

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!

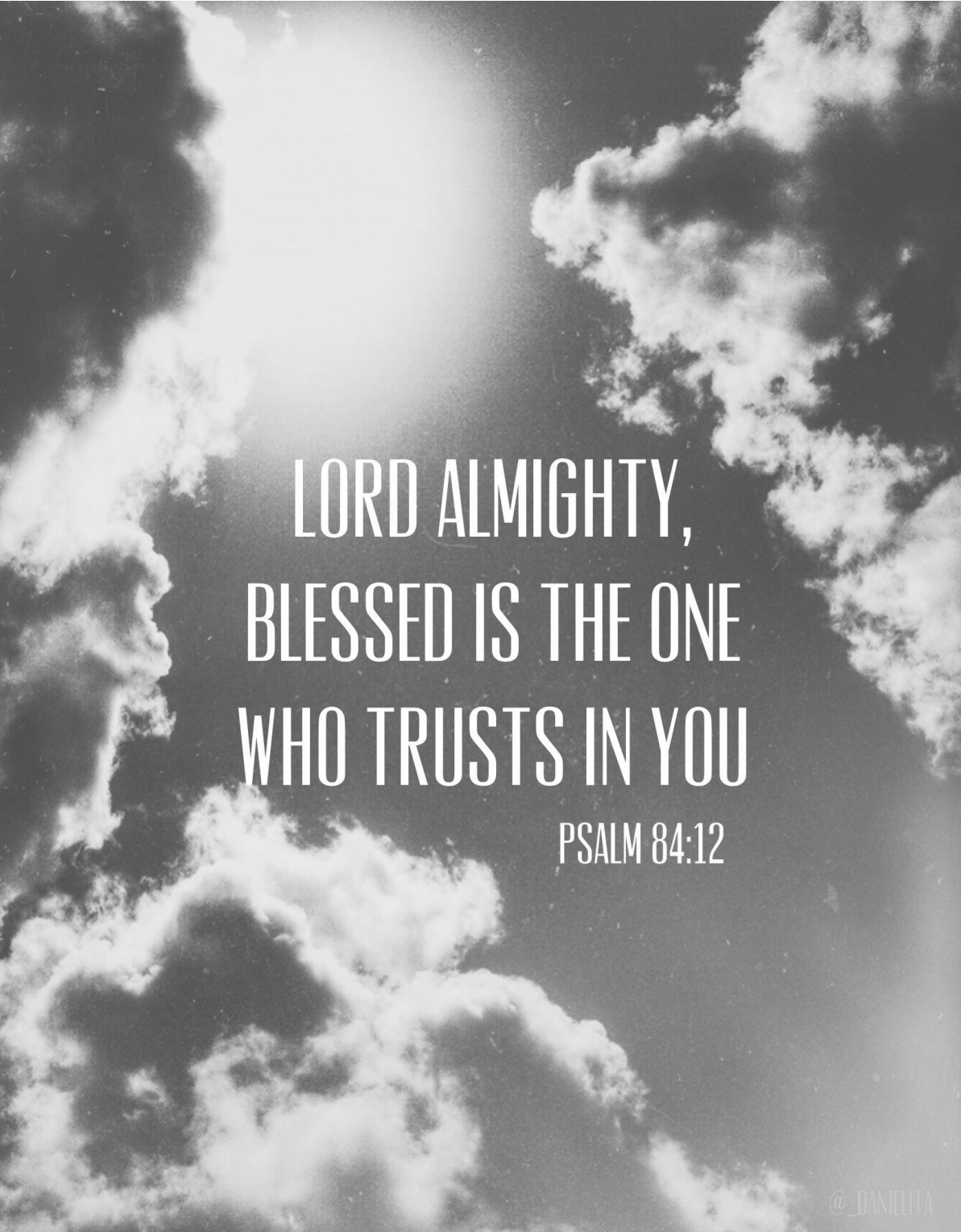
We thank you for joining us for worship today. Please stay for coffee hour, and sign our guest book at the podium in the Narthex. If you are looking for a church home, you have just found it. We would love to have you at St. Stephen's. Arrangements for weddings and baptisms can be made by speaking directly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



**LORD ALMIGHTY,
BLESSED IS THE ONE
WHO TRUSTS IN YOU**

PSALM 84:12

MORNING PRAYER

Opening Sentence	
Confession of Sin	79
THE INVITATORY AND PSALTER	80
Venite	82
<i>Psalm 84</i>	Insert
First Lesson: <i>First Book of Kings 8:1, 6, 10-11, 22-30, 41-43</i>	Insert
Canticle 9	86
Second Lesson: <i>Letter to the Ephesians 6:10-20</i>	Insert
Canticle 13	90
The Holy Gospel: <i>John 6:56-69</i>	Insert
Sermon: <i>Susan L. Clarke, M. Div.</i>	
Apostles' Creed	96

THE PRAYERS

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Collect for the day and other Collects	
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Announcements	
Dismissal	

Serving in the Liturgy today:

Lector 8:00 am	Greta Pearl
LEM 8:00 am	Stefanie Rotsaert
Altar Guild 8:00 am	Debbie Fisher, David Fisher
Ushers 8:00 am	Mary Storey, Glenn Mortimer, Bill Bodine
Lector 10:00 am	Kay Karlick
LEM 10:00 am	Stefanie Rotsaert
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



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.

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.

&

25th Annual Blessing of the Bikes

Saturday, October 23rd, 12-4pm

Blessing @ 2pm, Rain or Shine

Welcome to St. Stephen's Episcopal Church

The teaching of Jesus which caused the greatest offense to his disciples was his discourse on himself as the bread of life. When he extended that beyond a spiritual feeding to a sacramental feeding, "My flesh is food indeed, and my blood is drink indeed," many of his followers left him. The inner group, "the Twelve," were also disturbed, but through Peter they reaffirmed their faith.

Today we also conclude our reading of the story of David. The one goal David did not achieve was to build a temple for God in Jerusalem. David's son, Solomon, did build the Temple and today we hear Solomon's prayer of dedication. He prays that it will be a sign of God to all people, the place where God dwells among the human race.

We complete our reading of the Epistle to the Ephesians today. Paul calls on us to find our strength in God to stand up against the powers that oppose God's will and plan. We are to live in that strength and to persevere in prayer for all people.

We are called to be a people who belong to Christ. This call is often in direct conflict with our own wishes, habits, or opinions. We gather in liturgy as more than passive hearers and observers. We gather to enter into an encounter with God who dwells among us in Jesus, God's true Temple. Here in our participation in Christ, God remakes us as the people of God's Kingdom.

*From The Rite Light: Reflections on the Sunday Readings and Seasons of the Church Year.
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Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost Proper 16 Collect of the Day

August 22, 2021
8 & 10AM

Grant, O merciful God, that your Church, being gathered together in unity by your Holy Spirit, may show forth your power among all peoples, to the glory of your Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

First Reading

First Book of Kings 8:1, 6, 10-11, 22-30, 41-43

Then Solomon assembled the elders of Israel and all the heads of the tribes, the leaders of the fathers' houses of the people of Israel, before King Solomon in Jerusalem, to bring up the ark of the covenant of the LORD out of the city of David, which is Zion. Then the priests brought the ark of the covenant of the LORD to its place, in the inner sanctuary of the house, in the most holy place, underneath the wings of the cherubim. And when the priests came out of the holy place, a cloud filled the house of the LORD, so that the priests could not stand to minister because of the cloud; for the glory of the LORD filled the house of the LORD. Then Solomon stood before the altar of the LORD in the presence of all the assembly of Israel, and spread forth his hands toward heaven; and said, "O LORD, God of Israel, there is no God like thee, in heaven above or on earth beneath, keeping covenant and showing steadfast love to thy servants who walk before thee with all their heart; who hast kept with thy servant David my father what thou didst declare to him; yea, thou didst speak with thy mouth, and with thy hand hast fulfilled it this day. Now therefore, O LORD, God of Israel, keep with thy servant David my father what thou hast promised him, saying, 'There shall never fail you a man before me to sit upon the throne of Israel, if only your sons take heed to their way, to walk before me as you have walked before me.' Now therefore, O God of Israel, let thy word be confirmed, which thou hast spoken to thy servant David my father. "But will God indeed dwell on the earth? Behold, heaven and the highest heaven cannot contain thee; how much less this house which I have built! Yet have regard to the prayer of thy servant and to his supplication, O LORD my God, hearkening to the cry and to the prayer which thy servant prays before thee this day; that thy eyes may be open night and day toward this house, the place of which thou hast said, 'My name shall be there,' that thou mayest hearken to the prayer which thy servant offers toward this place. And hearken thou to the supplication of thy servant and of thy people Israel, when they pray toward this place; yea, hear thou in heaven thy dwelling place; and when thou hearest, forgive. "Likewise when a foreigner, who is not of thy people Israel, comes from a far country for thy name's sake (for they shall hear of thy great name, and thy mighty hand, and of thy outstretched arm), when he comes and prays toward this house, hear thou in heaven thy dwelling place,

and do according to all for which the foreigner calls to thee; in order that all the peoples of the earth may know thy name and fear thee, as do thy people Israel, and that they may know that this house which I have built is called by thy name.

Psalm 84

- 1 How dear to me is your dwelling, O LORD of hosts! *
My soul has a desire and longing for the courts of the LORD;
my heart and my flesh rejoice in the living God.
- 2 The sparrow has found her a house
and the swallow a nest where she may lay her young; *
by the side of your altars, O LORD of hosts,
my King and my God.
- 3 Happy are they who dwell in your house! *
they will always be praising you.
- 4 Happy are the people whose strength is in you! *
whose hearts are set on the pilgrims' way.
- 5 Those who go through the desolate valley will find it a place of springs, *
for the early rains have covered it with pools of water.
- 6 They will climb from height to height, *
and the God of gods will reveal himself in Zion.
- 7 LORD God of hosts, hear my prayer; *
hearken, O God of Jacob.
- 8 Behold our defender, O God; *
and look upon the face of your Anointed.
- 9 For one day in your courts is better than
a thousand in my own room, *
and to stand at the threshold of the house of my God
than to dwell in the tents of the wicked.
- 10 For the LORD God is both sun and shield; *
he will give grace and glory;
- 11 No good thing will the LORD withhold *
from those who walk with integrity.
- 12 O LORD of hosts, *
happy are they who put their trust in you!

Second Reading

Letter to the Ephesians 6:10-20

Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his might. Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For we are not contending against flesh and blood, but against the principalities, against the powers, against the world rulers of this present darkness, against the spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places. Therefore take the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. Stand therefore, having girded your loins with truth, and having put on the breastplate of righteousness, and having shod your feet with the equipment of the gospel of peace; besides all these, taking the shield of faith, with which you can quench all the flaming darts of the evil one. And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. Pray at all times in the Spirit, with all prayer and supplication. To that end keep alert with all perseverance, making supplication for all the saints, and also for me, that utterance may be given me in opening my mouth boldly to proclaim the mystery of the gospel, for which I am an ambassador in chains; that I may declare it boldly, as I ought to speak.

Holy Gospel

John 6:56-69

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." This he said in the synagogue, as he taught at Capernaum. Many of his disciples, when they heard it, said, "This is a hard saying; who can listen to it?" But Jesus, knowing in himself that his disciples murmured at it, said to them, "Do you take offense at this? Then what if you were to see the Son of man ascending where he was before? It is the spirit that gives life, the flesh is of no avail; the words that I have spoken to you are spirit and life. But there are some of you that do not believe." For Jesus knew from the first who those were that did not believe, and who it was that would betray him. And he said, "This is why I told you that no one can come to me unless it is granted him by the Father." After this many of his disciples drew back and no longer went about with him. Jesus said to the twelve, "Do you also wish to go away?" Simon Peter answered him, "Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life; and we have believed, and have come to know, that you are the Holy One of God."