

June 16 & 17, 2018Rev. Julie Williams Presiding
Sat 5pm & Sun 7:30am

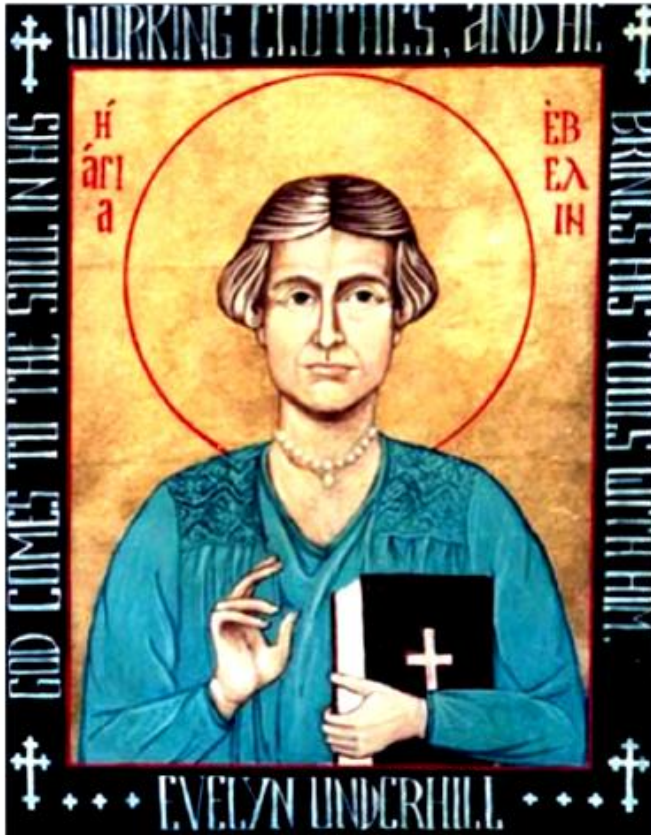
Welcome to St. Stephen's Episcopal Church

Saint Stephen's welcomes everyone who wishes to follow Christ, worship together, grow in faith and share God's love through service to others.

FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST HOLY EUCHARIST



ST. STEPHEN'S
EPISCOPAL CHURCH



Entrance Rites

The people stand as they are able.

Opening Acclamation

Celebrant: Blessed be the one, holy, and ever living God.

People **Glory to God for ever and ever.**

*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.***

Gloria

Glory to God in the highest, and peace to his people on earth.

Lord God, heavenly King, almighty God and Father, we worship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory.

Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, Lord God, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world: have mercy on us;

you are seated at the right hand of the Father: receive our prayer.

For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord, you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father.

Amen.

Collect of the Day

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Celebrant *Let us pray.*

*Keep, O Lord, your household the Church in your steadfast faith and love, that through your grace we may proclaim your truth with boldness, and minister your justice with compassion; for the sake of our Savior Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.***

The Word of God

First Reading

From the Preface to the first Edition of *Mysticism* (by Evelyn Underhill, 1910).

“Mysticism [is] the science or art of the spiritual life...it [is] the expression of the innate tendency of the human spirit towards complete harmony with the transcendental order; whatever be the theological formula under which that order is understood. This tendency, in great mystics, gradually captures the whole field of consciousness; it dominates their life, and, in the experience called ‘mystic union,’ attains its end. Whether that end be called the God of Christianity, the World-soul of Pantheism, the Absolute of Philosophy, the desire to attain it and the movement towards it – so long as this is a genuine life process and not an intellectual speculation – is the proper subject of mysticism. I believe this movement to represent the true line of development of the highest form of human consciousness.”

Lector: *Here ends the reading..*

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 20

1 May the Lord answer you in the day of **trouble**, *
the Name of the God of Jacob defend you;

2 Send you help from his holy place *
and strengthen you out of Zion;

3 Remember all your offerings *
and accept your burnt sacrifice;

4 Grant you your heart’s desire * and
prosper all your plans.

5 We will shout for joy at your victory and
triumph in the Name of our God; *
may the Lord grant all your requests.

6 Now I know that the Lord gives victory to his anointed; *
he will answer him out of his holy heaven, with the victorious

strength of his right hand.

7 Some put their trust in chariots and some in horses, *
but we will call upon the Name of the Lord our God.

8 They collapse and fall down, * but
we will arise and stand upright.

9 O Lord, give victory to the king *
and answer us when we call.

Second Reading

A reading from The Second Letter of Paul to the Corinthians (5:6-17).

We are always confident; even though we know that while we are at home in the body we are away from the Lord— for we walk by faith, not by sight. Yes, we do have confidence, and we would rather be away from the body and at home with the Lord. So whether we are at home or away, we make it our aim to please him. For all of us must appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each may receive recompense for what has been done in the body, whether good or evil. Therefore, knowing the fear of the Lord, we try to persuade others; but we ourselves are well known to God, and I hope that we are also well known to your consciences. We are not commending ourselves to you again, but giving you an opportunity to boast about us, so that you may be able to answer those who boast in outward appearance and not in the heart. For if we are beside ourselves, it is for God; if we are in our right mind, it is for you. For the love of Christ urges us on, because we are convinced that one has died for all; therefore all have died. And he died for all, so that those who live might live no longer for themselves, but for him who died and was raised for them. From now on, therefore, we regard no one from a human point of view; even though we once knew Christ from a human point of view, we know him no longer in that way. So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new!

Lector: *Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.*

People: **Thanks be to God.**

The people stand as they are able.

Celebrant: *The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark.*
People: **Glory to You Lord Christ.**

Gospel

Mark 4:26-34

Jesus said, “The kingdom of God is as if someone would scatter seed on the ground, and would sleep and rise night and day, and the seed would sprout and grow, he does not know how. The earth produces of itself, first the stalk, then the head, then the full grain in the head. But when the grain is ripe, at once he goes in with his sickle, because the harvest has come.” He also said, “With what can we compare the kingdom of God, or what parable will we use for it? It is like a mustard seed, which, when sown upon the ground, is the smallest of all the seeds on earth; yet when it is sown it grows up and becomes the greatest of all shrubs, and puts forth large branches, so that the birds of the air can make nests in its shade.” With many such parables he spoke the word to them, as they were able to hear it; he did not speak to them except in parables, but he explained everything in private to his disciples.

Celebrant: *The Gospel of the Lord.*
People: **Praise to you Lord Christ.**

Sermon

All say together

The Nicene Creed

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: by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary, and was made man.

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 and the Son. With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified. He 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

Leader: In the presence of our creative God who calls us to a growth that will transform and support us, let us come together and present our needs, saying: O God, hear our prayer.

That all people of every race may find a dwelling place of welcome and nourishment with us, we pray: **O God, hear our prayer.**

That as the mustard seed, the smallest of all earth's seeds, grows into the largest of shrubs, so may God's reign grow in us, we pray: **O God, hear our prayer.**

That as we plant the seeds of the kingdom, we may sow generously, from a full heart, we pray: **O God, hear our prayer.**

That as seeds require time to grow, we may continue to water and nourish God's word, confident that in time it will take root, growing strong as an oak, giving life and shelter to others, we pray: **O God, hear our prayer.**

That the homeless may find a dwelling place of acceptance and care within the church, we pray: **O God, hear our prayer.**

That all the sick and the suffering, especially those we name now (pause for names), may be healed, we pray: **O God, hear our prayer.**

For those who have died, leaving these tents to enter the house you have built in heaven, especially those we name now (pause for names), we pray: **O God, hear our prayer.**

In the Anglican cycle of prayer, for the Church of the Province of Myanmar, we pray: **O God, hear our prayer.**

In the Diocesan cycle of prayer, for Christ Church of the Ascension in Paradise Valley, we pray: **O God, hear our prayer.**

For our Armed Forces, those who are far from home, for their safety and the wellbeing of their families and loved ones left behind, we pray: **O God, hear our prayer.**

We acknowledge and pay respect to the first peoples of this land and their role as custodians of the earth given to them by our one and only Creator God. We commit ourselves to work actively alongside indigenous people for reconciliation and justice as we live into our Baptismal Covenant and respect the dignity of every person. we pray: **O God, hear our prayer.**

Leader: *Let us pray together:*

Teach us, Good Lord, to serve you as you deserve; to give and not to count the cost; to fight and not to heed the wounds; to work and not to seek to rest; to labor and not to ask for any reward, except that by knowing we do your will, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Holy God, make us holy. Revealing God, make us see. Sending God, make us move. Loving God, make us love.

Celebrant: Nurturing God, gather us as the seeds of your mysterious life. Teach us to sense deeply your presence with us as we grow strong in love and service. May we be shelter for all in need. We ask this through Jesus Christ, who is your fullness with us. Amen.

FATHER'S DAY PRAYER (adapted from Psalm 112)

Blessed in the man who reveres Adonai,
Who greatly delights in God's commandments!
He is gracious, compassionate and just;
His descendants will be honored in the land.
His household prospers, and his righteousness endures forever.
He is not afraid of evil tidings;
His mind is firm, trusting in Adonai.
His heart is steady, he will not be afraid.
He has distributed freely,
He has given to the poor.
His righteousness endures forever;
His life is exalted in honor. Amen.

Confession of Sin

Celebrant: *Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.*

The people kneel as they are able.

All say together

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. Amen

Absolution

Celebrant

Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through 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

Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you.

*People **And also with you.***

The Ministers and People may greet one another in the name of the Lord.

The Celebrant says

Ascribe to the Lord the honor due his Name; bring offerings and come into his courts. Psalm 96:8

The Holy Communion

The Great Thanksgiving

Celebrant *The Lord be with you.*

People **And also with you.**

Celebrant *Lift up your hearts.*

People **We lift them to the Lord.**

Celebrant *Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.*

People **It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

Celebrant

Then the Celebrant continues

*God of all power, Ruler of the Universe, you are worthy of glory and praise. **Glory to you for ever and ever.***

*At your command all things came to be: the vast expanse of interstellar space, galaxies, suns, the planets in their courses, and this fragile earth, our island home. **By your will they were created and have their being.***

*From the primal elements you brought forth the human race, and blessed us with memory, reason, and skill. You made us the rulers of creation. But we turned against you, and betrayed your trust; and we turned against one another. **Have mercy, Lord, for we are sinners in your sight.***

Again and again, you called us to return. Through prophets and sages you revealed your righteous Law. And in the fullness of time you sent your only Son, born of a woman, to fulfill your Law, to open for us the way of freedom and peace.

By his blood, he reconciled us.

By his wounds, we are healed.

And therefore we praise you, joining with the heavenly chorus, with prophets, apostles, and martyrs, and with all those in every generation who have looked to you in hope, to proclaim with them your glory, in their unending hymn:

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

Celebrant continues:

And so, Father, we who have been redeemed by him, and made a new people by water and the Spirit, now bring before you these gifts. Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ our Lord.

On the night he was betrayed he took bread, said the blessing, broke the bread, 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.”

After supper, he took the cup of wine, gave thanks, 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.”

Remembering now his work of redemption, and offering to you this sacrifice of thanksgiving,

***We celebrate his death and resurrection,
 as we await the day of his coming.***

Lord God of our Fathers; God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob; God of our Mothers, Sarah, Rebecca, Leah and Rachel; God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ: Open our eyes to see your hand at work in the world about us. Deliver us from the presumption of coming to this Table for solace only, and not for strength; for pardon only, and not for renewal. Let the grace of this Holy Communion make us one body, one spirit in Christ, that we may worthily serve the world in his name.

Risen Lord, be known to us in the breaking of the Bread.

Accept these prayers and praises, Father, through Jesus Christ our great High Priest, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, your Church gives honor, glory, and worship, from generation to generation. AMEN

Lord's Prayer

Celebrant : *As our Savior Christ has taught us, we now pray,*

Our Father, 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

**Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;
Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.**

The Celebrant invites the people to Communion

The Gifts of God for the People of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

The people stand as they are able.

Post Communion Prayer

Celebrant and People

God of abundance, you have fed us with the bread of life and the cup of salvation; you have united us with Christ and one another; and you have made us one with all your people in 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 for ever in the risen life of Christ our Savior. Amen.

Blessing

The Celebrant says

The peace of God, which passes all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God and of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord; and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always. Amen.

Dismissal

Celebrant: *Let us go forth in the name of Christ. Alleluia. Alleluia*

People **Thanks be to God. Alleluia, Alleluia, (*Alleluia!*)**



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