



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

St. Stephen's Episcopal Church

MORNING PRAYER

FEAST OF HANNAH MORE

Wednesday 6 Sept. 2023 9:30 AM



Hannah More (2 February 1745 – 7 September 1833) was an English religious writer, philanthropist, poet, and playwright in the circle of Johnson, Reynolds and Garrick, who wrote on moral and religious subjects. Born in Bristol, she taught at a school her father founded there and began writing plays. She became involved in the London literary elite and a leading Bluestocking member. Her later plays and poetry became more evangelical. She joined a group opposing the slave trade. In the 1790s she wrote Cheap Repository Tracts on moral, religious and political topics, to distribute to the literate poor (as a retort to Thomas Paine's Rights of Man). Meanwhile, she broadened her links with schools she and her sister Martha had founded in rural Somerset. These curbed their teaching of the poor, allowing limited reading but no writing. More was Continued Pg 7

Announcements and Welcome

Opening Sentences *(Please stand as you are able)*

Leader: Send out your light and your truth, that they may lead me, and bring me to your holy hill and to your dwelling. *(Psalm 43:3)*

Confession of Sin

Deacon/Leader: Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

(Short Silence may be kept.)

All: 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.

Deacon/Leader: Almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us all our sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen us in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep us in eternal life. **Amen.**

The Invitatory and Psalter

Leader: Lord, open our lips.

People: **And our mouth shall proclaim your praise.**

All: Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.

Jubilate *(For the Gloria):*

**Be joyful in the Lord, all you lands; *
serve the Lord with gladness
and come before his presence with a song.
Know this: The Lord himself is God; *
he himself has made us, and we are his;
we are his people and the sheep of his pasture.
Enter his gates with thanksgiving;
go into his courts with praise; *
give thanks to him and call upon his Name.
For the Lord is good; his mercy is everlasting; *
and his faithfulness endures from age to age.**

The Lessons *(Please be seated)*

First Lesson: A Reading from the Book of Genesis (21:14-21)

Abraham rose early in the morning, and took bread and a skin of water, and gave it to Hagar, putting it on her shoulder, along with the child, and sent her away. And she departed, and wandered about in the wilderness of Beer-sheba.

When the water in the skin was gone, she cast the child under one of the bushes. Then she went and sat down opposite him a good way off, about the distance of a bowshot; for she said, "Do not let me look on the death of the child." And as she sat opposite him, she lifted up her voice and wept. And God heard the voice of the boy; and the angel of God called to Hagar from heaven, and said to her, "What troubles you, Hagar? Do not be afraid; for God has heard the voice of the boy where he is. Come, lift up the boy and hold him fast with your hand, for I will make a great nation of him." Then God opened her eyes and she saw a well of water. She went, and filled the skin with water, and gave the boy a drink.

God was with the boy, and he grew up; he lived in the wilderness, and became an expert with the bow. He lived in the wilderness of Paran; and his mother got a wife for him from the land of Egypt.

Reader: The Word of the Lord

People: Thanks be to God

Psalm 146:4-9

- 4 Happy are they who have the God of Jacob for their help! ***
 whose hope is in the Lord their God;
- 5 Who made heaven and earth, the seas, and all that is in them; ***
 who keeps his promise for ever;
- 6 Who gives justice to those who are oppressed, ***
 and food to those who hunger.
- 7 The Lord sets the prisoners free;**
 the Lord opens the eyes of the blind; *
 the Lord lifts up those who are bowed down;
- 8 The Lord loves the righteous;**
 the Lord cares for the stranger; *
 he sustains the orphan and widow,
 but frustrates the way of the wicked.
- 9 The Lord shall reign for ever, ***
 your God, O Zion, throughout all generations.
 Hallelujah!

Gospel Lesson:

Deacon/Reader: The holy Gospel of Our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew
John (15:5-16)

People: Glory to you, Lord Christ.

Jesus said, “I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing. Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples. As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love. If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be complete.

“This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends. You are my friends if you do what I command you. I do not call you servants any longer, because the servant does not know what the master is doing; but I have called you friends, because I have made known to you everything that I have heard from my Father. You did not choose me but I chose you. And I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask him in my name.”

Deacon/Reader: The Gospel of the Lord

People: Thanks be to God

Reflection on readings / homily (optional)

The Apostles Creed:

Deacon/Leader: Let us say together the Apostles' Creed:

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth;

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again.

He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

The Prayers

Leader The Lord be with you.

People And also with you.

Leader Let us pray.

**Almighty God, whose only-begotten Son led captivity captive:
Multiply among us faithful witnesses like your servant Hannah More, who
will fight for all who are oppressed or held in bondage, and bring us all,
we pray, into the glorious liberty that you have promised to all your
children; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you
and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.**

The Suffrages (B)

V. Save your people, Lord, and bless your inheritance;

R. Govern and uphold them, now and always.

V. Day by day we bless you;

R. We praise your name for ever.

V. Lord, keep us from all sin today;

R. Have mercy upon us, Lord, have mercy.

V. Lord, show us your love and mercy;

R. For we put our trust in you.

V. In you, Lord, is our hope;

R. And we shall never hope in vain.

Collect for Guidance

Leader: O God, the King eternal, whose light divides the day from the
night and turns the shadow of death into the morning: Drive far from us all
wrong desires, incline our hearts to keep your law, and guide our feet into
the way of peace; that, having done your will with cheerfulness during the
day, we may, when night comes, rejoice to give you thanks; through Jesus
Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Other Intercessions and Thanksgivings:

Birthdays, Anniversaries, Healing, Travel, Gratitude

Prayer of General Thanksgiving (All in unison)

Leader: Let us Pray

All: Accept, O Lord, our thanks and praise for all that you have done for us. We thank you for the splendor of the whole creation, for the beauty of this world, for the wonder of life, and for the mystery of love.

We thank you for the blessing of family and friends, and for the loving care which surrounds us on every side.

We thank you for setting us at tasks which demand our best efforts, and for leading us to accomplishments which satisfy and delight us.

We thank you also for those disappointments and failures that lead us to acknowledge our dependence on you alone.

Above all, we thank you for your Son Jesus Christ; for the truth of his Word and the example of his life; for his steadfast obedience, by which he overcame temptation; for his dying, through which he overcame death; and for his rising to life again, in which we are raised to the life of your kingdom. Grant us the gift of your Spirit, that we may know Christ and make him known; and through him, at all times and in all places, may give thanks to you in all things. Amen.

Deacon/Leader: People of St. Stephen's, what does God call us to do?

People: We are called to love and serve.

Deacon/Leader: Let us bless the Lord. Alleluia, alleluia!

People: Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Deacon/Leader: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with us all for evermore.
Amen.

Continued from front
noted for her [political conservatism](#), being described as an [anti-feminist](#), a "counter-revolutionary", or a [conservative feminist](#).^[1]

Early life

Born in 1745 at [Fishponds](#) in the parish of [Stapleton](#), near [Bristol](#), Hannah More was the fourth of five daughters of Jacob More (1700–1783),^[2] a schoolmaster from a strong [Presbyterian](#) family in [Harleston, Norfolk](#), who had joined the [Church of England](#). He sought to pursue a clerical career, but after losing a lawsuit over an estate he had hoped to inherit he moved to Bristol, where he became an [excise](#) officer and later taught at the Fishponds [free school](#).

The sisters were first educated by their father, learning [Latin](#) and mathematics. Hannah was also taught by elder sisters, through whom she learned French, which she improved conversationally by spending time with French prisoners of war in [Frenchay](#) during the [Seven Years' War](#).^[2] She was an assiduous, discerning student. Family tradition has it that she began writing at an early age.^[3]

In 1758 Jacob established a girls' [boarding school](#) at Trinity Street, Bristol, for the elder sisters, Mary and Elizabeth, to run, while he and his wife moved to Stony Hill in the city to open a school for boys. Hannah More became a pupil in the girls' school when she was twelve and taught there in early adulthood.^[3]

In 1767 More gave up her share in the school on becoming engaged to William Turner of the Belmont Estate, [Wraxall, Somerset](#), whom she had met when he began teaching her cousins.^[2] After six years the wedding had not taken place. Turner seemed reluctant to name a date and in 1773 the engagement was broken off. It seems this led More into a nervous breakdown, from which she recuperated in [Uphill](#), near [Weston-super-Mare](#). She was induced to accept a £200 [annuity](#) from Turner as compensation. This freed her for literary pursuits. In the winter of 1773–1774 she went to London with her sisters, Sarah and Martha – the first of many such trips at yearly intervals. Some verses she had written on David Garrick's version of [King Lear](#) led to an acquaintance with him.^[3]

She later moved to [Bath](#) where she stayed between 1792 and 1802 on [Great Pulteney Street](#).^[4]
Playwright

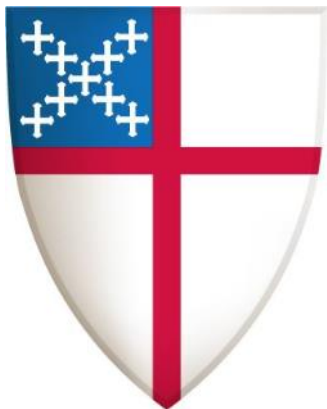
More's first literary efforts were pastoral plays written while she was still teaching and suitable for young ladies to act. The first was *The Search after Happiness*, written in 1762. By the mid-1780s over 10,000 copies of this had been sold.^[5] Among her literary models was [Metastasio](#), on whose opera *Attilio Regolo* she based a drama, *The Inflexible Captive*.

Evangelical moralist

[Biscuit porcelain](#) figure by [Mintons](#), 1830s

In the 1780s Hannah More became a friend of [James Oglethorpe](#), who had long been concerned with [slavery](#) as a moral issue and who was working with [Granville Sharp](#) as an early abolitionist.^[7] More published *Sacred Dramas* in 1782, which rapidly ran through 19 editions. These and the poems *Bas-Bleu* and *Florio* (1786) mark a gradual transition to graver views, expressed in prose in *Thoughts on the Importance of the Manners of the Great to General Society* (1788) and *An Estimate of the Religion of the Fashionable World* (1790). By this time she was close to [William Wilberforce](#) and [Zachary Macaulay](#), sympathising with their evangelical views.^[8] Her poem *Slavery* appeared in 1788. For many

[Cont. online](#)



ST. STEPHEN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

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