



SECOND SUNDAY
AFTER PENTECOST
June 14, 2020

St. Stephen's is a Christian community in the making.

At the intersection of what was and what will be, we invite you to gather with us around prayer, food, and the simple conviction that nothing is wasted in God's economy.

All are welcome at St. Stephen's.

Whether you come with great faith or great doubt,
regardless of age, race, gender, sexual orientation or marital status,
whatever your financial status or housing situation –
we hope you can find a home with us
as we explore together what it means to follow Jesus.

Ministry Team

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ST. STEPHEN'S

ANGLICAN CHURCH, MAPLE

Preparation

*Whether you participate in worship in a small group or alone,
know that you are joined together with the whole St. Stephen's community
and the wider church as we offer our prayers and praise to God.*

*Consider setting a candle or two out in the space you're using for worship,
as a reminder of God's presence. Light the candles, and say:*

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God,
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with us all.

Almighty God,
to you all hearts are open,
all desires known,
and from you no secrets are hidden.
Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts
by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit,
that we may perfectly love you,
and worthily magnify your holy name;
through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Seek the Lord

Seek the Lord while he wills to be found;
call upon him when he draws near.
Let the wicked forsake their ways
and the evil ones their thoughts;
And let them turn to the Lord, and he will have compassion,
and to our God, for he will richly pardon.
For my thoughts are not your thoughts,
nor your ways my ways, says the Lord.
For as the heavens are higher than the earth,
so are my ways higher than your ways,
and my thoughts than your thoughts.
For as rain and snow fall from the heavens
and return not again, but water the earth,
Bringing forth life and giving growth,
seed for sowing and bread for eating,
So is my word that goes forth from my mouth;
it will not return to me empty;
But it will accomplish that which I have purposed,
and prosper in that for which I sent it. *(Isaiah 55.6–11)*

Collect of the Day

Almighty God,
without you we are not able to please you.
Mercifully grant that your Holy Spirit
may in all things direct and rule our hearts;
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

Amen.

First Reading: Genesis 18:1-15, 21:1-7

The LORD appeared to Abraham by the oaks of Mamre, as he sat at the entrance of his tent in the heat of the day. He looked up and saw three men standing near him. When he saw them, he ran from the tent entrance to meet them, and bowed down to the ground. He said, “My lord, if I find favor with you, do not pass by your servant. Let a little water be brought, and wash your feet, and rest yourselves under the tree. Let me bring a little bread, that you may refresh yourselves, and after that you may pass on—since you have come to your servant.” So they said, “Do as you have said.” And Abraham hastened into the tent to Sarah, and said, “Make ready quickly three measures of choice flour, knead it, and make cakes.” Abraham ran to the herd, and took a calf, tender and good, and gave it to the servant, who hastened to prepare it. Then he took curds and milk and the calf that he had prepared, and set it before them; and he stood by them under the tree while they ate.

They said to him, “Where is your wife Sarah?” And he said, “There, in the tent.” Then one said, “I will surely return to you in due season, and your wife Sarah shall have a son.” And Sarah was listening at the tent entrance behind him. Now Abraham and Sarah were old, advanced in age; it had ceased to be with Sarah after the manner of women. So Sarah laughed to herself, saying, “After I have grown old, and my husband is old, shall I have pleasure?” The LORD said to Abraham, “Why did Sarah laugh, and say, ‘Shall I indeed bear a child, now that I am old?’ Is anything too wonderful for the LORD? At the set time I will return to you, in due season, and Sarah shall have a son.” But Sarah denied, saying, “I did not laugh”; for she was afraid. He said, “Oh yes, you did laugh.”

The LORD dealt with Sarah as he had said, and the LORD did for Sarah as he had promised. Sarah conceived and bore Abraham a son in his old age, at the time of which God had spoken to him. Abraham gave the name Isaac to his son whom Sarah bore him. And Abraham circumcised his son Isaac when he was eight days old, as God had commanded him. Abraham was a hundred years old when his son Isaac was born to him. Now Sarah said, “God has brought laughter for me; everyone who hears will laugh with me.” And she said, “Who would ever have said to Abraham that Sarah would nurse children? Yet I have borne him a son in his old age.”

Psalm 116:1-2, 12-19

I love the LORD, who has heard my voice,
and listened to my supplication,
**for the LORD has given ear to me
whenever I called.**

How shall I repay the LORD
for all the good things God has done for me?
**I will lift the cup of salvation
and call on the name of the LORD.**

I will fulfill my vows to the LORD
in the presence of all God’s people.
**Precious in your sight, O LORD,
is the death of your servants.**

O LORD, truly I am your servant;
I am your servant, the child of your handmaid; you have freed me from my bonds.
**I will offer you the sacrifice of thanksgiving
and call upon the name of the LORD.**

I will fulfill my vows to the LORD
in the presence of all God’s people,
**in the courts of the LORD’s house,
in the midst of you, O Jerusalem. Hallelujah!**

Second Reading: Romans 5:1-8

Since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have obtained access to this grace in which we stand; and we boast in our hope of sharing the glory of God. And not only that, but we also boast in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and hope does not disappoint us, because God’s love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us.

For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. Indeed, rarely will anyone die for a righteous person—though perhaps for a good person someone might actually dare to die. But God proves his love for us in that while we still were sinners Christ died for us.

Gospel: Matthew 9:35--10:8

Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues, and proclaiming the good news of the kingdom, and curing every disease and every sickness. When he saw the crowds, he had compassion for them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. He said to his disciples, "The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; therefore ask the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest."

Then Jesus summoned his twelve disciples and gave them authority over unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to cure every disease and every sickness. These are the names of the twelve apostles: first, Simon, also known as Peter, and his brother Andrew; James son of Zebedee, and his brother John; ³Philip and Bartholomew; Thomas and Matthew the tax collector; James son of Alphaeus, and Thaddaeus; ⁴Simon the Cananaean, and Judas Iscariot, the one who betrayed him.

These twelve Jesus sent out with the following instructions: "Go nowhere among the Gentiles, and enter no town of the Samaritans, but go rather to the lost sheep of the house of Israel. As you go, proclaim the good news, 'The kingdom of heaven has come near.' Cure the sick, raise the dead, cleanse the lepers, cast out demons. You received without payment; give without payment.

Reflection – Jeff+

*The following reflection can be watched online [by clicking here](#)
or can be read in full below.*

*Please feel free to engage with either or both options,
and know that whatever you choose
will enable you to fully participate in the worship of our community.*

Under different circumstances, I would be wearing green vestments, in a church decorated with green hangings, because green is the colour for ordinary time. We've journeyed through Lent, through Holy Week and the season of Easter, past Ascension and Pentecost, and we've entered the longest season of the church year. Green to symbolize hope and growth and nurturing – a strange mix of the promise of potential and the work we're called to do to get there.

Maybe it's just me, but it's starting to feel like ordinary time.

I've been thinking about the fact that the church actually spends most of the year in-between seasons. Not celebrating grand feasts or holidays, but basking in the continual reality of the resurrection and learning together what it means to follow Jesus day by day.

Our Gospel reading today has Jesus proclaiming the good news through all manner of cities and villages, healing and restoring people and living out the divine compassion he feels. Crowds of people come out to meet him, because they have a sense that they are in need of something that only he can provide. A distinct kind of hope. A particular kind of healing.

The disciples follow Jesus on the way, learning by participating in the journey. Which is how it worked in the first century, if you were the student of a rabbi. You would follow the rabbi and pay attention to everything they did. You would watch and learn and apprentice, so that one day you might be able to do the same thing.

Which is actually remarkable, because it implies that these disciples might actually be able to be like Jesus. And that we might be able to be too.

Normally, a rabbi would only take on the best and brightest to be his students. But these 12 are special only in their strangeness. The list of the names of the 12 is given by Matthew not because of the fame or importance of these people, but so that we might understand how painfully ordinary and mis-matched they are. Blue-collar sons of fishermen. Matthew the tax collector. Judas the betrayer. Ordinary, broken, unremarkable people.

But Jesus not only invites them on the way, he actually sends them out on their own to proclaim the good news, to heal and restore.

These days, it takes multiple degrees, a series of background checks and psychological assessments, and extra on-the-job training before we're willing to trust people enough to send them out on their own to proclaim the gospel.

But here is Jesus, gathering together the least qualified, and sending them out as if it's the most natural thing in the world.

Which, perhaps, it is.

Jesus seems to know that it's not enough to learn about the Christian life. It's not enough to admire Jesus from a safe distance, enjoying basking in the light and peace he brings. That's all well and good, but those things go along with a call to take part in the work of proclaiming and healing and restoring.

Jesus invites us, each one of us, to go forth and proclaim the good news. To bind up the broken hearted. To give love. To share our story, and tell those around us what God has done and is doing in our lives. How our faith sustains us.

And when we feel unprepared, or frightened, or as if we're not good enough, we're invited to remember the 12. The tax collectors and fishermen and sinners, the ones in whom Jesus had faith.

And then we're called to know that Jesus has faith in us too.

Ordinary time is when we learn what it means to live in the light of that faith. To grow in hope, to live our faith, and to have our own call to action nurtured.

And we know that our hope does not disappoint us, because God's love has been poured into our hearts.

Apostles' Creed

**I believe in God,
the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ,
his only Son, our Lord.
He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit
and born of the Virgin Mary.
He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.
He descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again.
He ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again
to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

Prayers of the People

As a community of people made one in Christ, we offer our prayers to God for ourselves, our community, and the world. Feel free to adapt these prayers as you like, and to make use of the spaces indicated to add your own prayers and petitions.

Let us pray together to the Lord, saying, "Lord, hear our prayer."

Lord, hear our prayer.

Loving God, we thank you for your many gifts to us,
for the love which brings us together,
for the earth which provides for our needs,
for the new life you have given us in Jesus Christ,
(for . . .).

Lord, hear our prayer.

We pray to you for our Christian family (especially for . . .)
and for grace to grow in your love.

Lord, hear our prayer.

We pray to you for our world, for all its cares and needs,
and for all who lead us and care for us, (especially . . .)

Lord, hear our prayer.

We pray to you for those in need, for the sick and the lonely,
for the hurt and the frightened, and for those who live without hope (especially . . .).

Lord, hear our prayer.

We pray for those we love who have died, that you will surround them with your care and love
(especially . . .)

Lord, hear our prayer.

We pray for one another, asking you to bless us, our friends, and relatives.
Bless the places where we work, and bless our home and our life together.

Lord, hear our prayer.

Let us now name before God those for whom we offer our personal prayers.

*A period of silence is kept as we offer silent prayer
and listen for the leading of the Spirit.*

Let us remember before God our selfish ways, the things we have done wrong,
the sorrows we have caused, the love we have not shown.

Most merciful God, forgive us our sins against you and against each other.

**Strengthen us to overcome our weaknesses,
that we may live in love as you would have us live,
for the sake of Jesus Christ our Saviour. Amen.**

Lord, you have called us to serve you.

**Grant that we may walk in your presence
and experience the present truth of resurrection:
your love in our hearts, your truth in our minds,
your strength in our wills, until, at the end of our journey,
we know the joy of our homecoming and the welcome of your embrace,
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Lord's Prayer

And now, as our Saviour Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,
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, the power, and the glory,
for ever and ever. Amen.

Blessing

May joy and nothing less find us on our way.
May we be blessed and be a blessing.
And may light guide us, and countless others, all the way home.
Amen.

May we go in peace, have courage, hold on to what is good,
return no one evil for evil, strengthen the faint-hearted,
support the weak, help the suffering, honor everyone, love and serve God,
rejoicing in the power of the Spirit.
Thanks be to God.

MUSIC

Following are several hymns that you may want to sing and/or listen to.
Music and texts, as well as sample YouTube links, are provided.

Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God Almighty



1 Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, Lord God Al - might - y!
2 Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly! All the saints a - dore thee,
3 Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly! Though the dark - ness hide thee,
4 Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly! Lord God Al - might - y!



Ear - ly in the morn - ing our song shall rise to thee.
cast - ing down their gold - en crowns a - round the glass - y sea;
though the eye of sin - ful - ness thy glo - ry may not see,
All thy works shall praise thy name in earth and sky and sea.



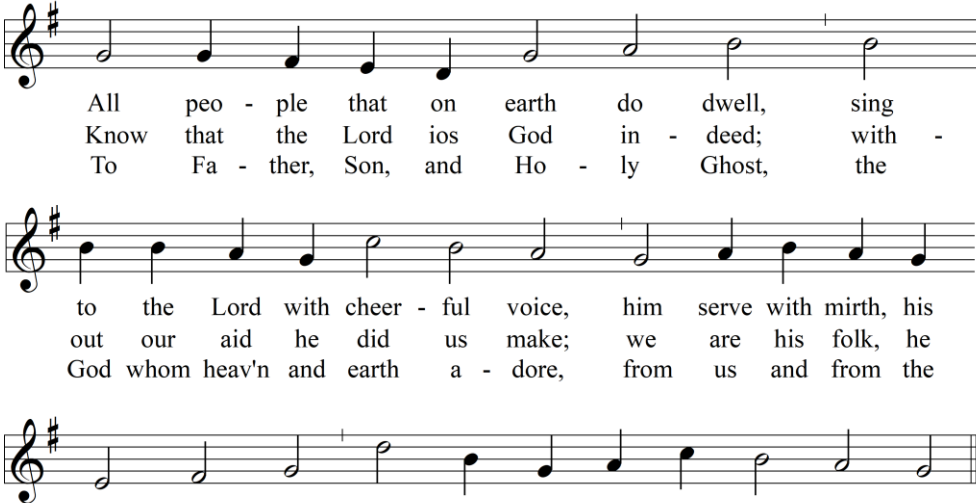
Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, mer - ci - ful and might - y!
cher - u - bim and ser - a - phim fall - ing down be - fore thee,
on - ly thou art ho - ly; there is none be - side thee,
Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, mer - ci - ful and might - y!



God in three per - sons, bless - ed Trin - i - ty!
which wert and art, and ev - er - more shalt be.
per - fect in pow'r, in love and pu - ri - ty.
God in three per - sons, bless - ed Trin - i - ty!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uBAps6KOzNU>

All People That on Earth Do Dwell



All peo - ple that on earth do dwell, sing
Know that the Lord ios God in - deed; with -
To Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost, the

to the Lord with cheer - ful voice, him serve with mirth, his
out our aid he did us make; we are his folk, he
God whom heav'n and earth a - dore, from us and from the

praise forth tell; come ye be - fore him and re - joice..
doth us feed, and for his sheep he doth us take.
an - gel host be praise and glo - ry ev - er - more,

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Mc4gEC2IlnU>

For other hymns, check out:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IGLVPtOYRgM>



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