The Fifth Sunday in Lent
“to commend the faith that is in us”

April 7, 2019
8:00 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
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.

Whenever a prayer or response is in **bold** you are encouraged to read this aloud.

In the Episcopal Church we commonly stand for prayers or hymns- you may sit if you prefer.
I lift up my eyes to the hills; *  
from where is my help to come?  
My help comes from the LORD, *  
the maker of heaven and earth.  
He will not let your foot be moved *  
and he who watches over you will not fall asleep.  
Behold, he who keeps watch over Israel *  
shall neither slumber nor sleep;  
The LORD himself watches over you; *  
the LORD is your shade at your right hand,  
So that the sun shall not strike you by day, *  
nor the moon by night.  
The LORD shall preserve you from all evil; *  
it is he who shall keep you safe.  
The LORD shall watch over your going out and  
your coming in, *  
from this time forth for evermore.

The Penitential Order

Celebrant: Bless the Lord who forgiveth all our sins.  
People: His mercy endureth for ever.

Celebrant: Hear what our Lord Jesus Christ saith:

Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like unto it: Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself. On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets.  
Matthew 22: 37-40

If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us; but if we confess our sins, God is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. 1 John 1: 8, 9
Celebrant: Let us humbly confess our sins unto Almighty God.

People: Almighty and most merciful Father,
we have erred and strayed from thy ways like lost sheep,
we have followed too much the devices and desires of our own hearts,
we have offended against thy holy laws,
we have left undone those things which we ought to have done,
and we have done those things which we ought not to have done.
But thou, O Lord, have mercy upon us,
spare thou those who confess their faults,
restore thou those who are penitent,
according to thy promises declared unto mankind
in Christ Jesus our Lord;
and grant, O most merciful Father, for his sake,
that we may hereafter live a godly, righteous, and sober life,
to the glory of thy holy Name. Amen.

Celebrant: The Almighty and merciful Lord grant you absolution and remission of all your sins, true repentance, amendment of life, and the grace and consolation of his Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.

Celebrant: Lord have mercy upon us.

People: Christ have mercy upon us.

Celebrant: Lord have mercy upon us.

The Collect

O Almighty God, who alone canst order the unruly wills and affections of sinful men: Grant unto thy people that they may love the thing which thou commandest, and desire that which thou dost promise; that so, among the sundry and manifold changes of the world, our hearts may surely there be fixed where true joys are to be found; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

The Word of God

First Lesson Isaiah 43: 16-21

Thus says the LORD, who makes a way in the sea, a path in the mighty waters, who brings out chariot and horse, army and warrior; they lie down, they cannot rise, they are extinguished, quenched like a wick: Do not remember the former things,
or consider the things of old. I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert. The wild animals will honour me, the jackals and the ostriches; for I give water in the wilderness, rivers in the desert, to give drink to my chosen people, the people whom I formed for myself so that they might declare my praise.

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

(silence)

Psalm Psalm 126

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

Second Lesson Philippians 3: 4b-14

If anyone else has reason to be confident in the flesh, I have more: circumcised on the eighth day, a member of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew born of Hebrews; as to the law, a Pharisee; as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to righteousness under the law, blameless.
Yet whatever gains I had, these I have come to regard as loss because of Christ. More than that, I regard everything as loss because of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things, and I regard them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but one that comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God based on faith. I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the sharing of his sufferings by becoming like him in his death, if somehow I may attain the resurrection from the dead.

Not that I have already obtained this or have already reached the goal; but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own. Beloved, I do not consider that I have made it my own; but this one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal for the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus.

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

The Gospel  
*John 12: 1-8*

Celebrant: The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.
People: Glory be to thee, O Lord.

Six days before the Passover Jesus came to Bethany, the home of Lazarus, whom he had raised from the dead. There they gave a dinner for him. Martha served, and Lazarus was one of those at the table with him. Mary took a pound of costly perfume made of pure nard, anointed Jesus' feet, and wiped them with her hair. The house was filled with the fragrance of the perfume. But Judas Iscariot, one of his disciples (the one who was about to betray him), said, "Why was this perfume not sold for three hundred denarii and the money given to the poor?" (He said this not because he cared about the poor, but because he was a thief; he kept the common purse and used to steal what was put into it.) Jesus said, "Leave her alone. She bought it so that she might keep it for the day of my burial. You always have the poor with you, but you do not always have me."

People: Praise be to thee, O Christ.

The Homily

*(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.
**Prayers of the People**

*Leader:* As God's new people, formed in Christ Jesus, let us join in prayer to God who makes all things new, saying: **O God our Savior, hear our prayer.**

Draw your church more deeply into the reality of Christ's sufferings, so that everyone whom you have called in him may show forth the power of his resurrection. **O God our Savior, hear our prayer.**

Renew the spirit of hope in every human society and nation. Invigorate us, and sustain our courage boldly forward to the future you promise. **O God our Savior, hear our prayer.**

Show your mercy to those who are held back by fear of the other, racism, addiction, poverty, and free them to receive your word of life. **O God our Savior, hear our prayer.**

Rescue from fear those who are deprived of their human needs or their human rights. Give them their share of the dignity you confer on all your children. **O God our Savior, hear our prayer.**

Grant to this assembly a heart open to your word, that we may embrace your promise, heed your commands, and declare your praise. **O God our Savior, hear our prayer.**

Keep those who are suffering in body, mind, or spirit in your loving care. May your healing touch be felt by any in need, especially (Jeff, Sarah, Vinny, Don, Keung, Mike, Roger, Mary, Sarah, Lia, Stefanie, Stacey, Brooke, Tom, Carol, Sarah, Merritt, Bob, Dana, Judy, John, Bob, Cathy, Lorraine, Lou, Isaac). **O God our Savior, hear our prayer.**

For those who have departed, especially those we name either silently or aloud ____________, let us pray to the Lord. **O God our Savior, hear our prayer.**

*Celebrant:* God our Savior and Redeemer, you are constantly at work, bringing forth new things in your creation. Hear the prayers we make to you, and continue to perform ever greater wonders for the entire family of humankind, through your Son, Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

**The Peace**

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

*People:* And with thy spirit.
The loose plate offering today is designated for the Bishop’s Discretionary Fund.

The Celebration of the Holy Eucharist

At the Offertory

Celebrant: All things come of thee O Lord,
People: And of thine own have we given thee.

The Great Thanksgiving (Eucharistic Prayer II)  
Prayer Book p. 340

The Lord’s Prayer  
Prayer Book p. 336

The Fraction

Celebrant: Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;
People: Therefore let us keep the feast.

People: We do not presume to come to this thy Table, O merciful Lord, trusting in our own righteousness, but in thy manifold and great mercies. We are not worthy so much as to gather up the crumbs under thy Table. But thou art the same Lord whose property is always to have mercy. Grant us therefore, gracious Lord, so to eat the flesh of thy dear Son Jesus Christ, and to drink his blood, that we may evermore dwell in him, and he in us. Amen.

The Invitation

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

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.

(silence)
The Postcommunion Prayer

*People:* Almighty and everliving God, we most heartily thank thee for that thou dost feed us, in these holy mysteries, with the spiritual food of the most precious Body and Blood of thy Son our Savior Jesus Christ; and dost assure us thereby of thy favor and goodness towards us; and that we are very members incorporate in the mystical body of thy Son, the blessed company of all faithful people; and are also heirs, through hope, of thy everlasting kingdom. And we humbly beseech thee, O heavenly Father, so to assist us with thy grace, that we may continue in that holy fellowship, and do all such good works as thou hast prepared for us to walk in; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with thee and the Holy Ghost, be all honor and glory, world without end. Amen.

The Benediction

*Celebrant:* Look down in mercy, Lord, on your people who kneel before you; and grant that those whom you have nourished by your Word and Sacraments may bring forth fruit worthy of repentance; through Christ our Lord.

*People:* Amen.

Announcements

The Dismissal

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

*People:* Thanks be to God.

*The altar arrangements are given by Eric and Kitty Davis in thanksgiving for the ministries of Bishop Tom and Ann Ely*
Celebrant & Preacher: The Rt. Reverend Thomas C. Ely
Interim Ministry Team: The Reverends Carole Wageman (Team Leader),
Diane Nancekivell, Catherine Nichols, and Larry Yarbrough
Lector & Intercessor: Beth Stanway
Eucharistic Minister: Nance Hardwick

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Parish Office Hours: Monday - Friday  10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.
Interim Ministry Team: The Reverend Carole Wageman (Team Leader), Senior Warden Mary
McGuire, The Very Reverend Diane Nancekivell, The Reverend Catherine Nichols, and The
Reverend Larry Yarbrough.

The Vestry:
Class of 2019: Mary McGuire, Tom Klemmer, Lonni 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  Junior Warden: Tom Klemmer
Treasurer: Barbara Stratton  Assistant Treasurer: Beth Stanway
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Organist: George Matthew, Jr.  gmatthew@middlebury.edu
Facility Manager: Peter Dempewolff  sexton.st.stephens@gmail.com
St. Stephen's Episcopal Church presents its 8th Annual Lenten Recital Series

ALL RECITALS ARE ON THURSDAYS, 12:15-12:45 P.M., AND ARE FREE TO ATTEND. YOU ARE WELCOME TO BRING A LUNCH. LIGHT REFRESHMENTS PROVIDED.

March 7
George Matthew Jr. St. Stephen’s organist in a program of Scandinavian music

March 14
The Middlebury Mountain Ayres, Middlebury College’s Renaissance a cappella group

March 21
Organ recital by Vaughn Watson, Dean of the Vermont Chapter of the American Guild of Organists

March 28
All Bach program by Emily Sunderman, violinist and George Matthew Jr., organist

April 4
Organ recital by Fred DeHaven, retired Choirmaster and organist of Christ Church in Grosse Point, Michigan and now St. Stephen’s member

April 11
The Addison String Quartet Featring Carol Harden, Emily Sunderman, Joy Pile and Tom Dunne

April 18
Orgelgebet (organ prayers) Eighth annual presentation of the events of Holy Week, as interpreted by organ composers from the Renaissance to the present