



St. Stephen's Episcopal Church

Where love begets love

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 all cannot be physically together. Even though we will not see or hear you and you will not see or hear each other, God knows that we are doing this together and we do, too.

Fourteenth Sunday After Pentecost - Proper 18

Liturgy of the Word

September 6, 2020

The service begins with a few moments of centering music. Please use this time 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.

GATHERING HYMN

Hymn 376

Joyful, joyful, we adore thee

Hymn to Joy

**1 Joyful, joyful, we adore thee,
God of glory, Lord of love;
hearts unfold like flowers before thee,
praising thee, their sun above.
Melt the clouds of sin and sadness;
drive the dark of doubt away;
giver of immortal gladness,
fill us with the light of day.**

**2 All thy works with joy surround thee,
earth and heaven reflect thy rays,
stars and angels sing around thee,
center of unbroken praise.**

**Field and forest, vale and mountain,
blooming meadow, flashing sea,
chanting bird and flowing fountain,
call us to rejoice in thee.**

**3 Thou art giving and forgiving,
ever blessing, ever blest,
well-spring of the joy of living,
ocean-depth of happy rest!
Thou our Father, Christ our Brother:
all who live in love are thine;
teach us how to love each other,
lift us to the joy divine.**

Words: Henry Van Dyke (1852-1933)

Music: Hymn to Joy, Ludwig van Beethoven (1770-1827); adapt. Edward Hodges (1796-1867), alt.

Blessed be God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
And blessed be God's kingdom, now and forever. Amen.

Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name; through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

GLORIA

S280

Glory to God in the highest

Powell

**1 Glory to God in the highest,
and peace to his people on earth.**

**2 Lord God, heavenly King,
almighty God and Father,
we worship you, we give you thanks,
we praise you for your glory.**

**3 Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,
Lord God, Lamb of God,**

**4 you take away the sin of the world;
have mercy on us;**

**5 you are seated at the right hand of the Father;
receive our prayer.**

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

**7 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.

Grant us, O Lord, to trust in you with all our hearts; for, as you always resist the proud who confide in their own strength, so you never forsake those who make their boast of your mercy; 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

12:1-14

The Lord said to Moses and Aaron in the land of Egypt: This month shall mark for you the beginning of months; it shall be the first month of the year for you. Tell the whole congregation of Israel that on the tenth of this month they are to take a lamb for each family, a lamb for each household. If a household is too small for a whole lamb, it shall join its closest neighbor in obtaining one; the lamb shall be divided in proportion to the number of people who eat of it. Your lamb shall be without blemish, a year-old male; you may take it from the sheep or from the goats. You shall keep it until the fourteenth day of this month; then the whole assembled congregation of Israel shall slaughter it at twilight. They shall take some of the blood and put it on the two doorposts and the lintel of the houses in which they eat it. They shall eat the lamb that same night; they shall eat it roasted over the fire with unleavened bread and bitter herbs. Do not eat any of it raw or boiled in water, but roasted over the fire, with its head, legs, and inner organs. You shall let none of it remain until the morning; anything that remains until the morning shall burn. This is how you shall eat it: your loins girded, your sandals on your feet, and your staff in your hand; and you shall eat it hurriedly. It is the passover of the Lord. For I will pass through the land of Egypt that night, and I will strike down every firstborn in the land of Egypt, both human beings and animals; on all the gods of Egypt I will execute judgments: I am the Lord. The blood shall be a sign for you on the houses where you live: when I see the blood, I will pass over you, and no plague shall destroy you when I strike the land of Egypt.

This day shall be a day of remembrance for you. You shall celebrate it as a festival to the Lord; throughout your generations you shall observe it as a perpetual ordinance.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

THE RESPONSE

Psalm 149

1 Hallelujah!

Sing to the Lord a new song; *

sing his praise in the congregation of the faithful.

- 2 Let Israel rejoice in his Maker; *
let the children of Zion be joyful in their King.
- 3 Let them praise his Name in the dance; *
let them sing praise to him with timbrel and harp.
- 4 For the Lord takes pleasure in his people *
and adorns the poor with victory.
- 5 Let the faithful rejoice in triumph; *
let them be joyful on their beds.
- 6 Let the praises of God be in their throat *
and a two-edged sword in their hand;
- 7 To wreak vengeance on the nations *
and punishment on the peoples;
- 8 To bind their kings in chains *
and their nobles with links of iron;
- 9 To inflict on them the judgment decreed; *
this is glory for all his faithful people.
Hallelujah!

The Second Lesson

A Reading from the Book of Romans

13:8-14

Owe no one anything, except to love one another; for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law. The commandments, "You shall not commit adultery; You shall not murder; You shall not steal; You shall not covet"; and any other commandment, are summed up in this word, "Love your neighbor as yourself." Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore, love is the fulfilling of the law.

Besides this, you know what time it is, how it is now the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; the night is far gone, the day is near. Let us then lay aside the works of darkness and put on the armor of light; let us live honorably as in the day, not in reveling and drunkenness, not in

debauchery and licentiousness, not in quarreling and jealousy. Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

SEQUENCE HYMN

Hymn 593

Lord, Make us servants of your peace

Dickinson College

**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

18:15-20

Jesus said, "If another member of the church sins against you, go and point out the fault when the two of you are alone. If the member listens to you, you have regained that one. But if you are not listened to, take one or two others along with you, so that every word may be confirmed by the evidence of two or three witnesses. If the member refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church; and if the offender refuses to listen even to the church, let such a one be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector. Truly I tell you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven. Again, truly I tell you, if two of you agree on earth about anything you ask, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven. For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them."

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Christ.

THE SERMON

The Rev. Paula J. Toland

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

Bernard & Nathan

Christine Conti

Jimmy Hasenkamp

The Fitzgerald Family

Xander

Ian Janeczko

Jack Moreno

Evan

The McManus Family

Stephanie Gubin

Sara Ruth Dorn

The Blanchard Family

Sue Macbeth

Felder Dorn

Donna Riggi

Francis

James Tranberg

Eleanor Robinson

Marcia Mein

Debbie and Geoff Robarge

Grace Bitting

God of grace, we pray for those who have died, especially Freda Williams: 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,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory,
for ever and ever. Amen.**

BLESSING

THE PEACE

SENDING HYMN

Hymn

Let there be peace on earth

Miller/Jackson

**Let there be peace on earth, and let it begin with me;
Let there be peace on earth, the peace that was meant to be,
With God as creator, brothers and sisters are we,
Let us walk with each other in perfect harmony.
Let peace begin with me, let this be the moment now.
With every step I take, let this be my solemn vow:
To take each moment and live each moment in peace eternally.
Let there be peace on earth, and let it begin with me.**

Words and Music: Sy Miller and Jill Jackson © 1955, 1983 Jan-Lee Music (ASCAP) (admin. MCCG, 145 Attorney St., New York, NY 10002). All rights reserved. International copyright secured. Used by permission of OneLicense.net #A-707966.

A friendly reminder that during this time of fasting from in-person gatherings, the work of the Church continues, with much happening here at St. Stephen's. Giving in faith as we live our faith is as important as ever.

Please give online: <https://ststephensmillburn.org/give/> or mail your pledge to the church at 119 Main Street, Millburn, NJ 07041.

PLEASE NOTE: Bishop Hughes will be visiting St. Stephen's on Sunday, September 13 at 10 AM. This will be a live streamed service via Zoom that will also be available for viewing on the diocesan YouTube channel. This is the format that is being used for all Bishop Hughes' visitations. The congregation is invited and encouraged to join the live Zoom service and instructions to join the service will be sent via the St. Stephen's newsletter as the date nears.

The service will not be broadcast on HTTV that weekend, but can be viewed on the diocesan YouTube channel as mentioned above, if you are unable to join the live Zoom service. The service will be followed by a Zoom Coffee Hour with the Bishop, and then a

“break-out” conversation with the Vestry. Please refer to the St. Stephen’s newsletter this week and next week for complete details.

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

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.