St. Stephen's Episcopal Church

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

CELEBRATING 175 YEARS (1851 - 2026)

THE FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

June 28, 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

O God of vision — *Lobe den Herren*


1 O God of vi - sion far great - er than all hu - man
2 Pour out your Spir - it on all now as - sem - bled be -
3 Grant to us in - sight, O God, for this time of de -
4 Break the sun's rays in - to col - or, a rain - bow a -
5 Grate - ful, we come now by Christ's in - vi - ta - tion clear -
schem - ing, gath - er us now in your pres - ence, re -
fore you. May our di - ver - si - ty here be a
ci - sion. May we dream chal - leng - ing dreams of both
round us. Storm clouds, though real and near, are not e -
spo - ken. We seek the nour - ish - ment found in fruit
fresh - ing, re - deem - ing. Show us a - new life in your
means to a - dore you. Wom - en and men, young, old, and
depth and pre - ci - sion. Speak through the dark. Dis - pel by
nough to con - found us. Arched in the sky, beau - ty and
crushed and bread bro - ken. Christ for us all! Come, let us
breath - tak - ing view, love - ly be - yond all our dream - ing.
youth - ful a - gain, make us as one, we im - plore you.
light - ning's bright spark what - ev - er clouds dim our vi - sion.
prom - ise are high, giv - ing us hope to as - tound us.
an - swer the call, of - f'ring our lives as the to - ken.

WELCOME

Word

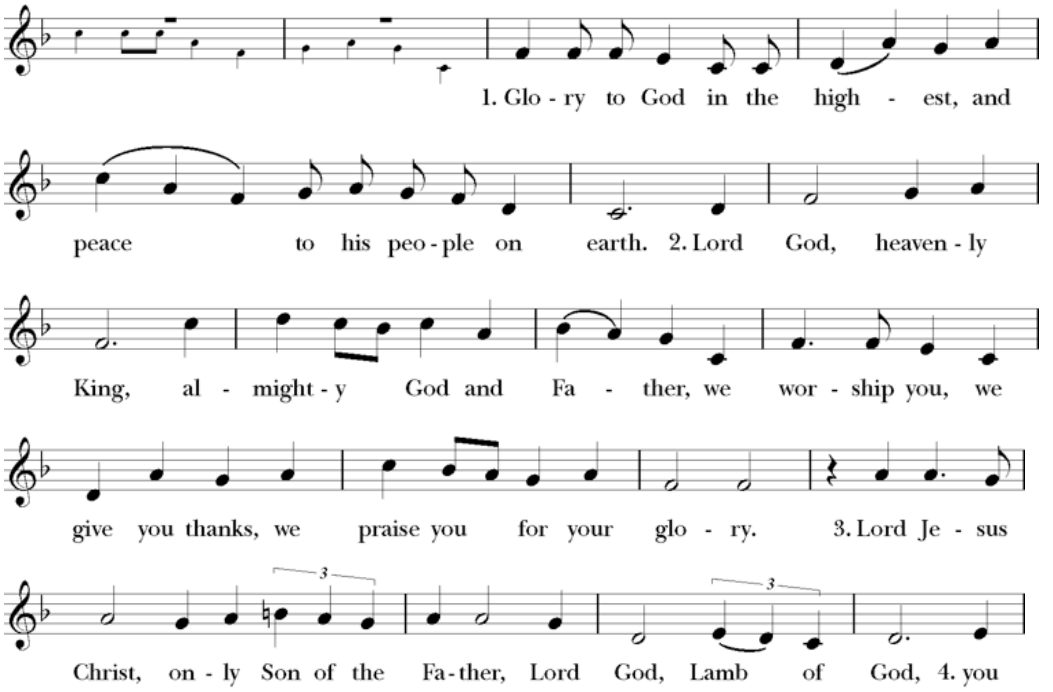
We hear and respond to the story of God's liberating acts.

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*





COLLECT OF THE DAY

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

Almighty God, you have built your Church upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief cornerstone: Grant us so to be joined together in unity of spirit by their teaching, that we may be made a holy temple acceptable to you; 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 Jeremiah. 28:5-9

The prophet Jeremiah spoke to the prophet Hananiah in the presence of the priests and all the people who were standing in the house of the Lord; and the prophet Jeremiah said, "Amen! May the Lord do so; may the Lord fulfill the words that you have prophesied, and bring back to this place from Babylon the vessels of the house of the Lord, and all the exiles. But listen now to this word that I speak in your hearing and in the hearing of all the people. The prophets who

preceded you and me from ancient times prophesied war, famine, and pestilence against many countries and great kingdoms. As for the prophet who prophesies peace, when the word of that prophet comes true, then it will be known that the Lord has truly sent the prophet."

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

THE RESPONSE

Psalm 89:1-4, 15-18, *The Saint Helena Psalter*

Your love, O God, for ever will I sing;
from age to age my mouth will proclaim your faithfulness.

For I am persuaded that your love is established forever;
you have set your faithfulness firmly in the heavens.

"I have made a covenant with my chosen one;
I have sworn an oath to David my servant:

'I will establish your line for ever,
and preserve your throne for all generations."'

Happy are the people who know the festal shout;
they walk, O God, in the light of your presence.

They rejoice daily in your Name;
they are jubilant in your righteousness.

For you are the glory of their strength,
and by your favor our might is exalted.

Truly, God is our Ruler,
the Holy One of Israel is our Sovereign.

THE SECOND LESSON

A Reading from Paul's letter to the Church in Rome. 6:12-23

Do not let sin exercise dominion in your mortal bodies, to make you obey their passions. No longer present your members to sin as instruments of wickedness, but present yourselves to God as those who have been brought from death to life, and present your members to God as instruments of righteousness. For sin will have no dominion over you, since you are not under law but under grace.

What then? Should we sin because we are not under law but under grace? By no means! Do you not know that if you present yourselves to anyone as obedient slaves, you are slaves of the one

whom you obey, either of sin, which leads to death, or of obedience, which leads to righteousness? But thanks be to God that you, having once been slaves of sin, have become obedient from the heart to the form of teaching to which you were entrusted, and that you, having been set free from sin, have become slaves of righteousness. I am speaking in human terms because of your natural limitations. For just as you once presented your members as slaves to impurity and to greater and greater iniquity, so now present your members as slaves to righteousness for sanctification.

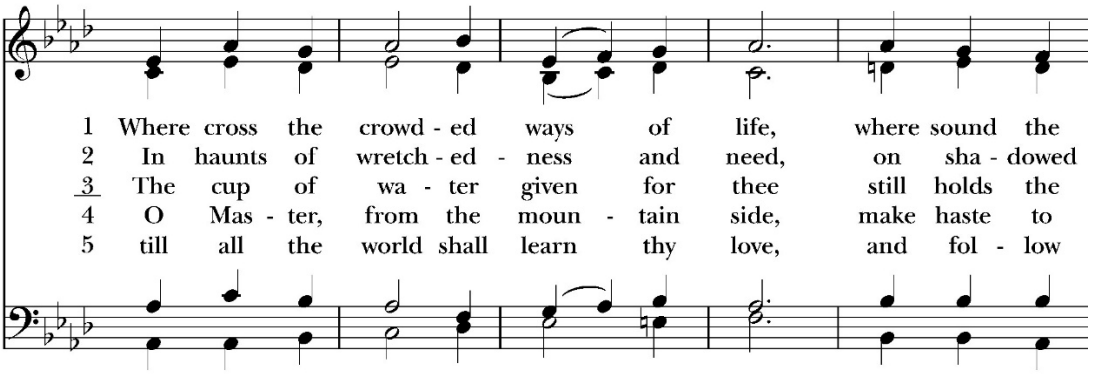
When you were slaves of sin, you were free in regard to righteousness. So what advantage did you then get from the things of which you now are ashamed? The end of those things is death. But now that you have been freed from sin and enslaved to God, the advantage you get is sanctification. The end is eternal life. For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

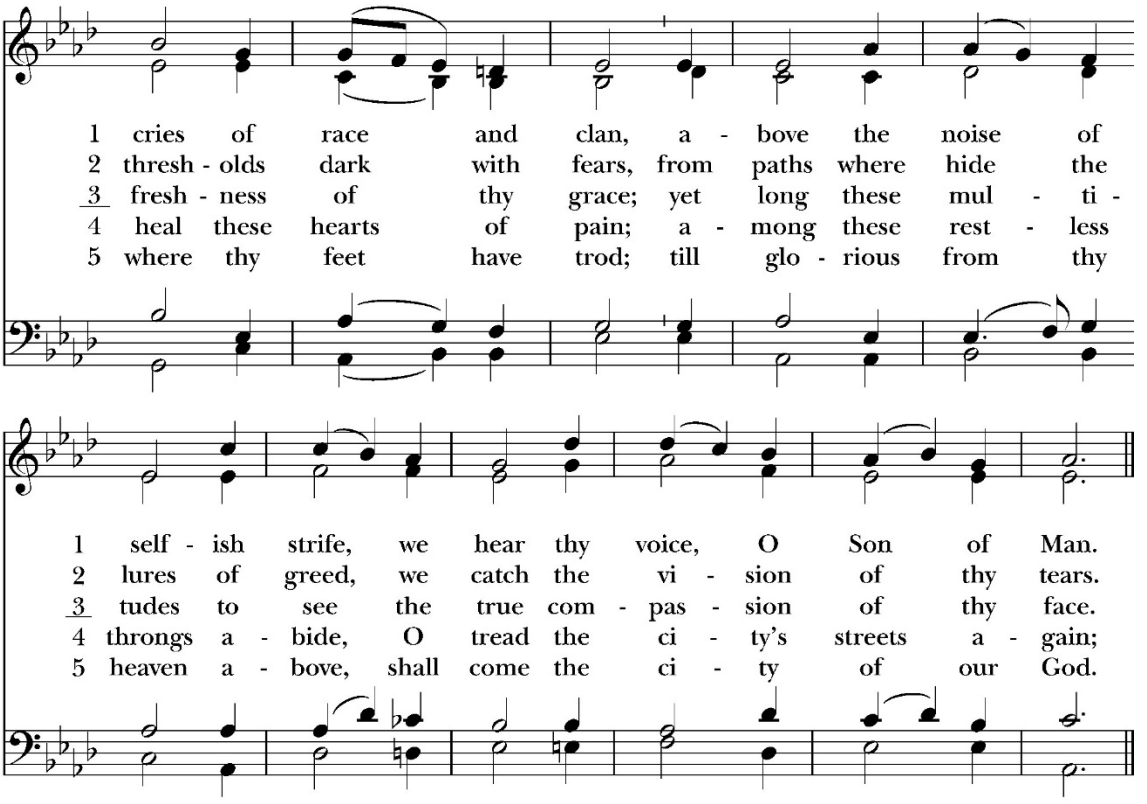
The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Please stand as you are able.

SEQUENCE HYMN

H 609 Where cross the crowded ways of life *Gardiner*





THE GOSPEL

The Holy Gospel of Our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew. 10:40-42

Glory to you, Lord Christ.

Jesus said, "Whoever welcomes you welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me welcomes the one who sent me. Whoever welcomes a prophet in the name of a prophet will receive a prophet's reward; and whoever welcomes a righteous person in the name of a righteous person will receive the reward of the righteous; and whoever gives even a cup of cold water to one of these little ones in the name of a disciple-- truly I tell you, none of these will lose their reward."

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)

We stand before God in awesome fear, as the power of divine grace is revealed through the mystery of word and sacrament. Trusting in his grace, we offer our prayers, responding, "Lord, have mercy."

For those who claim the prophetic voice in our generation, that they may be willing to pay the price of their convictions and, like the prophets of old, have their testimony tried in the fires of eternity; let us pray. Lord, have mercy.

That we may respond to the needs of others before we are ready, and give of our bounty when we have yet to be generous, that in the companionship of the apostles we will grow in grace and discover our holiness; let us pray. Lord, have mercy.

For Donald, our President; JD, our Vice-President; and Frank, our Mayor, that they may be given the wisdom to make judicious decisions, seeking the light of the Lord who is the source of all righteousness; let us pray. Lord, have mercy.

For safety and refreshment for those on vacation, that they may relax from their work and be reunited with those they love; let us pray. Lord, have mercy.

That those who eat the Bread and drink the Cup of Jesus' holy sacrifice may bear witness to the Paschal mystery in all its fullness; let us pray. Lord, have mercy.

That the dead may be granted an entrance into the fellowship of the saints; let us pray. Lord, have mercy.

Enrich our hearts with the gift of hospitality, O God, as we continue our prayers.

For those on our parish prayer list

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

Let us pray. **Lord have mercy.**

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 St. John's, Montclair and St. Luke's, Montclair; the ministries of the Rev. Ellen Kohn-Perry, the Rev. Daniel Kreller, the Rev. Brian Laffler, and the Rev. Hosea Lee; and the work of the First Third of Life Commission; in the Anglican Communion, let us pray for the Anglican Church of Southern Africa. Let us pray. Lord, have mercy.

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

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. Lord, have mercy.

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. **Lord, have mercy.**

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.

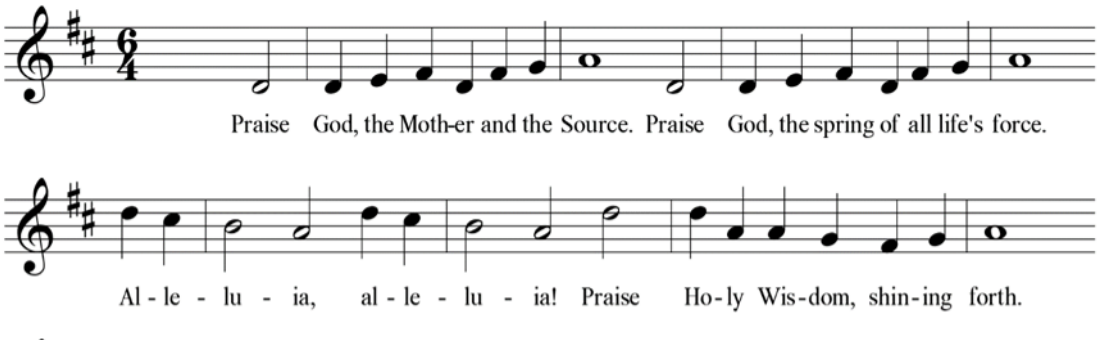
AT THE OFFERTORY

Organ Meditation

Please stand as you are able.

THE DOXOLOGY

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





EUCHARISTIC PRAYER 3 EOW 1

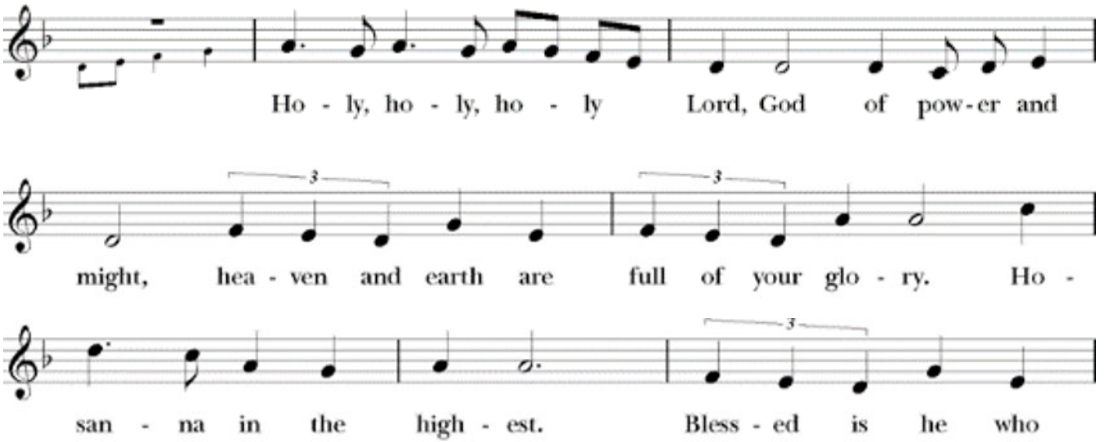
The Lord be with you. And also with you.Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

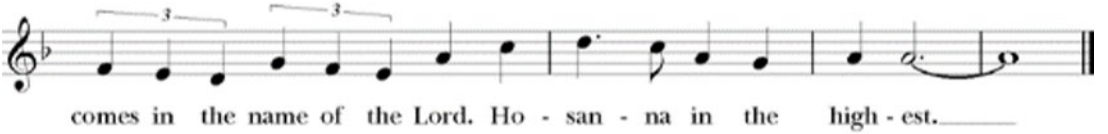
All thanks and praise are yours at all times and in all places, our true and loving God; through Jesus Christ, your eternal Word, the Wisdom from on high by whom you created all things. You laid the foundations of the world and enclosed the sea when it burst out from the womb; You brought forth all creatures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

Here is bread for the hungry soul *John Carter*





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

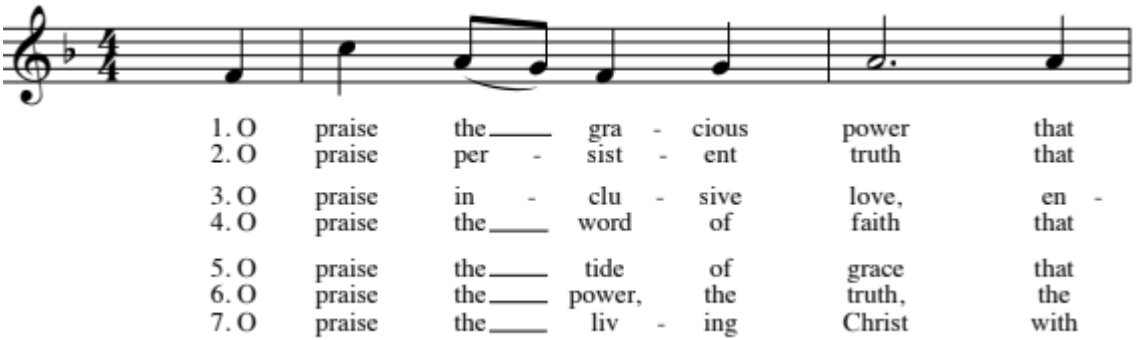
BLESSING

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

SSH 16 O praise the gracious power *Marion*





DISMISSAL

Let us go forth into the world to the Good News of God in Christ!
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:	John Schucker
Altar Guild:	
Chalicer/Crucifer:	
Reader/Intercessor:	
Greeter/Usher:	
Tech Verger:	Ron
Coffee Hour:	Marie and Rony

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
6/28	10:00 AM	Sunday Worship
	1:00 PM	AA Meeting
6/29	7:30 PM	MA Meeting
7/5	10:00 AM	Sunday Worship
	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.