



St. Stephen's Episcopal Church

The Church on Main Street...
where love begets love

Welcome to St. Stephen's Church. We are delighted that you are here, whether you are with us in the building or joining us from home. We invite you to enter fully into worship by joining in the prayers and responses. If you are with us in the building, we ask that you join us in showing our love for each other by refraining from any singing and by following the current health and safety guidelines. Streaming music is by permission under OneLicense.net A-707966.

Fifth Sunday of Easter

Sunday, May 2, 2021

Liturgy of the Word

ORGAN PRELUDE

GATHERING HYMN 296 *We know that Christ is raised and dies no more* Engelberg

*1. We know that Christ is raised and dies no more.
Embraced by death he broke its fearful hold;
And our despair he turned to blazing joy.
Alleluia*

*2. We share by water in his saving death.
Reborn we share with him an Easter life
As living members of a living Christ.
Alleluia!*

*3. The Father's splendor clothes the Son with life.
The Spirit's power shakes the Church of God.
Baptized we live with God the Three in One.
Alleluia!*

*4. A new creation comes to life and grows
As Christ's new body takes on flesh and blood.
The universe restored and whole will sing:
Alleluia!
Amen.*

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray.

COLLECT OF THE DAY

Almighty God, whom truly to know is everlasting life: Grant us so perfectly to know your Son Jesus Christ to be the way, the truth, and the life, that we may steadfastly follow his steps in the way that leads to eternal life; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

THE LESSON

A Reading from the Book of Acts

8:26-40

An angel of the Lord said to Philip, "Get up and go toward the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza." (This is a wilderness road.) So he got up and went. Now there was an Ethiopian eunuch, a court official of the Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, in charge of her entire treasury. He had come to Jerusalem to worship and was returning home; seated in his chariot, he was reading the prophet Isaiah. Then the Spirit said to Philip, "Go over to this chariot and join it." So Philip ran up to it and heard him reading

the prophet Isaiah. He asked, "Do you understand what you are reading?" He replied, "How can I, unless someone guides me?" And he invited Philip to get in and sit beside him. Now the passage of the scripture that he was reading was this:

"Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter,
and like a lamb silent before its shearer,
so he does not open his mouth.
In his humiliation justice was denied him.
Who can describe his generation?
For his life is taken away from the earth."

The eunuch asked Philip, "About whom, may I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?" Then Philip began to speak, and starting with this scripture, he proclaimed to him the good news about Jesus. As they were going along the road, they came to some water; and the eunuch said, "Look, here is water! What is to prevent me from being baptized?" He commanded the chariot to stop, and both of them, Philip and the eunuch, went down into the water, and Philip baptized him. When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord snatched Philip away; the eunuch saw him no more, and went on his way rejoicing. But Philip found himself at Azotus, and as he was passing through the region, he proclaimed the good news to all the towns until he came to Caesarea.

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

THE RESPONSE

Psalm 22:24-30

24 My praise is of him in the great assembly; *

I will perform my vows in the presence of those who worship him.

25 The poor shall eat and be satisfied,
and those who seek the Lord shall praise him: *

"May your heart live for ever!"

26 All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the Lord, *
and all the families of the nations shall bow before him.

27 For kingship belongs to the Lord; *
he rules over the nations.

28 To him alone all who sleep in the earth bow down in worship; *
all who go down to the dust fall before him.

29 My soul shall live for him;
my descendants shall serve him; *
they shall be known as the Lord's for ever.

30 They shall come and make known to a people yet unborn *
the saving deeds that he has done.

SEQUENCE HYMN *There is no fear in love*

John 4:18; Music by Elliot Z. Levine

*1. There is no fear in love, in love.
There is no fear, in love, in love.
But perfect love casts out fear,
But perfect love casts out fear.*

*2. En el amor, en el amor no hay temor
Sino, sino que el perfecto amore.
Echa fuera, echa fuera
Fuera el temor.*

*3. Timor non est in caritate
sed perfecta caritas
foras mitit timorem.*

THE GOSPEL

The Holy Gospel of Our Lord Jesus Christ according to John

15:1-8

Glory to you, Lord Christ

Jesus said to his disciples, "I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinegrower. He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing. Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples."

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

BCP, Form III

Father, we pray for your holy Catholic Church, including our siblings in the Evelyn Underhill District: St. George's, Maplewood; Grace, Madison; St. Paul's, Chatham; Christ Church, Short Hills; and Calvary, Summit.

That we all may be one.

Grant that every member of the Church may truly and humbly serve you. We pray for Cross Roads, a place of formation and transformation;

That your Name may be glorified by all people.

We pray for all bishops, priests, and deacons, including Michael, our Presiding Bishop; Carlye, our Bishop Diocesan; Paula, our Rector; and Karen, Deacon in your Church;

That they may be faithful ministers of your Word and Sacraments.

We pray for all who govern and hold authority in the nations of the world, including Joe, our President, Kamala, our Vice-President; and Philip, our Governor;

That there may be justice and peace on the earth.

Give us grace to do your will in all that we undertake. We pray for our partners in ministry: Family Promise of Essex County, North Porch, Apostles' House, and First Friends;

That our works may find favor in your sight.

Have compassion on those who suffer from any grief or trouble, especially

Ian Janeczko

The McManus Family

Donna Riggi

The Blanchard Family

Bernard and Nathan

Peggy Thompson

The Fitzgerald Family

Felder Dorn

Hailey Rose Fout

Lucille B.

Jack Moreno

Jim Freeman

The May Family

Mary Jo Zarance

That they may be delivered from their distress.

Give to the departed eternal rest.

Let light perpetual shine upon them.

We praise you for your saints who have entered into joy;

May we also come to share in your heavenly kingdom.

Let us pray for our own needs and those of others.

Please add your intercessions, either silently or aloud.

Loving God, racism and gun violence wreak havoc in this country, disrupting your vision of a beloved community. Today we remember those killed or injured this week, all of whom are your children, created in your image:

For the 353 known to be killed and 804 known to be injured in 1,150 incidents between April 22nd and 28th; we mourn the reality that there are too many to name now.

We remember their families, friends, and neighbors, whose lives are forever changed. Forgiving God, we remember, too, those who have perpetrated this violence and ask that you help us to remember that they, too, are your beloved, whose brokenness you can heal.

Loving and Forgiving God, **heal and transform our broken hearts. Inspire us to act to end this violence against our neighbors and your vision of beloved community.**

The priest adds the concluding Collect

Generous God, you have blessed us with abundant sustenance and opportunity. We humbly pray that we may always prove ourselves a people mindful of your favor and glad to do your will. Bless this nation with honorable industry, sound learning, and pure manners. Save us from violence, discord, and confusion; from pride and arrogance, and from every evil way. Defend our liberties, and fashion into one united people the multitudes brought together from many kindreds and tongues. Imbue with the spirit of wisdom those to whom we entrust the authority of government, that there may be justice and peace at home, and that, through obedience to your law, we may share the blessings of living by our faith in you with all the nations of the earth. In times of prosperity, fill our hearts with thankfulness, and in times of trouble let our hope be in your grace; all this we ask through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

BCP page 820, adapted

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.

THE PEACE

ANNOUNCEMENTS

EASTER BLESSING

May Almighty God, who has redeemed us and made us his children through the resurrection of his Son our Lord, bestow upon you the riches of his blessing. **Amen.**

May God, who through the water of baptism has raised us from sin into the newness of life, make you holy and worthy to be united with Christ forever. **Amen.**

May God, who has brought us out of bondage to sin into true and everlasting freedom in the Redeemer, bring you to your eternal inheritance. **Amen.**

And the blessing of God Almighty, the Creator, the Redeemer, and the Sustainer, be upon you and remain with you for ever. **Amen.**

1. Lord, I want to be a Christian in my heart, in my
heart; Lord, I want to be a Christian in my heart.
In my heart, in my heart, Lord, I
want to be a Christian in my heart.

2. Lord, I want to be more loving in my heart, in my heart

3. Lord, I want to be more holy in my heart, in my heart

4. Lord, I want to be like Jesus in my heart, in my heart

THE DISMISSAL

Alleluia, alleluia. Let us go forth rejoicing in the love of the Risen Lord.

Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia.

ORGAN POSTLUDE

*A friendly reminder that during this difficult time of pandemic, the work of the church continues.
Giving in faith as we live our faith is as important as ever.*

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Upcoming Events

All events are virtual unless otherwise noted; details can be found in the weekly e-newsletter.

5/2 – 12 PM – Coffee Hour

5/5 – 10 AM – Cross Roads Wednesday Away

5/7 - 9 AM – Interfaith Bible Hour

5/9 - 10 AM - Sunday Worship

5/9 – 12 PM – Coffee Hour

5/9 – 1 PM – Reading with the Rector

5/11 – 7:30 PM – Sacred Ground

5/13 – 6:30 PM – Regional Meeting including St. Stephen's Congregation with Bishop Hughes

Liturgical Stewardship

Officiant: The Rev. Paula J. Toland

Tech Verger: Ron Toland

Music Director: Kim Williams

Organist: John Schucker

Lectors: Kathy Conway, Barbara Riedel

Usher: Roger Riedel

Screeener: Barbara Riedel

Vocalist: Kim Williams

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; Steve Moran

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