The Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost

September 22, 2019
10:30 a.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
10:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist: Rite II

Preludes

*Prelude on a Latvian Hymn*

*Searle Wright*

*Pastorale*

*Jazep Vitols*

**The Word of God**

Hymn

*Praise to the Lord*

*Hymnal 390*

**The Acclamation**

*Celebrant:* Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

*People:* And blessed be God’s kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.

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 your holy Name; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

**Song of Praise**

*Gloria in excelsis*

*Hymnal S 280*
The Collect of the Day

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.
People: And also with you.
Celebrant: Let us pray.

First Lesson Amos 8:4-7

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

Silence

Psalm Psalm 113

Silence

Second Lesson 1 Timothy 2:1-7

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

Hymn God himself is with us Hymnal 475
The Gospel  

*Gospeller:* The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.  
*People:* Glory to you, Lord Christ.  

*Gospeller:* The Gospel of the Lord.  
*People:* Praise to you, Lord Christ.  

The Sermon  

Silence  

The Nicene Creed  

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.  

The Prayers of the People  

*(stand or kneel)*  

*Celebrant:* Let us bring our thanksgivings, intercessions, and concerns before God who hears us when we pray.
Leader: Beloved God, we thank you for giving us power through your Spirit to reveal your life to the world: strengthen, bless, and guide us to make you known by word and example. We especially thank you for the leadership of Michael, our Presiding Bishop, Tom, our Bishop, and Shannon, our Bishop-elect; for our Interim Ministry Team; for Calvary Church in Underhill, Vermont, and the Anglican Church of Tanzania; and for the consecration of the Eleventh Bishop of Vermont, Saturday, September 28th.

We especially pray for all members of the Ministry Discernment Team. Guide them in their ongoing work. Grant us all patience and open hearts as they discern with care and faithfulness the future leadership needs of St. Stephen’s. Silence

We are your Church, O God. 
Guide us with your grace.

We thank you for your creation, and pray for the earth you have given us to cherish and protect; nourish in us your love for all you have made. We especially pray for those living in the uncertainty of war, violence, and terrorism; for those left homeless or unemployed due to extreme weather patterns of climate change; and those whose troubles are known to you alone. Silence

We are your stewards, O God.
Guide us with your grace.

Guide and bless us in our work and in our play, and shape the patterns of our political and economic life, that all people may share in the fulfillment of your creative work. May your yearning for mercy, compassion, and justice speak to our President, his administration, Congress, our Governor, State Legislature and all others who hold authority and administer justice. Embolden us to speak truth to power. Silence

We are your servants, O God.
Guide us with your grace.

Awaken our hearts to your presence in all peoples; in those we love easily and those with whom we struggle, in those different from us and those familiar to us. May we find the grace to forgive those who have hurt us and to seek forgiveness from those we have wounded. Silence

We are made in your image, O God.
Guide us with your grace.
We pray for those whom we name now whether silently or aloud (Silence) and also for those named in our parish (Jeff, Sarah, Don, Dana, Judy, Bob, Lorraine, Isaac, Jane, Philip, Tom, Judy, Sabrina, Lou, Anne, Laura, Keung, Ella, Harry, Ceil, Callie, Elizabeth, Parker, Dorrie, Megan).

Silence

You are the life within us, O God.

Guide us with your grace.

We thank you for the gift of life, with all its blessings and sorrows. Shield the joyous and comfort and strengthen those in any need or trouble, especially those who have no one to pray for them. Bless those who will be born today and those who will die, that joining with the company of all the saints we may rejoice in one unending song of praise.

Silence

In you alone we have eternal life, O God.

Guide us with your grace.

Celebrant: We offer these our prayers and thanksgivings to you, O God, the source of all that is true and holy, now and forever. Amen.

Confession of Sin

Celebrant: Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

Silence

People: God of all mercy,
we confess that we have sinned against you,
opposing your will in our lives.
We have denied your goodness in each other,
in ourselves, and in the world you have created.
We repent of the evil that enslaves us,
the evil we have done,
and the evil done on our behalf.
Forgive, restore, and strengthen us
through our Savior Jesus Christ,
that we may abide in your love
and serve only your will. Amen.

Celebrant: Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through the grace of Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. Amen.
Blessing of Mini Prayer Shawls

Today we will bless an offering of pocket prayer shawls that will be placed in baskets on two windowsills at the back of the church. This unique ministry is an extension of the Pastoral Care Lay Team developed by Carol Milkuhn and fellow knitters.

People often need comfort but find asking for comfort difficult. Mini prayer shawls are, as the name implies, small enough to fit into a pocket or a purse so that anyone can reach for this knitted bit of yarn and experience the comfort of a handmade item. Also the prayer attached to each shawl again reassures, reinforcing the truth that someone cares.

So, as you exit church this morning, feel free to slip a mini prayer shawl in your purse or pocket, taking some of the warmth and comfort of St. Stephens with you for the week. It is yours to keep or pass on to someone else in need.

The Peace  (stand)

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

The Holy Communion

Offertory Anthem

Offertory

Celebrant: All things come from you, O Lord,
People: And of your own have we given you.

The Great Thanksgiving

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 our thanks and praise.

All thanks and praise are yours at all times and in all places, our true and loving God; through Jesus Christ, your eternal Word, the Wisdom from on high by whom you created all things.
You laid the foundations of the world and enclosed the sea when it burst out from the womb; you brought forth all creatures of the earth and gave breath to humankind. Wondrous are you, Holy One of Blessing, all you create is a sign of hope for our journey; And so as the morning stars sing your praises we join the heavenly beings and all creation as we shout with joy:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord**

Sanctus
Celebrant:
Glory and honor are yours, Creator of all: your Word has never been silent; you called a
people to yourself, as a light to the nations, you delivered them from bondage and led them
to a land of promise. Of your grace, you gave Jesus to be human, to share our life, to
proclaim the coming of your holy reign and give himself for us, a fragrant offering.

Through Jesus Christ our Redeemer, you have freed us from sin, brought us into your life,
reconciled us to you, and restored us to the glory you intend for us.

We thank you that on the night before he died for us Jesus took bread, and when he had
given thanks to you, he broke it, gave it to his friends and said: “Take, eat, this is my Body,
broken for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.”

After supper Jesus took the cup of wine, said the blessing, gave it to his friends and said:
“Drink this, all of you: this cup is the new Covenant in my Blood, poured out for you and
for all for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.”

And so, remembering all that was done for us: the cross, the tomb, the resurrection and
ascension, longing for Christ’s coming in glory, and presenting to you these gifts your earth
has formed and human hands have made, we acclaim you, O Christ:

People:  Dying, you destroyed our death.
Rising, you restored our life.
Christ Jesus, come in glory!

The Celebrant continues:

Send your Holy Spirit upon us and upon these gifts of bread and wine that they may be to us
the Body and Blood of your Christ. Grant that we, burning with your Spirit’s power, may be
a people of hope, justice and love.

Giver of Life, draw us together in the Body of Christ, and in the fullness of time gather us
with the blessed Virgin Mary, blessed Stephen, and all your people into the joy of our true
eternal home.

Through Christ and with Christ and in Christ, by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit,
we worship you our God and Creator in voices of unending praise.

People:  Blessed are you now and for ever. AMEN.
The Lord’s Prayer

As our Savior Christ has taught us, we now pray,

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 forever. Amen.

The Breaking of the Bread

Silence follows.

Celebrant: We are one bread, one body.
People: We will love one another as Christ loves us.

Anthem  Agnus Dei

Ministration of Communion

Celebrant: The Gifts of God for the People of God.

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.

Healing Prayer

Those who wish to have healing prayers are invited to join one of our priests in the Chapel after receiving communion.
Communion Hymn

There is a balm in Gilead

Hymnal 676

The Postcommunion Prayer (stand)

Celebrant: Let us pray.

People: God of abundance, you have fed us with the bread of life and cup of salvation; you have united us with Christ and one another; and you have made us one with all your people in heaven and on earth. Now send us forth a people forgiven, healed, renewed; that we may proclaim your love to the world and continue in the risen life of Christ our Savior. Amen.

The Blessing

Celebrant: May Christ’s holy, healing, enabling Spirit be with you every step of the way and be your guide as your road changes and turns. May the blessing of God our Creator, Redeemer, and Giver of life be with you always.

People: Amen.

Announcements

Recessional Hymn

Be thou my vision

Hymnal 488

Dismissal

Celebrant: Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

People: "Christ has no body now but ours.
No hands, no feet on earth but ours,
Ours are the eyes through which he looks compassion on this world.
Christ has no body now on earth but ours."

~Theresa of Avila~

Thanks be to God.

Postlude

King of Kings

Ralph Simpson

Celebrant: The Reverend Larry Yarbrough
Preacher: The Reverend Catherine Nichols
Ushers: Steve Sontum, Cathy and Emily Walsh
Crucifer & Eucharistic Ministers: Meg Fitch, Hannah Resnick
Lectors: Joe McVeigh, Chree Perkins   Intercessor: Alice Van Tuyl
Altar Guild: Rex Stratton, Suzanne Snider   Coffee Hour: John Hammer, Marjorie Lamberti
Music Director: Susanne Peck   Organist: George Matthew, Jr.
Music Notes:  Searle Wright (1918 - 2004) grew up in Binghamton, NY, studied at Columbia, NYC with T. Tertius Noble and Joseph Bonnet and later was Columbia University organist for many years.  Jazep Vitols (1863 - 1948) was born in Valmiera, Latvia, studied in St. Petersburg with Rimsky Korsakov and later taught there.  Prokofiev and Stravinsky were among his pupils. From 1919 to 1944, he was director of the Riga Conservatory.  Ralph Simpson b. 1933 in Birmingham, Alabama, received his PhD from Michigan State and was head of the Music Dept. at Tennessee State.

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. by our wonderful caregiver 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.

-Whenever a prayer or response is in bold you are encouraged to read this aloud.
-This service uses hymnals, which are the large red books in the pew racks or on the pew itself.
-In the Episcopal Church we commonly stand for prayers and hymns; you may sit if you prefer.
-There is an elevator in the reception area opposite the Parish Administrator’s Office. Take the door next to the Baptismal Font.
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-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.