

Welcome to St. Stephen's Episcopal Church



Wednesday, 9:30 am & 6pm 14 February 2024

*“Return to me
with all your heart”
-Joel 2:12*



Welcome and Announcements -

The Rev. Allison Cornell

Entrance Rites

The people stand as they are able. Presider and altar servers enter in silence.

Presider: Bless the Lord who forgiveth all our sins.

People: His mercy endureth forever.

Presider: Let us pray.

All; Almighty and everlasting God, you hate nothing you have made and forgive the sins of all who are penitent: Create and make in us new and contrite hearts, that we, worthily lamenting our sins and acknowledging our wretchedness, may obtain of you, the God of all mercy, perfect remission and forgiveness; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

The Lessons *(please be seated)*

First Lesson—A reading from the Book of Joel (2:1,12-17, 21-22)

Blow the trumpet in Zion! Cry the alarm on my holy mountain! Let all the inhabitants of the land quake, for the day of the Holy God is coming, it is near. Yet even now, says the HOLY ONE, return to me with all your hearts, with fasting, with weeping, and with lamenting. Tear your hearts and not your clothing.

Return to the HOLY ONE, your God, for God is gracious and loves as a mother, slow to anger, and abounds in faithful love, and reluctant to impose harm. Who knows whether God will not turn and relent, and leave a blessing behind, for a grain offering and a drink offering to the HOLY ONE, your God?

Blow the trumpet in Zion; sanctify a fast; call a solemn assembly. Gather the people: Sanctify the congregation; assemble the aged; gather the children, even breastfeeding babies. Let the bridegroom leave his room, and the bride her canopy. Between the portico and the altar let the priests, the ministers of the HOLY ONE, weep.

Let them say, "Spare your people, HOLY ONE, and do not offer your heritage as a mockery, a byword among the nations. Why should it be said among the peoples, "Where is their God?"" Fear not, O land!

Be glad and rejoice, for the HOLY ONE has done great things! Fear not, O animals of the field! For the pastures of the wilderness are green; the tree lifts up its fruit, the fig tree and vine give their riches.

Psalm 90

- 1 MOTHER OF THE MOUNTAINS, you have been our refuge
from one generation to another.
- 2 Before the mountains were born,
or you writhed the land and the earth into birth,
from age to age you are God.
- 3 You turn mortal flesh back to the dust and say,
"Turn back, you who are woman-born."
- 4 For a thousand years in your sight are like yesterday
when it is past
and like a watch in the night.
- 5 You sweep them aside; they are an illusion;
In the morning flourishing and in the evening
wilting and withering.
- 6 In the morning it is green and flourishes;
in the evening it is dried up and withered.
- 7 For we are consumed in your displeasure;
we are afraid because of your wrathful indignation.
- 8 Our iniquities you have set before you,
and our hidden sins in the light of your countenance.
- 9 When you are angry, all our days are gone;
We bring our year to an end like a sigh.
- 10 The span of our life is seventy years, perhaps in strength even eighty;
Yet the sum of them is but labor and sorrow,
For they pass away quickly and we are gone.
- 12 So teach us to number our days
That we may apply our hearts to Wisdom.

Second Lesson: A reading from Paul's 1st Letter to the Corinthians (1 Corinthians 15:45-49:)

Thus it is written, "The first human, Adam, became a living soul"; the last Adam became a spirit that gives life. But it is not the spiritual that is first, but the physical, and then the spiritual. The first human was from the earth, dust; the second human is from heaven. As was the one of dust, so are those who are of dust; and as is the one of heaven, so are those who are of heaven. Just as we have borne the image of the one of dust, we will also bear the image of the one of heaven.

Reader: The Word of the Lord **People: Thanks be to God**

The Gospel Lesson: Matthew 6:1-12:

Reader: The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew

People: Glory be to you, Lord Christ

Jesus said, "Now, beware of practicing your justness before other people in order to be seen by them; surely, lest you have no reward from your Creator in heaven.

"So when you give alms, do not trumpet before yourself, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, in order that they may be praised by other people. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. But when you give alms, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, in order that your alms may be secret; and your Creator who sees in secret will reward you.

"And when you pray, do not be like the hypocrites; for they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and on the street corners, in order that they may be seen by other people. Truly I tell you, they have received their recompense. But whenever you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Creator who is in secret; and your Creator who sees in secret will reward you.

"Pray then in this way:

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come. Your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. And do not bring us to the time of trial, but rescue us from the evil one.

"And when you fast, do not be sullen like the hypocrites, for they disfigure their faces in order to show other people that they are fasting. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. But when you fast, put oil on your head and

wash your face, in order that your fasting may be seen, not by others, but by your Creator who is in secret, and your Creator who sees in secret will reward you.

Reader: The Gospel of the Lord

People: Praise be to you, Lord Christ

HOMILY

Invitation to a Holy Lent:

Presider: Dear People of God: The first Christians observed with great devotion the days of our Lord's passion and resurrection, and it became the custom of the Church to prepare for them by a season of penitence and fasting. This season of Lent provided a time in which converts to the faith were prepared for Holy Baptism. It was also a time when those who, because of notorious sins, had been separated from the body of the faithful were reconciled by penitence and forgiveness, and restored to the fellowship of the Church. Thereby, the whole congregation was put in mind of the message of pardon and absolution set forth in the Gospel of our Savior, and of the need which all Christians continually have to renew their repentance and faith.

I invite you, therefore, in the name of the Church, to the observance of a holy Lent, by self-examination and repentance; by prayer, fasting, and self-denial; and by reading and meditating on God's holy Word. And, to make a right beginning of repentance, and as a mark of our mortal nature, let us now kneel or bow our heads before the Lord, our maker and redeemer.

Silence is then kept for a time

Presider: Almighty God, you have created us out of the dust of the earth: Grant that these ashes may be to us a sign of our mortality and penitence, that we may remember that it is only by your gracious gift that we are given everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Savior. **Amen.**

People come forward to receive ashes, then return to seats

The ashes are imposed with the following words:

“Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return.”

Psalm 51— *(People sit and read aloud in unison)*

- 1** Have mercy on me, O God, according to your loving-kindness; *
in your great compassion blot out my offenses.
- 2** Wash me through and through from my wickedness *
and cleanse me from my sin.
- 3** For I know my transgressions, *
and my sin is ever before me.
- 4** Against you only have I sinned *
and done what is evil in your sight.
- 5** And so you are justified when you speak *
and upright in your judgment
- 6** Indeed, I have been wicked from my birth, *
a sinner from my mother's womb.
- 7** For behold, you look for truth deep within me, *
and will make me understand wisdom secretly.
- 8** Purge me from my sin, and I shall be pure; *
wash me, and I shall be clean indeed.
- 9** Make me hear of joy and gladness, *
that the body you have broken may rejoice.
- 10** Hide your face from my sins *
and blot out all my iniquities.
- 11** Create in me a clean heart, O God, *
and renew a right spirit within me.
- 12** Cast me not away from your presence *
and take not your holy Spirit from me.
- 13** Give me the joy of your saving help again *
and sustain me with your bountiful Spirit.
- 14** I shall teach your ways to the wicked, *
and sinners shall return to you.
- 15** Deliver me from death, O God, *
and my tongue shall sing of your righteousness,
O God of my salvation.
- 16** Open my lips, O Lord, *
and my mouth shall proclaim your praise.
- 17** Had you desired it, I would have offered sacrifice; *
but you take no delight in burnt-offerings.
- 18** The sacrifice of God is a troubled spirit; *
a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise.

Litany of Penitence: *(People remain sitting or kneeling)*

Presider Most holy and merciful Father:

ALL: We confess to you and to one another, and to the whole communion of saints in heaven and on earth, that we have sinned by our own fault in thought, word, and deed; by what we have done, and by what we have left undone.

Presider: We have not loved you with our whole heart, and mind, and strength. We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We have not forgiven others, as we have been forgiven.

People: Have mercy on us, Lord.

Deacon: We have been deaf to your call to serve, as Christ served us. We have not been true to the mind of Christ. We have grieved your Holy Spirit.

Have mercy on us, Lord.

Presider: We confess to you, Lord, all our past unfaithfulness: the pride, hypocrisy, and impatience of our lives,
We confess to you, Lord.

Deacon: Our self-indulgent appetites and ways, and our exploitation of Other people,
We confess to you, Lord.

Presider: Our anger at our own frustration, and our envy of those more Fortunate than ourselves,
We confess to you, Lord.

Deacon: Our intemperate love of worldly goods and comforts, and our Dishonesty in daily life and work,
We confess to you, Lord.

Presider: Our negligence in prayer and worship, and our failure to commend the faith that is in us,
We confess to you, Lord.

Deacon: Accept our repentance, Lord, for the wrongs we have done: for Our blindness to human need and suffering, and our indifference to injustice and cruelty,
Accept our repentance, Lord.

Presider: For all false judgments, for uncharitable thoughts toward our neighbors, and for our prejudice and contempt toward those who differ from us,

Accept our repentance, Lord.

Deacon: For our waste and pollution of your creation, and our lack of concern for those who come after us,

Accept our repentance, Lord.

Presider: Restore us, good Lord, and let your anger depart from us;

Favorably hear us, for your mercy is great.

Deacon: Accomplish in us the work of your salvation,

That we may show forth your glory in the world.

Presider: By the cross and passion of your Son our Lord,

Bring us with all your saints to the joy of his resurrection.

Absolution:

Presider: Almighty God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who desires not the death of sinners, but rather that they may turn from their wickedness and live, has given power and commandment to his ministers to declare and pronounce to his people, being penitent, the absolution and remission of their sins. He pardons and absolves all those who truly repent, and with sincere hearts believe his holy Gospel.

Therefore we beseech him to grant us true repentance and his Holy Spirit, that those things may please him which we do on this day, and that the rest of our life hereafter may be pure and holy, so that at the last we may come to his eternal joy; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Exchange of Peace:

Presider: The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People And also with you.

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

Offertory—*Collection received today will be provided to Chapel Rock Summer Camp Scholarship Fund to allow children of incarcerated parents attend camp this year.*

Presider: Offer to God a sacrifice of thanksgiving, and make good your vows to the Most High.

The Holy Communion: BCP Prayer A

(Please stand as you are able)

Presider: The Lord be with you.

People And also with you.

Presider Lift up your hearts.

People We lift them to the Lord.

Presider Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People It is right to give him thanks and praise.

Presider:

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.

You bid your faithful people cleanse their hearts, and prepare with joy for the Paschal feast; that, fervent in prayer and in works of mercy, and renewed by your Word and Sacraments, they may come to the fullness of grace which you have prepared for those who love you.

Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

All:

**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.

(The people stand, sit, or kneel)

Presider:

Holy and gracious Father: In your infinite love you made us for yourself, and, when we had fallen into sin and become subject to evil and death, you, in your mercy, sent Jesus Christ, your only and eternal Son, to share our human nature, to live and die as one of us, to reconcile us to you, the God and Father of all.

He stretched out his arms upon the cross, and offered himself, in obedience to your will, a perfect sacrifice for the whole world.

On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, our Lord Jesus

Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, 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; 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 shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

All: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

Presider:

We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, O Father, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Recalling his death, resurrection, and ascension, we offer you these gifts.

Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit (+) to be for your people the Body and Blood of your Son, the holy food and drink of new and unending life in him.

Sanctify us (+) also that we may faithfully receive this holy Sacrament, and serve you in unity, constancy, and peace; and at the last day bring us with all your saints into the joy of your eternal kingdom.

All this we ask through your Son Jesus Christ: By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever. **AMEN.**

The Lord's Prayer:

Presider: And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,:

All: 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:

(Presider breaks the bread in silence)

**All: Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, grant us peace.**

Invitation to Communion:

Presider: 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 and with thanksgiving.

People come forward to receive communion.

Post Communion Prayer:

Presider: Let us pray

All: Eternal God, heavenly Father, you have graciously accepted us as living members of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ, and you have fed us with spiritual food in the sacrament of his Body and Blood. Send us now into the world in peace, and grant us strength and courage to love and serve you with gladness and singleness of heart; through Christ our Lord. Amen

Benediction:

Presider: Grant, most merciful Lord, to your faithful people pardon and peace, that they may be cleansed from all their sins, and serve you with a quiet mind; through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Dismissal:

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

People: We are called to love and serve.

Deacon: Let us bless the Lord

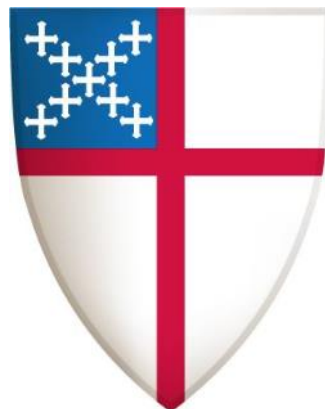
People: Thanks be to God.

Presider, Deacon, and altar servers exit in silence

Notice: All church activities may be internet streamed, video recorded, and photographed for church uses. Entry on to the church campus or in to any church building constitutes consent to be streamed, videotaped, or photographed for church purposes.



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Please leave voicemail message

Welcome Visitor!!!

Please leave your name and contact info below. If you'd like to speak with someone, please check here

Or you can also use the QRC here to fill this out online.



<input type="checkbox"/> Info Update	Giving Envelopes	<input type="checkbox"/> Mail News Letter	<input type="checkbox"/>
Name	(first)	(Mid.)	(Last)
Hm:	_____	Cell	_____
Email:	_____	Anv. Date	_____
Adrs:	_____	BrthDate	_____
City, St., Zip:	_____	_____	_____