

WELCOME TO ST. STEPHEN'S

Come Find God

10:00 a.m. Sunday, October 18, 2020

Twentieth Sunday After Pentecost



ST. STEPHEN'S
EPISCOPAL CHURCH

MORNING PRAYER

PRELUDE

OPENING SENTENCE

Celebrant: As we rejoice in the gift of this new day, so may the light of your presence, O God, set our hearts on fire with love for you; now and forever. **Amen.**

OPENING HYMN: "THE KING OF LOVE MY SHEPHERD IS" The Hymnal 1982

CONFESSION OF SIN

Celebrant: Let us humbly confess our sins unto Almighty God.

People: Most merciful God,
we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone.
We have not loved you with our whole heart;
we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.
We are truly sorry and we humbly repent.
For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,
have mercy on us and forgive us;
that we may delight in your will,
and walk in your ways,
to the glory of your name. **Amen.**

Celebrant: The Almighty and merciful Lord grant us absolution and remission of all our sins, true repentance, amendment of life, and the grace and consolation of his Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

INVITATORY & PSALTER

Celebrant: Lord, open our lips.

People: And our mouth shall proclaim your praise.

All: Glory to the Father †, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. **Amen!**

Celebrant: The mercy of the Lord is everlasting:

People: O come, let us adore him.

VENITE*

All: O come, let us sing unto the Lord; let us heartily rejoice in the strength of our salvation. Let us come before his presence with thanksgiving, and show ourselves glad in him with psalms. For the Lord is a great God, and a great King above all gods. In his hand are all the corners of the earth, and the strength of the hills is his also. The sea is his and he made it, and his hands prepared the dry land. O come, let us worship and fall down and kneel before the Lord our Maker. For he is the Lord our God, and we are the people of his pasture and the sheep of his hand. O worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness; let the whole earth stand in awe of him. For he cometh, for he cometh to judge the world and the peoples with his truth.

PSALM 26:1-9

Sing to the Lord a new song;
sing to the Lord, all the whole earth.

**Sing to the Lord and bless his Name;
proclaim the good news of his
salvation from day to day.**

Declare his glory among the nations
and his wonders among all peoples.

**For great is the Lord and greatly to be
praised;
he is more to be feared than all gods.**

As for all the gods of the nations, they are but
idols;
but it is the Lord who made the heavens.

**Oh, the majesty and magnificence of his
presence!
Oh, the power and the splendor of his
sanctuary!**

Ascribe to the Lord, you families of the
peoples;
ascribe to the Lord honor and power.

**Ascribe to the Lord the honor due his
Name;
bring offerings and come into his
courts.**

Worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness;
let the whole earth tremble before him.

FIRST READING

ISAIAH 45:1-7

Thus says the Lord to his anointed, to Cyrus, whose right hand I have grasped to subdue nations before him and strip kings of their robes, to open doors before him--and the gates shall not be closed: I will go before you and level the mountains, I will break in pieces the doors of bronze and cut through the bars of iron, I will give you the treasures of darkness and riches hidden in secret places, so that you may know that it is I, the Lord, the God of Israel, who call you by your name. For the sake of my servant Jacob, and Israel my chosen, I call you by your name, I surname you, though you do not know me. I am the Lord, and there is no other; besides me there is no god. I arm you, though you do not know me, so that they may know, from the rising of the sun and from the west, that there is no one besides me; I am the Lord, and there is no other. I form light and create darkness, I make weal and create woe; I the Lord do all these things.

Reader: The word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

CANTICLE

A SONG OF GOD'S SPLENDOR

All: Sing to the Lord a new song; sing to the Lord, all the earth. Sing to the Lord and bless his name; tell out his salvation from day to day. Declare his glory among the nations and his wonders among all peoples. Honor and majesty are before him; power and splendor are in his sanctuary. Ascribe to the Lord, you families of the peoples; ascribe to the Lord honor and strength. Ascribe to the Lord the honor due to his name; bring offerings and come into his courts. O worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness; let the whole earth tremble before him. Tell it out among the nations that the Lord is king. With righteousness he will judge the world and the peoples with his truth. Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit; it was in the beginning is now and shall be forever. Amen.

THE GOSPEL

MATTHEW 22:15-22

The Pharisees went and plotted to entrap Jesus in what he said. So they sent their disciples to him, along with the Herodians, saying, "Teacher, we know that you are sincere, and teach the way of God in accordance with truth, and show deference to no one; for you do not regard people with partiality. Tell us, then, what you think. Is it lawful to pay taxes to the emperor, or not?" But Jesus, aware of their malice, said, "Why are you putting me to the test, you hypocrites? Show me the coin used for the tax." And they brought him a denarius. Then he said to them, "Whose head is this, and whose title?" They answered, "The emperor's." Then he said to them, "Give therefore to the emperor the things that are the emperor's, and to God the things that are God's." When they heard this, they were amazed; and they left him and went away.

Celebrant: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

REFLECTION

Joy Anderson

MUSICAL INTERLUDE

THE APOSTLES' CREED

All: I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.
Amen.

THE PRAYERS

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Celebrant: Let us pray.

All: Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy Name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

Celebrant: Show us your mercy, O Lord;

People: And grant us your salvation.

Celebrant: Clothe your ministers with righteousness;

People: Let your people sing with joy.

Celebrant: Give peace, O Lord, in all the world;

People: For only in you can we live in safety.

Celebrant: Lord, keep this nation under your care;

People: And guide us in the way of justice and truth.

Celebrant: Let your way be known upon earth;

People: Your saving health among all nations.

Celebrant: Let not the needy, O Lord, be forgotten;

People: Nor the hope of the poor be taken away.

Celebrant: Create in us clean hearts, O God;

People: And sustain us with your Holy Spirit.

THE COLLECT

Celebrant: Almighty and everlasting God, in Christ you have revealed your glory among the nations: Preserve the works of your mercy, that your Church throughout the world may persevere with steadfast faith in the confession 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.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Leader: Grant, Almighty God, that all who confess your Name may be united in your truth, live together in your love, and reveal your glory in the world. Lord, in your mercy;

People: Hear our prayer.

Leader: Guide the people of this land, and of all the nations, in the ways of justice and peace; that we may honor one another and serve the common good. We pray especially for our President, Donald; our governor, Ned; for military personnel known to us Dan Gardella, Neil Hickey, Dan Piccola, Michael Shea, Liz Peeler, and Mark Benjamin; and for all who fight and struggle for freedom and justice for every person in this land. Lord, in your mercy;

People: Hear our prayer.

Leader: Give us a reverence for the earth as your own creation, that we may use its resources rightly in the service of others and to your honor and glory. Lord, in your mercy;

People: Hear our prayer.

Leader: Bless all whose lives are closely linked with ours, and grant that we may serve Christ in them, and love one another as he loves us. We rejoice with those who have cause for joy, especially those who celebrate birthdays this month: Gordon Philips, Jaymes Atwood, Robert Bennett, Alice Hinchcliffe, Peter Jones, Joy Anderson, Michael Pear, Garbriel Marciniac, Jane Whitty, and Kerry Willis; Lord, in your mercy;

People: Hear our prayer.

Leader: Comfort and heal all those who suffer in body, mind, or spirit; give them courage and hope in their troubles, and bring them the joy of your salvation. We pray especially for all who are sick with COVID-19, for essential workers who face increased health risks, and for those who have commended themselves to our prayers: Elisabeth; Kathy King; Josephine Howard; Meg; John; Debbie; Mary; Ann; Marie Rinella; Jane Brothers; Dennis Carlson & Lori Saltus; Jeff Sultaire; Pat Goodrich; Chris Fazzino; Dan Hamel; Maureen Sheehan; Chris Morgen; and Ann Johnson;. Lord, in your mercy;

People: Hear our prayer.

Leader: We commend to your mercy all who have died, especially all who have passed away during this pandemic; that your will for them may be fulfilled; and we pray that we may share with all your saints in your eternal kingdom. Lord, in your mercy;

People: Hear our prayer.

Celebrant: Almighty and eternal God, ruler of all things in heaven and earth: Mercifully accept the prayers of your people, and strengthen us to do your will; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

People: Amen.

PRAYER OF ST. CHRYSOSTOM

Celebrant: Let us pray.

All: Almighty God, you have given us grace at this time with one accord to make our common supplication to you; and you have promised through your well-beloved Son that when two or three are gathered together in his Name you will be in the midst of them: Fulfill now, O Lord, our desires and petitions as may be best for us; granting us in the world knowledge of your truth, and in the age to come life everlasting. Amen.

THE PEACE

Celebrant: The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People: And with thy spirit.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Thank you for your generous support. Don't carry cash or check? Text your donation to 860.333.6860

BLESSING*

Celebrant: Glory to God whose power, working in us, can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine: Glory to him from generation to generation in the church, and in Christ Jesus. May the blessings of God† our Creator, Redeemer, and Giver of Life be with you always. Amen.

DISMISSAL

Leader: Go in peace to love and serve the Lord. Alleluia! Alleluia!

People: Thanks be to God. Alleluia! Alleluia!

THE WORSHIP IS OVER. THE SERVICE BEGINS.

THIS WEEK AT ST. STEPHENS

Sunday, October 18	11am Zoom Coffee Hour (Online)
Tuesday, October 20	8am Morning Prayer (Online)
Thursday, October 22	8am Morning Prayer (Online)
Friday, October 23	1pm Book Group (Online)
Sunday, October 25	10am Morning Prayer (Online)

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* Indicates places where it is appropriate to stand (or kneel), as you are able.

† Indicates places where it is traditional to cross yourself, should you desire.