



TO HOPE AND ACT WITH CREATION

SEASON OF CREATION 2024

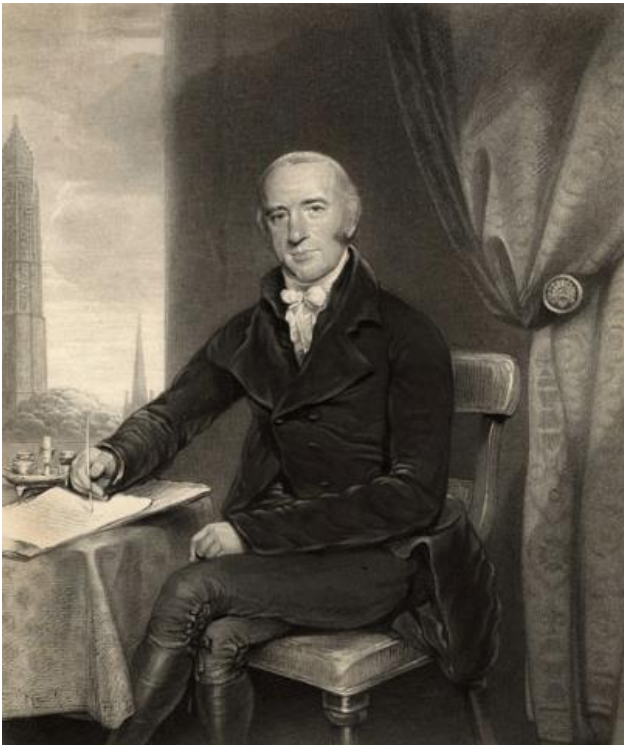
The firstfruits of hope

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.

FEAST OF CHARLES SIMEON

Wednesday 13 Nov 2024 9:30 AM



From [Wikipedia the free encyclopedia](#)

Charles Simeon (24 September 1759 – 13 November 1836) was an English [evangelical Anglican](#) cleric.

Life and career

He was born at [Reading, Berkshire](#), in 1759 and baptised at [St Laurence's parish church](#) on 24 October of that year.^{[1][2]} He was the fourth and youngest son of Richard Simeon (died 1784) and Elizabeth Hutton.^[3] His eldest brother, named Richard after their father, died early. His second brother, [John](#), entered the legal profession, became an MP and received a baronetcy. The third brother, [Edward Simeon](#), was a director of the [Bank of England](#).^[1]

Simeon was educated at [Eton College](#) and [King's College, Cambridge](#).^[2] As an undergraduate at King's from 1779, brought up in the [high church](#) tradition, he read *[The Whole Duty of Man](#)* and then a work by

[Continued Pg 11](#)

The Psalmist declares,

*“The Almighty God, the Lord, speaks; he calls to the whole earth from east to west.
(Psalm 50:1)*

The people stand as they are able.

Presider: Blessed be the One who creates all things.

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

Invitatory Collect: Sioux Prayer

All: Grandfather Great Spirit, All over the world the faces of living ones are alike. With tenderness they have come up out of the ground. Look upon your children that they may face the winds and walk the good road to the Day of Quiet. Grandfather Great Spirit, fill us with the Light, give us the strength to understand, and the eyes to see. Teach us to walk the soft Earth as relatives to all that live. Amen.

Gloria: Venite

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:

All: Loving God, whose unerring wisdom and unbounded love order all things: Grant us in all things to see your hand; that, following the example and teaching of your servant Charles Simeon, we may walk with Christ in all simplicity and serve you with a quiet and contented mind; 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 for the reading of the lessons)*

First Lesson: Amos 6:1-7:

Alas for those who are at ease in Zion, and for those who feel secure on Mount Samaria. the notables of the first of the nations, to whom the house of Israel re- sorts! Cross over to Calneh, and see; from there go to Hamath the great; then go down to Gath of the Phil- istines. Are you better than these kingdoms? Or is your territory greater than their territory, O you that put far away the evil day, and bring near a reign of vio- lence?	Alas for those who lie on beds of ivory, and lounge on their couches, and eat lambs from the flock, and calves from the stall; who sing idle songs to the sound of the harp, and like David improvise on in- struments of music; who drink wine from bowls, and anoint themselves with the finest oils, but are not grieved over the ruin of Joseph! Therefore they shall now be the first to go into exile, and the revelry of the loungers shall pass away
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Reader: The Word of the Lord

People: Thanks be to God

Psalm:

Psalm 108:1-6:

- 1 My heart is firmly fixed, O God, my heart is fixed; *
I will sing and make melody.**
- 2 Wake up, my spirit;
awake, lute and harp; *
I myself will waken the dawn.**
- 3 I will confess you among the peoples, O Lord; *
I will sing praises to you among the nations.**
- 4 For your loving-kindness is greater than the heavens, *
and your faithfulness reaches to the clouds.**
- 5 Exalt yourself above the heavens, O God, *
and your glory over all the earth.**

**6 So that those who are dear to you may be delivered, *
save with your right hand and answer me.**

Second Lesson: Ephesians 3:7-12:

Of this gospel I have become a servant according to the gift of God's grace that was given me by the working of his power. Although I am the very least of all the saints, this grace was given to me to bring to the Gentiles the news of the boundless riches of Christ, and to make everyone see what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God who created all things; so that through the church the wisdom of God in its rich variety might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places. This was in accordance with the eternal purpose that he has carried out in Christ Jesus our Lord, in whom we have access to God in boldness and confidence through faith in him.

Reader: The Word of the Lord

People: Thanks be to God

Gospel Lesson:

Deacon: The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to
Matthew (22:1-14:)

People: Glory to you Lord Christ.

Once more Jesus spoke to them in parables, saying: "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding banquet for his son. He sent his slaves to call those who had been invited to the wedding banquet, but they would not come. Again he sent other slaves, saying, 'Tell those who have been invited: Look, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready; come to the wedding banquet.' But they made light of it and went away, one to his farm, another to his business, while the rest seized his slaves, mistreated them, and killed them. The king was enraged. He sent his troops, destroyed those murderers, and burned their city. Then he said to his slaves, 'The wedding is ready, but those invited were not worthy. Go therefore into the main streets, and invite everyone you find to the wedding banquet.' Those slaves went out into the streets and gathered all whom they found, both good and bad; so the wedding hall was filled with guests.

"But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing a wedding robe, and he said to him, 'Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding robe?' And he was speechless. Then the king said to the attendants, 'Bind him hand and foot, and throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.' For many are called, but few are chosen."

Deacon: The Gospel of the Lord.

People Praise to you Lord Christ.

SERMON

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

We believe in God the Creator, who reminds us, in the dawning of the every new day, that new life is possible. We believe in the wonder and grandeur of a universe where the whole of life is called to live in harmony of care.

We believe in Jesus Christ, who prayed in mountains for peace, and brought us the Word in mustard seeds of faith and fig trees of blessing, whose footsteps touched the earth in love and who invites us to follow.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, whose wisdom often lies embedded in ancient peoples. They trod lightly across deserts and lived gently among plants and creatures. They reached respectfully for the mystery, which is God-with-us, the One who never leaves us nor forsakes us.

We believe in the everlasting hope, the great calling of the people of God, the church, for the transforming of all things, which is possible in God. This is what we believe. AMEN.

Prayers of the People:

Prayers for Sound Government & Our Election

The Leader and People pray responsively

Leader: O Lord, keep this nation under your care. Bless the leaders of our land,

People: That we may be a people at peace among ourselves and a blessing to other nations of the earth.

Leader: O Lord, give grace to your servants, especially the President and members of the Cabinet, the Congress, the Governors of states, the Mayors of cities, and all election officials and any in administrative authority:

People: Grant them wisdom, integrity, and grace in the exercise of their duties.

Leader: O Lord, guide and protect all those who make and enforce our laws in states, cities, and towns:

People: Give them fortitude, foresight, and wisdom to provide for the needs of all people and to honorably fulfill their obligations of their positions.

Leader: O Lord, direct and influence by your Holy Spirit the judges and officers of our courts with judiciousness and prudence

People: That human rights may be safeguarded and justice served with honesty and uprightness.

Leader: O Lord, teach us to rely on your Holy Word and Will for strength of conviction and responsible voting as fellow citizens

People: That we may elect trustworthy leaders and make wise decisions for the well-being of our society.

Leader: O Lord, may we faithfully serve you and our generation, honoring your Holy Name.

People: For yours is the kingdom, O Lord, and you are exalted as the head above all creation. Amen.

Presider: Almighty God, to whom we must account for all our powers and privileges: Guide us in the election of officials and representatives; that, by faithful administration and wise laws, the rights of all may be protected and our nation be enabled to fulfill your purposes; 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.)

Deacon: We have wounded your love.

People: O God, heal us.

Deacon: We stumble in the darkness.

People: Light of the world transfigure us.

Deacon: We forget that we are your home.

People: Spirit of God, dwell in us.

All: Eternal Spirit, living God, in whom we live and move and have our being, all that we are, have been, and shall be is known to you, to the very secret of our hearts and all that rises to trouble us. Living flame burn into us, cleansing wind, blow through us, fountain of water, well up within us, that we may love and praise you in deed and in truth.

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.

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 never be hungry.

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.)

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 us 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!)

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

Continued from front:

[Thomas Wilson](#) on the [sacrament](#), and taking communion at Easter experienced a Christian conversion. In 1782 he became a fellow of King's College and was ordained a deacon. He graduated B.A. in 1783 and, in the same year, was ordained a priest of the [Church of England](#). He began his ministry as deputy to Christopher Atkinson (1754–1795) at [St Edward King and Martyr, Cambridge](#). Atkinson introduced him to [John Venn](#) and Simeon then met [Henry Venn](#), confirming his evangelical and [Calvinist](#) views.^[4]

Simeon received the living of [Holy Trinity Church, Cambridge](#), in 1783. The appointment, technically a curacy, followed the death of the Rev. Henry Therond. Simeon's father intervened with [James Yorke](#), the [Bishop of Ely](#), and he was appointed, under the age of 23, as a curate-in-charge for the bishop.^[5] He was at first unpopular, and indeed the congregation would have preferred John Hammond (died 1830), who had been curate there, and became lecturer. Services were disrupted, and he was insulted in the streets.^{[6][7][8]} Simeon remained there for the rest of his life, eventually with a crowded church.^[4]

Simeon died, unmarried, on 13 November 1836,^[4] and was buried on 19 November in [King's College Chapel, Cambridge](#).^[9] His memorial by [Humphrey Hopper](#) in Holy Trinity, Cambridge, was described by architectural critic [Nikolaus Pevsner](#) as an "epitaph in Gothic forms."^{[10][11]}

Influence

Simeon's funeral at King's College, Cambridge on 19 November 1836 from *Memoirs of a King's College Chorister* (1899)

Simeon gained influence among the undergraduates of the university. He became a leader among evangelical churchmen, and was one of the founders of the [Church Missionary Society](#) in 1799. He also helped found the London Society for Promoting Christianity Amongst the Jews (now known as the [Church's Ministry Among Jewish People](#) or CMJ) in 1809, and acted as adviser to the [British East India Company](#) in the choice of [chaplains for India](#).^[6]

According to the historian [Thomas Macaulay](#), Simeon's "authority and influence ... extended from Cambridge to the most remote corners of England ... his real sway in the Church was far greater than that of any primate."^[12]

Works

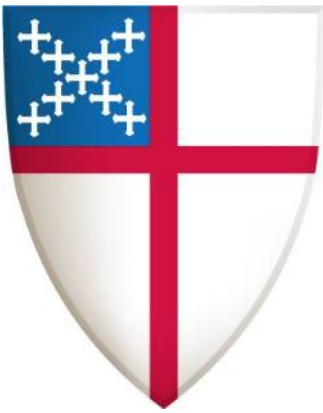
In 1792, Simeon read *An Essay on the Composition of a Sermon* by the French Reformed minister [Jean Claude](#). Simeon found that their principles were identical and used the essay as the basis for his lectures on sermon composition. Claude's essay also inspired Simeon to make clear his own theological position. He published hundreds of sermons and sermon outlines (called "sermon skeletons"), still in print, that to some were an invitation to clerical plagiarism. His chief work is a commentary on the whole Bible, entitled *Horae homileticae* ([London](#)).

Legacy

Simeon is [remembered](#) in the [Church of England](#) with a [lesser festival](#) and in the [Anglican Church of Canada](#), as well as the [Anglican Church in North America](#), with a [Commemoration](#) on 13 November.^[13] He is commemorated in the [Episcopal Church of the United States](#) with a Lesser Feast on 12 November.^[14]

He established a trust for the purpose of acquiring [church patronage](#) to perpetuate evangelical clergy in [Church of England parishes](#).^[6] It arose from the bequest of [John Thornton](#), who died in 1813, of ten [advowsons](#), left to a trust, of which Simeon was one of the trustees. Simeon expanded the group of livings with money he

[Continued online](#)



ST. STEPHEN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

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2750 Cardinal Dr. Sierra Vista, AZ 85635
<https://ststephensaz.org>
520-458-4432

<p>Rector: Allison Cornell Off. Phone: 520-458-4432 Mobile: 562-743-3784 RevAllison@ststephensaz.org</p> <p>Parish Administrator Mark Sowards Off. Phone 520-458-4432 Mobile: 408-892-1062 mark.sowards@ststephensaz.org Office Fax: 520-458-8237</p>	<p>Deacon Dorothy Gutwein Hm: 520-515-9183 dottie85635@gmail.com</p> <p>Church Accompanist : Doreen Oberg doreenoberg@hotmail.com</p> <p>Vestry Staff</p> <p>Senior Warden: Jeff Speer jeffrey5454speer@gmail.com Cell:(520) 678-5688</p>	<p>Junior wardens: Pete Criscuolo petesacct2014@gmail.com Cell: 520-234-7687</p> <p>& Timothy Holsonback holsonback@cox.net 520/459-1937</p> <p>Treasurer: Anne Roth Cell:303/917-8151 avd.roth@comcast.net</p> <p>Please leave voicemail message</p>
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Info Update Giving Envelopes Mail News Letter

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