St. Stephen's Episcopal Church

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

CELEBRATING 175 YEARS (1851 - 2026)

THE TENTIETH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

October 11, 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

H 390 Praise to the Lord, the Almighty *Lobe den Herren*

Praise to the Lord, the Almighty, the King of creation;
O my soul, praise him, for he is thy health and salvation:
join the great throng,
psaltery, organ, and song,
sounding in glad adoration.

Praise to the Lord; over all things he gloriously reigneth:
borne as on eagle-wings, safely his saints he sustaineth.
Hast thou not seen
how all thou needest hath been
granted in what he ordaineth?

Praise to the Lord, who doth prosper thy way and defend thee;
surely his goodness and mercy shall ever attend thee;
ponder anew
what the Almighty can do,
who with his love doth befriend thee.

Praise to the Lord! O let all that is in me adore him!
All that hath life and breath come now with praises before him!
Let the amen
sound from his people again;
gladly for ever adore him.

Joachim Neander (1650-1680); tr. Hymnal 1940, alt.

WELCOME

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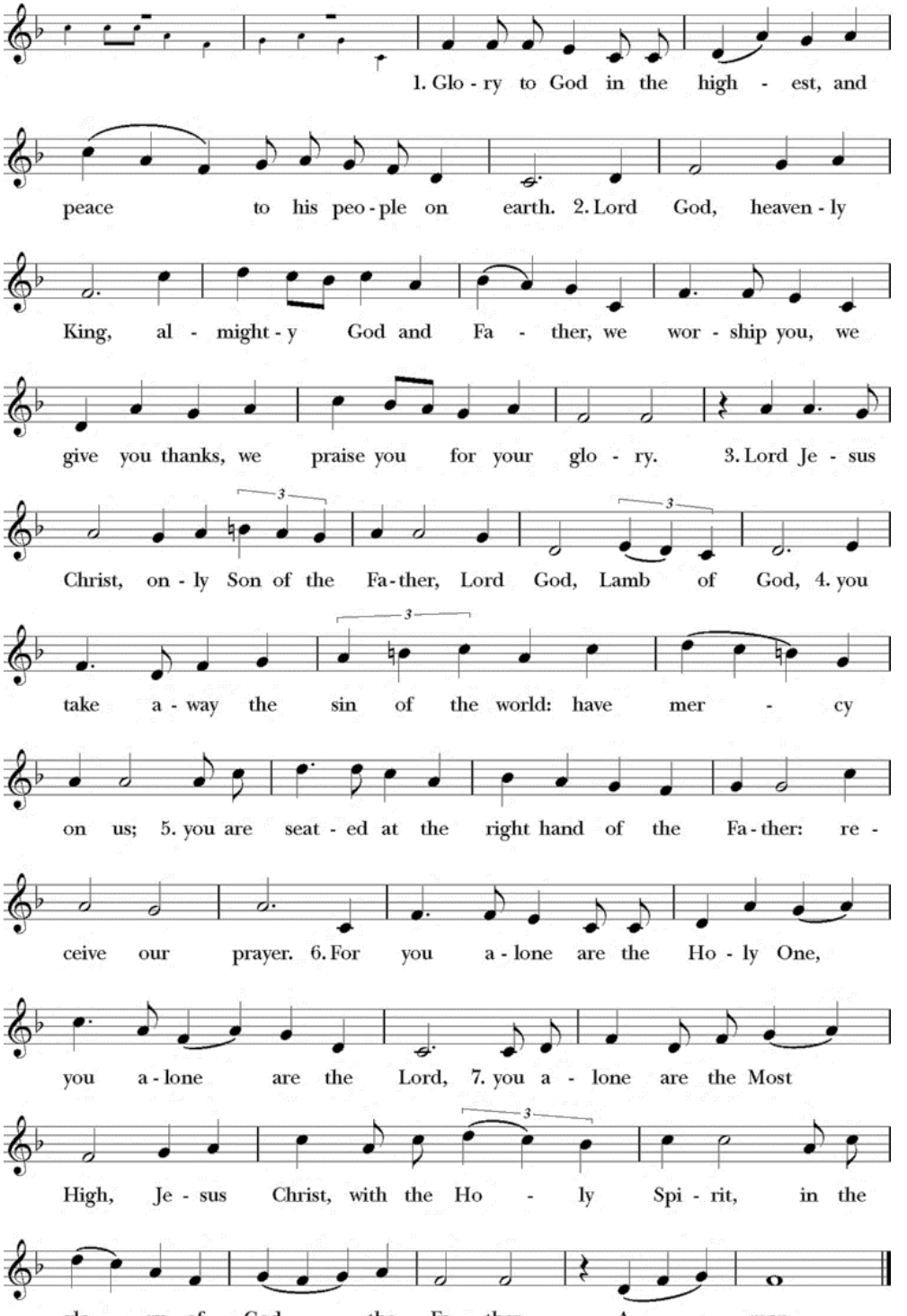
We hear and respond to the story of God's liberating acts.

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*


1. Glo - ry to God in the high - est, and
peace to his peo - ple on earth. 2. Lord God, heaven - ly
King, al - might - y God and Fa - ther, we wor - ship you, we
give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry. 3. Lord Je - sus
Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther, Lord God, Lamb of God, 4. you
take a - way the sin of the world: have mer - cy
on us; 5. you are seat - ed at the right hand of the Fa - ther: re -
ceive our prayer. 6. For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One,
you a - lone are the Lord, 7. you a - lone are the Most
High, Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly Spi - rit, in the
glo - ry of God the Fa - ther. A - men.

COLLECT OF THE DAY

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

Lord, we pray that your grace may always precede and follow us, that we may continually be given to good works; 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 letter to the Philippians. *4:1-9 ICB*

My dear brothers, I love you and want to see you. You bring me joy and make me proud of you. Continue following the Lord as I have told you.

I ask Euodia and Syntyche to agree in the Lord. And because you serve faithfully with me, my friend, I ask you to help these women to do this. They served with me in telling people the Good News. They served together with Clement and others who worked with me. Their names are written in the book of life.

Be full of joy in the Lord always. I will say again, be full of joy.

Let all men see that you are gentle and kind. The Lord is coming soon. Do not worry about anything. But pray and ask God for everything you need. And when you pray, always give thanks. And God's peace will keep your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus. The peace that God gives is so great that we cannot understand it.

Brothers, continue to think about the things that are good and worthy of praise. Think about the things that are true and honorable and right and pure and beautiful and respected. And do what you learned and received from me. Do what I told you and what you saw me do. And the God who gives peace will be with you.

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

THE RESPONSE The Psalm

Let us read responsively from Psalm 23.

The Lord is my shepherd.
I have everything I need.
God gives me rest in green pastures.
God leads me to calm water.
The Lord is my shepherd.
I have everything I need.

God gives me new strength.
For the good of God's name,
they lead me on paths that are right.
Even if I walk
through a very dark valley,
I will not be afraid
because you are with me.
Your rod and your shepherd's staff comfort me.
The Lord is my shepherd. I have everything I need.
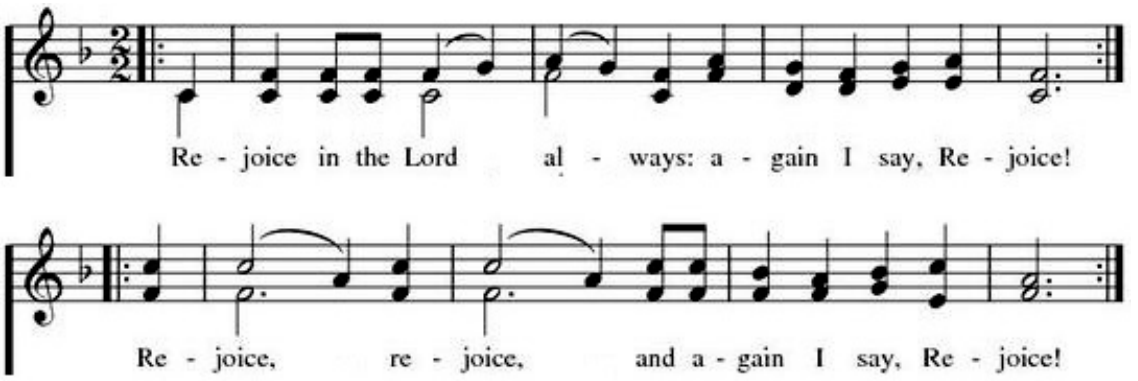
You prepare a meal for me
in front of my enemies.
You pour oil of blessing on my head.
You give me more than I can hold.
The Lord is my shepherd. I have everything I need.

Surely your goodness and love will be with me
all my life.
And I will live in the house of the Lord forever.

Please stand as you are able.

SEQUENCE HYMN

Rejoice in the Lord always *Rejoice*



WORDS: Philippians 4:4
MUSIC: Unknown

REJOICE
Irregular meter

THE GOSPEL

The Holy Gospel of Our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew. 22:1-14 (ICB)
Glory to you, Lord Christ.

Once more Jesus spoke to them in parables, saying: "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding banquet for his son. He sent his slaves to call those who had been invited to the wedding banquet, but they would not come. Again he sent other slaves, saying, 'Tell those who have been invited: Look, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready; come to the wedding banquet.' But they made light of it and went away, one to his farm, another to his business, while the rest seized his slaves, mistreated them, and killed them. The king was enraged. He sent his troops, destroyed those murderers, and burned their city. Then he said to his slaves, 'The wedding is ready, but those invited were not worthy. Go therefore into the main streets, and invite everyone you find to the wedding banquet.' Those slaves went out into the streets and gathered all whom they found, both good and bad, so the wedding hall was filled with guests.

"But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing a wedding robe, and he said to him, 'Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding robe?' And he was speechless. Then the king said to the attendants, 'Bind him hand and foot, and throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.' For many are called, but few are chosen."

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

Form III (adapted)

Father, we pray for your holy Catholic Church;
That we all may be one.

Grant that every member of the Church may truly and humbly serve you;
That your Name may be glorified by all people.

We pray for all bishops, priests, and deacons; for Sarah, Archbishop of Canterbury; Sean, our Presiding Bishop; Carley, our Diocesan Bishop; Paula, our Rector; Karen, our Deacon, and Jane, our faithful friend.
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;
That there may be justice and peace on the earth.

For those who have been harmed, live in fear, or experience anxiety because of the words or actions of leaders anywhere;
That they may know your healing love.

Give us grace to do your will in all that we undertake; 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 Good Shepherd, Ringwood; the ministries of the Rev. Deacon Sheila Shuford, the Rev. Susan Sica, the Rev. Deacon Jill Singleton, and the Rev. Deacon Lizabeth Smith; and the work or GreenFaith; in the Anglican Communion, let us pray for the Anglican Church of Burundi.
That our works may find favor in your sight.

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;
That they would find strength and courage by your Holy Spirit.

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;
That they would find joy and fulfillment in their ministry.

Have compassion on those who suffer from any grief or trouble; for those on our parish prayer list:

Mary Ruth Stone	James K.	Ambika Bedi	Maryann Ekberg
Kris Hunt	Sue and Larry H.	Timothy M.	Lizzie Ekberg
Aldaiza DaSilva	Maggie Holland	Kyle McManus	
Martha Lipowski	Celine Ghiara	Karl Sauer	
Boyd Hunnaman	Carol McManus	Anne M.	

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.

For our own needs and those of others, whom we name either silently or aloud.

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.

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, the evil we have done, and the evil done on our behalf. Forgive, restore, and strengthen us through our Saviour Jesus Christ, that we may abide in your love and serve only your will. 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.

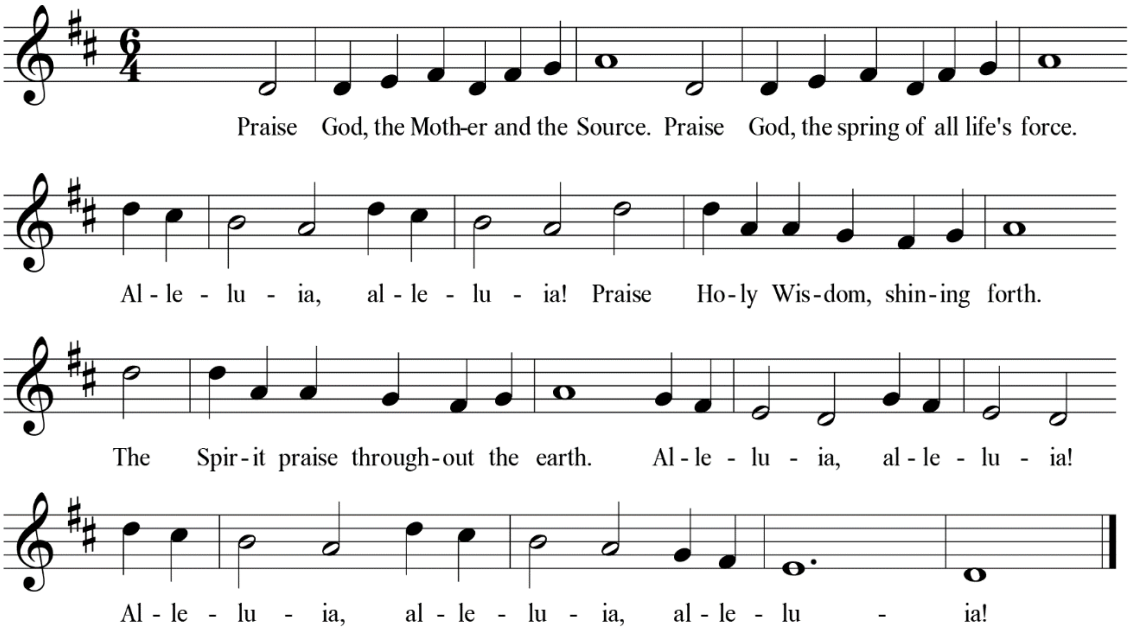
OFFERTORY ANTHEM

The Lord is my shepherd — *Howard Goodall*
Senior Choir

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 *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.**

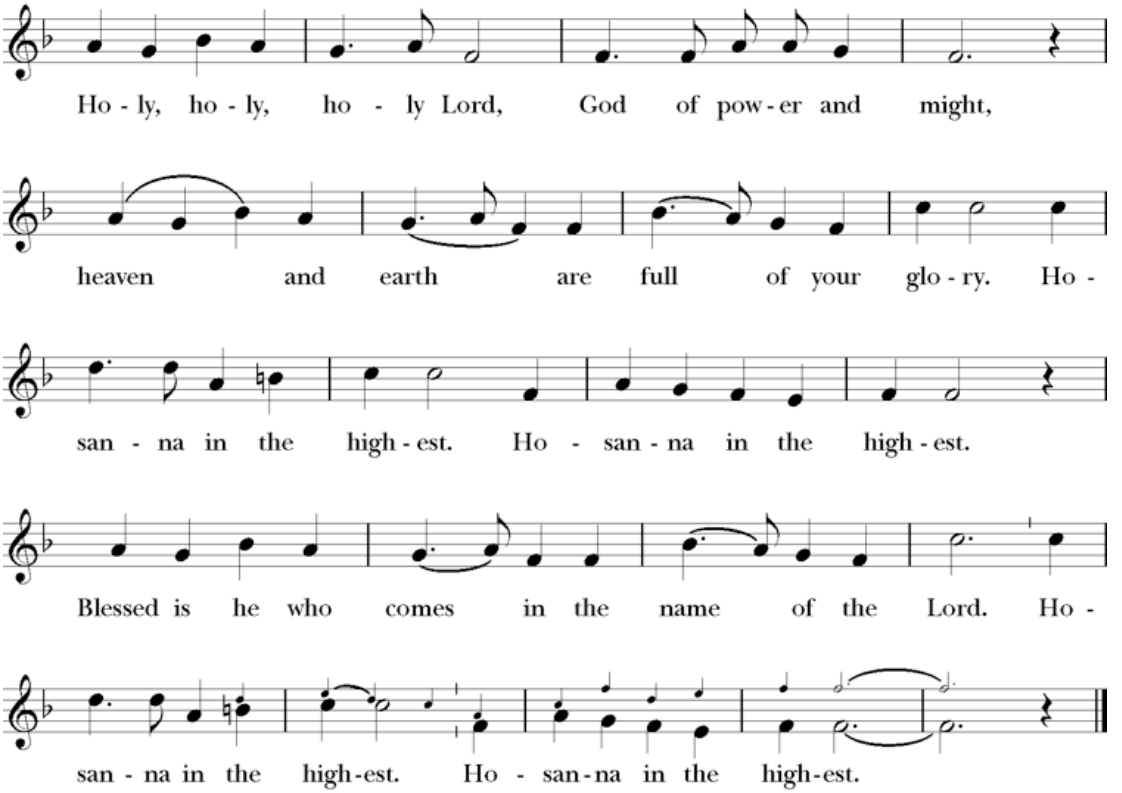
It is truly right, and good and joyful, to give you thanks, all-holy God, source of life and fountain of mercy.

You have filled us and all creation with your blessing and fed us with your constant love; you have redeemed us in Jesus Christ and knit us into one body. Through your Spirit you replenish us and call us to fullness of life.

Therefore, joining with Angels and Archangels and with the faithful of every generation, we lift our voices will all creation as we sing:

SANCTUS

S125 Holy, holy, holy Lord *Proulx*



Blessed are you, gracious God, creator of the universe and giver of life. You formed us in your own image and called us to dwell in your infinite love. You gave the world into our care that we might be your faithful stewards and show forth your bountiful grace.

But we failed to honor your image in one another and in ourselves; we would not see your goodness in the world around us; and so we violated your creation, abused one another, and rejected your love. Yet you never ceased to care for us, and prepared the way of salvation for all people.

Through Abraham and Sarah you called us into covenant with you. You delivered us from slavery, sustained us in the wilderness, and raised up prophets to renew your promise of salvation. Then, in the fullness of time, you sent your eternal Word, made mortal flesh in Jesus. Born into the human family, and dwelling among us, he revealed your glory. Giving himself freely to death on the cross, he triumphed over evil, opening the way of freedom and life.

On the night before he died for us, Our Saviour Jesus Christ took bread, and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his friends, and said: "Take eat: This is my Body which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

As supper was ending, Jesus 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 poured out for you and for all for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

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

Remembering his death and resurrection, we now present to your from your creation this bread and this wine. By your Holy Spirit may they be for us the Body and Blood of our Saviour Jesus Christ. Grant that we who share these gifts may be filled with the Holy Spirit and live as Christ's Body in the world. Bring us into the everlasting heritage of your daughters and son, that with St. Stephen and all your saints, past, present, and yet to come, we may praise your Name for ever.

Through Christ and with Christ and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, to you be honor, glory, and praise, for ever and 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

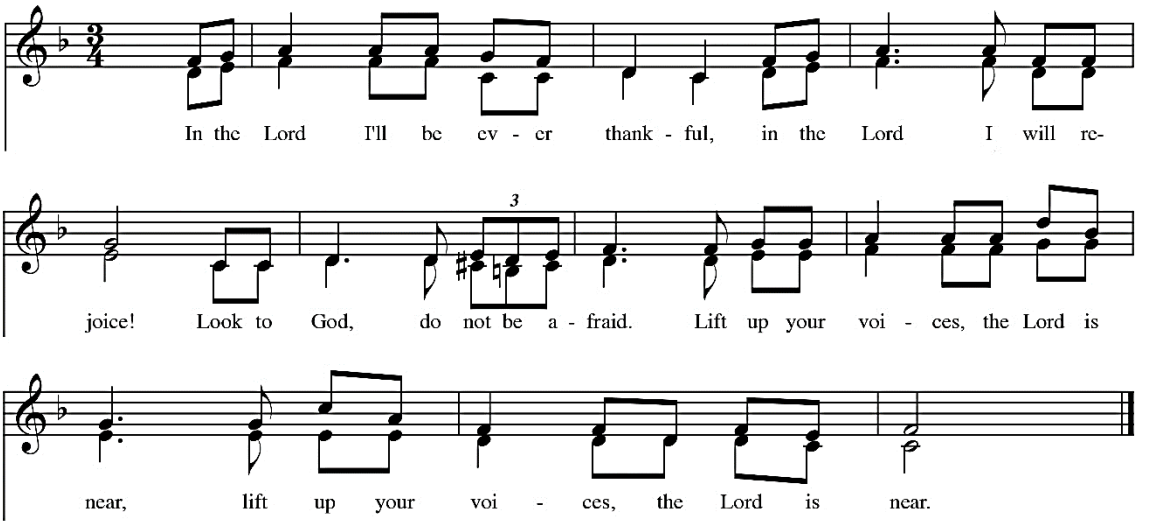
We break this bread to share in the Body of Christ.
We who are many are one body, for we all share in the one bread.

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 the Lord, I'll be ever thankful *Taizé*



Music: Jacques Berthier (1923–1994) © Atl=elier et Presses de Taizé. F-71250 Taizé-Communqué
Used by permission. All rights reserved. Reprinted under OneLicense.net A-707966.

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

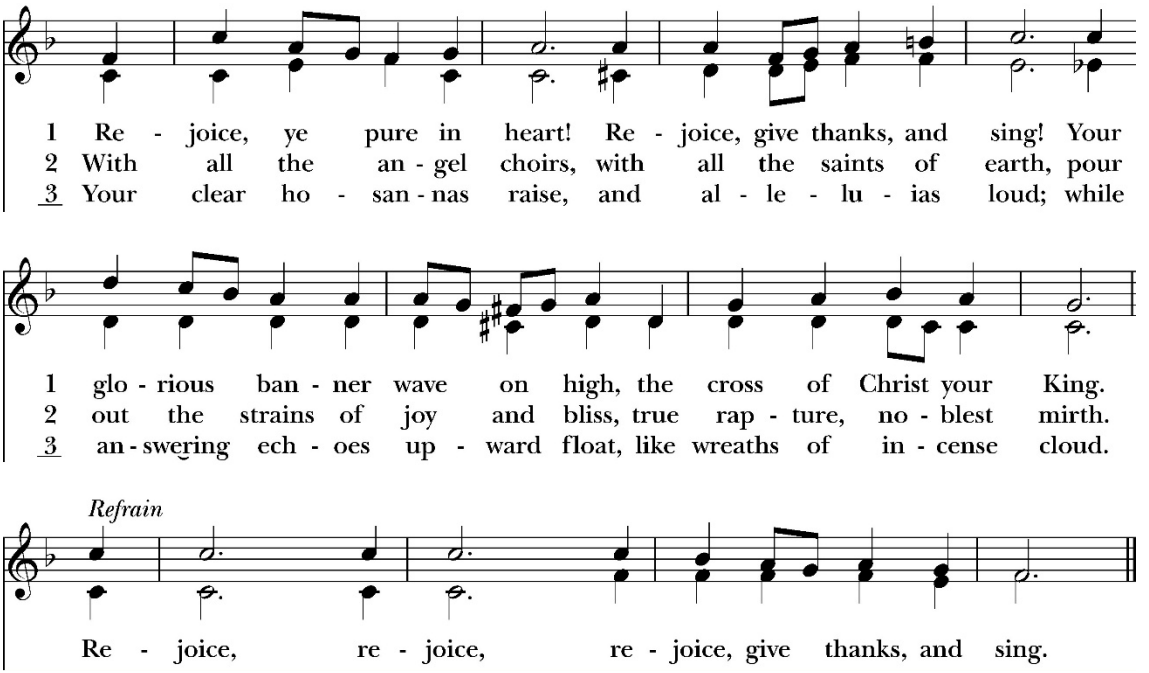
BLESSING

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

H 556, st. 1-3 Rejoice, ye pure in heart! *Marion*



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, Maria
Chalicer/Crucifer/Acolyte:	Eric, Clara, Martin
Reader/Intercessor:	Fran Y., Barbara R.
Greeter/Usher:	Margaret
Tech Verger:	Ron

Source for today's lectionary: The Revised Common Lectionary (RCL).
From riteplanning.com. Copyright © 2022 Church Publishing Inc. All rights reserved.
Reprinted and streaming music by permission under OneLicense.net A-707966.

Upcoming Events

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

DATE	TIME	DESCRIPTION
10/11	10:00 AM	Sunday Worship
	11:00 AM	Special Coffee Hour: Legacy Circle
	1:00 PM	AA Meeting
10/12	7:30 PM	MA Meeting
10/15	7:00 PM	Preschool Committee Meeting
10/18	10:00 AM	Sunday Worship
	11:30 AM	Vestry Meeting
	1:00 PM	AA Meeting

DIAPER DAY COLLECTION – We invite you to participate in our upcoming Diaper Day collection! Please bring diapers of any size to the church on October 11. If you're unable to attend that day, you may drop off your donation in advance in the North Porch box located in the narthex.

THE LEGACY CIRCLE – We will introduce the Legacy Circle at a special Coffee Hour on October 11. If you have included St. Stephen's in your will or made a gift to the Endowment Fund, we look forward to celebrating and honoring you. We will also recognize those whose past gifts have helped establish the legacy we enjoy today. Please let Rev. Paula know if you are one of the honorees.

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.

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.