The Great Vigil of Easter

April 20, 2019
7:00 p.m.

St. Stephen’s Episcopal Church
Middlebury, Vermont

Our purpose: To grow in God’s love and serve Christ in all people
Our mission: To be an inclusive community awake to God in worship, learning and service
The Great Easter Vigil

From darkness to light, from death to life—these are the themes that echo throughout The Great Easter Vigil. We see them in the act of kindling a fire, the lighting the Paschal Candle from which other candles will bring light to the church, and finally when we turn on all the lights in the nave upon hearing the Easter proclamation “Alleluia! The Lord is risen.” To this good news, we respond joyfully, “The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia!”

The readings from scripture—drawn from narratives, psalms, prophets, epistles, and gospel—take us through the story of salvation history. They begin with creation and continue through the flood, Israel’s deliverance at the Red Sea, restoration after exile, and the gathering of all God’s people in anticipation of the final restoration of creation. The reading from Paul’s epistle to the Romans links Jesus’ death and resurrection to the rite of baptism that believers undergo as a sign of our moving from death to life. The gospel recounts the story of Jesus’ resurrection, with all its promise.

After these readings, we renew our baptismal vows and celebrate the Eucharist, both of which draw us into the story of God’s acts of salvation—not only as individuals, but as the body of Christ in the world and the people of God gathered around the Lord’s table.

The Great Easter Vigil is a very ancient order of service; its roots go back to the earliest days of Christian worship. Participating in the service links us to that past. But it also links us to God’s work among us now.

May your keeping watch in this vigil and hearing again the good news of Jesus’ resurrection bring you great joy.

Some Notes on the Service

When the Liturgist brings the Paschal Candle forward at the beginning of the service, he will pause three times to chant “The Light of Christ.” Those of you sitting by the aisles will be invited to light your candles and turn to share the light with others near you.

When we sing the “Gloria” after the reading of the gospel, you are encouraged to ring the bells you may have been given as you entered the church. (Please return them after the service, so that we may use them again!)

During the Liturgy of the Word, we will respond to the readings from scripture by reciting together psalms and canticles. For these you are directed to page numbers in either The Book of Common Prayer or The Hymnal. You will find them in the pew racks in front of you. (The Hymnal is the larger of the two books.) The choir will sing one of the canticles and one of the psalms, but you are welcome to join them.

Following each of the first set of readings, the lector will bid “Let us pray.” We invite you to stand for these collects.
The Service of Light

The congregation assembles in darkness, and the fire is kindled; at sundown, the Liturgist then addresses the people:

Dear friends in Christ: On this most holy night, in which our Lord Jesus passed over from death to life, the Church invites her members, dispersed throughout the world, to gather in vigil and prayer. For this is the Passover of the Lord, in which, by hearing his Word and celebrating his Sacraments, we share in his victory over death.

Liturgist: Let us pray.
O God, through your Son you have bestowed upon your people the brightness of your light: Sanctify this new fire, and grant that in this Paschal feast we may so burn with heavenly desires, that with pure minds we may attain to the festival of everlasting light; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Paschal Candle is then lighted from the newly kindled fire, and the Liturgist, bearing the Candle, leads the procession into the church and to the chancel, pausing three times and singing

Liturgist: People:

The light of Christ. Thanks be to God.

The Paschal Candle is placed in its stand. Then the Cantor, standing near the Candle, sings the Exsultet. The Congregation stands with their candles lighted.

Cantor: Rejoice now, heavenly hosts and choirs of angels, and let your trumpets shout Salvation for the victory of our mighty King.

Rejoice and sing now, all the round earth, bright with a glorious splendor, for darkness has been vanquished by our eternal King.

Rejoice and be glad now, Mother Church, and let your holy courts, in radiant light, resound with the praises of your people.

All you who stand near this marvelous and holy flame, pray with me to God the Almighty for the grace to sing the worthy praise of this great light; through Jesus Christ his Son our Lord, who lives and reigns with him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.
Cantor: The Lord be with you.
People: And also with you.

Cantor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
People: It is right to give God thanks and praise.

It is truly right and good, always and everywhere, with our whole heart and mind and voice, to praise you, the invisible, almighty, and eternal God, and your only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ our Lord; for he is the true Paschal Lamb, who at the feast of the Passover paid for us the debt of Adam's sin, and by his blood delivered your faithful people.

This is the night, when you brought our forebears, the children of Israel, out of bondage in Egypt, and led them through the Red Sea on dry land.

This is the night, when all who believe in Christ are delivered from the gloom of sin, and are restored to grace and holiness of life.

This is the night, when Christ broke the bonds of death and hell, and rose victorious from the grave.

How wonderful and beyond our knowing, O God, is your mercy and loving-kindness to us, that to redeem a slave, you gave a Son.

How holy is this night, when wickedness is put to flight, and sin is washed away. It restores innocence to the fallen, and joy to those who mourn. It casts out pride and hatred, and brings peace and concord.

How blessed is this night, when earth and heaven are joined and man is reconciled to God.

Holy Father, accept our evening sacrifice, the offering of this candle in your honor. May it shine continually to drive away all darkness. May Christ, the Morning Star who knows no setting, find it ever burning—he who gives his light to all creation, and who lives and reigns for ever and ever. Amen.

The Liturgy of the Word

Liturgist: Let us hear the record of God’s saving deeds in history, how God saved the people in ages past; and let us pray that our God will bring each of us to the fullness of redemption.

(Please be seated)

The First Reading: The story of Creation

In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth. And the earth was without form, and void; and darkness was upon the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God moved upon
the face of the waters.
And God said, Let there be light: and there was light. And God saw the light, that it was
good: and God divided the light from the darkness. And God called the light Day, and the
darkness he called Night. And the evening and the morning were the first day.
And God said, Let there be a firmament in the midst of the waters, and let it divide the
waters from the waters. And God made the firmament, and divided the waters which were
under the firmament from the waters which were above the firmament: and it was so. And
God called the firmament Heaven. And the evening and the morning were the second day.
And God said, Let the waters under the heaven be gathered together unto one place, and let
the dry land appear: and it was so. And God called the dry land Earth; and the gathering
together of the waters called he Seas; and God saw that it was good. And God said, Let the
earth bring forth grass, the herb yielding seed, and the fruit tree yielding fruit after his kind,
whose seed is in itself, upon the earth: and it was so. And the earth brought forth grass, and
herb yielding seed after his kind, and the tree yielding fruit, whose seed was in itself, after his
kind: and God saw that it was good. And the evening and the morning were the third day.
And God said, Let there be lights in the firmament of the heaven to divide the day from the
night; and let them be for signs, and for seasons, and for days, and years: And let them be
for lights in the firmament of the heaven to give light upon the earth: and it was so. And
God made two great lights; the greater light to rule the day, and the lesser light to rule the
night: he made the stars also. And God set them in the firmament of the heaven to give light
upon the earth, and to rule over the day and over the night, and to divide the light from the
darkness: and God saw that it was good. And the evening and the morning were the fourth
day.
And God said, Let the waters bring forth abundantly the moving creature that hath life, and
fowl that may fly above the earth in the open firmament of heaven. And God created great
whales, and every living creature that moveth, which the waters brought forth abundantly,
after their kind, and every winged fowl after his kind: and God saw that it was good. And
God blessed them, saying, Be fruitful, and multiply, and fill the waters in the seas, and let
fowl multiply in the earth. And the evening and the morning were the fifth day.
And God said, Let the earth bring forth the living creature after his kind, cattle, and creeping
ting, and beast of the earth after his kind: and it was so. And God made the beast of the
earth after his kind, and cattle after their kind, and every thing that creepeth upon the earth
after his kind: and God saw that it was good. And God said, Let us make man in our image,
after our likeness: and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl
of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth
upon the earth. So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him;
male and female created he them. And God blessed them, and God said unto them, Be
fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth, and subdue it: and have dominion over the
fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over every living thing that moveth upon the
earth. And God said, Behold, I have given you every herb bearing seed, which is upon the
face of all the earth, and every tree, in the which is the fruit of a tree yielding seed; to you it
shall be for meat. And to every beast of the earth, and to every fowl of the air, and to every
thing that creepeth upon the earth, wherein there is life, I have given every green herb for
meat: and it was so. And God saw every thing that he had made, and, behold, it was very
good. And the evening and the morning were the sixth day.
Thus the heavens and the earth were finished, and all the host of them.
And on the seventh day God ended his work which he had made; and he rested on the
seventh day from all his work which he had made.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.
People: Thanks be to God.

Psalm 33: 1-11
Prayer Book page 626

Reader: Let us pray. (silence)

O God, who wonderfully created, and yet more wonderfully restored, the
dignity of human nature: Grant that we may share the divine life of him who
humbled himself to share our humanity, your Son Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

The Second Reading: The Flood From Genesis 7-9

Then the LORD said to Noah, “Go into the ark, you and all your household, for I have seen
that you alone are righteous before me in this generation. Take with you seven pairs of all
clean animals . . . to keep their kind alive on the face of all the earth. For in seven days I will
send rain on the earth for forty days and forty nights; and every living thing that I have made
I will blot out from the face of the ground.” And Noah did all that the LORD had
commanded him.

Noah was six hundred years old when the flood of waters came on the earth. And Noah
with his sons and his wife and his sons’ wives went into the ark to escape the waters of the
flood.

The flood continued forty days on the earth; and the waters increased, and bore up the ark,
and it rose high above the earth . . . And the waters swelled on the earth for one hundred
fifty days.

But God remembered Noah and all the wild animals and all the domestic animals that were
with him in the ark. And God made a wind blow over the earth, and the waters subsided . . .
and the waters gradually receded from the earth. At the end of one hundred fifty days the
waters had abated; and in the seventh month, on the seventeenth day of the month, the ark
came to rest on the mountains of Ararat.

At the end of forty days Noah opened the window of the ark that he had made and sent out
the raven; and it went to and fro until the waters were dried up from the earth. Then he sent
out the dove from him, to see if the waters had subsided from the face of the ground; but
the dove found no place to set its foot, and it returned to him to the ark, for the waters were
still on the face of the whole earth. So he put out his hand and took it and brought it into the ark with him. He waited another seven days, and again he sent out the dove from the ark; and the dove came back to him in the evening, and there in its beak was a freshly plucked olive leaf; so Noah knew that the waters had subsided from the earth. Then he waited another seven days, and sent out the dove; and it did not return to him any more.

Then God said to Noah, “Go out of the ark, you and your wife, and your sons and your sons’ wives with you. Bring out with you every living thing that is with you of all flesh—birds and animals and every creeping thing that creeps on the earth—so that they may abound on the earth, and be fruitful and multiply on the earth.” So Noah went out with his sons and his wife and his sons’ wives. And every animal, every creeping thing, and every bird, everything that moves on the earth, went out of the ark by families.

Then God said to Noah and to his sons with him, “As for me, I am establishing my covenant with you and your descendants after you, and with every living creature that is with you, the birds, the domestic animals, and every animal of the earth with you, as many as came out of the ark. I establish my covenant with you, that never again shall all flesh be cut off by the waters of a flood, and never again shall there be a flood to destroy the earth.” God said, “This is the sign of the covenant that I make between me and you and every living creature that is with you, for all future generations: I have set my bow in the clouds, and it shall be a sign of the covenant between me and the earth.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.
People: Thanks be to God.

Psalm 46

Reader: Let us pray. (silence)

Almighty God, you have placed in the skies the sign of your covenant with all living things: Grant that we, who are saved through water and the Spirit, may worthily offer to you our sacrifice of thanksgiving; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Third Reading: Israel’s deliverance at the Red Sea

Exodus 14: 10-15: 1

As Pharaoh drew near, the Israelites looked back, and there were the Egyptians advancing on them. In great fear the Israelites cried out to the LORD. They said to Moses, “Was it because there were no graves in Egypt that you have taken us away to die in the wilderness? What have you done to us, bringing us out of Egypt? Is this not the very thing we told you in Egypt, “Let us alone and let us serve the Egyptians”? For it would have been better for us to serve the Egyptians than to die in the wilderness.” But Moses said to the people, “Do not be afraid, stand firm, and see the deliverance that the LORD will accomplish for you today; for the Egyptians whom you see today you shall never see again. The LORD will fight for
you, and you have only to keep still.”

Then the LORD said to Moses, “Why do you cry out to me? Tell the Israelites to go forward. But you lift up your staff, and stretch out your hand over the sea and divide it, that the Israelites may go into the sea on dry ground. Then I will harden the hearts of the Egyptians so that they will go in after them; and so I will gain glory for myself over Pharaoh and all his army, his chariots, and his chariot drivers. And the Egyptians shall know that I am the LORD, when I have gained glory for myself over Pharaoh, his chariots, and his chariot drivers.”

The angel of God who was going before the Israelite army moved and went behind them; and the pillar of cloud moved from in front of them and took its place behind them. It came between the army of Egypt and the army of Israel. And so the cloud was there with the darkness, and it lit up the night; one did not come near the other all night.

Then Moses stretched out his hand over the sea. The LORD drove the sea back by a strong east wind all night, and turned the sea into dry land; and the waters were divided. The Israelites went into the sea on dry ground, the waters forming a wall for them on their right and on their left. The Egyptians pursued, and went into the sea after them, all of Pharaoh's horses, chariots, and chariot drivers. At the morning watch the LORD in the pillar of fire and cloud looked down upon the Egyptian army, and threw the Egyptian army into panic. He clogged their chariot wheels so that they turned with difficulty. The Egyptians said, “Let us flee from the Israelites, for the LORD is fighting for them against Egypt.”

Then the LORD said to Moses, "Stretch out your hand over the sea, so that the water may come back upon the Egyptians, upon their chariots and chariot drivers.” So Moses stretched out his hand over the sea, and at dawn the sea returned to its normal depth. As the Egyptians fled before it, the LORD tossed the Egyptians into the sea. The waters returned and covered the chariots and the chariot drivers, the entire army of Pharaoh that had followed them into the sea; not one of them remained. But the Israelites walked on dry ground through the sea, the waters forming a wall for them on their right and on their left.

Thus the LORD saved Israel that day from the Egyptians; and Israel saw the Egyptians dead on the seashore. Israel saw the great work that the LORD did against the Egyptians. So the people feared the LORD and believed in the LORD and in his servant Moses. Then Moses and the Israelites sang this song to the LORD: I will sing to the Lord, for he has triumphed gloriously; horse and rider he has thrown into the sea.

**Reader:** The Word of the Lord.

**People:** Thanks be to God.

**Canticle 8 The Song of Moses**

*Exodus 15: 1-6, 11-13, 17-18*  
*Hymnal S 208*

**(Sung by the Cantor and Choir)**

**Reader:** Let us pray. (silence)

O God, whose wonderful deeds of old shine forth even to our own day, you once delivered by the power of your mighty arm your chosen people from
slavery under Pharaoh, to be a sign for us of the salvation of all nations by the water of Baptism: Grant that all the peoples of the earth may be numbered among the offspring of Abraham, and rejoice in the inheritance of Israel; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Fourth Reading: Salvation offered freely to all

Isaiah 55: 1-11

Ho, everyone who thirsts, come to the waters; and you that have no money, come, buy and eat! Come, buy wine and milk without money and without price. Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread, and your labor for that which does not satisfy? Listen carefully to me, and eat what is good, and delight yourselves in rich food. Incline your ear, and come to me; listen, so that you may live. I will make with you an everlasting covenant, my steadfast, sure love for David. See, I made him a witness to the peoples, a leader and commander for the peoples. See, you shall call nations that you do not know, and nations that do not know you shall run to you, because of the Lord your God, the Holy One of Israel, for he has glorified you.

Seek the Lord while he may be found, call upon him while he is near; let the wicked forsake their way, and the unrighteous their thoughts; let them return to the Lord, that he may have mercy on them, and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon. For my thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are 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 the rain and the snow come down from heaven, and do not return there until they have watered the earth, making it bring forth and sprout, giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater, so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth; it shall not return to me empty, but it shall accomplish that which I purpose, and succeed in the thing for which I sent it.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.
People: Thanks be to God.

Psalm 42: 1-7

Prayer Book page 643

Reader: Let us pray. (silence)

O God, you have created all things by the power of your Word, and you renew the earth by your Spirit: Give now the water of life to those who thirst for you, that they may bring forth abundant fruit in your glorious kingdom; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Fifth Reading: The valley of dry bones

Ezekiel 37: 1-14

The hand of the Lord came upon me, and he brought me out by the spirit of the Lord and set me down in the middle of a valley; it was full of bones. He led me all around them; there were very many lying in the valley, and they were very dry. He said to me, “Mortal, can these bones live?” I answered, “O Lord God, you know.” Then he said to me, “Prophesy to these bones, and say to them: O dry bones, hear the word of the Lord. Thus says the Lord God to
these bones: I will cause breath to enter you, and you shall live. I will lay sinews on you, and will cause flesh to come upon you, and cover you with skin, and put breath in you, and you shall live; and you shall know that I am the Lord.” So I prophesied as I had been commanded; and as I prophesied, suddenly there was a noise, a rattling, and the bones came together, bone to its bone. I looked, and there were sinews on them, and flesh had come upon them, and skin had covered them; but there was no breath in them. Then he said to me, “Prophesy to the breath, prophesy, mortal, and say to the breath: Thus says the Lord God: Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe upon these slain, that they may live.” I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived, and stood on their feet, a vast multitude. Then he said to me, “Mortal, these bones are the whole house of Israel. They say, ‘Our bones are dried up, and our hope is lost; we are cut off completely.’ Therefore prophesy, and say to them, Thus says the Lord God: I am going to open your graves, and bring you up from your graves, O my people; and I will bring you back to the land of Israel. And you shall know that I am the Lord, when I open your graves, and bring you up from your graves, O my people. I will put my spirit within you, and you shall live, and I will place you on your own soil; then you shall know that I, the Lord, have spoken and will act,” says the Lord.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.
People: Thanks be to God.

Psalm 30

Reader: Let us pray. (silence)

Almighty God, by the Passover of your Son you have brought us out of sin into righteousness and out of death into life: Grant to those who are sealed by your Holy Spirit the will and the power to proclaim you to all the world; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Sixth Reading: The gathering of God's people

For I will leave in the midst of you a people humble and lowly. They shall seek refuge in the name of the LORD—the remnant of Israel; they shall do no wrong and utter no lies, nor shall a deceitful tongue be found in their mouths. Then they will pasture and lie down, and no one shall make them afraid. Sing aloud, O daughter Zion; shout, O Israel! Rejoice and exult with all your heart, O daughter Jerusalem! The LORD has taken away the judgments against you, he has turned away your enemies. The king of Israel, the LORD, is in your midst; you shall fear disaster no more.

On that day it shall be said to Jerusalem: Do not fear, O Zion; do not let your hands grow weak. The LORD, your God, is in your midst; a warrior who gives victory; he will rejoice over you with gladness, he will renew you in his love; he will exult over you with loud singing as on a day of festival. I will remove disaster from you, so that you will not bear reproach for it. I will deal with all your oppressors at that time. And I will save the lame
and gather the outcast, and I will change their shame into praise and renown in all the earth. At that time I will bring you home, at the time when I gather you; for I will make you renowned and praised among all the peoples of the earth, when I restore your fortunes before your eyes, says the LORD.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.
People: Thanks be to God.

Psalm 98

(Sung by the Choir)

Reader: Let us pray. (silence)

O God of unchangeable power and eternal light: Look favorably on your whole Church, that wonderful and sacred mystery; by the effectual working of your providence, carry out in tranquility the plan of salvation; let the whole world see and know that things which were cast down are being raised up, and things which had grown old are being made new, and that all things are being brought to their perfection by him through whom all things were made, your Son Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Epistle Romans 6: 3-11

Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? Therefore we have been buried with him by baptism into death, so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life. For if we have been united with him in a death like his we will certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his. We know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body of sin might be destroyed, and we might no longer be enslaved to sin. For whoever has died is freed from sin. But if we have died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. We know that Christ, being raised from the dead, will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him. The death he died, he died to sin, once for all; but the life he lives, he lives to God. So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.
People: Thanks be to God.


People: Glory to you, Lord Christ.

On the first day of the week, at early dawn, the women who had come with Jesus from Galilee came to the tomb, taking the spices that they had prepared. They found the stone
rolled away from the tomb, but when they went in, they did not find the body. While they were perplexed about this, suddenly two men in dazzling clothes stood beside them. The women were terrified and bowed their faces to the ground, but the men said to them, "Why do you look for the living among the dead? He is not here, but has risen. Remember how he told you, while he was still in Galilee, that the Son of Man must be handed over to sinners, and be crucified, and on the third day rise again." Then they remembered his words, and returning from the tomb, they told all this to the eleven and to all the rest. Now it was Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Mary the mother of James, and the other women with them who told this to the apostles. But these words seemed to them an idle tale, and they did not believe them. But Peter got up and ran to the tomb; stooping and looking in, he saw the linen cloths by themselves; then he went home, amazed at what had happened.

_People:_ Praise to you, Lord Christ.

_Liturgist:_ Alleluia. Christ is risen.
_People:_ The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia.

_The Gloria_  
_Hymnal S 280_

_Liturgist:_ The Lord be with you.
_People:_ And also with you.
_Liturgist:_ Let us pray.
O God, who made this day for joy and gladness:
may the risen Lord abide with us this evening,
opening the Scriptures to us and breaking bread in our midst.
Set our hearts afame, and open our eyes,
that we may see in his sufferings all that the prophets foretold,
and recognize him at this table as the Christ,
who has now entered into his glory, and who lives and reigns
with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

_People:_ Amen.

_The Homily_  
_Hymnal 207_

_Hymn_ Jesus Christ is risen today

The candles at the Altar will be lit from the Paschal Candle.
Bells ring during the Alleluias!
The Renewal of Baptismal Vows

Celebrant: Let us pray. (silence)

Through the Paschal mystery, dear friends, we are buried with Christ by Baptism into his death, and raised with him to newness of life. I call upon you, therefore, now that our Lenten observance is ended, to join our baptismal candidate and renew the solemn promises and vows of Holy Baptism, by which we once renounced Satan and all his works, and promised to serve God faithfully in his holy Catholic Church.

Celebrant: Do you believe in God the Father?
People: I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.
Celebrant: Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?
People: 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.

Celebrant: Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?
People: 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.
Celebrant: Will you continue in the apostles' teaching and fellowship, in the breaking of the bread, and in the prayers?
People: I will, with God's help.

Celebrant: Will you persevere in resisting evil, and, whenever you fall into sin, repent and return to the Lord?
People: I will, with God's help.

Celebrant: Will you proclaim by word and example the Good News of God in Christ?
People: I will, with God's help.
Celebrant: Will you seek and serve Christ in all persons, loving your neighbor as yourself?
People: I will, with God's help.

Celebrant: Will you strive for justice and peace among all people, and respect the dignity of every human being?
People: I will, with God's help.

May Almighty God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has given us a new birth by water and the Holy Spirit, and bestowed upon us the forgiveness of sins, keep us in eternal life by his grace, in Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.

The Peace

Celebrant: The Peace of the Lord be always with you.
People: And also with you.

The Holy Communion

Offertory Anthem by Choir
Come, Ye Faithful
R.S. Thatcher

The Great Thanksgiving (Eucharistic Prayer B)

Lift up your Hearts
Hymnal S 120

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.
People: And also with you.
Celebrant: Lift up your hearts.
People: We lift them to the Lord.
Celebrant: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
People: It is right to give God thanks and praise.

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 Paschal 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 for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:
We give thanks to you, O God, for the goodness and love which you have made known to us in creation; in the calling of Israel to be your people; in your Word spoken through the prophets; and above all in the Word made flesh, Jesus, your Son. For in these last days you sent him to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary, to be the Savior and Redeemer of the world. In him, you have delivered us from evil, and made us worthy to stand before you. In him, you have brought us out of error into truth, out of sin into righteousness, out of death into life.

On the night before he died for us, 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, according to his command, O Father,

We remember his death,
We proclaim his resurrection,
We await his coming in glory;

And we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, O Lord of all; presenting to you, from your creation, this bread and this wine.

We pray you, gracious God, to send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Sacrament of the Body of Christ and his Blood of the new Covenant. Unite us to your Son in his sacrifice, that we may be acceptable through him, being sanctified by the Holy Spirit. In the fullness of time, put all things in subjection under your Christ, and bring us to that heavenly country where, with Stephen and all your saints, we may enter the everlasting heritage of your sons and daughters; through Jesus Christ our Lord, the firstborn of all creation, the head of the Church, and the author of our salvation.

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.
The Lord’s Prayer

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

Our Father in heaven,
    hallowed be your Name,
    your kingdom come,
    your will be done,
    on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins,
    as we forgive those who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial,
    and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
    and the glory are yours,
    now and for ever. Amen.

The Breaking of the Bread

A chime will sound at The Breaking of the Bread symbolizing the culmination of the Eucharistic Prayer. Silence follows.

Celebrant: Alleluia, Christ our Passover is Sacrificed for us.
People: Therefore let us keep the feast, Alleluia.

The Communion

You are welcome at this table. To receive gluten free bread or grape juice instead of wine, please inform the server at the time of communion.

Communion Hymn

Now the green blade riseth

Hymnal 204

The Postcommunion Prayer (stand)

Eternal God, heavenly Father, you have graciously accepted us as living members of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ, and you have fed us with spiritual food in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood. Send us now into the world in peace, and grant us strength and courage to love and serve you with gladness and singleness of heart, through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Blessing

Celebrant: May Christ who out of defeat brings new hope and new alternatives, bring you new life. Amen.

Celebrant: May you be a new creation, Christ for those to whom Christ shall send you. Amen.

Celebrant: And the blessing of God Almighty, the ☩ Creator, the Christ, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you for ever. Amen.
Hymn

Come, ye faithful, raise the strain

Dismissal

 Celebrant: Alleluia! Alleluia! Christ is Risen.
 People: The Lord is Risen Indeed, Alleluia! Alleluia!

Organ Postlude

O Filii et Filiae

Healey Willan

Please join us in the Parish Hall for a champagne (and sparkling water/cider) and chocolate reception

 Celebrant: The Reverend Catherine Nichols
 Liturgist & Preacher: The Reverend Larry Yarbrough
 Crucifer & Eucharistic Ministers: John Hammer, Rex Stratton
 Usher: Will Kelley
 Cantor & Choir Director: Susanne Peck
 Organist: George Matthew, Jr.
 Altar Guild: Cathy Smid, Barb Wood, Suzanne Snider, Rex Stratton
 Festive Reception: Beth Stanway, Linda Horn


The flowers are given to the Glory of God in Loving Memory of:

Joan Baker; Maury and Marie; Eleanor and Frank; Steven; C. VanNess Wood; Dorothy Fuller Wood; Jenny Blanche Fuller; Ruth M. Hull; George F. Oettinger; Pardon E. Tillinghast; Ellen C. Tillinghast; Nancy T. Shaw; Bill and Erma Godfrey; Bradford Seabury Littlefield; Joseph Washington; Suzanne des Trois Maisons Stanway; Marshall Hoagland; Chryssi Rathan; Jim Ten Broeck; The Rev. Harry and Jessie Jones; Janet Szymkowicz; Ellen Horn; Frances Hastings Moore; Zulka Cord; Alfred McRae Andersson; Tom Nolan; John S. Ruggiero; James Ward Gilman and Gertrude Olive Ritchie Gilman; Sven Enoch Nelson and Karin Bettina Marie Gustavson Nelson

The flowers are given in Thanksgiving for:

In Joy and Thankfulness for our children and grandchildren- Ed and Mary McGuire

In Thanksgiving for Jacob Auger- Carol Haraden

In Thanksgiving for our Ministry Discernment Team and Interim Ministry Team- Ryan Nevius

To the Glory of God- Holly Stabler and Bob Ruggiero

17
Welcome to St. Stephen's!
It is our honor and pleasure to have you visiting with us today. Your presence enriches our worship. Following the service, please take a moment to sign the guest register next to the front door. After the 10:30 a.m. service there is a coffee hour for all to enjoy a cup of coffee and conversation. Current copies of the *Parishscope*, the parish newsletter, are available for you to take with you.
For additional information, please visit our website at www.ststephensmidd.org.

We welcome children at St. Stephen’s!

- **Child care** is provided in the Ark upstairs from 9:00 a.m. until 11:30 a.m. with one of our wonderful caregivers Suzie Klemmer and Ashley Mayo.

- **Children's “quiet bags”** are available on the hooks at the back of the church.

- **The Chapel** at the back of the church is sound equipped for parents who wish a quieter environment for their children.

All who are seeking a deeper relationship with Christ are invited to share in the communion. At the proper time the ushers will direct you to the altar to receive communion. If you desire to receive a blessing rather than communion simply cross your arms across your chest. To receive gluten free bread or grape juice instead of wine, please inform the server at the time of communion.

If you have any questions, please ask any Vestry member – their nametags are marked.

There is an **elevator** in the reception area opposite the Parish Administrator's Office. Take the door next to the Baptismal Font. A wheelchair and personal amplification devices are available for those who need them. See an usher for assistance. There are restrooms on all three floors.

---

3 Main St., Middlebury VT  Phone: 802.388.7200  Fax: 802.382.8529  
Emergency cell phone: 802.881.5535  
www.ststephensmidd.org  
Parish Office: ststephensmiddlebury@gmail.com  
Parish Office Hours: Monday - Friday 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.  

The Vestry:  
Class of 2019: Mary McGuire, Tom Klemmer, Lonnie Fisher  
Class of 2020: Alice Van Tuyl, Mike Davis, Susan Anderson-Ray  
Class of 2021: David Kenyon, Jim Pugh, Steve Sontum  
Interim Team Leader: The Rev. Carole Wageman revcarolewageman@gmail.com  

Senior Warden: Mary McGuire  
Treasurer: Barbara Stratton  
Clerk: Alice Van Tuyl  
Junior Warden: Tom Klemmer  
Assistant Treasurer: Beth Stanway  
Financial Secretary: Barb Wood
St. Stephen's Episcopal Church

You Are Welcome!

Sunday Services
8:00 AM  Holy Communion
9:00 AM  Adult Education
10:30 AM Holy Communion and Sunday School
~ Childcare from 9:00 AM ~

Mid-week
Monday  11:30 AM  Free Community Lunch
Wednesday  12:00 PM  Holy Communion
Thursday  4:00 PM  Silent Meditation

Growing in God's Love, Serving Christ in All People

3 Main Street on the Green  •  Middlebury, Vermont 05753
802.388.7200  •  www.ststephensmidd.org  •  ststephensmiddlebury@gmail.com