

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
Greg Mathews, Parish Administrator
Tom O'Brien, Sexton

Wardens and Vestry 2022

Stefanie Bodine, Rector's Warden
Peter Quigley, Property Warden
Debbie Fisher, Marge Pomykala, Joanne Soriano
Dottie Kaster, Maryann Payne, Robert Virtue
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!

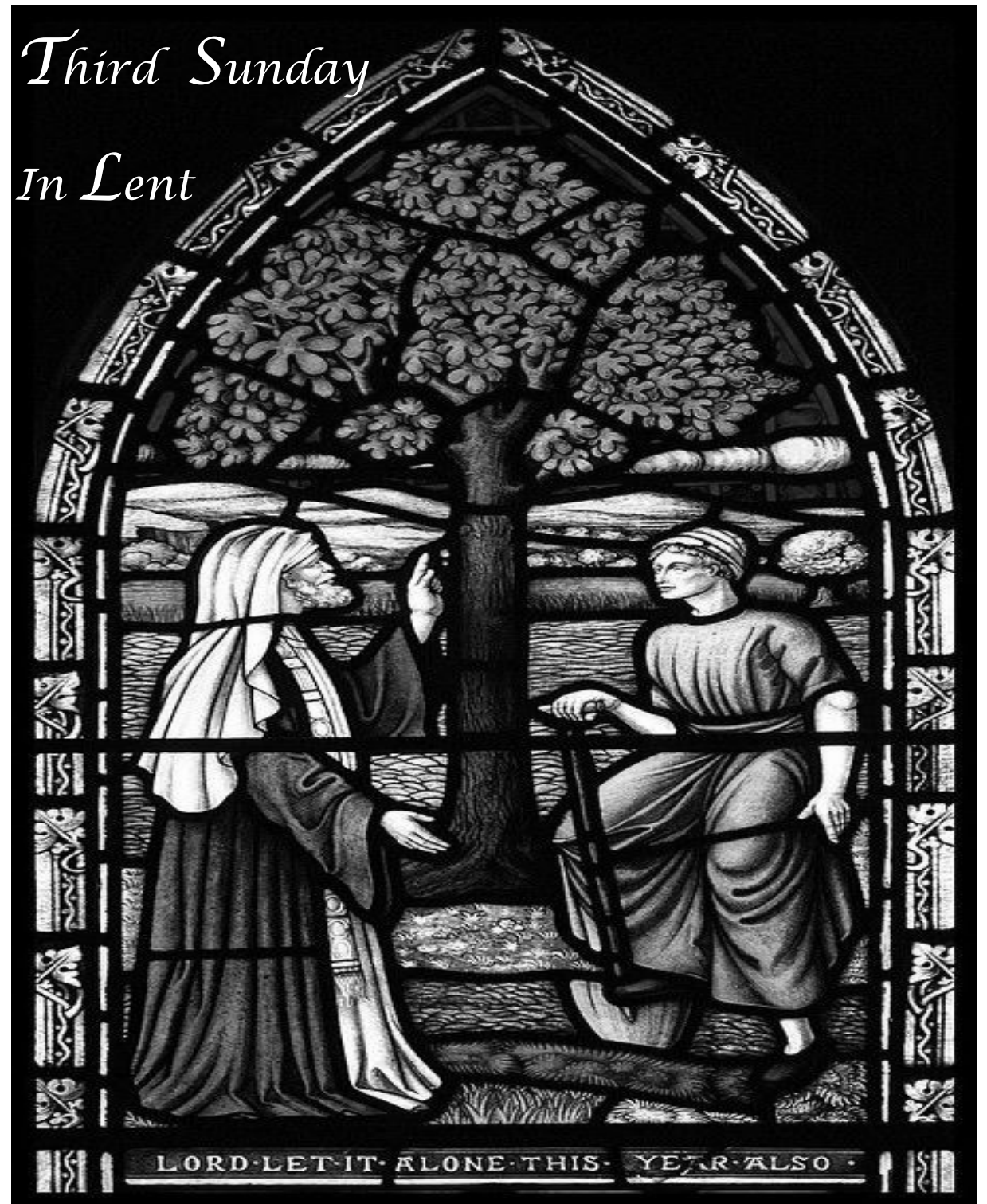
We thank you for joining us for worship today. Please stay for coffee hour, and sign our guest book at the podium in the Narthex. If you are looking for a church home, you have just found it. We would love to have you at St. Stephen's. Arrangements for weddings and baptisms can be made by speaking directly 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 Bodine, Rector's Warden at 732-350-2904 or Father Paul at his home 609-268-2864.

Third Sunday

In Lent



**THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT
HOLY EUCHARIST RITE I**

**MARCH 20, 2022
8 & 10:15am**

Hymnal	THE WORD OF GOD	BCP
	Open Acclamation	319
685	Processional “ <i>Rock of Ages</i> ”	
	Confession and Absolution	320
S91	Kyrie	324
	Collect of the Day	Insert
	First Lesson: <i>Book of Exodus 3:1-15</i>	Insert
	<i>Psalm 63</i>	<i>Lenten Booklet</i>
	Second Lesson: <i>First Letter to the Corinthians 10:1-13</i>	Insert
	Gradual: <i>Verse</i>	<i>Lenten Booklet</i>
	Gospel: <i>Luke 13:1-9</i>	Insert
	Sermon — <i>The Rev. Paul A. Van Sant, Sr.</i>	
	The Nicene Creed	(bottom of page) 327
	Prayers of the People	328
	The Peace	332
	Offertory Anthem	
	Doxology: “ <i>All things come of Thee, O Lord</i> ”	
 HOLY COMMUNION		
	The Great Thanksgiving	
	Eucharistic Prayer I	333
S112	Sursum Corda	
S113	Sanctus	
	<i>The Lord’s Prayer</i>	336
S157	Angus Dei	
	Communion Hymns:	
435	“ <i>Let us break bread together</i> ”	
147	“ <i>Come ye Disconsolate</i> ” (Lavas)	
574	“ <i>Before Thy Throne</i> ”	
	Post Communion Prayer	339
	Announcements	
	Blessing	
344	Closing Hymn: “ <i>Lord Dismiss us</i> ”	
	Dismissal	

Save the Date on Upcoming Events

BIBLE STUDY GROUP-

“The Bible, What Speaks to your Heart”, Mondays at 11am, for info contact Roberta Mackey at (917) 696-6863

CHOIR PRACTICE-

Wednesdays at 10am

HEALING SERVICES-

Thursdays at 10:00 am

ORDER OF ST. LUKE-

2nd Thursday of each month, April 14th- after Healing Service

VESTRY MEETING-

Monday, March 28st @ 10am

WHITING GARDEN CLUB-

Whiting Garden Club meets next on April 6th at 10AM in the Parish Hall call Stefanie if you plan to attend.

DO YOU NEED A PLEDGE CARD?

Please see our Treasurer, Gerrie Vergona.

LENTEN SCHEDULES-

Available in the Narthex

BOY SCOUTS TROOP 350 1ST ANNUAL CRAFT AND VENDOR FUND-RAISING FAIR

Saturday April 2nd from 9 am to 1 pm in our Parish Hall. Refreshments available for purchase.

THYROID SUPPORT GROUP-

Monday, April 11th at 10AM All are welcome



ONLINE CHURCH SERVICES

Holy Eucharist are held every Sunday at 8AM and 10:15AM – join us in person or on zoom or you tube. Compline is now on **Monday, Wednesday, and Friday** at 7PM on **YouTube and Zoom**. All are welcome!

COME AND SEE!!!



LENTEN BIBLE STUDY

“Embracing the Uncertain”

Bible reflections on dealing with uncertainty
Every Tuesday at 11am and 5pm during lent.

A sign up sheet is in the Narthex or call the office to reserve a book.



Spring Craft and Vendor Fair

1st annual Spring fundraiser for Boy Scout Troop 350

Saturday, April 2nd From 9 am - 1 pm

Come enjoy shopping with lots of crafters and vendors for all holiday needs

Refreshments available for purchase

At

St. Stephen's Episcopal Church

180 Rt 539 Whiting NJ 08759



Third Sunday in Lent

March 20, 2022

Collect of the Day

Almighty God, you know that we have no power in ourselves to help ourselves: Keep us both outwardly in our bodies and inwardly in our souls, that we may be defended from all adversities which may happen to the body, and from all evil thoughts which may assault and hurt the soul; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

First Reading

Book of Exodus 3:1-15

Now Moses was keeping the flock of his father-in-law, Jethro, the priest of Mid'ian; and he led his flock to the west side of the wilderness, and came to Horeb, the mountain of God. And the angel of the LORD appeared to him in a flame of fire out of the midst of a bush; and he looked, and lo, the bush was burning, yet it was not consumed. And Moses said, "I will turn aside and see this great sight, why the bush is not burnt." When the LORD saw that he turned aside to see, God called to him out of the bush, "Moses, Moses!" And he said, "Here am I." Then he said, "Do not come near; put off your shoes from your feet, for the place on which you are standing is holy ground." And he said, "I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob." And Moses hid his face, for he was afraid to look at God. Then the LORD said, "I have seen the affliction of my people who are in Egypt, and have heard their cry because of their taskmasters; I know their sufferings, and I have come down to deliver them out of the hand of the Egyptians, and to bring them up out of that land to a good and broad land, a land flowing with milk and honey, to the place of the Canaanites, the Hittites, the Amorites, the Per'izzites, the Hivites, and the Jeb'usites. And now, behold, the cry of the people of Israel has come to me, and I have seen the oppression with which the Egyptians oppress them. Come, I will send you to Pharaoh that you may bring forth my people, the sons of Israel, out of Egypt." But Moses said to God, "Who am I that I should go to Pharaoh, and bring the sons of Israel out of Egypt?" He said, "But I will be with you; and this shall be the sign for you, that I have sent you: when you have brought forth the people out of Egypt, you shall serve God upon this mountain." Then Moses said to God, "If I come to the people of Israel and say to them, 'The God of your fathers has sent me to you,' and they ask me, 'What is his name?' what shall I say to them?" God said to Moses, "I AM WHO I AM." And he said, "Say this to the people of Israel, 'I AM has sent me to you.'" God also said to Moses, "Say this to the people of Israel, 'The LORD, the God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, has sent me to you': this is my name for ever, and thus I am to be remembered throughout all generations.

Psalm 63

1 O God, you are my God; eagerly I seek you; *
my soul thirsts for you, my flesh faints for you,
as in a barren and dry land where there is no water.

2 Therefore I have gazed upon you in your holy place, *
that I might behold your power and your glory.

3 For your loving-kindness is better than life itself; *
my lips shall give you praise.

4 So will I bless you as long as I live *
and lift up my hands in your Name.

5 My soul is content, as with marrow and fatness, *
and my mouth praises you with joyful lips,

6 When I remember you upon my bed, *
and meditate on you in the night watches.

7 For you have been my helper, *
and under the shadow of your wings I will rejoice.

8 My soul clings to you; *
your right hand holds me fast.



CHAPEL CLOTHES LINE ~ Sells well to groups meeting at our church. Now accepting Winter 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 Summer 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 ~ We will be revisiting the Caregivers program soon after Lent. Please continue to use the mailbox in the Office to put in your hours. If you have any questions please feel free to contact JoAnn Smithson at 609-268-0821.

YOUR PERSONAL ESTATE PLANNING

Prayerfully consider making an endowment gift to St. Stephen's as part of your estate plan. Contact our Treasurer, *Gerrie Vergona* if interested.

Spring officially begins Sunday at 11:33am

COFFEE HOUR



help wanted



A new sign-up sheet is in the Narthex for 2022 - 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

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.**

RECTOR'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

Thank you to all who have donated. There are parishioners as well as other members in our community who benefit greatly from this valued fund. If you wish to contribute, please use the basket on the back table for donations



Order of Saint Luke

The Order of St. Luke meets on the second Thursday of each month--March 10th, 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

The Arbors 2nd Monday of each month at 2:00 pm

The Pines 3rd Monday of each month at 2:00 pm



Second Reading

First Letter to the Corinthians 10:1-13

I want you to know, brethren, that our fathers were all under the cloud, and all passed through the sea, and all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea, and all ate the same supernatural food and all drank the same supernatural drink. For they drank from the supernatural Rock which followed them, and the Rock was Christ. Nevertheless with most of them God was not pleased; for they were overthrown in the wilderness. Now these things are warnings for us, not to desire evil as they did. Do not be idolaters as some of them were; as it is written, "The people sat down to eat and drink and rose up to dance." We must not indulge in immorality as some of them did, and twenty-three thousand fell in a single day. We must not put the Lord to the test, as some of them did and were destroyed by serpents; nor grumble, as some of them did and were destroyed by the Destroyer. Now these things happened to them as a warning, but they were written down for our instruction, upon whom the end of the ages has come. Therefore let any one who thinks that he stands take heed lest he fall. No temptation has overtaken you that is not common to man. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tempted beyond your strength, but with the temptation will also provide the way of escape, that you may be able to endure it.

Holy Gospel

Luke 13:1-9

*T*here were some present at that very time who told him of the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices. And he answered them, "Do you think that these Galileans were worse sinners than all the other Galileans, because they suffered thus? I tell you, No; but unless you repent you will all likewise perish. Or those eighteen upon whom the tower in Silo'am fell and killed them, do you think that they were worse offenders than all the others who dwelt in Jerusalem? I tell you, No; but unless you repent you will all likewise perish." And he told this parable: "A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard; and he came seeking fruit on it and found none. And he said to the vinedresser, 'Lo, these three years I have come seeking fruit on this fig tree, and I find none. Cut it down; why should it use up the ground?' And he answered him, 'Let it alone, sir, this year also, till I dig about it and put on manure. And if it bears fruit next year, well and good; but if not, you can cut it down.'"



Welcome to St. Stephen's

Today we come to the next major stage in the ancient story of the history of salvation, the time of the Exodus and Passover. Here Moses meets God in the burning bush and is given his vocation of leading God's people from slavery into the freedom of the land of promise. Our own Exodus and Passover takes place in baptism. All baptized persons are members of the community of God's people, and in them that saving work continues. In Lent, the baptized and those preparing for baptism are rediscovering their vocation as members of the community who come to the waters.

The second reading today sees the Exodus/Passover event of Israel as a foreshadowing of the life of the church—the crossing of the sea prefigures baptism, and the manna in the wilderness foretells the Eucharistic feast. Paul warns, however, that just as the Exodus event did not protect those Israelites who later refused to obey God from the consequences of disobedience, so we members of the church cannot rest on the blessings of baptism and Eucharist but must also live in obedience to God's Word.

The Gospel reading today find Jesus responding to a question of whether natural and man-made tragedies are acts of God toward sinners. Jesus' response is "no," but he warns us that even so, we must repent and change. Those who believe that God uses disaster to punish sinners will, when faced with their own death, think they also are dying because of their sin, failing to see the redemption that God is bringing in the dying and rising of Jesus.

The liturgy and the sacraments are not ends in themselves but means by which God's people are strengthened in living the life of the risen Lord in hope and in mutual love and ministry.

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

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THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT

MARCH 20, 2022

Serving in the Liturgy today:

Lector 8:00 am	<i>JoAnn Smithson</i>
LEM 8:00 am	<i>Richard Smithson</i>
Altar Guild 8:00 am	<i>Debbie Fisher, Linda Chiappetta</i>
Ushers 8:00 am	<i>Glenn Mortimer, Bill Bodine</i>
Lector 10:15 am	<i>Kay Karlick</i>
LEM 10:15 am	<i>Stefanie Bodine, Bob Virtue</i>
Altar Guild 10:15 am	<i>Valerie Thompson, Karen Mauro</i>
Ushers 10:15 am	<i>Al Thompson, Valerie Thompson</i>

Sanctuary Candle

The Sanctuary Candle is given to

The Glory of God

In Memory of

*Fr. John Dewland
and
Son, George P Frey IV
By Joy J Frey*



Altar Flowers

Altar Flowers are given to the

Glory of God

In Memory of

Sans Memorial

