



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.

THE LAST SUNDAY BEFORE ADVENT

10 am Sunday, 24 November 2024



JESUS CHRIST, OUR KING

Prelude: *"Minuet in G Major for Violoncello"*, by JS Bach

Welcome and Announcements

Rev Allison Cornell

The people stand as they are able.

Opening Hymn: "Come Ye Thankful People Come "

G# 552

The Psalmist declares, "What a rich harvest your goodness provides! Wherever you go there is plenty. The pastures are filled with flocks; the hillsides are full of joy. The fields are covered with sheep; the valleys are full of wheat. Everything shouts and sings for joy. (Psalm 65: 11-13)

Presider: Blessed be the One who creates all things.

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

Invitatory Collect: A Ute Prayer

All: Earth teach me freedom as the eagle which soars in the sky. Earth teach me regeneration as the seed which rises in the spring. Earth teach me to forget myself as melted snow forgets its life. Earth teach me to remember kindness as dry fields weep for rain. 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: Almighty God, Lord of Heaven and Earth: We humbly pray that your gracious providence may give and preserve to our use the harvests of the land and of the seas, and may prosper all who labor to gather the, that we, who are constantly receiving good things from your hand, may always give you thanks; through

Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

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

First Lesson: Daniel (7:9-10, 13-14):

As I watched, thrones were set in place, and an Ancient One took his throne, his clothing was white as snow, and the hair of his head like pure wool; his throne was fiery flames, and its wheels were burning fire. A stream of fire issued and flowed out from his presence.

A thousand thousands served him, and ten thousand times ten thousand stood attending him. The court sat in judgment, and the books were opened.

As I watched in the night visions, I saw one like a human being coming with the clouds of heaven. And he came to the Ancient One and was presented before him. To him was given dominion and glory and kingship, that all peoples, nations, and languages should serve him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion that shall not pass away, and his kingship is one that shall never be destroyed.

Reader: The Word of the Lord

People: Thanks be to God

Psalm: Psalm 93

1 The Lord is King;

he has put on splendid apparel; *
the Lord has put on his apparel
and girded himself with strength.

**2 He has made the whole world so
sure ***

that it cannot be moved;

**3 Ever since the world began, your
throne has been established; *
you are from everlasting.**

**4 The waters have lifted up, O Lord,
the waters have lifted up their
voice; *
the waters have lifted up their
pounding waves.**

**5 Mightier than the sound of many
waters,**

mightier than the breakers of the
sea, *

mightier is the Lord who dwells on
high.

**6 Your testimonies are very sure, *
and holiness adorns your house,
O Lord,
for ever and for evermore.**

Second Lesson: The Book of Revelation (1:4b-8):

Grace to you and peace from him who is and who was and who is to come, and from the seven spirits who are before his throne, and from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the firstborn of the dead, and the ruler of the kings of the earth.

To him who loves us and freed us from our sins by his blood, and made us to be a kingdom, priests serving his God and Father, to him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.

Look! He is coming with the clouds; every eye will see him, even those who pierced him;

and on his account all the tribes of the earth will wail. So it is to be. Amen.

“I am the Alpha and the Omega,” says the Lord God, who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty.

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 (18:33-37):

People: Glory to you Lord Christ.

Pilate entered the headquarters again, summoned Jesus, and asked him, “Are you the King of the Jews?” Jesus answered, “Do you ask this on your own, or did others tell you about me?” Pilate replied, “I am not a Jew, am I? Your own nation and the chief priests have handed you over to me. What have you done?”

Jesus answered, “My kingdom is not from this world. If my kingdom were from this world, my followers would be fighting to keep me from being handed over to the Jews. But as it is, my kingdom is not from here.” Pilate asked him, “So you are a king?” Jesus answered, “You say that I am a king. For this I was born, and for this I came into the world, to testify to the truth. Everyone who belongs to the truth listens to my voice.”

Deacon: The Gospel of the Lord.

People Praise to you Lord Christ.

SERMON

A Creation Care Creed: *(Please stand as you are able)*

We believe and trust in God, all-powerful Creator and Sustainer: who fashions the heavens and the earth and all that is in them who gazes on his handiwork in love, pronouncing it ‘very good’; who crafts men and women, calling us to partnership with him in caring for his world who provides in generous abundance all that is needed for the whole of creation to thrive; who grieves at the way we neglect and spoil his masterpiece, and calls us to account who, like a loving parent, sees our weakness and yet persists in love; who purposes to restore what is broken and retrieve what is lost.

We believe and trust in Jesus Christ: who shared with his father the wonder and promise of creation tide who was born like us, choosing to share our humanity with its joy and its pain who lived an earthly life, affirming and celebrating the goodness of the physical world who used the natural world to teach us more of God’s nature who modelled for us a pattern for living with integrity even though it cost him everything who died and came back to life to show us that in sacrifice lie the seeds of freedom and hope who returned home to his father – his earthly work complete

We believe and trust in the Holy Spirit: who danced in the darkness at the dawn of time to bring light and life; who breathes life and purpose into all living things; who inspires and guides all people of God throughout the ages; who opens our eyes to injustice and points us truthward; who calls us to join in the work of sustaining and renewing the earth; who transforms our hearts and minds, empowering us to be faithful stewards; who will lead us home at the end of our age.

We commit ourselves to live day by day in the light of these beliefs, cherishing the earth and laboring for its healing and renewing, in loving obedience to God, following the example of Jesus Christ, and seeking the help of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Prayers of the People: *(The Leader and People pray responsively)*

Leader: Blessed God, whose love calls the whole creation into covenant with you, and who puts in our hands responsibility for the care of the earth and its creatures: we pray for all to whom you have given life and being. For the well-being of the earth; for its resources of water, air, light, and soil,

People: that they may be tended for the good of all creatures, we pray.

Leader: For the waters of the earth; for their careful use and conservation,

People: that we may have the will and the ability to keep them clean and pure, we pray.

Leader: For the mineral and energy resources of the planet,

People: that we may learn sustainable consumption and sound care of the environment from which they come, we pray.

Leader: For the animals of the earth, wild and domestic, large and very small,

People: that they may know the harmony of relationship that sustains all life, we pray.

Leader: For the creatures of the earth who do us harm and those whose place in your creation we do not understand or welcome,

People: that we may see them as beloved creatures of God, we pray.

Leader: For all who shape public policies affecting the planet and its creatures,

People: that they may consider wisely the well-being of all who come after us, we pray.

Leader: For all those engaged in conservation, in agriculture and ranching, in aquaculture and fishing, in mining and industry, and in forestry and timber-harvesting,

People: that the health, fruitfulness, and beauty of the natural world may be sustained alongside human activity, we pray.

Leader: For the creatures and the human beings of your world who are ill, or in danger, pain, or special need, and for all who suffer from the unjust, violent, or wasteful use of the earth's resources or their devastation by war,

People: that all may one day live in communities of justice and peace, we pray.

Leader: For the gifts of science and technology and for those who practice these skills,

People: that they may be wise, visionary, and compassionate in their work, we pray.

Leader: Gracious God: Grant that we, your people, may have in us the same mind that was in Christ Jesus,

People: and guide us into harmony of relationship through loving-kindness and the wise use of all that you have given; for you are drawing all things into communion with you and with each other by the power of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

The Confession

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

All: Holy and merciful God, we confess that we have failed to honor you by rightly claiming our kinship with all your creatures.

We have walked heavily on your earth, overused and wasted its resources, taken for granted its beauty and abundance, and treated its inhabitants unjustly, holding future generations hostage to our greed.

**Have mercy on us and forgive us our sin. Renew in us the resolve to keep and conserve your earth as you desire and intend, with grateful and compassionate hearts, through your Son, our Savior Jesus Christ.
Amen.**

Presider: Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through the grace of Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you 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 : "Rejoice the Lord is King "

G#493

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 “Taste and See”

G#327

Birthdays, Anniversaries, Healing Prayer, Travelers, Gratitude Sharing

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

Presider Let us Pray

All: Lord of the harvest, with joy we have offered thanksgiving for your love in creation and have shared in the bread and the wine of the kingdom: by your grace, plant within us a reverence for all that you give us and make us generous and wise stewards of the good things we enjoy; through Jesus Christ our Lord. 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.**

Closing Song : “Praise and Thanksgiving “

G#754

Dismissal:

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

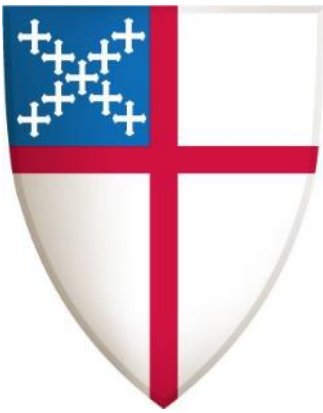
People: We are called to love and serve.

Deacon: *Let us go forth into the world, rejoicing in God’s Spirit. Alleluia! Alleluia!*

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

Postlude: *“Round of Alleluia”* by Doreen Oberg

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



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