

# St. Stephen's Episcopal Church

*Easter Season*

*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 JULIAN OF NORWICH

9:30 am Wednesday, 7 May 2025

From [Lessor Feasts & Fasts](#)



Of Julian's early life we know little, only the probable date of her birth (1342). Her own writings in her *Revelations of Divine Love* are concerned only with her visions, or "showings," that she experienced when she was thirty years old rather than with the details of her biography. Julian had been gravely ill and was given last rites. Suddenly, on the seventh day, all pain left her, and she had fifteen visions of Christ's Passion. These brought her great peace and joy. "From that time I desired oftentimes to learn what was our Lord's meaning," she wrote, "and fifteen years after I was answered in spiritual understanding: 'Would you learn the Lord's meaning in this thing? Learn it well. Love was his meaning. Who showed it you? Love. What did he show you? Love. Why did he show it? For Love.'" Julian had long desired three gifts from God: "the mind of his passion, bodily sickness in youth, and three wounds—of contrition, of compassion, of will-full longing toward God."

[Continued Pg 11](#)

## **SALUTATION:**

**Presider:** Alleluia! Christ is risen!

**People:** **The Lord is risen, indeed! Alleluia!**

**Presider:** Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid. Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify you Holy Name, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

**GLORIA —**

**#S-278**

**Glory to God in the highest,  
and peace to his people on earth.  
Lord God, heavenly King,  
almighty God and Father,  
we worship you, we give you thanks,  
we praise you for your glory.  
Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,  
Lord God, Lamb of God,  
you take away the sin of the world:  
have mercy on us;  
you are seated at the right hand of the Father:  
receive our prayer. For you alone are the Holy One,  
you alone are the Lord,  
you alone are the Most High,  
Jesus Christ,  
with the Holy Spirit,  
in the glory of God the Father. Amen.**

## **COLLECT OF THE DAY:**

**Presider:** The Lord be with you

**People:** And also with you.

**Presider:** Let us pray

**All:** Triune God, Father and Mother to us all, who showed your servant Julian revelations of your nurturing and sustaining love:  
Move our hearts, like hers, to seek you above all things, for in giving us yourself you give us all. Amen.

## **LITURGY OF THE WORD:** *(Please be seated for the lessons)*

### **First Lesson: A Reading from the Book of Isaiah (49:13-18):**

Sing for joy, O heavens, and exult, O earth;  
break forth, O mountains, into singing!

For the Lord has comforted his people,  
and will have compassion on his suffering ones.

But Zion said, 'The Lord has forsaken me,  
my Lord has forgotten me.'

Can a woman forget her nursing-child,  
or show no compassion for the child of her womb?

Even these may forget,  
yet I will not forget you.

See, I have inscribed you on the palms of my hands;  
your walls are continually before me.

Your builders outdo your destroyers,  
and those who laid you waste go away from you.

Lift up your eyes all around and see;  
they all gather, they come to you.

As I live, says the Lord,  
you shall put all of them on like an ornament,  
and like a bride you shall bind them on.

**Reader** The Word of the Lord

**People** Thanks be to God

## **The PSALM:**

**Psalm 27:7-11 (read in unison)**

**7 For in the day of trouble he shall keep me safe in his shelter; \*  
he shall hide me in the secrecy of his dwelling  
and set me high upon a rock.**

**8 Even now he lifts up my head \*  
above my enemies round about me.**

**9 Therefore I will offer in his dwelling an oblation  
with sounds of great gladness; \*  
I will sing and make music to the Lord.**

**10 Hearken to my voice, O Lord, when I call; \*  
have mercy on me and answer me.**

**11 You speak in my heart and say, "Seek my face." \*  
Your face, Lord, will I seek.**

## **Second Lesson: A Reading from the Book of Hebrews (10:19–24):**

Therefore, my friends, since we have confidence to enter the sanctuary by the blood of Jesus, by the new and living way that he opened for us through the curtain (that is, through his flesh), and since we have a great priest over the house of God, let us approach with a true heart in full assurance of faith, with our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water. Let us hold fast to the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who has promised is faithful. And let us consider how to provoke one another to love and good deeds,

**Reader The Word of the Lord**

**People Thanks be to God**

## **Gospel Lesson:** *(Please stand as you are able)*

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

**Matthew (23:37-39):**

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

Jesus said, "Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the city that kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to it! How often have I desired to gather your children together as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, and you were not willing! See, your house is left to you, desolate. For I tell you, you will not see me again until you say, 'Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.'"

**Deacon:** The Gospel of the Lord

**People: Praise to you, Lord Christ**

## HOMILY

**Nicene Creed:** *Traditional Version (Said aloud by all, in unison)*

**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**

Leader: Christ our life, You are alive - in the beauty of the earth:

**People: in the rhythm of the seasons, in the mystery of time and space,  
Alleluia**

Leader: Christ our life, You are alive - in the tenderness of touch

**People: in the heartbeat of intimacy, in the insights of solitude, Alleluia**

Leader: Christ our life, You are alive - in the creative possibility

**People: of the hardest conversation, of the dreariest task, of the most  
threatening event, Alleluia**

Leader: Christ our life, You are alive - to offer re-creation

**People: to every unhealed hurt, to every deadened place, to every damaged  
Heart, Alleluia.**

Leader: Christ our life, You are alive – to give us encouragement

**People: to face our fears, to wrestle with our doubts, to overcome our  
disappointments, Alleluia.**

Leader: You set before us a great choice, death in our souls without you or Life  
abundantly and eternally with you.

**People: Therefore, we choose life.**

Leader: The dance of resurrection soars and surges through the whole creation,

**People: This is your grace through which we live. So let us live fully and  
thankfully. Alleluia.**

## **The Peace:**

Presider      The peace of the Lord be always with you.

**People      And also with you**

## **The Offertory:**

Presider      Walk in love as Christ loved us and gave himself as an offering and  
sacrifice to God.

Doxology #380 vs. 3

**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**

**The Holy Communion -** *The Great Thanksgiving BCP Rite 2A*

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

But chiefly are we bound to praise you for the glorious resurrection of your Son Jesus Christ our Lord; for he is the true Pascal Lamb, who was sacrificed for us, and has taken away the sin of the world. By his death he has destroyed death, and by his rising to life again he has won for us everlasting life.

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

Sanctus -

#S-128

***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.***

*Presider continues:*

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:

**Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

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.**

Presider: As our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to pray,

**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 consecrated bread)*

Fraction Anthem : Hymnal 1982 #S-155



### **Invitation to Communion:**

Presider: The gifts of God for the people of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ died and rose again for you and feed on him in your hearts by faith and with thanksgiving.

*(All are invited and welcome to come forward and receive communion in this church. The bread is gluten free and we use real wine. To receive by intincting/dipping your bread into the wine, please use the left altar rail. To receive by eating the bread and taking a sip of wine from the cup, please use the right altar rail. You may receive only the bread if you prefer. If you are not ready to take communion with us today, you may also come forward, cross your arms over your chest and receive a blessing instead.)*

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

Presider: Let us pray.

**All:**    **Almighty and ever-living God, we thank you for feeding us with the spiritual food of the most precious Body and Blood of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ; and for assuring us in these holy mysteries that we are living members of the Body of your Son, and heirs of your eternal kingdom.**

**And now, Father, send us out to do the work you have given us to do, to love and serve you as faithful witnesses of Christ our Lord. To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and for ever.    Amen.**

## **Blessing**

Presider: May Almighty God, who has redeemed us and made us his children through the resurrection of his Son our Lord, bestow upon you the riches of his blessing, in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.    **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!*)**

Continued from front:

Her illness brought her the first two wounds, which then passed from her mind. The third, “will-full longing” (divinely inspired longing), never left her. She became a recluse, an anchoress, at Norwich soon after her recovery from illness, living in a small dwelling attached to the parish church. Even in her lifetime, she was famed as a mystic and spiritual counselor and was frequently visited by clergy and lay persons, including the mystic Margery Kempe. Kempe says of Julian: “This anchoress was expert in knowledge of our Lord and could give good counsel. I spent much time with her talking of the love of our Lord Jesus Christ.” Julian understood that God was both Father and Mother to us, and understood Christ as exemplifying this maternal face of God. “Thus Jesus Christ, who does good against evil, is our very Mother. We have our being in him, where the ground of motherhood begins . . . As truly as God is our Father, so truly is God our Mother.”

Julian’s book is a tender and beautiful exposition of God’s eternal and all-embracing love, showing how his charity toward human beings is exhibited in the Passion. Again and again Julian referred to Christ as “our courteous Lord.” Many have found strength in the words that the Lord had given her: “I can make all things well; I will make all things well; I shall make all things well; and you can see for yourself that all manner of things shall be well.”

**Julian of Norwich** (c. 1343<sup>[note 1]</sup> – after 1416), also known as **Juliana of Norwich**, the **Lady Julian**, **Dame Julian**<sup>[4]</sup> or **Mother Julian**, was an English [anchoress](#) of the [Middle Ages](#). Her writings, now known as [Revelations of Divine Love](#), are the earliest surviving English-language works attributed to a woman. They are also the only surviving English-language works by an anchoress.

Julian lived in the English city of [Norwich](#), an important centre for commerce that also had a vibrant religious life. During her lifetime, the city suffered the devastating effects of the [Black Death](#) of 1348–1350, the [Peasants' Revolt](#) (which affected large parts of England in 1381), and the suppression of the [Lollards](#). In 1373, aged 30 and so seriously ill she thought she was on her deathbed, Julian received a series of [visions](#) or [shewings](#) of the [Passion of Christ](#). She recovered from her illness and wrote two versions of her experiences, the earlier one being completed soon after her recovery—a much longer version, today known as the *Long Text*, was written many years later.

Julian lived in permanent [seclusion](#) as an anchoress in her [cell](#), which was attached to [St Julian's Church, Norwich](#). Four [wills](#) are known in which sums were bequeathed to a Norwich anchoress named Julian, and an account by the celebrated mystic [Margery Kempe](#) exists which provides evidence of counsel Kempe was given by the anchoress.

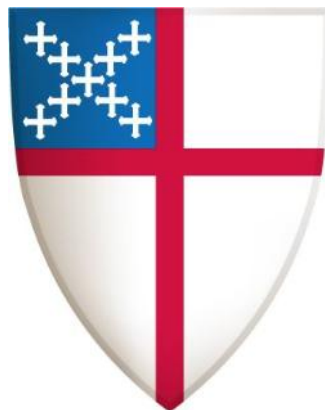
Details of Julian's family, education, or of her life before becoming an anchoress are not known; it is unclear whether her actual name was Julian. Preferring to write anonymously, and seeking isolation from the world, she was nevertheless influential in her lifetime. While her writings were carefully preserved, the [Reformation](#) prevented their publication in print. The *Long Text* was first published in 1670 by the [Benedictine](#) monk [Serenus de Cressy](#), reissued by George Hargreaves Parker in 1843, and published in a modernised version in 1864. Julian's writings emerged from obscurity in 1901 when a manuscript in the [British Museum](#) was transcribed and published with notes by [Grace Warrack](#); many translations have been made since. Julian is today considered to be an important Christian mystic and theologian.

[Continued online](#)

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



## ST. STEPHEN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

**Rector:** Allison Cornell  
Off. Phone: 520-458-4432  
Mobile: 562-743-3784  
[RevAllison@ststephensaz.org](mailto:RevAllison@ststephensaz.org)  
**Parish Administrator**  
Mark Sowards  
Off. Phone 520-458-4432  
Mobile: 408-892-1062  
[mark.sowards@ststephensaz.org](mailto:mark.sowards@ststephensaz.org)  
Office Fax: 520-458-8237  
**Rev. Deacons:**  
Dorothy Gutwein

Hm: 520-515-9183  
[dottie85635@gmail.com](mailto:dottie85635@gmail.com)  
Sherry Simon  
[sherrytsimon@gmail.com](mailto:sherrytsimon@gmail.com)  
(520)-210-2026  
**Church Accompanist :**  
Doreen Oberg  
[doreenoberg@hotmail.com](mailto:doreenoberg@hotmail.com)  
**Vestry Staff**  
**Senior Warden:**  
Jeff Speer  
[jeffrey5454speer@gmail.com](mailto:jeffrey5454speer@gmail.com)  
Cell:(520) 678-5688

Please leave voicemail message  
**Junior wardens:**  
Pete Criscuolo  
[petesacct2014@gmail.com](mailto:petesacct2014@gmail.com)  
Cell: 520-234-7687  
& Timothy Holsonback  
[holsonback@cox.net](mailto:holsonback@cox.net)  
520/459-1937  
**Treasurer:**  
Anne Roth  
Cell:303/917-8151  
[avd.roth@comcast.net](mailto:avd.roth@comcast.net)

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