St. Stephen's Episcopal Church

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

THE SECOND SUNDAY IN LENT

Sunday, March 1, 2026

Holy Eucharist, Rite II at 10:00am

Welcome to St. Stephen's Church. We are delighted that you are here.

All of what you need to join us is in this bulletin or in one of two hymnals:

Hymnal 1982 (the blue book)
"H" followed by a number indicates hymns.
"S" followed by a number indicates selections that appear in the front section of the blue hymnal.

St. Stephen's Hymnal (the red spiral bound book):
"SSH" followed by a number indicates hymns.

PRELUDE

Gather
We come together to praise God.

Please stand as you are able.

GATHERING HYMN
H 401 The God of Abraham praise *Leoni*



WELCOME

Word

We hear and respond to the story of God's liberating acts.

Bless the Lord who forgives all our sins.
His mercy endures for ever.

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

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

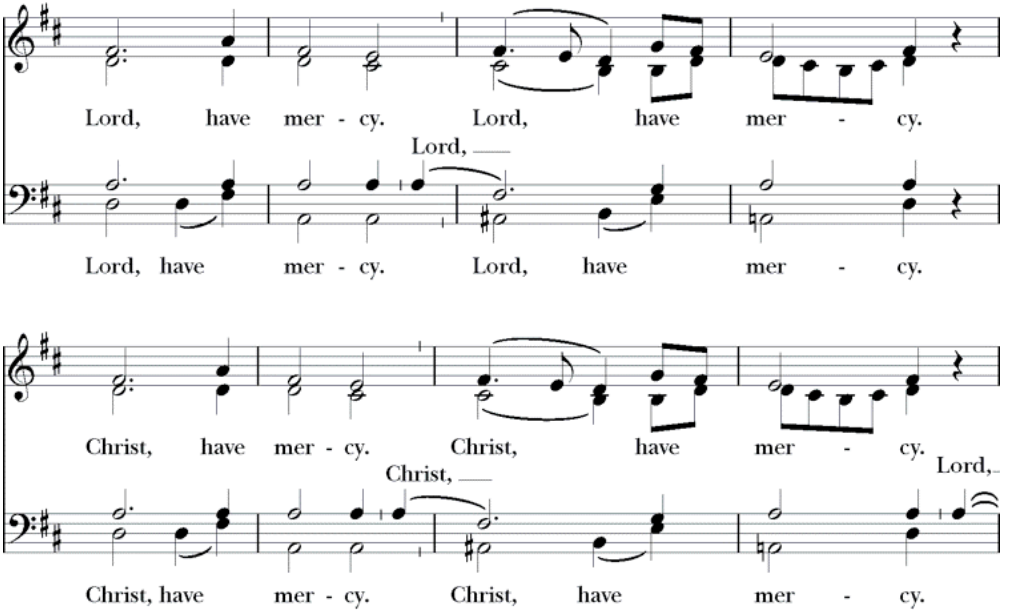
Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

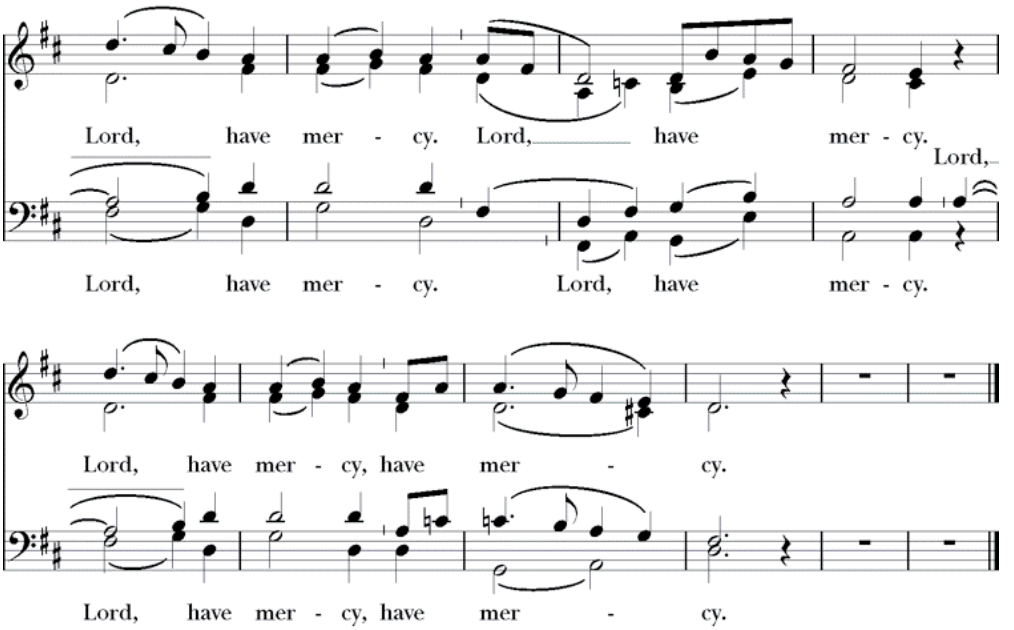
God of all mercy, we confess that we have sinned against you, opposing your will in our lives. We have denied your goodness in each other, in ourselves, and in the world you have created. We repent of the evil that enslaves us, the evil we have done, and the evil done on our behalf. Forgive, restore, and strengthen us through our Savior Jesus Christ, that we may abide in your love and serve only your will.

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

KYRIE

S 96 Lord, have mercy upon us *Schubert*





Word

We hear and respond to the story of God's liberating acts.

COLLECT OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.** Let us pray.

O God, whose glory it is always to have mercy: Be gracious to all who have gone astray from your ways, and bring them again with penitent hearts and steadfast faith to embrace and hold fast the unchangeable truth of your Word, Jesus Christ your Son; who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen**.

Please be seated.

THE FIRST LESSON

A Reading from the book of Genesis. 12:1-4a

The Lord said to Abram, "Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you. I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you, and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and the one who curses you I will curse; and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed."

So Abram went, as the Lord had told him; and Lot went with him.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

THE RESPONSE

Psalm 121, *The Saint Helena Psalter*

I lift up my eyes to the hills; *
from where is my help to come?
My help comes from God, *
the maker of heaven and earth.
God will not let your foot be moved; *
the One who watches over you will not fall asleep.
Behold, the One who keeps watch over Israel *
shall neither slumber nor sleep;
The Holy One watches over you *
and is your shade at your right hand,
So that the sun shall not strike you by day, *
nor the moon by night.
God shall preserve you from all evil *
and is the One who shall keep you safe.
God shall watch over your going out and your coming in, *
from this time forth for evermore.

THE SECOND LESSON

A Reading from Paul's letter to the Church in Rome. 4:1-5, 13-17

What then are we to say was gained by Abraham, our ancestor according to the flesh? For if Abraham was justified by works, he has something to boast about, but not before God. For what does the scripture say? "Abraham believed God, and it was reckoned to him as righteousness." Now to one who works, wages are not reckoned as a gift but as something due. But to one who without works trusts him who justifies the ungodly, such faith is reckoned as righteousness.

For the promise that he would inherit the world did not come to Abraham or to his descendants through the law but through the righteousness of faith. If it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. For the law brings wrath; but where there is no law, neither is there violation.

For this reason it depends on faith, in order that the promise may rest on grace and be guaranteed to all his descendants, not only to the adherents of the law but also to those who share the faith of Abraham (for he is the father of all of us, as it is written, "I have made you the father of many nations") —in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist.

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Please stand as you are able.

SEQUENCE HYMN

H 147 Now let us all with one accord *Bourbon*



THE GOSPEL

The Holy Gospel of Our Lord Jesus Christ according to John. 3:1-17

Glory to you, Lord Christ.

There was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. He came to Jesus by night and said to him, "Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God; for no one can do these signs that you do apart from the presence of God." Jesus answered him, "Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above." Nicodemus said to him, "How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother's womb and be born?" Jesus answered, "Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. Do not be astonished that I said to you, 'You must be born from above.' The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit."

Nicodemus said to him, "How can these things be?" Jesus answered him, "Are you a teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things?

"Very truly, I tell you, we speak of what we know and testify to what we have seen; yet you do not receive our testimony. If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things? No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

"For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

"Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him."

The Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, Lord Christ.

Please be seated.

THE SERMON *The Rev. Paula J. Toland*

Please stand as you are able.

THE NICENE CREED *Enriching Our Worship*

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, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary and became truly human. 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, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who 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 *for Social Justice*

Let us pray for the Church and for the world.

God of love, we pray for your church: For Sarah, Archbishop of Canterbury; Sean, our Presiding Bishop; Carlye, our bishop; for all lay and ordained ministers; and for all who seek you in the community of the faithful. We pray for Paula, our Rector; Karen, our Deacon; and Maryalice and Roger, our Wardens. 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.**

Silence

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. We pray for Donald, our President; J.D., our Vice-President; Mikie, our Governor; and Frank, our mayor. Unite the human family in bonds of love.
God of freedom, **Hear our prayers for the world.**

Silence
God of healing, we pray for healing and peace, for all who have been harmed, live in fear, or experience anxiety because of the words and actions of leaders anywhere. Give those who are at risk an awareness of your love and protection.
God of healing, **Hear our prayers for our vulnerable siblings.**

Silence

God of strength, we pray for allies and advocates everywhere that they may continue the fight to uphold the dignity and worth of every human being as they walk alongside those who have experienced dehumanizing or demoralizing treatment of any kind. Give us courage to fight injustice in all its forms**.**
God of strength, **Hear our prayers for bold resisters.**

Silence

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.**

Silence

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.**

Silence

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:

Gina del Russo
Mary Loucas
Evie Larson
Donna Riggi
Mary Ruth Stone
Kris Hunt
Aldaiza DaSilva
Antonio DaSilva
Carol & Kyle McManus
Martha Lipowski
Keith Taber
Maryann Ekberg
Lizzie Ekberg
Boyd Hunnaman
James K.
Walter
Ron G.
Marvin
Kayt and Adam Zielinski
Victor Calantoni
Jenna Mitchell
Brian Nusom
Melissa Biren
Karen Eberhardt
Shelley T.
Sue and Larry H.
Maureen Burke Rockaway
Maggie Holland

For refugees, prisoners, and those in detention; 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.**
Silence

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.**

Silence

The Presider offers a 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.**

THE PEACE

The peace of Christ be always with you. **And also with you.**

Table

We offer our gifts, give thanks, and we gather at Christ's banquet.

Please be seated.

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

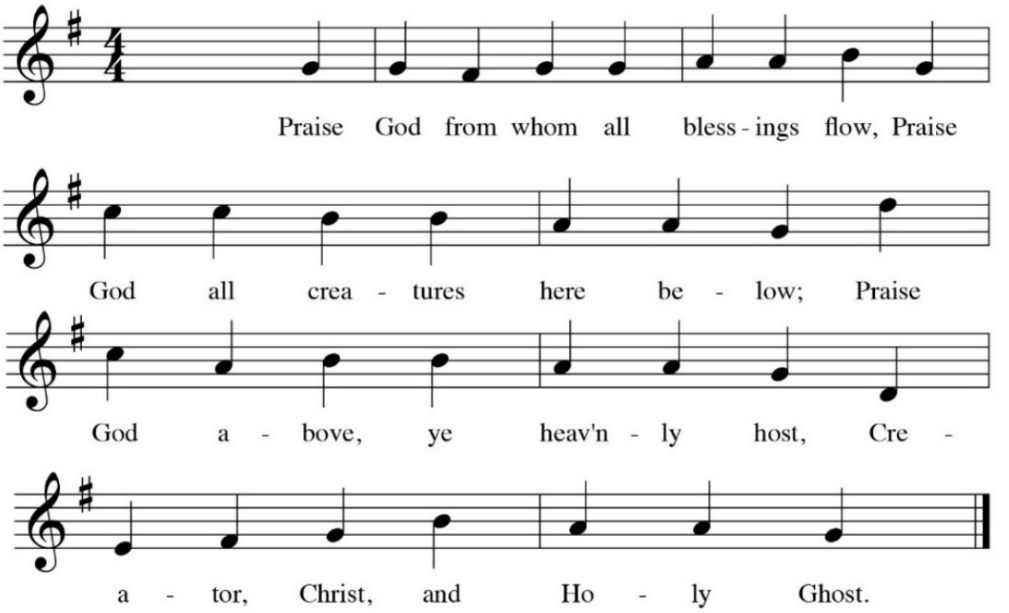
Steal Away *Traditional spiritual; arr. Malcolm Archer*

Senior Choir

Please stand as you are able.

THE DOXOLOGY

Praise God from whom all blessings flow *Tallis*



GREAT THANKSGIVING *Eucharistic Prayer A*

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**
Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and every where to give thanks to you, God Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.

You bid your faithful people cleanse their hearts, and prepare with joy for the Paschal feast; that, fervent in prayer and in works of mercy, and renewed by your Word and Sacraments, they may come to the fullness of grace which you have prepared for those who love you.

Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

SANCTUS

S 130 Holy, holy, holy Lord *Schubert*

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
Heaven and earth are full, full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest, Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest, Hosanna in the highest.

Holy and gracious God: In your infinite love you made us for yourself, and, when we had fallen into sin and become subject to evil and death, you, in your mercy, sent Jesus Christ, your only and eternal Son, to share our human nature, to live and die as one of us, to reconcile us to you, the God and Creator of all.

He stretched out his arms upon the cross, and offered himself, in obedience to your will, a perfect sacrifice for the whole world.

On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper he took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:
Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, O God, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Recalling his death, resurrection, and ascension, we offer you these gifts.

Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be for your people the Body and Blood of your Son, the holy food and drink of new and unending life in him. Sanctify us also that we may faithfully receive this holy Sacrament, and serve you in unity, constancy, and peace; and at the last day bring us with all your saints into the joy of your eternal kingdom.

All this we ask through your Son Jesus Christ: By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

Our Father, our Mother, 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 BREAKING OF THE BREAD & THE INVITATION

We break this bread to share in the Body of Christ.
We who are many are one body, for we all share in the one bread.

Whoever you are, where ever you are on your journey of faith, you are welcome at Christ's table.

All are welcome at God's table to receive Communion or a blessing. Gluten-free hosts are available. Please use the hand sanitizer available in the pew before coming forward.

AT COMMUNION

Organ meditation

Please stand as you are able.

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

Adapted from *A New Zealand Prayer Book*

Creator of all, we you thanks and praise, that when we were still far off you met us in your Son and brought us home. Dying and living, he declared your love, gave us grace and opened the gate of glory. May we who share Christ's body live his risen life; we who drink his cup, bring life to others; we whom the Spirit lights give light to the world. Keep us firm in the hope you have set before us, so we and all your children shall be free, and the whole earth live to praise your name. Amen.

Sending

We go forth as Christ's body in the world.

Please be seated.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

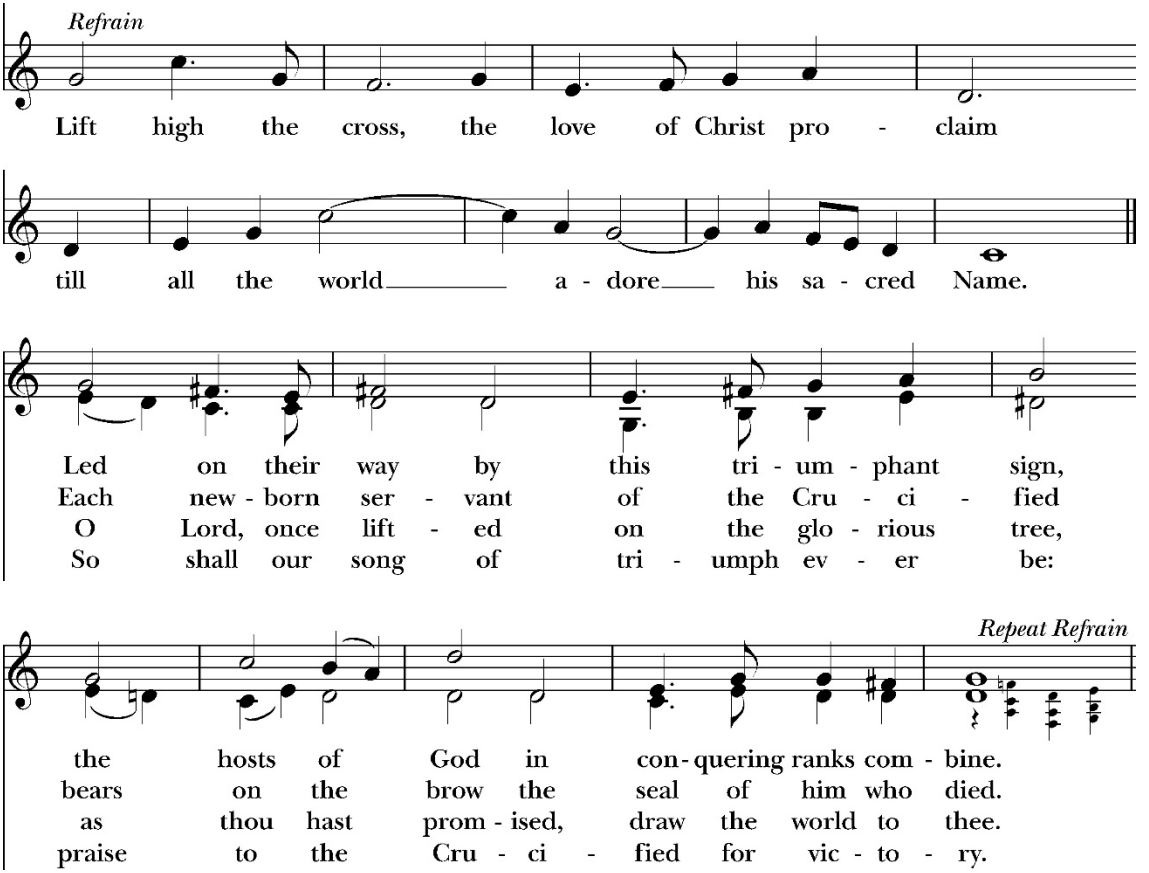
Please stand as you are able.

BENEDICTION

Keep this your family, Lord, with your never-failing mercy, that relying solely on the help of your heavenly grace, they may be upheld by your divine protection; through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

SENDING HYMN

H 473 Lift high the cross *Crucifer*



THE DISMISSAL

Let us go forth into the world to walk humbly with our God.
Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

LITURGICAL STEWARDSHIP

Officiant:	The Rev. Paula J. Toland
Deacon:	The Rev. Deacon Karen Eberhardt
Minister of Music:	Kim Williams
Organist:	James Hicks
Crucifer/Chalicer:	
Reader/Intercessor:	Fran Y., Barbara C.
Greeter/Usher:	Maryalice
Altar Guild:	Irene, Julia
Tech Verger:	Ron
Coffee Hour Hosts:	Jackie

Source for today's lectionary: The Revised Common Lectionary (RCL)
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Upcoming Events

Details can be found in the weekly e-newsletter, which is available on our website.

DATE	TIME	DESCRIPTION
3/1	10:00 AM	Sunday Worship
	11:30 AM	Lenten Series
	1:00 PM	AA Meeting
3/2	7:30 PM	MA Meeting
3/8	10:00 AM	Sunday Worship
	11:00 AM	Annual Meeting
	1:00 PM	AA Meeting

ANNUAL MEETING – Mark your calendars and plan to join us on Sunday, March 8th! We will meet in the Parish Hall following Sunday service. The Vestry will be hosting coffee hour.

LENT AND EASTER SERVICES

March 29 – Palm Sunday
10:00am Holy Eucharist with Procession of the Palms

April 1 – Wednesday in Holy Week
7:30pm Tenebrae Service

April 2 – Thursday in Holy Week
6:30 - 8:00pm Maundy Thursday and Agape Supper

April 3 – Good Friday
12:00pm Prayer Service
7:30pm Solemn Collects w/ Veneration of the Cross

April 4 – Holy Saturday
10:00am Liturgy of Holy Saturday

April 5 – Easter
10:00am Easter Day Service
11:30am Easter Egg Hunt

ST. STEPHEN'S EPISCOPAL 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
Parish Administrator: Maria T. Card

Minister of Music: Kim Williams; Organist: John Schucker

Members of the Vestry
Maryalice Chech: Warden, People & Programs; Roger Riedel, Warden, Property & Preschool; Ashley Morgan: Treasurer; Fran Taber; Kira Hanson; Linda Soughan; Steve Moran; Tom Hillemeier; Barbara Riedel: Recording Secretary & Clerk

Sheelagh Clarke; Eugene Foley: Vestry Emeriti

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