

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

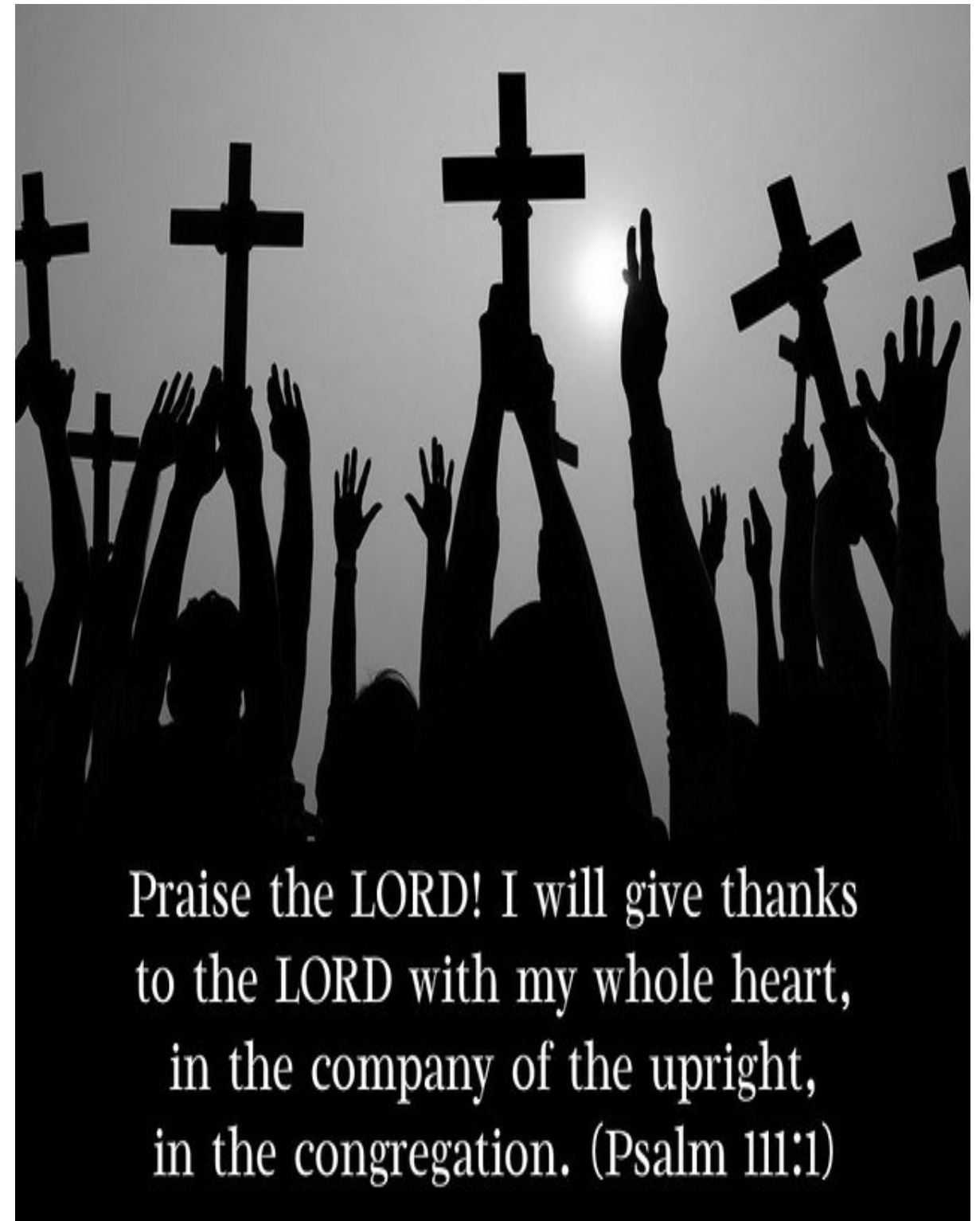
Welcome to St. Stephen's Church!

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.



Praise the LORD! I will give thanks
to the LORD with my whole heart,
in the company of the upright,
in the congregation. (Psalm 111:1)

Hymnal	The Word of God	BCP
427	Processional Hymn: <i>“When Moring Gilds the Skies”</i>	
	Open Acclamation	355
	Collect of the Day	Insert
	First Lesson: <i>First Book of Kings 2:10-12; 3:3-14</i>	Insert
	<i>Psalm 130</i>	Insert
	Second Lesson: <i>Letter to the Ephesians 5:15-20</i>	Insert
	Gradual:	
	Gospel: <i>John 6:51-58</i>	Insert
	Sermon — Rev. Canon Karin R. Mitchell	
	The Nicene Creed	358
	Prayers of the People Form VI	392
	Confession and Absolution	393
	The Peace	
	Offertory: We Welcome Substitute Organist, <i>Richard Christen</i>	
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	
	Communion Hymns:	
325	<i>“Let Us Break Bread Together”</i>	
665	<i>“All my Hope on God is Founded”</i>	
313	<i>“Let thy Blood in Mercy Poured”</i>	
	Post Communion Prayer	365
	Blessing	
	Announcements	
403	Closing Hymn: <i>“Let all the World in Every Corner Sing”</i>	
	Dismissal	

Serving in the Liturgy today:

Lector 8:00 am	Susan Quigley
LEM 8:00 am	Peter Quigley
Altar Guild 8:00 am	Debbie Fisher, David Fisher
Ushers 8:00 am	Mary Storey, Glenn Mortimer, Bill Bodine
Lector 10:00 am	Valerie Thompson
LEM 10:00 am	Susan Clarke
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

Sans Memorial



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.

&

BLESSING OF THE BIKES

SATURDAY OCTOBER 23RD

12-4pm, Blessing at 2pm, Rain or Shine

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.

Welcome to St. Stephen's Episcopal Church

Jesus' discourse on the bread of life continues to be the center of our liturgy, as it has been now for several weeks. Jesus has met physical hunger by providing material bread (a primary Old Testament sign of salvation); he has said that a spiritual (or mystical) relationship with him constitutes the bread of eternal life; now he says that nourishment with his life is given by actually eating his flesh and drinking his blood. If we eat his body and drink his blood, we will have eternal life.

After a reign of forty years, David died and was succeeded by Solomon, his son by Bathsheba. From the first we see the continued breakdown of David's descendants. Even though God answers Solomon's prayer to be wise and renews the promise to David's family, Solomon, we are told, worships God not in Jerusalem but at one of the old pagan high places. This will bear bitter fruit for Solomon's descendants and for Israel.

The second reading is once again from the letter to the Ephesians. We are exhorted to let God's Spirit inebriate us and speak through us in thanksgiving and song.

"People with a story to tell and a song to sing" is a way Christians have been described. It is preeminently in liturgy that we carry out that role. We gather here to be fed physically, spiritually, and sacramentally. Our response is to give thanks (the word "eucharist" means "thanksgiving") and, having told our story and sung our song here, to take it out to our brothers and sisters in the world.

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

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Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost Proper 15 Collect of the Day

August 15, 2021
8 & 10AM

Almighty God, you have given your only Son to be for us a sacrifice for sin, and also an example of godly life: Give us grace to receive thankfully the fruits of his redeeming work, and to follow daily in the blessed steps of his most holy life; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

First Reading

First Book of Kings 2:10-12; 3:3-14

Then David slept with his fathers, and was buried in the city of David. And the time that David reigned over Israel was forty years; he reigned seven years in Hebron, and thirty-three years in Jerusalem. So Solomon sat upon the throne of David his father; and his kingdom was firmly established. Solomon loved the LORD, walking in the statutes of David his father; only, he sacrificed and burnt incense at the high places. And the king went to Gibeon to sacrifice there, for that was the great high place; Solomon used to offer a thousand burnt offerings upon that altar. At Gibeon the LORD appeared to Solomon in a dream by night; and God said, "Ask what I shall give you." And Solomon said, "Thou hast shown great and steadfast love to thy servant David my father, because he walked before thee in faithfulness, in righteousness, and in uprightness of heart toward thee; and thou hast kept for him this great and steadfast love, and hast given him a son to sit on his throne this day. And now, O LORD my God, thou hast made thy servant king in place of David my father, although I am but a little child; I do not know how to go out or come in. And thy servant is in the midst of thy people whom thou hast chosen, a great people, that cannot be numbered or counted for multitude. Give thy servant therefore an understanding mind to govern thy people, that I may discern between good and evil; for who is able to govern this thy great people?" It pleased the Lord that Solomon had asked this. And God said to him, "Because you have asked this, and have not asked for yourself long life or riches or the life of your enemies, but have asked for yourself understanding to discern what is right, behold, I now do according to your word. Behold, I give you a wise and discerning mind, so that none like you has been before you and none like you shall arise after you. I give you also what you have not asked, both riches and honor, so that no other king shall compare with you, all your days. And if you will walk in my ways, keeping my statutes and my commandments, as your father David walked, then I will lengthen your days."

Psalm 111

- 1 Hallelujah!
I will give thanks to the LORD with my whole heart, *
in the assembly of the upright, in the congregation.
- 2 Great are the deeds of the LORD! *
they are studied by all who delight in them.
- 3 His work is full of majesty and splendor, *
and his righteousness endures for ever.
- 4 He makes his marvelous works to be remembered; *
the LORD is gracious and full of compassion.
- 5 He gives food to those who fear him; *
he is ever mindful of his covenant.
- 6 He has shown his people the power of his works *
in giving them the lands of the nations.
- 7 The works of his hands are faithfulness and justice; *
all his commandments are sure.
- 8 They stand fast for ever and ever, *
because they are done in truth and equity.
- 9 He sent redemption to his people;
he commanded his covenant for ever; *
holy and awesome is his Name.
- 10 The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom; *
those who act accordingly have a good understanding;
his praise endures for ever.

Second Reading

Letter to the Ephesians 5:15-20

Look carefully then how you walk, not as unwise men but as wise, making the most of the time, because the days are evil. Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is. And do not get drunk with wine, for that is debauchery; but be filled with the Spirit, addressing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody to the Lord with all your heart, always and for everything giving thanks in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to God the Father

Holy Gospel

John 6:51-58

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." The Jews then disputed among themselves, saying, "How can this man give us his flesh to eat?" So Jesus said to them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of man and drink his blood, you have no life in you; he who eats my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life, and I will raise him up at the last day. For my flesh is food indeed, and my blood is drink indeed. He who eats my flesh and drinks my blood abides in me, and I in him. As the living Father sent me, and I live because of the Father, so he who eats me will live because of me. This is the bread which came down from heaven, not such as the fathers ate and died; he who eats this bread will live for ever."