The Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost

October 7, 2018

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 noon with our wonderful caregiver Suzie Klemmer.
- **Children ages 4 - 10** are welcome to participate in Godly Play upstairs during the 10:30 a.m. service. Godly Play is a Montessori-inspired Christian formation program that teaches children about the mystery of God through storytelling. Children join their parents in church during The Peace. Our Godly Play teachers are Beth Davis and Barb Wood.
- **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 please inform the server at the time of communion. To receive grape juice instead of wine please go to the baptism side of the altar rail (right). There, 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.

If you have pastoral care needs, contact Jessica Hoagland (388-9012, hoagland.j@comcast.net), pastoral lay ministry coordinator; Mary McGuire (802-598-1895 or 388-6740, mary.c.mcguire10@gmail.com), Senior Warden; or Annemarie Deering in the office (388-7200, ststephensmiddlebury@gmail.com).
8:00 a.m.       Holy Eucharist       Rite I

The Word of God

The Acclamation

Celebrant:    Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
People:       And blessed be his kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.

Almighty God, unto whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of thy Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love thee, and worthily magnify thy holy Name; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Gloria

Glory be to God on high, and on earth peace, good will towards men.
We praise thee, we bless thee, we worship thee, we glorify thee,
we give thanks to thee for thy great glory,
O Lord God, heavenly King, God the Father Almighty.
O Lord, the only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ;
O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,
that takest away the sins of the world, have mercy upon us.
Thou that takest away the sins of the world, receive our prayer.
Thou that sittest at the right hand of God the Father, have mercy upon us.
For thou only art holy; thou only art the Lord;
thou only, O Christ, with the Holy Ghost,
art most high in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

The Collect of the Day

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

Almighty and everlasting God, who art always more ready to hear than we to pray, and art wont to give more than either we desire or deserve: Pour down upon us the abundance of thy mercy, forgiving us those things whereof our conscience is afraid, and giving us those good things which we are not worthy to ask, but through the merits and mediation of Jesus Christ thy Son our Lord; who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.
First Lesson  
*Genesis 2: 18-24*

The LORD God said, “It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a helper as his partner.” So out of the ground the LORD God formed every animal of the field and every bird of the air, and brought them to the man to see what he would call them; and whatever the man called every living creature, that was its name. The man gave names to all cattle, and to the birds of the air, and to every animal of the field; but for the man there was not found a helper as his partner. So the LORD God caused a deep sleep to fall upon the man, and he slept; then he took one of his ribs and closed up its place with flesh. And the rib that the LORD God had taken from the man he made into a woman and brought her to the man. Then the man said,

“This at last is bone of my bones  
and flesh of my flesh;  
this one shall be called Woman,  
for out of Man this one was taken.”

Therefore a man leaves his father and his mother and clings to his wife, and they become one flesh.

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

Psalm  
*Psalm 8*

O LORD our Governor, * 
how exalted is your Name in all the world!  
Out of the mouths of infants and children *  
your majesty is praised above the heavens.  
You have set up a stronghold against your adversaries, *  
to quell the enemy and the avenger.  
When I consider your heavens, the work of your fingers, *  
the moon and the stars you have set in their courses,  
What is man that you should be mindful of him? *  
the son of man that you should seek him out?  
You have made him but little lower than the angels; *  
you adorn him with glory and honor;
You give him mastery over the works of your hands; *
you put all things under his feet:
All sheep and oxen, *
even the wild beasts of the field,
The birds of the air, the fish of the sea, *
and whatsoever walks in the paths of the sea.
O LORD our Governor, *
how exalted is your Name in all the world!

Second Lesson  
*Hebrews 1: 1-4; 2: 5-12*

Long ago God spoke to our ancestors in many and various ways by the prophets, but in these last days he has spoken to us by a Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, through whom he also created the worlds. He is the reflection of God’s glory and the exact imprint of God’s very being, and he sustains all things by his powerful word. When he had made purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, having become as much superior to angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs.

Now God did not subject the coming world, about which we are speaking, to angels. But someone has testified somewhere,

“What are human beings that you are mindful of them, or mortals, that you care for them?
You have made them for a little while lower than the angels; you have crowned them with glory and honor, subjecting all things under their feet.”

Now in subjecting all things to them, God left nothing outside their control. As it is, we do not yet see everything in subjection to them, but we do see Jesus, who for a little while was made lower than the angels, now crowned with glory and honor because of the suffering of death, so that by the grace of God he might taste death for everyone.

It was fitting that God, for whom and through whom all things exist, in bringing many children to glory, should make the pioneer of their salvation perfect through sufferings. For the one who sanctifies and those who are sanctified all have one Father. For this reason Jesus is not ashamed to call them brothers and sisters, saying,
“I will proclaim your name to my brothers and sisters, 
in the midst of the congregation I will praise you.”

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

The Gospel

Mark 10: 2-16

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

Some Pharisees came, and to test Jesus they asked, “Is it lawful for a man to divorce his wife?” He answered them, “What did Moses command you?” They said, “Moses allowed a man to write a certificate of dismissal and to divorce her.” But Jesus said to them, “Because of your hardness of heart he wrote this commandment for you. But from the beginning of creation, ‘God made them male and female.’ ‘For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh.’ So they are no longer two, but one flesh. Therefore what God has joined together, let no one separate.”

Then in the house the disciples asked him again about this matter. He said to them, “Whoever divorces his wife and marries another commits adultery against her; and if she divorces her husband and marries another, she commits adultery.”

People were bringing little children to him in order that he might touch them; and the disciples spoke sternly to them. But when Jesus saw this, he was indignant and said to them, “Let the little children come to me; do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of God belongs. Truly I tell you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God as a little child will never enter it.” And he took them up in his arms, laid his hands on them, and blessed them.

People: Praise be to thee, O Christ.

The Sermon

The Nicene Creed (stand) 
Prayer book p. 326

The Prayers of the People (stand or kneel) 
Prayer book p. 328
Confession of Sin

Prayer book p. 330

The Peace  (stand)

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

Our loose plate offering today is designated for the Discretionary Fund.

The Holy Communion

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 I)     Prayer Book p. 333

The Lord’s Prayer            Prayer Book p. 336

The Breaking of the Bread

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

The Invitation

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

The Communion

To receive gluten free bread please inform the server at the time of communion. To receive grape juice instead of wine please go to the baptism side of the altar rail (right). There, inform the server at the time of communion.

The Postcommunion Prayer  (stand)

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.

Announcements

The Blessing

Celebrant: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion and fellowship of the Holy Spirit be a blessing upon you, now and forever.

People: Amen.

Dismissal

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

People: Thanks be to God.

Celebrant & Preacher: The Reverend Diane Nancekivell
Lector: Paul Nelson
Intercessor: John-Eric Robinson
Eucharistic Minister: Dave Kenyon

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Parish Office: ststephensmiddlebury@gmail.com
Parish Office Hours: Monday - Friday  10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.
Rector: The Reverend Susan E. McGarry, on sabbatical
Assisting Clergy: The Reverend Larry Yarborough