

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, Barbara Marshal, Kay Karlick
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.

The Fifth Sunday in Lent



THE FIFTH SUNDAY IN LENT

HOLY EUCHARIST RITE I

Hymnal

The Word of God

MARCH 26, 2023

8 & 10 am

BCP

Open Acclamation

319

441 Processional: "In the cross of Christ I glory"

Confession and Absolution

320

S102 *Trisagion*

Collect of the Day

Insert

First Lesson: **Ezekiel 37:1-14**

Insert

Psalm 130

Lenten Booklet

Second Lesson: **Romans 8:6-11**

Insert

Gradual: (*Verse, Matthew 4:4*)

Lenten Booklet

Gospel: **John 11: 1-45**

Insert

Sermon — *The Rev. Paul A. Van Sant, Sr.*

The Nicene Creed

327

Prayers of the People

328

The Peace

332

Announcements

Offertory: Anthem

Doxology: "*All things come of Thee, O Lord*"

Holy Communion

The Great Thanksgiving

Eucharistic Prayer I

333

S112 Sursum Corda

S113 Sanctus

The Lord's Prayer

336

S157 Angus Dei

Communion Hymns:

325 "Let Us Break Bread Together"

313 "Let thy blood in mercy poured"

679 "Surely it is God who saves me"

Post Communion Prayer

339

Blessing

398 Closing Hymn: "*I sing the almighty power of God*"

Dismissal

Save the Date on Upcoming Events

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

9:30am 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

OSL WILL BE MEETING

On Thursday May 11th after the Healing Service

THYROID SUPPORT GROUP MEETING

Monday, May 8th @10 AM

VESTRY MEETING

Monday, March 27th @ 10am

THE NEXT STEWARDSHIP LEGACY SUMMIT MEETING

is on Sunday, March 26 after the 10am service. This will be our final meeting before the event on Saturday, April 29.

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.



Memorial Garden For Pets
at
St. Stephen's Episcopal Church
For all who are looking for a special place to lay your beloved pets to rest. (Cremains only)
Please contact our office Monday–Thursday 9am–2pm for services and more information.
(732) 350-2121

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 for Lent and Holy Week located in the Narthex or online at www.ststephenswhitingnj.org



A Legacy Summit For Estate & Will Planning

Please join us for a day of will & estate planning for your final expenses on Saturday April 29th from 10am-2pm!

Next public relations team meeting

Sunday April 16th!

Next Stewardship Meeting

Sunday, March 26th, after our regular 10 am scheduled services.

We'll meet 2x in April after Easter, dates TBD.

See Bill Bodine for info and any questions you may have



Our Daily Bread Pantry and Hungry Paws

Days and Hours of Operation are:

Tuesday 10 AM until 12:00 PM

Wednesday 10 AM until 12:00 PM

Our Daily Bread Pantry and Hungry Paws is made up of members of the **St. Stephen's Episcopal Church** community and other volunteers who assist in maintaining our pantry, provide food for the sick, the hungry and the needy. The food pantry is here to help those who have minimal funds to work with and come to us when they have a specific need for food.

The **Our Daily Bread Pantry and Hungry Paws** through very generous donations is also able to provide pet food for dogs and cats. For further information please call: **Jim Jados, Director, Food Pantry at (732) 408-5948.**

Collect of the Day

Almighty God, you alone can bring into order the unruly wills and affections of sinners: Grant your people grace to love what you command and desire what you promise; that, among the swift and varied changes of the world, our hearts may surely there be fixed where true joys are to be found; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

First Reading

Ezekiel 37:1-14

The hand of the LORD was upon me, and he brought me out by the Spirit of the LORD, and set me down in the midst of the valley; it was full of bones. And he led me round among them; and behold, there were very many upon the valley; and lo, they were very dry. And he said to me, "Son of man, can these bones live?" And I answered, "O Lord GOD, thou knowest." Again he said to me, "Prophecy to these bones, and say to them, O dry bones, hear the word of the LORD. Thus says the Lord GOD to these bones: Behold, I will cause breath to enter you, and you shall live. And I will lay sinews upon you, and will cause flesh to come upon you, and cover you with skin, and put breath in you, and you shall live; and you shall know that I am the LORD."

So I prophesied as I was commanded; and as I prophesied, there was a noise, and behold, a rattling; and the bones came together, bone to its bone. And as I looked, there were sinews on them, and flesh had come upon them, and skin had covered them; but there was no breath in them. Then he said to me, "Prophecy to the breath, prophesy, son of man, and say to the breath, Thus says the Lord GOD: Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe upon these slain, that they may live." So I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived, and stood upon their feet, an exceedingly great host.

Then he said to me, "Son of man, these bones are the whole house of Israel. Behold, they say, 'Our bones are dried up, and our hope is lost; we are clean cut off.' Therefore prophesy, and say to them, Thus says the Lord GOD: Behold, I will open your graves, and raise you from your graves, O my people; and I will bring you home into the land of Israel. And you shall know that I am the LORD, when I open your graves, and raise you from your graves, O my people. And I will put my Spirit within you, and you shall live, and I will place you in your own land; then you shall know that I, the LORD, have spoken, and I have done it, says the LORD."

Psalm 130

De profundis

- 1 **O**ut 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

Romans 8:6-11

To set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. For the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God; it does not submit to God's law, indeed it cannot; and those who are in the flesh cannot please God.

But you are not in the flesh, you are in the Spirit, if in fact the Spirit of God dwells in you. Any one who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him. But if Christ is in you, although your bodies are dead because of sin, your spirits are alive because of righteousness. If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will give life to your mortal bodies also through his Spirit which dwells in you.

Holy Gospel

John 11: 1-45

Now a certain man was ill, Lazarus of Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha. It was Mary who anointed the Lord with ointment and wiped his feet with her



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

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

EASTER FLOWER OFFERINGS

The Altar Guild is again planning to order potted flowers to decorate the Sanctuary in preparation for Easter. This is a time when we especially may want to remember our loved ones and friends who have died or to express thanksgiving for our blessings.

Easter Flower Offering envelopes will be available in the Narthex for those who would like to participate. Please fill out the appropriate information, and return the envelope to the church at your earliest convenience. [The deadline for submission of Easter Flower Offering envelopes is Sunday, April 2, 2023.](#)

If you have any questions, please call Altar Guild Flower Chair, Valerie Thompson, at 732-657-4510.

Thank you and God Bless.



Order of Saint Luke

The Order of St. Luke meets on the second Thursday of each month--May 11th, 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 is at 12:30PM every Thursday. Bring your tablet, computer, phone, ipad, etc to the meeting. Estelle Pizzuti and Bill Bodine will assist you.

EASTER EGGS

Fill the plastic Easter eggs for the children. The empty eggs are in a box in the coffee room. Fill them with wrapped candy or soft candy for the children. Return them to Stefanie before Easter Sunday. Helpers will be needed to "hide" them for the children. Thanks for your help.

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

hair, whose brother Lazarus was ill. So the sisters sent to him, saying, "Lord, he whom you love is ill." But when Jesus heard it he said, "This illness is not unto death; it is for the glory of God, so that the Son of God may be glorified by means of it."

Now Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus. So when he heard that he was ill, he stayed two days longer in the place where he was. Then after this he said to the disciples, "Let us go into Judea again." The disciples said to him, "Rabbi, the Jews were but now seeking to stone you, and are you going there again?" Jesus answered, "Are there not twelve hours in the day? If any one walks in the day, he does not stumble, because he sees the light of this world. But if any one walks in the night, he stumbles, because the light is not in him." Thus he spoke, and then he said to them, "Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep, but I go to awake him out of sleep." The disciples said to him, "Lord, if he has fallen asleep, he will recover." Now Jesus had spoken of his death, but they thought that he meant taking rest in sleep. Then Jesus told them plainly, "Lazarus is dead; and for your sake I am glad that I was not there, so that you may believe. But let us go to him." Thomas, called the Twin, said to his fellow disciples, "Let us also go, that we may die with him."

Now when Jesus came, he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb four days. Bethany was near Jerusalem, about two miles off, and many of the Jews had come to Martha and Mary to console them concerning their brother. When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went and met him, while Mary sat in the house. Martha said to Jesus, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. And even now I know that whatever you ask from God, God will give you." Jesus said to her, "Your brother will rise again." Martha said to him, "I know that he will rise again in the resurrection at the last day." Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life; he who believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live, and whoever lives and believes in me shall never die. Do you believe this?" She said to him, "Yes, Lord; I believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God, he who is coming into the world."

When she had said this, she went and called her sister Mary, saying quietly, "The Teacher is here and is calling for you." And when she heard it, she rose quickly and went to him. Now Jesus had not yet come to the village, but was still in the place where Martha had met him. When the Jews who were with her in the house, consoling her, saw Mary rise quickly and go out, they followed her, supposing that she was going to the tomb to weep there. Then Mary, when she came where Jesus was and saw him, fell at his feet, saying to him, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died." When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who came with her also weeping, he was deeply moved in spirit and troubled; and he said, "Where have you laid him?" They said to him, "Lord, come and see." Jesus wept. So the Jews said, "See how he loved him!" But some of them said, "Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man have kept this man from dying?"

Then Jesus, deeply moved again, came to the tomb; it was a cave, and a stone lay upon it. Jesus said, "Take away the stone." Martha, the sister of the dead man, said to him, "Lord, by this time there will be an odor, for he has been dead four days." Jesus said to her, "Did I not tell you that if you would believe you would see the glory of God?" So they took away the stone. And Jesus lifted up his eyes and said, "Father, I thank thee that thou hast heard me. I knew that thou hearest me always, but I have said this on account of the people standing by, that they may believe that thou didst send me." When he had said this, he cried with a loud voice, "Lazarus, come out." The dead man came out, his hands and feet bound with bandages, and his face wrapped with a cloth. Jesus said to them, "Unbind him, and let him go." Many of the Jews therefore, who had come with Mary and had seen what he did, believed in him.



Each of the Lenten Sundays stresses one of the events in the Old Testament history of Salvation. For us, these events foreshadow the meaning of Christ's death and resurrection and our incorporation into him in Holy Baptism.

The two greatest events in Israel's salvation history were the Exodus/Passover in the time of Moses and Israel's return from exile in Babylon to the land of promise in the sixth century B.C. Today we hear from Isaiah a reflection upon that return which transforms it into the sign that still to come. God's plan is an even greater act of salvation—something entirely new. It is that new action by God which we celebrate in this season and especially in Holy Week and Easter.

Today's gospel reading is the story of a woman who expressed her devotion to Jesus by anointing his feet with costly perfume. While Judas complained about her extravagant action, Jesus saw it as a sign of his coming death and burial. The gospel writer discounts the complaint that the money could have been given to the poor. We are reminded that to make our Lord our greatest value is essential to our role as the people of God.

In the second reading, Paul testifies that his life is lived in Christ. This is not simply a metaphor. In baptism, we have been made part of Jesus' dying and rising, which is renewed in the Eucharist.

We are nearing Holy Week, when we enter into an intense period of rediscovering our identity as people who are in Christ and in whom God has performed the ultimate act of salvation. The restoration of all people to their true homeland with God will end the exile from God created by our disobedience

From The Rite Light: Reflections on the Sunday Readings and Seasons of the Church Year. Copyright © 2009 by Michael W. Merriman. Church Publishing Incorporated, New York.

Serving in the Liturgy today:

Lector 8:00 am	<i>Stefanie Bodine</i>
LEM 8:00 am	<i>Bill Bodine, Susan Clark</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>Valerie Thompson</i>
LEM 10:00 am	<i>Carrol Torres, Bob Virtue, Gerrie Vergona</i>
Altar Guild 10:00am	<i>Valerie Thompson, 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

John Dueland, Father & Son, George Frey,

By Joy Frey



Altar Flowers

*Altar Flowers are given to
the Glory of God*

In Memory of

John Dueland, Father & Son, George Frey,

By Joy Frey

