# St. Stephen's Episcopal Church

The Church on Main Street, where God's love is lived.

**CELEBRATING 175 YEARS (1851 - 2026)**

## THE SEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

### July 12, 2026

Holy Eucharist, Rite II at 10:00 am

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

The second Sunday of the month we have our "Second Sunday Intergenerational Service." Our children and youth join us for the entirety of the service, with some serving as liturgical ministers. We use child specific resources for some of the readings and prayers, and make other changes so the liturgy is more accessible to the younger among us.

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**

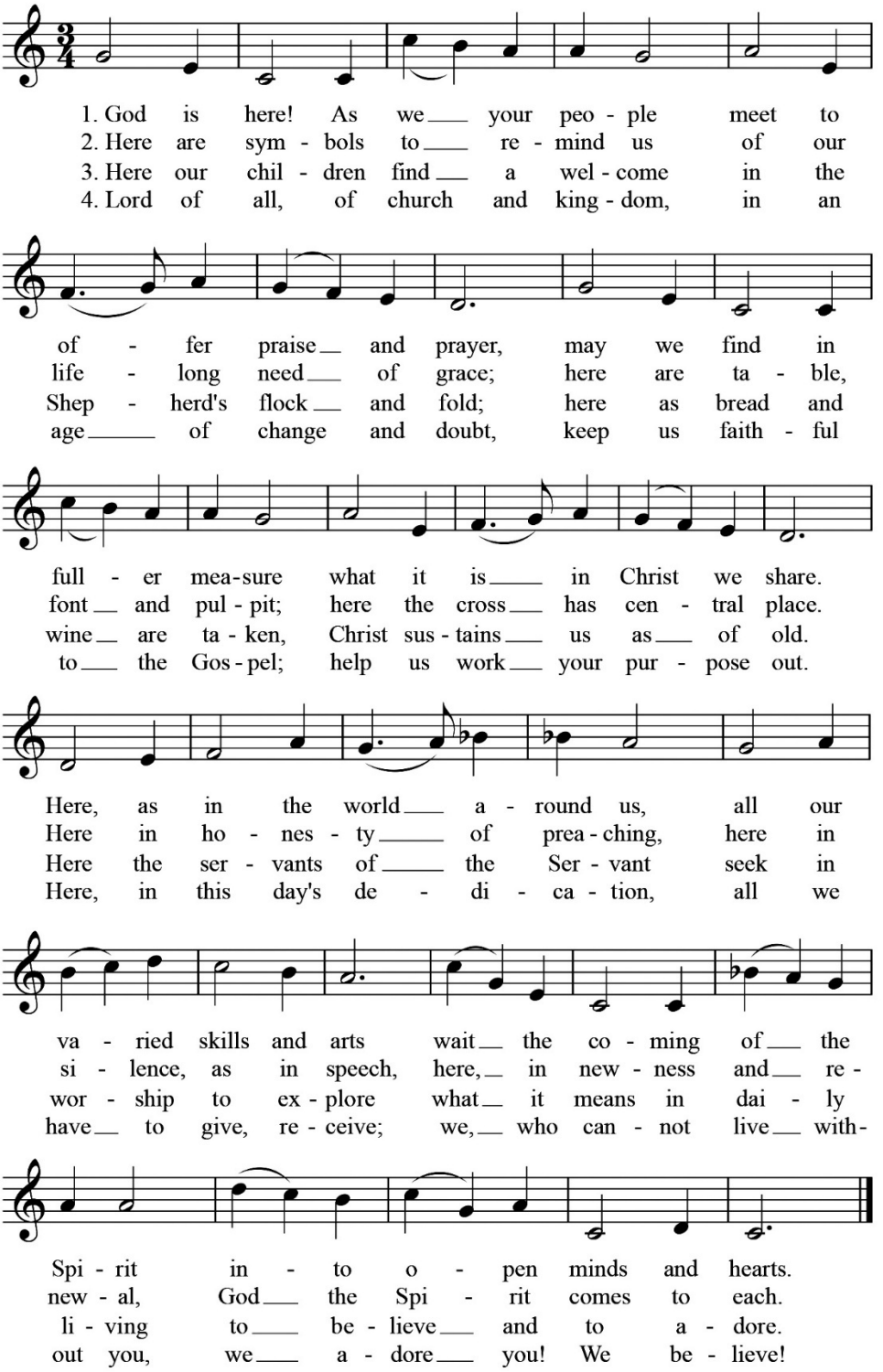
**Gather**

*We come together to praise God.*

*Please stand as you are able.*

**GATHERING HYMN**

God Is Here! *Abbot's Leigh*


1. God is here! As we your peo - ple meet to
2. Here are sym - bols to re - mind us of our
3. Here our chil - dren find a wel - come in the
4. Lord of all, of church and king - dom, in an
of - fer praise and prayer, may we find in
life - long need of grace; here are ta - ble,
Shep - herd's flock and fold; here as bread and
age of change and doubt, keep us faith - ful
full - er mea-sure what it is in Christ we share.
font and pul - pit; here the cross has cen - tral place.
wine are ta - ken, Christ sus - tains us as of old.
to the Gos - pel; help us work your pur - pose out.
Here, as in the world a - round us, all our
Here in ho - nes - ty of prea - ching, here in
Here the ser - vants of the Ser - vant seek in
Here, in this day's de - di - ca - tion, all we
va - ried skills and arts wait the co - ming of the
si - lence, as in speech, here, in new - ness and re -
wor - ship to ex - plore what it means in dai - ly
have to give, re - ceive; we, who can - not live with -
Spi - rit in - to o - pen minds and hearts.
new - al, God the Spi - rit comes to each.
li - ving to be - lieve and to a - dore.
out you, we a - dore you! We be - lieve!

## WELCOME

### Word

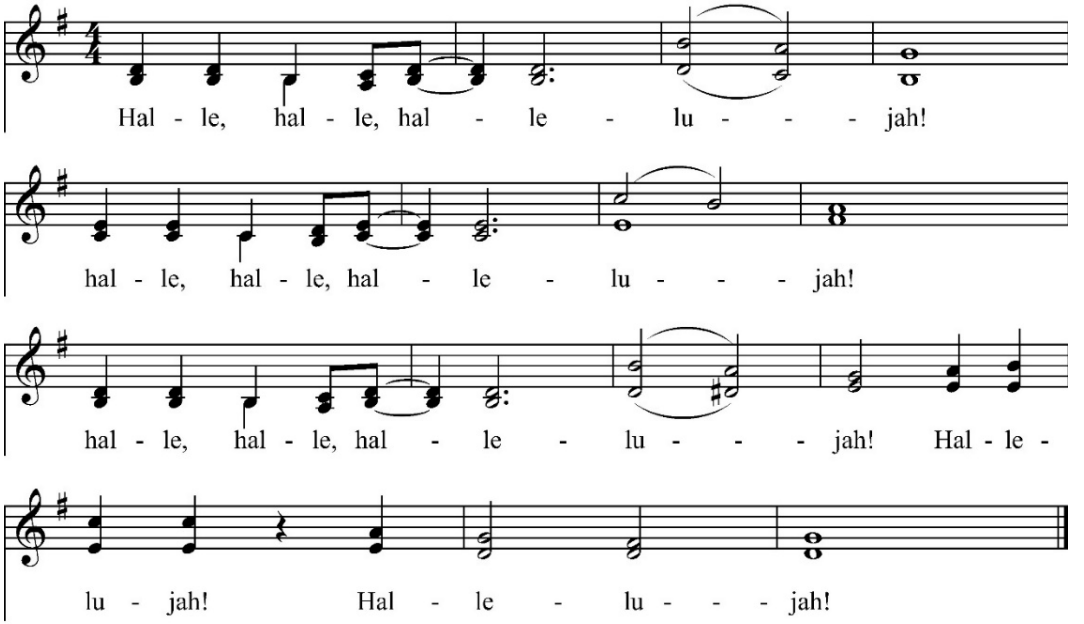
*We hear and respond to the story of God's liberating acts.*

Blessed are you, holy and living One.
**You come to your people and set them free.**

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.**

## THE GLORIA

Halle, halle, hallelujah! *Traditional Caribbean*




Words and Melody: Traditional Caribbean. Arr. Mark Sedio (b. 1954) © 1995 Augsburg Fortress, PO Box 1209, Minneapolis, MN 55440-1209 [www.augsburgfortress.org]. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

## COLLECT OF THE DAY

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

O Lord, mercifully receive the prayers of your people who call upon you, and grant that they may know and understand what things they ought to do, and also may have grace and power faithfully to accomplish them; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

*Please be seated.*

## THE LESSON

Our first lesson is a reading from the prophet Isaiah. 55:10-13 *ICB*

Rain and snow fall from the sky.
They don't return without watering the ground.
They cause the plants to sprout and grow.
And the plants make seeds for the farmer.
And from these seeds people have bread to eat.
The words I say do the same thing.
They will not return to me empty.
They make the things happen that I want to happen.
They succeed in doing what I send them to do.

"So you will go out with joy.
You will be led out in peace.
The mountains and hills will burst into song before you.
All the trees in the fields will clap their hands.
Large cypress trees will grow where thorn bushes were.
Myrtle trees will grow where weeds were.
These things will be a reminder of the Lord's promise.
And this reminder will never be destroyed."

Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.
**Thanks be to God.**

## THE RESPONSE

Let us read responsively from Psalm 65. *1, 9-14 GWMV*

God, you deserve all of our praise, all the time. Everywhere.
You bring the rains that we need from the heavens.
You are a river full of water.
You make the grain grow that we eat and bless the earth so that is grows our food.
**God, you deserve all of our praise, all the time. Everywhere.**

Every year wears a crown on its head because you've blessed it.
And everywhere you walk, flowers appear.
May the deserts have plenty of grass for our cattle to eat and when we look at the mountains, may they make our hearts happy.
**God, you deserve all of our praise, all the time. Everywhere.**

May the meadows be covered with lots of little leaping lambs.
May all the earth sing happy songs.
**God, you deserve all of our praise, all the time. Everywhere.**

*Please stand as you are able.*

## SEQUENCE HYMN

Spirit of the Living God *Daniel Iverson*




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## THE GOSPEL

The Holy Gospel of Our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew. 13:1-9, 18-23 *CEB*

**Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

That day Jesus went out of the house and sat down beside the lake. Such large crowds gathered around him that he climbed into a boat and sat down. The whole crowd was standing on the shore.

He said many things to them in parables: "A farmer went out to scatter seed. As he was scattering seed, some fell on the path, and birds came and ate it. Other seed fell on rocky ground where the soil was shallow. They sprouted immediately because the soil wasn't deep. But when the sun came up, it scorched the plants, and they dried up because they had no roots. Other seed fell among thorny plants. The thorny plants grew and choked them. Other seed fell on good soil and bore fruit, in one case a yield of one hundred to one, in another case a yield of sixty to one, and in another case a yield of thirty to one. Everyone who has ears should pay attention."

"Consider then the parable of the farmer. Whenever people hear the word about the kingdom and don't understand it, the evil one comes and carries off what was planted in their hearts. This is the seed that was sown on the path. As for the seed that was spread on rocky ground, this refers to people who hear the word and immediately receive it joyfully. Because they have no roots, they last for only a little while. When they experience distress or abuse because of the word, they immediately fall away. As for the seed that was spread among thorny plants, this refers to those who hear the word, but the worries of this life and the false appeal of wealth choke the word, and it bears no fruit. As for what was planted on good soil, this refers to those who hear and understand, and bear fruit and produce—in one case a yield of one hundred to one, in another case a yield of sixty to one, and in another case a yield of thirty to one."

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 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

*The Rt. Rev. Geralyn Wolf (adapted)*

Mercifully receive our prayers, O God, that we may know your ways and follow where you lead, responding, "Hear us, good Lord."

For those who are seeking a spiritual home, that they may be inspired to visit our churches and to receive a deep sense of God's presence through our worship together and the hospitality we share; let us pray. **Hear us, good Lord**.

That we may be set free from the need to claim our worthiness through possessions and position, so that we may discover our true identity in the life and hope of the Holy Spirit; let us pray. **Hear us, good Lord.**

That the light of Christ will reveal the path to those for whom the shadows are long, the poor and desperate, the lonely and unemployed, the hungry and fearful, the refugee and homeless, the prisoner and those who live as if in prison, that we may not forget them; let us pray. **Hear us, good Lord.**

For our Commander-in-Chief and all who serve in the armed forces, that we may be thankful for their many sacrifices, and honor the service they render to our country and to the security of the world; let us pray. **Hear us, good Lord.**

For those who have died, that they may reside in that place where there is no sorrow or pain, but life everlasting; let us pray. **Hear us, good Lord.**

For safety for children who are on vacation, that they may have the chance to learn new skills, build healthy bodies, and develop new and lasting friendships; let us pray. **Hear us, good Lord.**

With heart and mind turned toward God, we continue our prayers.

For those on our parish prayer list

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Mary Ruth Stone | Martha Lipowski | Ron G. | Carol McManus |
| Kris Hunt | Boyd Hunnaman | Sue and Larry H | Ambika Bedi |
| Aldaiza DaSilva | James K. | Maggie Holland | David Cabush |
| Antonio DaSilva | Walter | Celine Ghiara. | Karen Eberhardt |

Let us pray. **Hear us, good Lord.**

For our Ministry Partners: Apostles' House, Cross Roads, Family Promise Essex County, North Jersey Pride, and North Porch; for our sister congregations in the Evelyn Underhill Regional Ministry Network: Calvary, Summit; Christ Church in Short Hills; St. Paul's, Chatham, St. George's, Maplewood; and Grace, Madison; in the Diocese of Newark, let us pray for Redeemer, Morristown and St. Peter's, Morristown; the ministries of the Rev. Grant Mansfield, the Rev. Laurie Matarazzo, the Rev. Tom Mathews, and the Rev. Joyce McGirr; and the work of Cross Roads Camp & Retreat Center; in the Anglican Communion, let us pray for the Province of the Episcopal Church of South Sudan. Let us pray. **Hear us, good Lord.**

For those who have been harmed, live in fear, or experience anxiety because of the words or actions of leaders anywhere; let us pray. **Hear us, good Lord.**

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; let us pray. **Hear us, good Lord.**

For all who serve in our worship, formation, hospitality, outreach, administrative ministries, and the preschool staff whose devotion and creativity enrich the life of our community; let us pray. **Hear us, good Lord.**

*The Presider offers a concluding Collect.*

Holy One of blessing, you are the source and giver of all good things, hear the prayers of our hearts, minds, and lives; and give us the wisdom and grace to embody your way of love each and every day. **Amen.**

## CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

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 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.**

## 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.*

## AT THE OFFERTORY

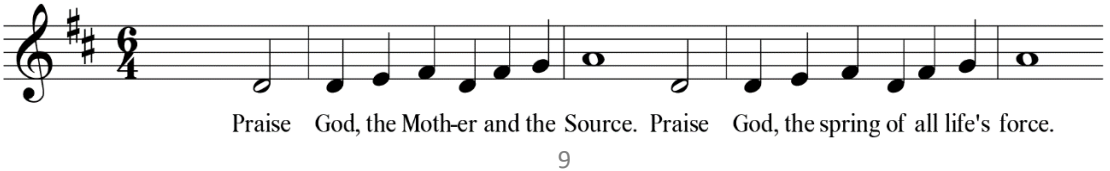
Same God — *Klein, Leath, Kerr*

*Kira Hanson, soloist*

*Please stand as you are able.*

## THE DOXOLOGY

Praise God, the Mother and the Source — *Jody L. Caldwell*






Words: Jody L. Caldwell. All rights reserved. Used by permission of the author.
Tune: *Lasst uns erfreuen,* melody from *Auserlesene Catholische Geistliche Kirchengesaeng,* 1623.

## EUCHARISTIC PRAYER 3 *EOW 1*

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.**

All thanks and praise are yours at all times and in all places, our true and loving God; through Jesus Christ, your eternal Word, the Wisdom from on high by whom you created all things. You laid the foundations of the world and enclosed the sea when it burst out from the womb; You brought forth all creatures of the earth and gave breath to humankind.

Wondrous are you, Holy One of Blessing, all you create is a sign of hope for our journey; And so as the morning stars sing your praises we join the heavenly beings and all creation as we shout with joy:

### SANCTUS

S 129 Holy, holy, holy Lord *Robert Powell*






Glory and honor are yours, Creator of all, your Word has never been silent; you called a people to yourself, as a light to the nations, you delivered them from bondage and led them to a land of promise. Of your grace, you gave Jesus to be human, to share our life, to proclaim the coming of your holy reign and give himself for us, a fragrant offering.

Through Jesus Christ our Redeemer, you have freed us from sin, brought us into your life, reconciled us to you, and restored us to the glory you intend for us.

We thank you that on the night before he died for us Jesus took bread, and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, gave it to his friends and said: "Take, eat, this is my Body, broken for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper Jesus took the cup of wine, said the blessing, gave it to his friends and said: "Drink this, all of you: this cup is the new Covenant in my Blood, poured out for you and for all for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me."

And so, remembering all that was done for us: the cross, the tomb, the resurrection and ascension, longing for Christ's coming in glory, and presenting to you these gifts your earth has formed and human hands have made, we acclaim you, O Christ:

**Dying, you destroyed our death. Rising, you restored our life. Christ Jesus, come in glory!**

Send your Holy Spirit upon us and upon these gifts of bread and wine that they may be to us the Body and Blood of your Christ.

Grant that we, burning with your Spirit's power, may be a people of hope, justice and love.

Giver of Life, draw us together in the Body of Christ, and in the fullness of time gather us with blessed St. Stephen and all your people into the joy of our true eternal home.
Through Christ and with Christ and in Christ, by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, we worship you our God and Creator in voices of unending praise.

**Blessed are you 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.*

## COMMUNION HYMN

In my life, Lord, be glorified *Kilpatrick*




2. In my song, Lord, be glorified . . .
3. In your church, Lord, be glorified . . .

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## POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

Let us pray.

**God of abundance, you have fed us with the bread of life and cup of salvation; you have united us in Christ and one another; and you have made us one with all your people on heaven and on earth. Now send us forth in the power of your Spirit, that we may proclaim your redeeming love to the world and continue forever in the risen life of Christ our Saviour. Amen.**

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

## BLESSING OF THE SECOND SUNDAY SPECIAL GIVING

To benefit the Rector's Discretionary Fund

## BLESSING

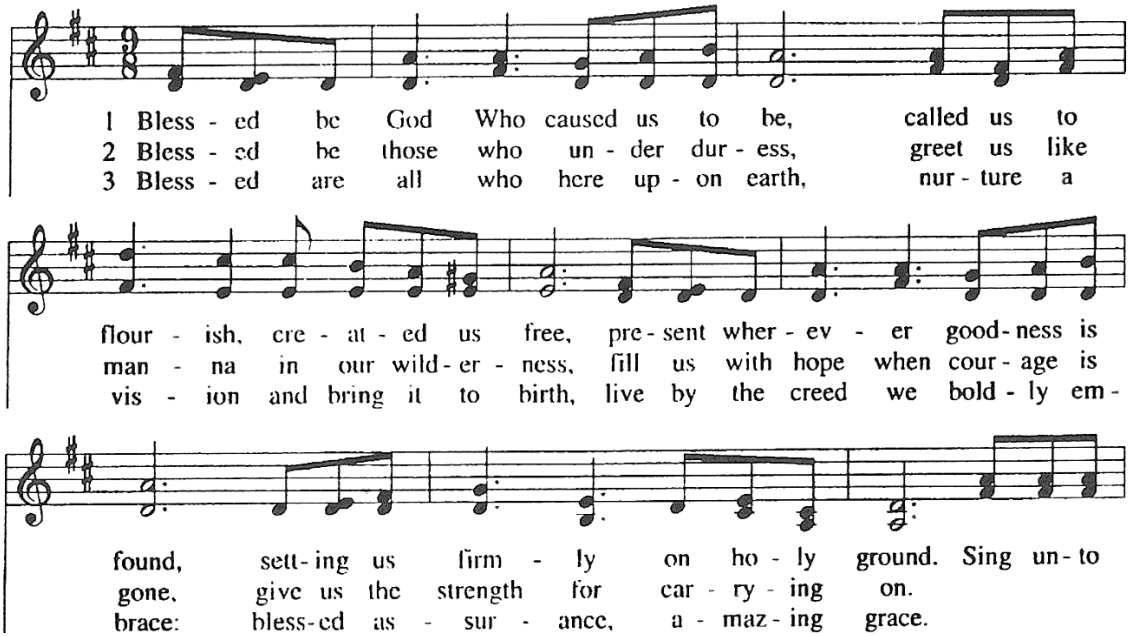
*Source: Celtic*

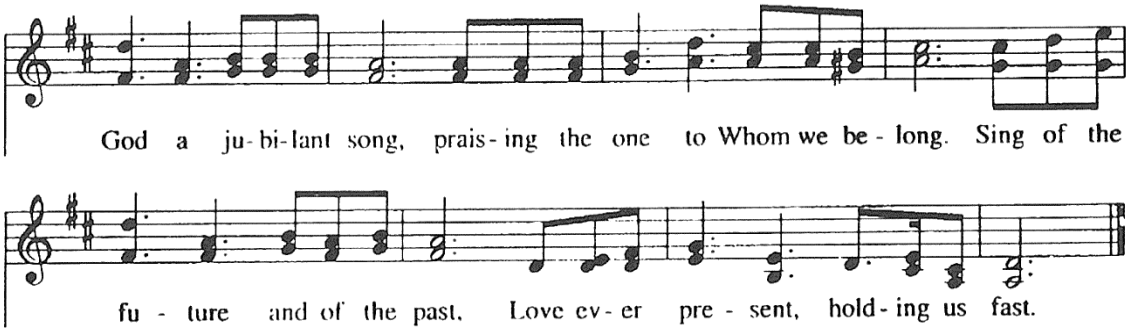
God's Blessing be with you, Christ's peace be with you, and the Spirit's outpouring be with you, now and always. **Amen.**

## SENDING HYMN

Blessed Be God

*Phoebe P. Knapp*






WORDS: Miriam Therese Winter
MUSIC: Phoebe P. Knapp, 1873
© Medical Mission Sisters, 1994

ASSURANCE

**DISMISSAL**

Let us go forth into the world to live in newness of life with Christ and each other.
**Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia.**

**POSTLUDE**

## LITURGICAL STEWARDSHIP

| | |
|---|---|
| *Officiant:* | The Rev. Paula J. Toland |
| *Deacon:* | The Rev. Deacon Karen Eberhardt |
| *Minister of Music:* | Kim Williams |
| *Organist:* | John Schucker |
| *Altar Guild:* | Irene, Julia, Jennifer |
| *Chalicer/Crucifer/Acolyte:* | Eric, Clara, Martin |
| *Reader/Intercessor:* | Rosie |
| *Oblations Bearer/Offering:* | |
| *Greeter/Usher:* | |
| *Tech Verger:* | Ron |
| *Coffee Hour:* | Katie, Adam & Family |

*Source for today's lectionary is adapted from God's Word, My Voice (GWMV).*
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## Upcoming Events

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

| DATE | TIME | DESCRIPTION |
|---|---|---|
| 7/12 | 10:00 AM | Intergenerational Sunday Worship |
| | 1:00 PM | AA Meeting |
| 7/13 | 7:30 PM | MA Meeting |
| 7/15 | 7:30 PM | Finance Committee Meeting |
| 7/16 | 6:30 PM | Preschool Committee Meeting |
| 7/19 | 10:00 AM | Sunday Worship |
| | 11:30 AM | Vestry Meeting |
| | 1:00 PM | AA Meeting |

# 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
Children & Youth Minister: Julia Kaluzna

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; Julia Dorn; Kira Hanson; Linda Soughan; Steve Moran; Tom Hillemeier; Barbara Riedel: Recording Secretary & Clerk

Sheelagh Clarke: Vestry Emerita

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