	“All hail the power of Jesus Name”	
400	“All creatures of our God and King” (verses 1,2,3&7)	
	Post Communion Prayer 365 Blessing	
542	Recessional: “Christ is the Worlds true light” Dismissal	

**Word of God speak**  
Won't you pour down like rain  
Washing my eyes to see  
Your majesty  
To be still and know  
That You're in this place  
Please let me stay and rest  
In Your holiness  
word of God speak

**BIBLE STUDY GROUP**

“The Bible, What Speaks to your Heart”, Mondays at 11am-12:30pm  
for info contact : *Roberta Mackey at 917-696-6863*

**CHOIR PRACTICE**

10am every Wednesday. Please see *Esther Graham* if you are interested in being a part of our joyous hymns and songs.

**HEALING SERVICES**

Thursdays at 10:00 am

**THYROID SUPPORT GROUP MEETING**

Monday, June 12th @10 AM

**OSL WILL BE MEETING**

On Thursday June 8th, after the Healing Service

**VESTRY MEETING**

Monday, May 22nd @ 10am

**PLEDGE CARDS**

If you filled in a pledge card, your envelopes are in the Narthex on the shelf, right side before you enter the church. If you need envelopes, see our treasurer, Gerrie Vergona.

**FAMILY FUN DAY DANCE SPECTACULAR, COMING JUNE 4th!**

We are having an organizational meeting of the family fun day dance spectacular team **TODAY** between the two services in the Parish Hall. If anyone wants to attend to find out what we're planning to do. Please come to the meeting. Hope to see you there!





## ONLINE CHURCH SERVICES

Holy Eucharist are held every Sunday at 8AM and 10:15AM – join us in person or on zoom or you tube. See our schedule of services located online at [www.ststephenswhitingnj.org](http://www.ststephenswhitingnj.org)



## Memorial Garden For Pets

(Remains Only)

For all who are looking for a special place to lay your beloved pets to rest.

Please contact our office Monday–Thursday 9am–2pm for and more  
(732) 350-2121

## The Bishop's s Gala is sold out.

We will have the zoom connection of the speeches from our Presiding Bishop, our Bishop and Bishop-elect **TODAY** in our Parish House. Time to be verified soon. See Stefanie if you are interested

## SAFE DRIVING CLASS FOR SENIORS

This class will be held at St. Stephen's on Tuesday, June 6th from 9AM-1PM.

Cost is \$20, if you are a member of AARP,  
and \$25 if you are not a member of AARP.

Money is due on the day of class.

Bring a snack if you need to.

Sign up by calling Stefanie at (732) 350-2904.

This class is open to anyone, and after you take the class, you will be eligible to receive a discount from your auto insurance.



## *Collect of the Day*

☩ God, the King of glory, you have exalted your only Son Jesus Christ with great triumph to your kingdom in heaven: Do not leave us comfortless, but send us your Holy Spirit to strengthen us, and exalt us to that place where our Savior Christ has gone before; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, in glory everlasting... *Amen.*

## *First Reading*

*Acts 1:6-14*

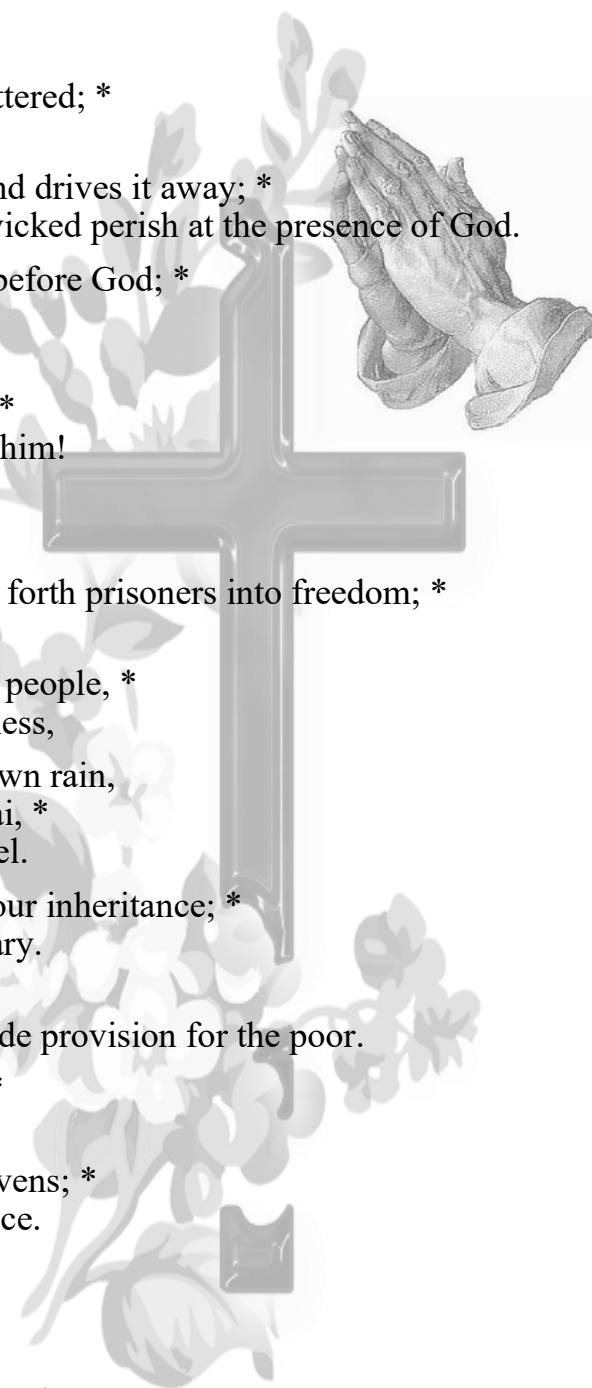
When the apostles had come together, they asked Jesus, “Lord, is this the time when you will restore the kingdom to Israel?” He replied, “It is not for you to know the times or periods that the Father has set by his own authority. But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.” When he had said this, as they were watching, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. While he was going and they were gazing up toward heaven, suddenly two men in white robes stood by them. They said, “Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking up toward heaven? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven.”

Then they returned to Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is near Jerusalem, a sabbath day’s journey away. When they had entered the city, they went to the room upstairs where they were staying, Peter, and John, and James, and Andrew, Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew, James son of Alphaeus, and Simon the Zealot, and Judas son of James. All these were constantly devoting themselves to prayer, together with certain women, including Mary the mother of Jesus, as well as his brothers.

# Psalm 68

Exsurgat Deus

1. Let God arise, and let his enemies be scattered; \*  
let those who hate him flee before him.
2. Let them vanish like smoke when the wind drives it away; \*  
as the wax melts at the fire, so let the wicked perish at the presence of God.
3. But let the righteous be glad and rejoice before God; \*  
let them also be merry and joyful.
4. Sing to God, sing praises to his Name;  
exalt him who rides upon the heavens; \*  
YAHWEH is his Name, rejoice before him!
5. Father of orphans, defender of widows, \*  
God in his holy habitation!
6. God gives the solitary a home and brings forth prisoners into freedom; \*  
but the rebels shall live in dry places.
7. O God, when you went forth before your people, \*  
when you marched through the wilderness,
8. The earth shook, and the skies poured down rain,  
at the presence of God, the God of Sinai, \*  
at the presence of God, the God of Israel.
9. You sent a gracious rain, O God, upon your inheritance; \*  
you refreshed the land when it was weary.
10. Your people found their home in it; \*  
in your goodness, O God, you have made provision for the poor.
33. Sing to God, O kingdoms of the earth; \*  
sing praises to the Lord.
34. He rides in the heavens, the ancient heavens; \*  
he sends forth his voice, his mighty voice.
35. Ascribe power to God; \*  
his majesty is over Israel;  
his strength is in the skies.
36. How wonderful is God in his holy places! \*  
the God of Israel giving strength and power to his people!  
Blessed be God!



**CHAPEL CLOTHES LINE** ~ Sells well to groups meeting at our church. Now accepting **Summer** clothes **ONLY** in **TOP** condition, (clean, with no missing buttons, tears or stains). Also, continue to use the **FOUR BINS** in our parking lot for *out of season clothing, all men's wear,* and other items. Our winter clothes are now on clearance sale. We are very appreciative of your kind donations to, and purchases from, this fundraising project.

**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.

**CARE GIVERS VOLUNTEERS** ~ Caregivers volunteers, is a faith base organization that offer assistance to the elderly. If you have any questions please feel free to contact Caregivers at 732-505-2273 Ext 213

**COFFEE HOUR**  coffee hour

A new sign-up sheet is in the Narthex for 2023 - sign up! Everyone is so grateful for the delicious food that you share, your help, and they love chatting after the services. Any questions, contact *Stefanie* at (732) 350-2904

## **Reminder to sign up!**

For the family fun day dance spectacular on Sunday, June 4th. A meeting will be held today between the services. Helpers are needed.

See Bill Bodine

## **Dollar Auction**

The dollar auction has been changed to June 24th 2023, doors open at eleven. We are accepting items that need to be new, not used. We are also looking for volunteers to help give out refreshments, runners to collect dollars and a banker to make change.

Any questions please see me at church.

*Tom Larson*





## Order of Saint Luke

The Order of St. Luke meets on the second Thursday of each month- June 8th, after the Healing Service.

### Prayer to send out LEMs with the Sacrament:

**Celebrant:** N. we send you out to share Communion this week with those who have been entrusted to your care.

**People:** May you carry the prayers of all of us as you take this Sacrament of Christ's presence.

**Celebrant:** Continues with a closing prayer.

### ASSISTED LIVING COMMUNION SERVICES

The Pines	1st Sunday of each month	at 9:30 am
Aristicare	1st Monday of each month	at 2:00 pm
The Arbors	2nd Monday of each month	at 2:00 pm
The Pines	3rd Monday of each month	at 2:00 pm



## TECH THURSDAY



Tech Thursday meets monthly. Our next meeting is **June, time and date to come**. Bring your tablet, computer, phone, i pad, etc. to the meeting. Estelle Pizzuti and Bill Bodine will assist you.

## Public Relations meetings

Will resume in September!

## Daughters of the British Empire



The (DBE) is a 501(c) (3) non-profit American society of women of British or Commonwealth of Nations birth, heritage or ancestry. We share and promote our heritage while supporting local charities and our senior living facilities across the United States.

To learn more about our local chapter, here in Ocean County, please email *Joan Saunders* – [njstateorganizer@gmail.com](mailto:njstateorganizer@gmail.com)

## *Second Reading*

*1 Peter 4:12-14; 5:6-11*

**B**eloved, do not be surprised at the fiery ordeal that is taking place among you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you. But rejoice insofar as you are sharing Christ's sufferings, so that you may also be glad and shout for joy when his glory is revealed. If you are reviled for the name of Christ, you are blessed, because the spirit of glory, which is the Spirit of God, is resting on you.

Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, so that he may exalt you in due time. Cast all your anxiety on him, because he cares for you. Discipline yourselves, keep alert. Like a roaring lion your adversary the devil prowls around, looking for someone to devour. Resist him, steadfast in your faith, for you know that your brothers and sisters in all the world are undergoing the same kinds of suffering. And after you have suffered for a little while, the God of all grace, who has called you to his eternal glory in Christ, will himself restore, support, strengthen, and establish you. To him be the power forever and ever... *Amen.*

## *Holy Gospel*

*John 17:1-11*

**J**esus looked up to heaven and said, "Father, the hour has come; glorify your Son so that the Son may glorify you, since you have given him authority over all people, to give eternal life to all whom you have given him. And this is eternal life, that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent. I glorified you on earth by finishing the work that you gave me to do. So now, Father, glorify me in your own presence with the glory that I had in your presence before the world existed.

"I have made your name known to those whom you gave me from the world. They were yours, and you gave them to me, and they have kept your word. Now they know that everything you have given me is from you; for the words that you gave to me I have given to them, and they have received them and know in truth that I came from you; and they have believed that you sent me. I am asking on their behalf; I am not asking on behalf of the world, but on behalf of those whom you gave me, because they are yours. All mine are yours, and yours are mine; and I have been glorified in them. And now I am no longer in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, protect them in your name that you have given me, so that they may be one, as we are one."



*Welcome to St. Stephen's*

Today we begin the final week of celebrating the victory Christ won over sin and death at Easter.

There were three aspects to that victory: Jesus' resurrection, his ascension into heaven, and his sending the Holy Spirit. Last Thursday the church celebrated the Ascension and in today's liturgy it is commemorated again. However, added to that is the theme of waiting for the Holy Spirit to come upon the church, empowering it for ministry.

Today's gospel reading is a portion of the "high priestly prayer" of Jesus for all his followers. This prayer, which he offered on the night before his death, was fulfilled at Easter. That unity between him and us for which he prayed was accomplished in the resurrection, ascension, and giving of the Spirit. We become united in his Spirit and his love by means of Holy Baptism and Holy Eucharist.

In our reading from Acts today, we hear how powerfully God's Spirit was at work in Paul and his friends. He and Silas were rescued from prison by an earthquake. As a result, the jailer was so impressed that he listened to their message, believed, and was baptized along with his family. The second reading is the concluding verses of Revelation in which the Lord's promise to return is anticipated.

Today's liturgy, then, looks forward to next Sunday when we celebrate God's presence with us in the Holy Spirit and the Spirit's gifts to us, equipping us to make Christ known to all people.

Lector 8:00 am	<i>JoAnn Smithson</i>
LEM 8:00 am	<i>Richard Smithson, JoAnn Smithson</i>
Altar Guild 8:00 am	<i>Linda Chiappetta</i>
Ushers 8:00 am	<i>Glenn Mortimer, Mary Storey, Bill Bodine</i>
Lector 10:00 am	<i>Kay Karlick</i>
LEM 10:00 am	<i>Susan Clarke, Bill Bodine , Dotty Kaster</i>
Altar Guild 10:00am	<i>Beverly Larson, Karen Mauro</i>
Ushers 10:00 am	<i>Al Thompson, Valerie Thompson</i>

*Sanctuary Candle*

*The Sanctuary Candle is given to  
The Glory of God*

*In Memory of  
William Bodine by  
Bill & Stefanie Bodine*

*In Memory of  
Pat Larson  
by Carl Larson*

*Altar Flowers*

*Altar Flowers are given to  
the Glory of God*

*In Memory of  
Pat Larson on her Birthday  
by Richard and JoAnn Smithson*

