



# St. Stephen's Episcopal Church

Where love begets love

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Welcome to St. Stephen's Church and our lovingly offered virtual worship service. We are delighted that you are here in the spirit of community, even as we cannot be physically together. Even in these times, God knows that we are doing this together and we do, too.

## **Bishop's Visitation**

### **The Rt. Rev. Carlye J. Hughes**

### **Fifteenth Sunday After Pentecost - Proper 19**

#### Liturgy of the Word

#### September 13, 2020

*During the prelude, we invite you to settle your mind and your body, perhaps asking God to hold all the cares and concerns of your heart and your mind so that you may focus on this worship service.*

**PRELUDE**

*Song*

*Flor Peeters*

Blessed be God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

**And blessed be God's kingdom, now and forever. Amen.**

#### **CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION**

Jesus said, "The first commandment is this: Hear, O Israel: The Lord your God is the only Lord. Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength. The second is this: Love your neighbor as yourself. There is no commandment greater than these." Mark 12:29-31

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

**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.**

Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. **Amen.**

## **GLORIA**

*S280*

*Glory to God in the highest*

*Powell*

**Glory to God in the highest,  
and peace to his people on earth.  
Lord God, heavenly King,  
almighty God and Father,  
we worship you, we give you thanks,  
we praise you for your glory.**

**Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,  
Lord God, Lamb of God,  
you take away the sin of the world;  
have mercy on us;  
you are seated at the right hand of the Father;  
receive our prayer.**

**For you alone are the Holy One,**

**you alone are the Lord,  
you alone are the Most High,  
Jesus Christ,  
with the Holy Spirit,  
in the glory of God the Father. Amen.**

*Music: Robert Powell (b. 1932), rev.*

## **COLLECT OF THE DAY**

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Let us pray.

O God, because without you we are not able to please you, mercifully grant that your Holy Spirit may in all things direct and rule our hearts; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

## **THE LESSONS**

### **The First Lesson**

A Reading from the Book of Exodus

14:19-31

The angel of God who was going before the Israelite army moved and went behind them; and the pillar of cloud moved from in front of them and took its place behind them. It came between the army of Egypt and the army of Israel. And so the cloud was there with the darkness, and it lit up the night; one did not come near the other all night.

Then Moses stretched out his hand over the sea. The Lord drove the sea back by a strong east wind all night, and turned the sea into dry land; and the waters were divided. The Israelites went into the sea on dry ground, the waters forming a wall for them on their right and on their left. The Egyptians pursued, and went into the sea after them, all of Pharaoh's horses, chariots, and chariot drivers. At the morning watch the Lord in the pillar of fire and cloud looked down upon the Egyptian army, and threw the Egyptian army into panic. He clogged their chariot wheels so that they turned with difficulty. The Egyptians said, "Let us flee from the Israelites, for the Lord is fighting for them against Egypt."

Then the Lord said to Moses, "Stretch out your hand over the sea, so that the water may come back upon the Egyptians, upon their chariots and chariot drivers." So Moses stretched out his hand over the sea, and at dawn the sea returned to its normal depth. As the Egyptians fled before it, the Lord tossed the Egyptians into the sea. The waters returned and covered the chariots and the chariot drivers, the entire army of Pharaoh that had followed them into the sea; not one of them remained. But the Israelites walked on dry ground through the sea, the waters forming a wall for them on their right and on their left.

Thus the Lord saved Israel that day from the Egyptians; and Israel saw the Egyptians dead on the seashore. Israel saw the great work that the Lord did against the Egyptians. So the people feared the Lord and believed in the Lord and in his servant Moses.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## THE RESPONSE

Psalm 114

1 Hallelujah!

When Israel came out of Egypt, \*

**the house of Jacob from a people of strange speech,**

2 Judah became God's sanctuary \*

**and Israel his dominion.**

3 The sea beheld it and fled; \*

**Jordan turned and went back.**

4 The mountains skipped like rams, \*

**and the little hills like young sheep.**

5 What ailed you, O sea, that you fled? \*

**O Jordan, that you turned back?**

6 You mountains, that you skipped like rams? \*

**you little hills like young sheep?**

7 Tremble, O earth, at the presence of the Lord, \*  
**at the presence of the God of Jacob,**

8 Who turned the hard rock into a pool of water \*  
**and flint-stone into a flowing spring.**

## **The Second Lesson**

A Reading from the Letter to the Romans

14:1-12

Welcome those who are weak in faith, but not for the purpose of quarreling over opinions. Some believe in eating anything, while the weak eat only vegetables. Those who eat must not despise those who abstain, and those who abstain must not pass judgment on those who eat; for God has welcomed them. Who are you to pass judgment on servants of another? It is before their own lord that they stand or fall. And they will be upheld, for the Lord is able to make them stand.

Some judge one day to be better than another, while others judge all days to be alike. Let all be fully convinced in their own minds. Those who observe the day, observe it in honor of the Lord. Also those who eat, eat in honor of the Lord, since they give thanks to God; while those who abstain, abstain in honor of the Lord and give thanks to God.

We do not live to ourselves, and we do not die to ourselves. If we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord; so then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's. For to this end Christ died and lived again, so that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living.

Why do you pass judgment on your brother or sister? Or you, why do you despise your brother or sister? For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God. For it is written,

"As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me,  
and every tongue shall give praise to God."

So then, each of us will be accountable to God.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## SEQUENCE HYMN

Hymn 593

*Lord, make us servants of your peace*

*Bristol*

**1 Lord, make us servants of your peace:  
where there is hate, may we sow love;  
where there is hurt, may we forgive;  
where there is strife, may we make one.**

**2 Where all is doubt, may we sow faith;  
where all is gloom, may we sow hope;  
where all is night, may we sow light;  
where all is tears, may we sow joy.**

**3 Jesus, our Lord, may we not seek  
to be consoled, but to console,  
nor look to understanding hearts,  
but look for hearts to understand.**

**4 May we not look for love's return,  
but seek to love unselfishly,  
for in our giving we receive,  
and in forgiving are forgiven.**

**5 Dying, we live, and are reborn  
through death's dark night to endless day:  
Lord, make us servants of your peace,  
to wake at last in heaven's light.**

*Words: James Quinn (b. 1919), based on a prayer att. to St. Francis of Assisi (1182-1226)*

*Music: Dickinson College, Lee Hastings Bristol, Jr. (1923-1979)*

## THE GOSPEL

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew

18:21-35

**Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

Peter came and said to Jesus, "Lord, if another member of the church sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?" Jesus said to him, "Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times.

“For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves. When he began the reckoning, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him; and, as he could not pay, his lord ordered him to be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions, and payment to be made. So the slave fell on his knees before him, saying, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.’ And out of pity for him, the lord of that slave released him and forgave him the debt. But that same slave, as he went out, came upon one of his fellow slaves who owed him a hundred denarii; and seizing him by the throat, he said, ‘Pay what you owe.’ Then his fellow slave fell down and pleaded with him, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you.’ But he refused; then he went and threw him into prison until he would pay the debt. When his fellow slaves saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their lord all that had taken place. Then his lord summoned him and said to him, ‘You wicked slave! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. Should you not have had mercy on your fellow slave, as I had mercy on you?’ And in anger his lord handed him over to be tortured until he would pay his entire debt. So my heavenly Father will also do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother or sister from your heart.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

## **THE SERMON**

*The Rt. Rev. Carlye J. Hughes*

## **NICENE CREED**

**We believe in one God,  
the Father, the Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth,  
of all that is, seen and unseen.  
We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,  
the only Son of God,  
eternally begotten of the Father,  
God from God, Light from Light,  
true God from true God,  
begotten, not made,  
of one Being with the Father.**

Through him all things were made.  
For us and for our salvation  
    he came down from heaven:  
by the power of the Holy Spirit  
    he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary,  
    and was made man.  
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;  
    he suffered death and was buried.  
On the third day he rose again  
    in accordance with the Scriptures;  
    he ascended into heaven  
    and is seated at the right hand of the Father.  
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,  
    and his kingdom will have no end.  
We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,  
    who proceeds from the Father and the Son.  
With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified.  
He has spoken through the Prophets.  
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.  
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.  
We look for the resurrection of the dead,  
    and the life of the world to come. Amen.

## **PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

*Prayers for Racial Justice and Reconciliation from the Standing Committee on Liturgy and Music,  
General Convention*

Let us pray for the Church and for the world. God of love, we pray for your church: For Michael Curry, our Presiding Bishop; Carlye Hughes, our bishop; for all lay and ordained ministers; and for all who seek you in the community of the faithful. Equip us with compassion and love, to carry out your work of reconciliation in the world.

God of love, ***Hear our prayers for the church.***

God of freedom, we pray for our nation, and all the nations of the world: For peace and unity across barriers of language, color, and creed; for elected and appointed leaders,

that they would serve the common good. Inspire all people with courage to speak out against hatred, to actively resist evil. Unite the human family in bonds of love.

God of freedom, ***Hear our prayers for the world.***

God of justice, we pray for the earth, your creation entrusted to our care: For the animals and birds, the mountains and oceans, and all parts of your creation that have no voice of their own. Stir up in us a thirst for justice that protects the earth and all its resources, that we may leave to our children's children the legacy of beauty and abundance that you have given us.

God of justice, ***Hear our prayers for the earth.***

God of peace, we pray for this community: For our local leaders; for our schools and markets; for our neighborhoods and workplaces. Kindle in every heart a desire for equality, respect, and opportunity for all. Give us courage to strive for justice and peace among all people, beginning here at home.

God of peace, ***Hear our prayers for this community.***

God of mercy, we pray for all in any kind of need or trouble: For those whose lives are closely linked with ours, and those connected to us as part of the human family. For refugees and prisoners; for the sick and suffering, the lonely and despairing; for those facing violence; for all held down by prejudice or injustice. Awaken in us compassion and humility of spirit, as we seek and serve Christ in all persons.

God of mercy, ***Hear our prayers for all who are in need.*** Let us pray for:

*Jeff Loggins*

*Jimmy Hasenkamp*

*Ian Janeczko*

*The McManus Family*

*The Blanchard Family*

*Donna Riggi*

*Eleanor Robinson*

*Grace Bitting*

*Bernard & Nathan*

*The Fitzgerald Family*

*Jack Moreno*

*Stephanie Gubin*

*Sue Macbeth*

*Francis*

*Marcia Mein*

*Christine Conti*

*Xander*

*Evan*

*Sara Ruth Dorn*

*Felder Dorn*

*James Tranberg*

*Debbie and Geoff Robarge*

God of grace, we pray for those who have died: For the faithful in every generation who have worked for justice; for prophets who called us to racial reconciliation; for martyrs who died because of hatred; and for all the communion of saints. Make us faithful to your call to proclaim your Good News, by word and example, and bring us at last into the glorious company of the saints in light.

God of grace, *Hear our prayers for those who have died.*

### **CONCLUDING COLLECT**

Hear our prayers, Holy God. Breathe your Spirit over us and all the earth, that barriers would crumble and divisions cease. Make us more fully your co-healers of the broken world. Unite us with all people in bonds of love, that the whole earth and all its peoples may be at peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

### **A PRAYER FOR THE POWER OF THE SPIRIT AMONG THE PEOPLE OF GOD**

God of all power and love, we give thanks for your unfailing presence and the hope you provide in times of uncertainty and loss. Send your Holy Spirit to enkindle in us your holy fire. Revive us to live as Christ's body in the world: a people who pray, worship, learn, break bread, share life, heal neighbors, bear good news, seek justice, rest and grow in the Spirit. Wherever and however we gather, unite us in common prayer and send us in common mission, that we and the whole creation might be restored and renewed, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

### **LORD'S PRAYER**

**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,**



## **St. Stephen's Church**

*"A diverse Episcopal parish, a life-giving sanctuary, a place where love begets love. Seekers, doubters, and believers find a comfortable place in our midst."*

119 Main Street, Millburn, NJ 07041 / 973-376-0688 / [ststephensmillburn.org](http://ststephensmillburn.org)

Rector: The Rev. Paula J. Toland; Emergency Contact: 508-542-1327

Music Director: Kim Williams; Organist: John Schucker

### Members of the Vestry

Maryalice Check: Warden, People & Programs; Roger Riedel, Property Warden

Fran Taber: Finance & Investment; Don Stanford: Treasurer

Kira Hanson: Parish Life & Personnel; Eugene Foley: Programs & Cemetery;

Barbara Riedel: Recording Secretary & Clerk

If you wish to receive the weekly e-newsletter, please contact the parish office at 973-376-0688 or [church@ststephensmillburn.org](mailto:church@ststephensmillburn.org).