



## 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.*

### THANKSGIVING DAY

**10 am Thursday, 28 November 2024**



Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

Rev. Allison Cornell

**Opening Song:** *“For the Beauty of the Earth”*

**G#548**

**Presider:** Blessed be the One who creates all things.

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

**Gloria:** **The 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:** **Almighty and gracious Father, we give you thanks for the fruits of the earth in their season and for the labors of those who harvest them. Make us, we pray, faithful stewards of your great bounty, for the provision of our necessities and the relief of all who are in need, to the glory of your Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.**

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

## **First Lesson: A reading from the book of Joel (2:21-27):**

Do not fear, O soil; be glad and rejoice, for the Lord has done great things! Do not fear, you animals of the field, for the pastures of the wilderness are green; the tree bears its fruit, the fig tree and vine give their full yield. O children of Zion, be glad and rejoice in the Lord your God; for he has given the early rain for your vindication, he has poured down for you abundant rain, the early and the later rain, as before. The threshing floors shall be full of grain, the vats shall overflow with wine and oil. I will repay you for the years that the swarming locust has eaten, the hopper, the destroyer, and the cutter, my great army, which I sent against you. You shall eat in plenty and be satisfied, and praise the name of the Lord your God, who has dealt wondrously with you. And my people shall never again be put to shame. You shall know that I am in the midst of Israel, and that I, the Lord, am your God and there is no other. And my people shall never again be put to shame.

Reader The Word of the Lord

People Thanks be to God

## **Psalm 126**

- 1 When the Lord restored the fortunes of Zion, \*  
then were we like those who dream.**
- 2 Then was our mouth filled with laughter, \*  
and our tongue with shouts of joy.**
- 3 Then they said among the nations, \*  
"The Lord has done great things for them."**
- 4 The Lord has done great things for us, \*  
and we are glad indeed.**
- 5 Restore our fortunes, O Lord, \*  
like the watercourses of the Negev.**
- 6 Those who sowed with tears \*  
will reap with songs of joy.**
- 7 Those who go out weeping, carrying the seed, \*  
will come again with joy, shouldering their sheaves.**

## **Second Lesson: A reading from Paul's First Letter to Timothy (2:1-7):**

First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for everyone, for kings and all who are in high positions, so that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and dignity. This is right and is acceptable in the sight of God our Savior, who desires everyone to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.

For there is one God; there is also one mediator between God and humankind, Christ Jesus, himself human, who gave himself a ransom for all -- this was attested at the right time. For this I was appointed a herald and an apostle (I am telling the truth, I am not lying), a teacher of the Gentiles in faith and truth.

Reader The Word of the Lord

**People Thanks be to God**

## **Gospel Lesson: Matthew 6:25-33**

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

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

Jesus said, "I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing? Look at the birds of the air; they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? And can any of you by worrying add a single hour to your span of life? And why do you worry about clothing?"

Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they neither toil nor spin, yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not clothed like one of these.

But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which is alive today and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will he not much more clothe you-- you of little faith?"

Therefore do not worry, saying, 'What will we eat?' or 'What will we drink?' or 'What will we wear?' For it is the Gentiles who strive for all these things; and indeed your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. But strive first for the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well."

Deacon: The Gospel of the Lord.

**People Praise to you Lord Christ.**

**SERMON**

## **Nicene Creed** *(Traditional)*

**We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father. Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven: by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary, and was made man.**

**For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son. With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified. He has spoken through the Prophets.**

**We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.**

**We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.**

**We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

## **Prayers of the People:**

*The Leader and People pray responsively*

**Leader:** 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;**

**People:** **For the beauty of this world, for the wonder of life and for the mystery of love.**

**Leader:** We thank you for the blessing of family and friends;

**People:** **And for the loving care which surrounds us on every side.**

**Leader:** We thank you for setting us at tasks which demand our best efforts;

**People:** **And for leading us to accomplishments which satisfy and delight us.**

**Leader:** We thank you also for those disappointments and failures

**People:** **That lead us to acknowledge our dependence on you alone.**

**Leader:** Above all we thank you for your Son Jesus Christ

**People:** **For the truth of his Word and the example of his life**

**Leader:** For his steadfast obedience, by which he overcame temptation;

**People:** **For his dying, through which he overcame death**

**Leader:** And for his rising to life again

**People:** **In which we are raised to the life of your kingdom**

Leader: Grant us the gift of your Spirit,

**People: That we may know Christ and make him known**

Leader: And through him at all times and in all places

**People: May give thanks to you in all things. Amen.**

## **The Confession**

Deacon: 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.**

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.**

## **The Peace:**

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

**People: And also with you.**

*(The congregation share signs of peace: hug, handshake, peace sign, fist bump, etc)*

## **Offertory**

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

Offertory music *“Let All Things Now Living”*

**G#551**

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.**

## **Holy Communion**

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

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 God 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 (all in unison)*

**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 (G#806 refrain only)*

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

The first line of musical notation consists of a treble and bass staff in G major (one sharp) and common time. The treble staff contains the melody, and the bass staff contains the accompaniment. The lyrics are written below the treble staff.

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

The second line of musical notation continues the melody and accompaniment from the first line. The lyrics are written below the treble staff.

*(The Presider breaks the bread in silence)*

**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.)*

**Communion Hymn: “In the Lord I'll be ever thankful” **G#546****  
(repeat 4 times)

**Birthdays, Anniversaries, Healing Prayer, Travelers, Gratitude Sharing**

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

**Presider** Let us Pray

**All:** **Most gracious God, by whose knowledge the depths are broken up and the clouds drop down the dew: We give you hearty thanks and praise for the return of seedtime and harvest, for the increase of the ground and the gathering of its fruits, and for all other blessings of your merciful providence bestowed upon us as a nation and a people.**

**And we ask that you would give us a just sense of your great merices that may appear in our lives by a humble, holy, and obedient walking before you all our days: through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit be all glory and honor, world without end. 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: H1982 #376 Joyful Joyful We Adore Thee

## **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:

*Please join us for our Thanksgiving Dinner in the Parish Hall  
following the service.*

