



Seasons of Creation and Stewardship

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

TWENTY-SIXTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

5pm Saturday, 16 November & 10 am Sunday, 17 November - 2024



STAND FIRM

Encouragement from 2 Timothy

Prelude: "Give Thanks", by Henry Smith arr Fred Bock

Welcome and Announcements

Rev Allison Cornell

The Psalmist declares, "*The heavens are telling the glory of God; and the firmament proclaims God's handiwork. Day to day pours forth speech, and night to night declares knowledge their voice is not heard; yet their voice goes out through all the Earth, and their words to the end of the world.*" (19:1-4).

The people stand as they are able.

Opening Hymn: "All Creatures of our God and King" vs. 1, 2, 3, 4. G# 523

Presider: Blessed be the One who creates all things.

People: The Holy One's love is new every morning.

Invitatory Collect: Sioux Prayer

All: Great Spirit, Great Mystery, teach me how to trust my heart, my mind, my intuition, my inner knowing, my senses of my body, the blessings of my Spirit; teach me to trust these things, so that I may enter my Sacred Space and love beyond my fear and thus walk in balance with the passing of each glorious Sun. Amen.

Gloria: Venite (in unison)

Come, let us sing to the Lord; *

let us shout for joy to the Rock of our salvation.

Let us come before his presence with thanksgiving *

and raise a loud shout to him with psalms.

For the Lord is a great God, *

and a great King above all gods.

In his hand are the caverns of the earth, *

and the heights of the hills are his also.

The sea is his, for he made it, *

and his hands have molded the dry land.

Come, let us bow down, and bend the knee, *

and kneel before the Lord our Maker.

For he is our God,

and we are the people of his pasture and the sheep of his hand. *

Oh, that today you would hearken to his voice! Amen.

Presider: God our Creator be with you.

People: And also with you.

Presider: Let us pray.

The Collect of the Day:

All: O heavenly Father, who has filled the world with beauty: Open our eyes to be hold your gracious hand in all your works; that, rejoicing in your whole creation, we may learn to serve you with gladness; for the sake of him through all things were made, your Son Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Lessons: *(Please be seated for the reading of the lessons)*

First Lesson: 1 Kings 11:26-39:

Now Jeroboam son of Nebat, an Ephraimite of Zeredah whose mother's name was Zeruah, a widow woman, was a servant of Solomon and he raised a hand against the king. And this was the situation in which he raised a hand against the king: Solomon built the Millo, closing the breach in the city of his father David.

Now the man Jeroboam was a valiant warrior, and when Solomon saw that the young man was a hard worker, he appointed him over all the forced labor of the house of Joseph. And it was at that time, as Jeroboam left Jerusalem the prophet Ahijah the Shilonite found him on the road. Now Ahijah had clothed himself with a new garment and the two of them were in the countryside by themselves. And Ahijah seized of the new garment that was upon him and tore it into twelve pieces.

Then he said to Jeroboam: "Take for yourself ten pieces; for thus says the HOLY ONE, the God of Israel, 'Look! I am about to tear the realm from the hand of Solomon and I will give you ten tribes. One tribe will remain his for the sake of my slave David and for the sake of Jerusalem, the city that I have chosen out of all the tribes of Israel. This is because he has forsaken me and worshiped Astarte the goddess of the Sidonians, Chemosh the god of Moab, and Milcom the god of the Ammonites, and has not walked in my ways, doing what is right in my sight—my statutes and my ordinances—as his father David did.

Now I will not take the whole realm from his hand and will make him ruler all the days of his life, for the sake of my slave David whom I chose, who did keep my commandments and my statutes. Yet I will take the realm from his son and give to you the ten tribes. And to his son will I give one tribe so that there will always be a lamp before me for my slave David in Jerusalem, the city that I have chosen for myself, to place my Name. You I shall take, and you shall reign over all that your soul desires; you shall be king over Israel.

And it shall be if you will listen to all that I command you and walk in my ways and do what is right in my sight keeping my statutes and my commandments as David my slave did, I will be with you, and I will build you an enduring house as I built for David, and I shall give you Israel. And I shall punish the descendants of David for this, but not for all time."

Reader: The Word of the Lord

People: Thanks be to God

Psalm:

Psalm 89:1-8, 14:

- 1 I will sing of the faithful love of the **FOUNT OF LIFE** forever; with my mouth I will make known your faithfulness from across the generations.
- 2 When I declare that your faithful love is established forever; your faithfulness is established in the heavens,
- 3 you responded, "I have inscribed a covenant with my chosen one; I have sworn an oath to the descendants of Bathsheba:
- 4 'I will establish your line forever, your throne that I will build, will be to all generations.'"
- 5 The heavens confess your wonders, **O WOMB OF CREATION**, and to your faithfulness in the congregation of the holy ones;
- 6 For who in the skies can be compared to the **WOMB OF LIFE?** who is like the **MOTHER OF ALL** among the children of the gods?
- 7 a dread God in the council of the holy ones, great and terrible above all who surround her.
- 8 **WARRIOR PROTECTRIX**, who is mighty like you? **YOU WHO ARE**, your faithfulness surrounds you.
- 14 Righteousness and justice are the foundations of your throne; enduring love and faithfulness go before your face.

Second Lesson: Paul's 2nd letter to Timothy (2:8-13):

Remember Jesus Christ, raised from the dead, from the line of David and Bathsheba; that is my gospel, for which I suffer hardship, even to chains, like a criminal. But the word of God is not chained. Because of this, therefore I endure everything for the sake of the elect, in order that they may also obtain salvation in Christ Jesus with eternal glory. This is a trustworthy saying:

“For if we die together, we will also live together; if we endure, we will also reign together; if we deny Christ, he will also deny us; if we are faithless, faithful he remains, for he cannot deny himself.”

Reader: The Word of the Lord

People: **Thanks be to God**

Gospel Lesson:

Deacon: The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to **John (2:1-11:)**

People: **Glory to you Lord Christ.**

On the third day there was a wedding in Cana of Galilee, and the mother of Jesus was there. Jesus and his disciples had also been invited to the wedding. When the wine gave out, the mother of Jesus said to him, "They have no wine." And Jesus said to her, "Woman, what concern is that to you and to me? My hour has not yet come."

His mother said to the servants, "Do whatever he tells you." Now standing there were six stone water jars for the Jewish rites of purification, each holding twenty or thirty gallons. Jesus said to them, "Fill the jars with water." And they filled them up to the brim. He said to them, "Now draw some out, and take it to the chief steward."

So they took it. When the steward tasted the water that had become wine, and did not know where it came from (though the servants who had drawn the water knew), the steward called the bridegroom and said to him, "Everyone serves the good wine first, and then the inferior wine after the guests have become drunk. But you have kept the good wine until now." Jesus did this, the first of his signs, in Cana of Galilee, and revealed his glory; and his disciples believed in him.

Deacon: The Gospel of the Lord.

People Praise to you Lord Christ.

SERMON

Profession of Faith: (Dorothy McRae-McMahan, Uniting Church in Australia.)

We have faith in one God, one Source of all life, one Ground of the whole Earth, who created all things good.

And we have faith in Christ, in whom we have been shown the special role of humanity to bear God's likeness in working and caring for Creation, in seeking to understand her mysteries and powers, in working with these powers for the wellbeing of life on Earth.

And we have faith in God's Spirit who leads us to a meek, unselfish and compassionate lifestyle. So that the Earth is inherited in peace, her life is transformed for all creatures and her bounty shared justly. So be it. Amen.

(Adapted From India. Source: Sinfonia Oecumenica, Gütersloher Verlagshaus, Gütersloh 1998. Reproduced by ECEN for Creation Time 2003)

Prayers of the People:

Prayers for Sound Government & Our Election

The Leader and People pray responsively

Leader: Creator, we pray for all Creation and the Holy Assemblies of all faithful people.

People: **That we all may be one.**

Leader: Grant that every creature and all Creation may truly and humbly serve you and one another

People: **That your Glory may be known by all creatures.**

Leader: We pray for all bishops, priests, deacons, and all spiritual leaders

People: **That they may be faithful ministers of your Word and Sacraments in all Creation.**

Leader: We pray for all who lead and hold responsibility in the nations and organizations of the human world.

People: **That there may be justice and peace on the earth.**

Leader: Give us grace to do your joyful desire in all that we do and refrain from doing.

People: **That our works may find favor in your sight.**

Leader: Have compassion on all your creatures who suffer from any grief or trouble.

People: **That they may be delivered from their distress.**

Leader: Give to all departed creatures eternal rest.

People: **Let light perpetual shine upon them.**

Leader: Let us pray for our own needs and those of all Creation.

People: *(Add any other concerns you wish to lift up in prayer at this time)*

Presider: Almighty Creator and Eternal God, ruler of all things in heaven and on earth, mercifully accept the prayers of your people, and strengthen us to do your will; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The Confession

Deacon Let us confess our sins against God, our neighbors, and all Creation.
(Short Silence may be kept.)

All: **Triune God, Creator of all, We praise you for your goodness, visible in all the diversity that you have created, making us a cosmic family living in a common home. Through the Earth you created, we experience love and nourishment, home and protection.**

We confess that we do not relate to the Earth as a Mothering gift from you, our Creator. Our selfishness, greed, neglect, and abuse have caused the climate crisis, loss of biodiversity, human suffering as well as the suffering of all our fellow creatures. We confess that we have failed to listen to the groans of the Earth, the groans of all creatures, and the groans of the Spirit of hope and justice that lives within us.

May your Creator Spirit help us in our weakness, so that we may know the redeeming power of Christ and the hope found in him. May the groans of the Spirit birth in us a willingness to serve you faithfully, so that we may hear and heal Creation, to hope and act together with her, so that the first fruits of hope may blossom.

Loving and Creator God, we pray that you will make us sensitive to these groans and enable us to have the same compassion as that of Jesus, the redeeming Lord. Grant us a fresh vision of our relationship with Earth, and with one another, as creatures that are made in your image.

In the name of the one who came to proclaim the good news to all Creation, Jesus Christ. Amen.

Presider: 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.**

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

People: And also with you.

Offertory

Presider Let us with gladness present the offerings and oblations of our life and labor to the Lord.

Offertory music : "Earth and all stars" vs. 1, 2, 6 #412

Doxology: *(Peoples' offerings are brought to the altar)*

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow
Praise him all creatures here below
Praise him above ye heavenly host
Praise Father Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

Holy Communion

The Great Thanksgiving - *New Zealand Book of Common Prayer*

Presider The Spirit of God be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Presider Lift your hearts to heaven

People **Where Christ in glory reigns.**

Presider Let us give thanks to God.

People **It is right to offer thanks and praise**

Presider

It is right indeed to give you thanks most loving God, through Jesus Christ, our Redeemer, the first born from the dead, the pioneer of our salvation, who is with us always, one of us, yet from the heart of God.

For with your whole created universe, we praise you for your unfailing gift of life. We thank you that you made us in your image and stay with us even when we turn from you to sin.

God's love is shown to us: in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.

In that love, dear God, righteous and strong to save, you came among us in Jesus Christ, our crucified and living Lord.

You make all things new. In Christ's suffering and cross you reveal your glory and reconcile all peoples to yourself, the true and living God. Through Christ you gather us, new-born in your Spirit, a people after your own heart. We entrust ourselves to you and your mercy, for you alone judge all people, living and departed.

Now is the acceptable time, now is the day of salvation.

Therefore with saints and martyrs, apostles and prophets, with all the redeemed, joyfully we praise you and say:

Sanctus

**Holy, holy, holy:
God of mercy, giver of life;
earth and sea and sky
and all that lives,
declare your presence and your glory.**

The Presider continues

All glory to you, Giver of life sufficient and full for all creation. Accept our praises, living God, for Jesus Christ, the one perfect offering for the world, who in the night that he was betrayed, took bread, and when he had given thanks, broke it, gave it to his disciples, and said:

“Take, eat, this is my body which is given for you; do this to remember me.”

After supper he took the cup; 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, to forgive sin. Do this as often as you drink it to remember me.”

Therefore, God of all creation, in the suffering and death of Jesus our redeemer, we meet you in your glory. We lift up the cup of salvation and call upon your name. Here and now, with this bread and wine, we celebrate your great acts of liberation, ever present and living in Jesus Christ, crucified and risen, who was and is and is to come.

Amen! Come Lord Jesus.

May Christ ascended in majesty be our new and living way, our access to you, Father, and source of all new life. In Christ we offer ourselves to do your will. Empower our celebration with your Holy Spirit (+), feed us with your life, fire us with your love, confront us with your justice, and make us one in the body of Christ (+) with all who share your gifts of love.

Through Christ, in the power of the Holy Spirit, with all who stand before you in earth and heaven, we worship you, Creator God. AMEN.

Presider: Let us pray together the New Zealand form of the Lord’s Prayer:

All: Eternal Spirit, Earth-maker, Pain-bearer, Life-giver, Source of all that is and that shall be, Father and Mother of us all, Loving God, in whom is heaven:

The hallowing of your name echo through the universe! The way of your justice be followed by the peoples of the world! Your heavenly will be done by all created beings! Your commonwealth of peace and freedom sustain our hope and come on earth. With the bread we need for today, feed us. In the hurts we absorb from one another, forgive us. In times of temptation and test, strengthen us. From trials too great to endure, spare us. From the grip of all that is evil, free us. For you reign in the glory of the power that is love, now and for ever. Amen.

The Breaking of the Bread

Fraction Anthem (insert G#806)

Eat this bread, drink this cup, come to him and nev-er be hun-gry.

Eat this bread, drink this cup, trust in him and you will not thirst.

Invitation to Communion:

Presider: Bread and wine; the gifts of God for the people of God.

People: **May we who share these gifts be found in Christ and Christ in us.**

(All are invited and welcome to come forward and receive communion in this church. We have gluten free bread and real wine. To intinct/dip your bread into the wine, please go to the left altar rail. To sip wine from the cup please come to the right altar rail. If you do not wish to receive the bread and wine, you may cross your arms over your chest and receive a blessing instead.)

Communion Hymn “I received the Living God”

G#809

Birthdays, Anniversaries, Healing Prayer, Travelers, Gratitude Sharing

Post Communion Prayer *The people stand as they are able.*

Presider Let us Pray

All: O God, the author of peace and lover of concord; to know you is eternal life, to serve you is perfect freedom. Defend your servants in every stress and danger, that we may trust in your defense and not fear the power of any adversaries; through Jesus Christ our Redeemer. Amen.

Benediction/Blessing:

Presider: God the Creator, who loves us and gave this world to be our home,
God the Redeemer, who loves us and by dying and rising again leads the way
to freedom, God the Sanctifier, who spreads the divine love in our hearts,
God the three in one and one in three, bless you and keep you now and
forever. **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 go forth into the world, rejoicing in God's Spirit. Alleluia! Alleluia!*

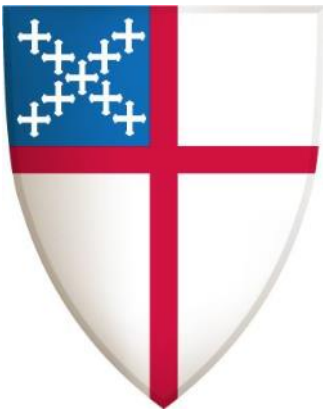
People Thanks be to God. Alleluia, Alleluia, (Alleluia!)

Closing Song : “Canticle of the Sun “ Vs 1, 2, 3, 5 **G#495**

Postlude: “*Blessed Assurance* “, Mrs. J. F. Knapp, arr Fred Bock

*Please, join us for
refreshments in the
Parish Hall after
worship.*





ST. STEPHEN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

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. 

Info Update Giving Envelopes Mail News Letter

Name _____ (first) _____ (Mid.) _____ (Last)

Hm: _____ Cell _____

Email: _____ Anv. Date _____

Adrs: _____ BrthDate _____

City, St., Zip: _____, _____, _____