St. Stephen's Episcopal Church

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

CELEBRATING 175 YEARS (1851 - 2026)

THE THIRTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

August 23, 2026

Holy Eucharist, Rite II at 10:00 am

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 427 When morning gilds the skies *Laudes Domini*



WELCOME

Word

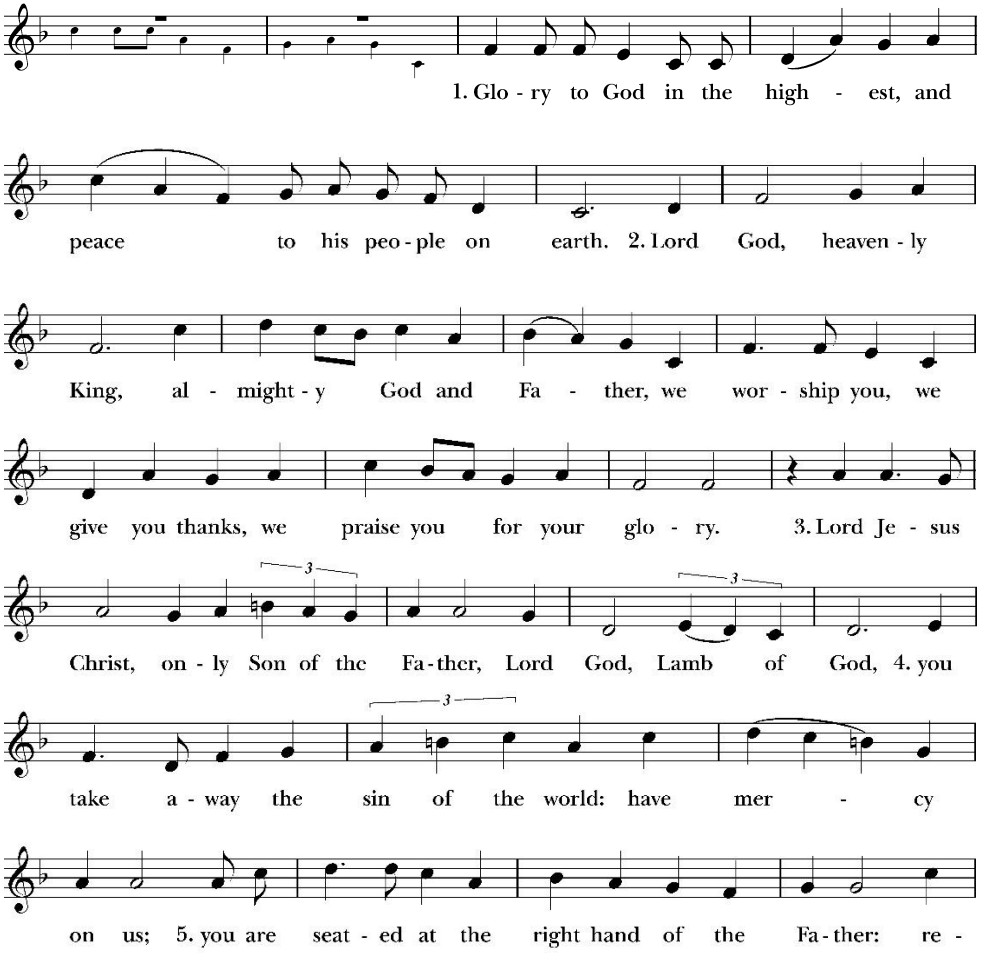
We hear and respond to the story of God's liberating acts.

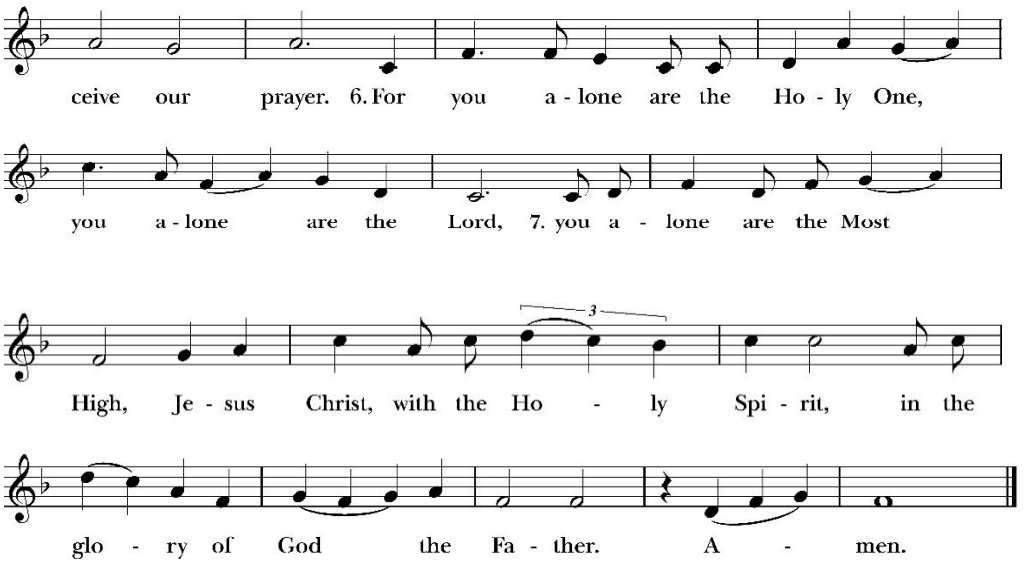
Blessed are you, holy and living One.
You come to your people and set them free.

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

S 280 Glory to God in the highest *Robert Powell*





Music: Robert Powell (b. 1932), rev. Setting: Copyright © Church Publishing Inc.

COLLECT OF THE DAY

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

Grant, O merciful God, that your Church, being gathered together in unity by your Holy Spirit, may show forth your power among all peoples, to the glory of your Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

Please be seated.

THE FIRST LESSON

A Reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah. 51:1-6

Listen to me, you that pursue righteousness,
you that seek the Lord.
Look to the rock from which you were hewn,
and to the quarry from which you were dug.
Look to Abraham your father
and to Sarah who bore you;
for he was but one when I called him,
but I blessed him and made him many.
For the Lord will comfort Zion;
he will comfort all her waste places,
and will make her wilderness like Eden,

her desert like the garden of the Lord;
joy and gladness will be found in her,
thanksgiving and the voice of song.
Listen to me, my people,
and give heed to me, my nation;
for a teaching will go out from me,
and my justice for a light to the peoples.
I will bring near my deliverance swiftly,
my salvation has gone out
and my arms will rule the peoples;
the coastlands wait for me,
and for my arm they hope.
Lift up your eyes to the heavens,
and look at the earth beneath;
for the heavens will vanish like smoke,
the earth will wear out like a garment,
and those who live on it will die like gnats;
but my salvation will be forever,
and my deliverance will never be ended.

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

THE RESPONSE

138, *The Saint Helena Psalter*

I will give thanks to you, O God, with my whole heart; *
before the gods I will sing your praise.

I will bow down toward your holy temple and praise your Name, *
because of your love and faithfulness.

For you have glorified your Name *
and your word above all things.

When I called, you answered me; *
you increased my strength within me.

All the rulers of the earth will praise you, O God, *
when they have heard the words of your mouth.

They will sing of the ways of God, *
that great is the glory of God.

Although on high, God cares for the lowly *
and perceives the haughty from afar.

Though I walk in the midst of trouble, you keep me safe; *
you stretch forth you hand against the fury of my enemies;
your right hand shall save me.

You will make good your purpose for me; *
O God, your love endures for ever;
do not abandon the works of your hands.

THE SECOND LESSON

A Reading from Paul's letter to the Church in Rome. 12:1-8

1appeal to you therefore, brothers and sisters, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God—what is good and acceptable and perfect.

For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of yourself more highly than you ought to think, but to think with sober judgment, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned. For as in one body we have many members, and not all the members have the same function, so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually we are members one of another. We have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us: prophecy, in proportion to faith; ministry, in ministering; the teacher, in teaching; the exhorter, in exhortation; the giver, in generosity; the leader, in diligence; the compassionate, in cheerfulness.

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Please stand as you are able.

SEQUENCE HYMN

SSH 3 We all are one in mission *Nylan*



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THE GOSPEL

The Holy Gospel of Our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew. 16:13-20

Glory to you, Lord Christ.

Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, "Who do people say that the Son of Man is?" And they said, "Some say John the Baptist, but others Elijah, and still others Jeremiah or one of the prophets." He said to them, "But who do you say that I am?" Simon Peter answered, "You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God." And Jesus answered him, "Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father in heaven. And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not prevail against it. I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven." Then he sternly ordered the disciples not to tell anyone that he was the Messiah.

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)*

Let us lift our voices in prayer, joining with the faithful throughout the world who offer their intercessions this day, responding, "Lord, hear our prayer."

Give your grace to those who care for children in foster homes, sustain them with patience, and encourage them to provide a family of love and respect; let us pray. **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Open our eyes to behold your hand in the work of creation, that we may marvel at your intricate craftsmanship and tend the beauty that we behold; let us pray. **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Pour your knowledge into the minds of those who are returning to school in the next few weeks, and for those attending for the first time, still their hearts by your loving presence; let us pray. **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Grant us the grace to honor the many gifts that you have given, not coveting what our neighbor has received, but grateful for what you have entrusted to our care; let us pray. **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Reveal yourself to every nation and people, that we may know you to be the Christ, the Messiah, the one who saves our souls from the pit of darkness, and who comes carrying the lamp of charity that leads us to the divine life; let us pray. **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Give life to those in the tomb, opening the gates of heaven to all who desire eternal life; let us pray. **Lord, hear our prayer.**

Let us continue our prayers to God, who cares for the lowly and guards us in the midst of trouble.

For those on our parish prayer list:

Mary Ruth Stone	Boyd Hunnaman	Maggie Holland	Therese C.
Kris Hunt	James K.	Celine Ghiara	Barbara H.
Aldaiza DaSilva	Walter	Carol McManus	
Antonio DaSilva	Ron G.	Ambika Bedi	
Martha Lipowski	Sue and Larry H.	Timothy M.	

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 Annunciation, Oradell and St. Alban's, Oakland/Franklin Lakes; the ministries of the Rev. Canon Robert Picken, the Rev. Deacon Annie Pike, the Rev. Sr. Monica Clare Powell, and the Rev. Anthony Puca; and the churches in the Augustine of Hippo Regional Ministry Network; in the Anglican Communion, let us pray for The Church of the Province of West Africa. 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.

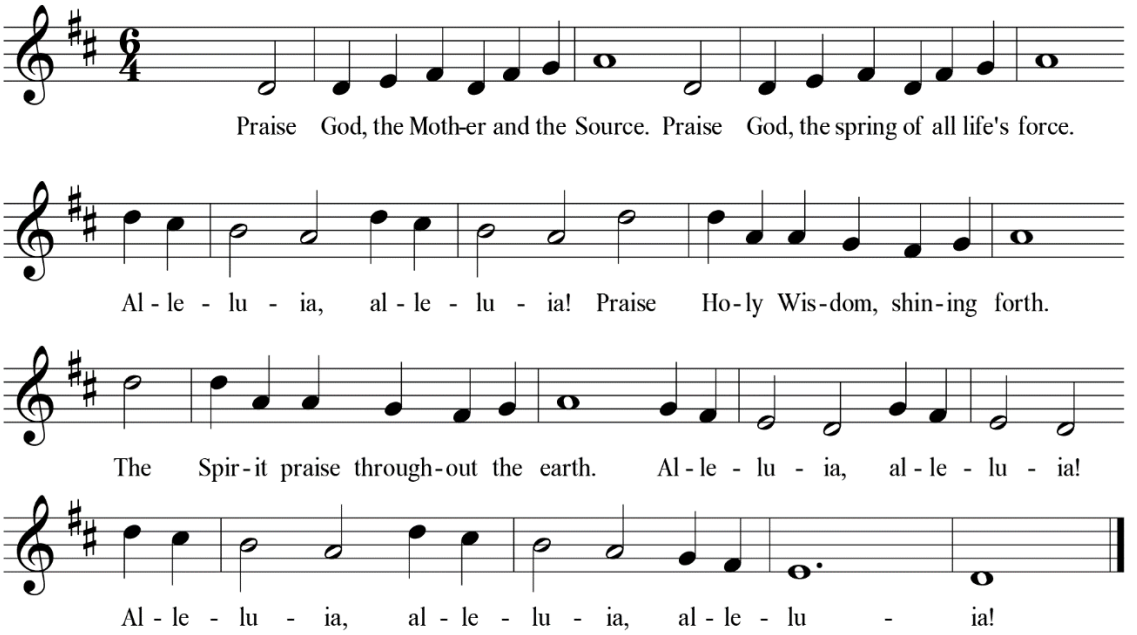
AT THE OFFERTORY

The Wood Song — *Emily Saliers*
Duet: Kira Hanson, Jackie Ross

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.

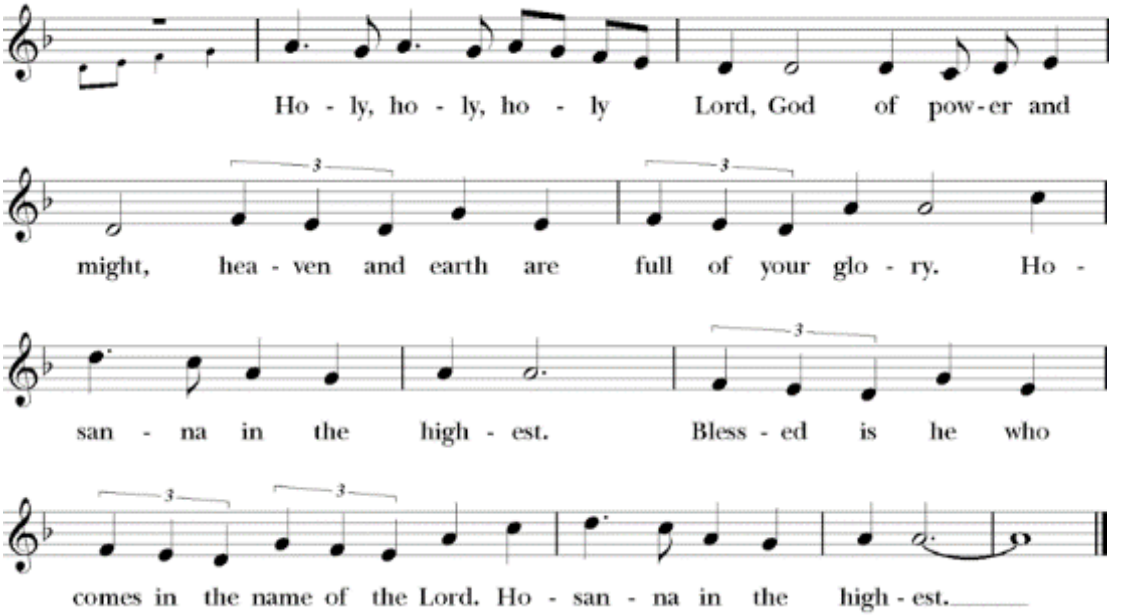
EUCHARISTIC PRAYER 3 *EOW I*

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

Organ meditation

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

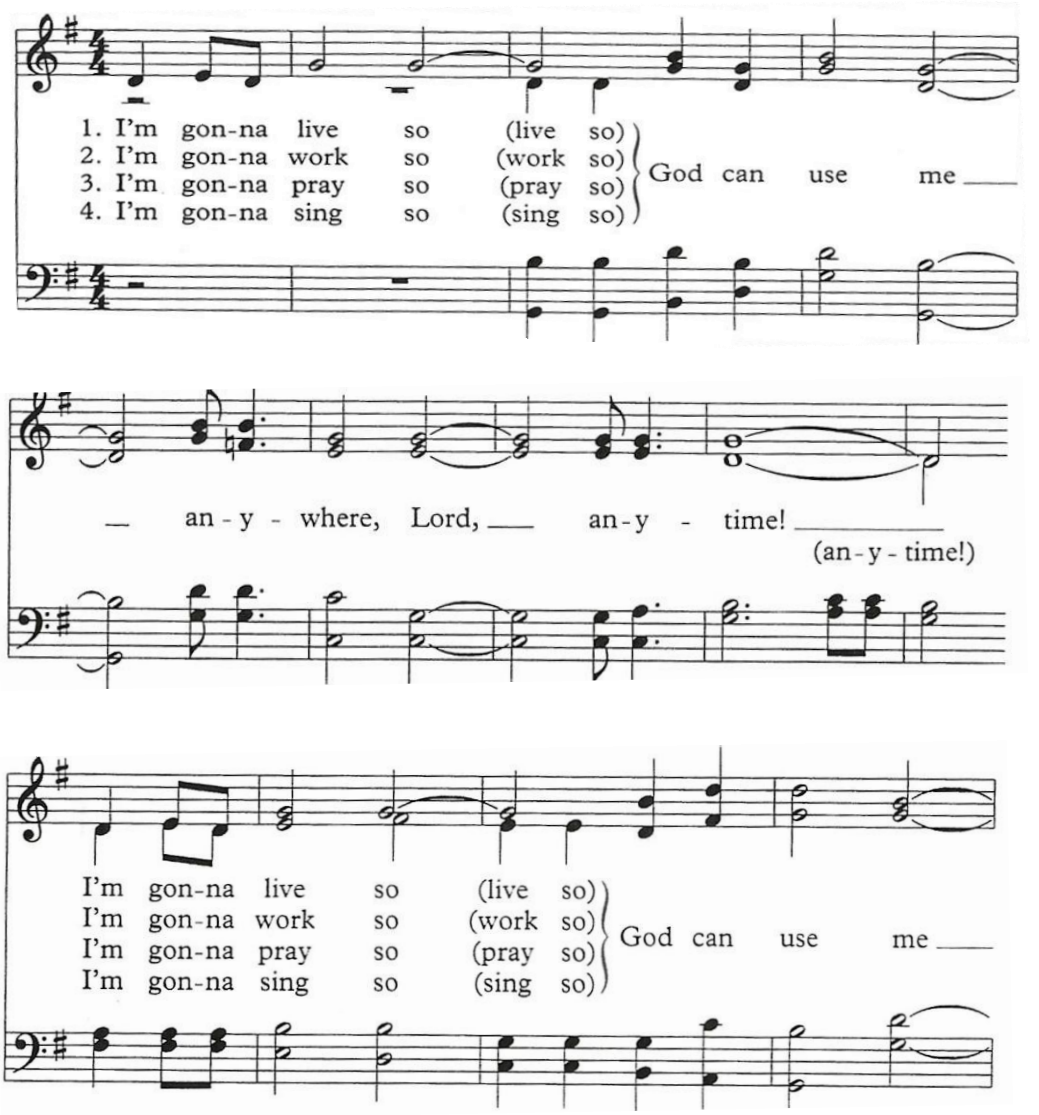
Source: Celtic

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

I'm gonna live so God can use me

African American Spiritual





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:	Jennifer, Nancy
Chalicer/Crucifer:	Roger
Reader/Intercessor:	Barbara R.
Greeter/Usher:	Kathy and Tim
Tech Verger:	Ron
Coffee Hour:	

Source for today's lectionary: The Revised Common Lectionary (RCL).
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Legacy Giving Through Your IRA

If you are age 70½ and older, a Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD) can be a powerful stewardship tool. By directing all or part of your IRA distribution directly to St. Stephen's, you can support the ministries and long-term mission of our parish while potentially receiving favorable tax treatment. For those subject to Required Minimum Distributions (RMDs), a QCD may also help satisfy that requirement. As we look toward future ministry, capital improvements, and endowment growth, planned and charitable giving opportunities such as QCDs can create a lasting impact for generations to come. Please consult your tax and financial advisors to learn more.

Upcoming Events

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

DATE	TIME	DESCRIPTION
8/23	10:00 AM	Sunday Worship
	1:00 PM	AA Meeting
	4:00 PM	Diocesan Prayer Vigil at Delaney Hall
8/24	7:30 PM	MA Meeting
8/26	7:30 PM	Finance Committee Meeting
8/30	10:00 AM	Sunday Worship
	1:00 PM	AA Meeting

IMPORTANT REMINDER:

The driveway and parking lot are being milled down, leveled, and resurfaced this week. The Parish Office will be open Wednesday thru Friday, though you will need to use street parking and use the walkway to the Main St. facing doors.

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
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.