

The Fourth Sunday After Pentecost

June 16, 2024

St. Stephen's Episcopal Church, Longview, WA



*We as people of faith who are called to care for this creation **want to respectfully acknowledge the Cowlitz and Chinook People**, who have stewarded this land throughout the generations. We begin this effort to acknowledge what has been buried by honoring the truth. We are standing on the ancestral lands of the Cowlitz and Chinook People. We pay respects to their elders past and present. Please take a moment to consider the many legacies of violence, displacement, migration, and settlement that bring us together here today. And please join us in uncovering such truths.*



St. Stephen's is a reconciling, affirming, and inclusive Christian community striving through worship, love and service to welcome all people just as God created you. No matter where you are on your journey of faith, and whether you are single, married, divorced, separated, or partnered, our welcome knows no boundaries of age, race, ethnicity, culture, political affiliation, gender, sexual orientation, economic condition, physical or mental ability. We believe that God delights in the diversity of creation and so do we!



Worship Leaders June 16, 2024

| | |
|-----------------|-------------------------------------|
| Presider | The Rev. Kendall Hayes |
| Musician | Riki Davis |
| Acolyte | Miles Henricksen, Esther Henricksen |
| Altar Guild | Gretchen Niemi, Heather Niemi |
| Reader | Allison Long, Lauren Henricksen |
| Chalice Bearer | |
| Usher | Lloyd Solon |
| Greeter | Wes Henricksen, Lauren Henricksen |
| Verger | Mary Hoover |
| Vestry Presence | Allison Long, Heather Niemi |
| Coffee Hour | |



ON SABBATICAL: Our Rector, Fr. Nic Mather and his family (wife Krista, children Charlee (7), Ella (5.5), and Seth (1.5)), are currently on sabbatical this summer. The sabbatical is a special time set aside for personal rest and renewal, and comes at the end of his 6th year as the Rector of our parish. Fr. Nic and family are spending the majority of the sabbatical in Eastern Washington where both he and Krista grew up, and Fr. Nic will also be spending a week in Maryland, receiving further training to teach in the College for Congregational Development, and two weeks in August on a pilgrimage visiting the holy sites of the Anglican tradition in the United Kingdom.

If you are new to St. Stephen's, Fr. Nic wants to extend a warm welcome to you! And, he'd be excited to return to a stack of contact information to connect with new faces who have been exploring our community during this time. So, please leave your name and phone and email, and he will be happy to reach out to you when he returns!

Connect with St. Stephen's!

Please leave your name and email/phone number and a member of St. Stephen's will connect with you this week with an invitation to enjoy a cup of coffee on us!

Your Name: _____

Your Phone Number: _____

Your Email: _____



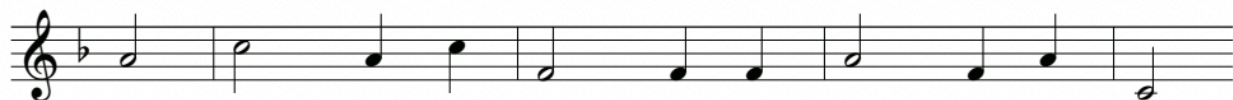
How Firm a Foundation



1. How firm a foun - da - tion, you saints of the Lord,
2. "Fear not, I am with you, O be not dis-mayed,
3. "When through the deep wa - ters I call you to go,
4. "The soul that on Je - sus still leans for re - pose,



Is laid for your faith in Christ Je - sus, the Word!
For I am your God, and will still give you aid;
The riv - ers of woe shall not you o - ver - flow;
I will not, I will not de - sert to its foes;



What more can God say than to you has been said,
I'll strength - en you, help you, and cause you to stand,
For I will be with you, your trou - bles to bless,
That soul, though all hell should en - deav - or to shake,



To you who for ref - uge to Je - sus have fled?
Up - held by my right - eous, om - nip - o - tent hand.
And sanc - ti - fy to you your deep - est dis - tress.
I'll nev - er, no nev - er, no nev - er for - sake!"

Text: 2 Peter 1:4; "K" in John Rippon's *A Selection of Hymns*, 1787, alt.
Tune: FOUNDATION, 11 11 11 11; Funk's *Compilation of Genuine Church Music*, 1832; harm. by Richard Proulx, 1937-2010

To Make Your Pledge or Leave An Offering Online visit sslv.org/give

(Please stand as able)

Blessed be the one, holy, and living God.

Glory to God for ever and ever.

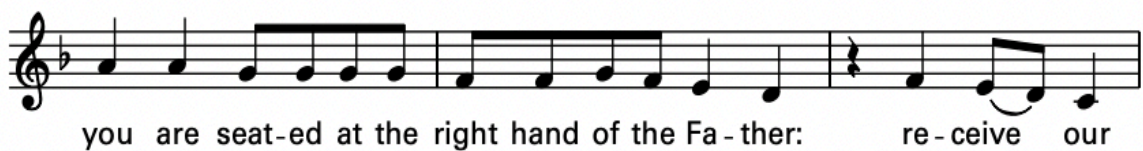
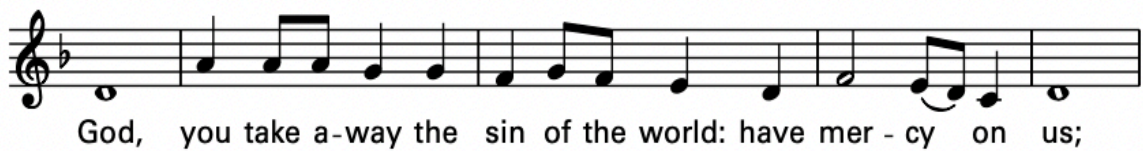
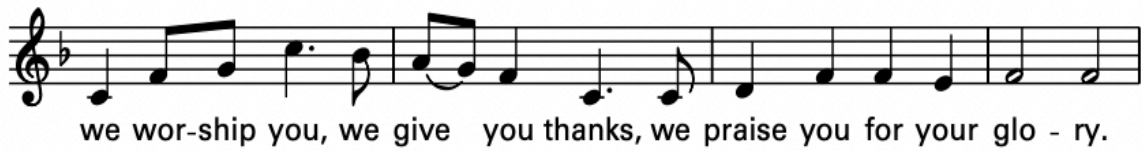
Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name; through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Song of Praise & Children's Procession

Children are invited to follow the procession of the cross from the Church to the Parish Hall for Sunday School. While the program is geared for children 10 & under, ALL children are welcome to attend. Parents are also welcome to attend. Children will return to the church in time for Eucharist (typically returning after the passing of the peace).

GLORY TO GOD

Judy Hylton



Music © 1984, Judith E. Hylton. Published by OCP. All rights reserved.

The Collect of the Day

God be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray.

Keep, O Lord, your household the Church in your steadfast faith and love, that through your grace we may proclaim your truth with boldness, and minister your justice with compassion; for the sake of our Savior Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

(Please be seated for readings from Holy Scripture)

A Reading from **Ezekiel 17:22-24**

Thus says the Lord GOD:

I myself will take a sprig

from the lofty top of a cedar;

I will set it out.

I will break off a tender one

from the topmost of its young twigs;

I myself will plant it

on a high and lofty mountain.

On the mountain height of Israel

I will plant it,

in order that it may produce boughs and bear fruit,

and become a noble cedar.

Under it every kind of bird will live;

in the shade of its branches will nest

winged creatures of every kind.

All the trees of the field shall know

that I am the LORD.

I bring low the high tree,
I make high the low tree;
I dry up the green tree
and make the dry tree flourish.
I the LORD have spoken;
I will accomplish it.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 92:1-4,11-14

- 1 It is a good thing to give thanks to the LORD, *
and to sing praises to your Name, O Most High;**
- 2 To tell of your loving-kindness early in the morning *
and of your faithfulness in the night season;**
- 3 On the psaltery, and on the lyre, *
and to the melody of the harp.**
- 4 For you have made me glad by your acts, O LORD; *
and I shout for joy because of the works of your hands.**
- 11 The righteous shall flourish like a palm tree, *
and shall spread abroad like a cedar of Lebanon.**
- 12 Those who are planted in the house of the LORD *
shall flourish in the courts of our God;**
- 13 They shall still bear fruit in old age; *
they shall be green and succulent;**
- 14 That they may show how upright the LORD is, *
my Rock, in whom there is no fault.**

A Reading from **2 Corinthians 5:6-10,14-17**

We are always confident; even though we know that while we are at home in the body we are away from the Lord-- for we walk by faith, not by sight. Yes, we do have confidence, and we would rather be away from the body and at home with the Lord. So whether we are at home or away, we make it our aim to please him. For all of us must appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each may receive recompense for what has been done in the body, whether good or evil.

For the love of Christ urges us on, because we are convinced that one has died for all; therefore all have died. And he died for all, so that those who live might live no longer for themselves, but for him who died and was raised for them. From now on, therefore, we regard no one from a human point of view; even though we once knew Christ from a human point of view, we know him no longer in that way. So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new!

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Gospel Processional (before reading) & Recessional (after reading)



(Please stand as able)

The Holy Gospel of our Savior Jesus Christ According to **Mark 4:26-34**
Glory to you, O Christ.

Jesus said, "The kingdom of God is as if someone would scatter seed on the ground, and would sleep and rise night and day, and the seed would sprout and grow, he does not know how. The earth produces of itself, first the stalk, then the head, then the full grain in the head. But when the grain is ripe, at once he goes in with his sickle, because the harvest has come."

He also said, "With what can we compare the kingdom of God, or what parable will we use for it? It is like a mustard seed, which, when sown upon the ground, is the smallest of all the seeds on earth; yet when it is sown it grows up and becomes the greatest of all shrubs, and puts forth large branches, so that the birds of the air can make nests in its shade."

With many such parables he spoke the word to them, as they were able to hear it; he did not speak to them except in parables, but he explained everything in private to his disciples.

The Gospel of our Savior. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Homily

The Rev. Kendall Hayes

Nicene Creed *(Please stand as able)*

**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,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary
and became truly human.**

**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,
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
who 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

The Cantic of the Sun is a prayer/ hymn attributed to St. Francis of Assisi. Theologically, it identifies the elements of creation as sisters and brothers to humanity, and calls upon the forces of nature to praise God with us, and us with them.

Officiant: Most high, all powerful, all good Lord!
All praise is yours, all glory, all honor, and all blessing.
And, it is to you alone, Most High, that we pray.

Reader: You are praised, O Lord by our Brother, Sun,
who brings the day; and you give light through him.
May light be shed on your Church,
That your faithful people may bear your likeness.

O God, hear us.

You are praised, O Lord, through our Sister, Moon, and the stars;
in the heavens you have made them bright, precious and beautiful.
May the nations of the earth, whom they look down upon each night
Be blessed with your peace.

O God, hear us.

You are praised, O Lord, through our Brothers, Wind and Air,
and clouds and storms, and all the weather;
May you rain down your grace upon our nation, and its leaders and people.

O God, hear us.

You are praised, O Lord, through our Sister, Water;
Quench the thirst of the poor, the downtrodden, and those who are ill, or in
trouble of any kind especially, David Hughey, Ron & Harriet Byrnes, Rachel
McArdle, Ina Edmiston, John Michaels, Jim Stewart, Tammy Leonard, Joan
LaPierre, Pam Langston, Karen Miller, Diane Glase, and those who you now
name either silently or aloud.

pause

O God, hear us.

You are praised, O Lord, through our Brother, Fire,
through whom you brighten the night;
We pray you to brighten your Kingdom, where the souls of the faithful
departed rest, especially for those you now name either silently or aloud.

pause

For them, as you, may there be no night.

O God, hear us.

You are praised, O Lord, through our sister, and Mother, Earth,
who feeds us and rules us,
and produces various fruits with colored flowers and herbs;
Give us the will to care for her, as you created her.

O God, hear us.

Be praised, my Lord, through those who forgive for love of you;
through those who endure sickness and trial.
Happy those who endure in peace,
for by you, Most High, they will be crowned.

O God, hear us.

Officiant: O Lord, we praise and bless you, and we give you thanks,
and with all of creation, we serve you and pray to you with great humility as
we now confess our sins:

Confession of Sins *(Please kneel as able)*

**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.**

Absolution

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.**

The Peace

(Please stand as able)

The peace of Christ be always with you.
And also with you.

The Offertory

Ascribe to the Lord the honor due his name, bring offerings and come into his courts.

O Food to pilgrims given

The Hymnal 1982, #309

1 O Food to pil - grims giv - en, O Bread of life from
2 O stream of love past tell - ing, O pur - est foun - tain,
3 O Je - sus, by thee bid - den, we here a - dore thee,

hea - ven, O Man - na from on high! We
well - ing from out the Sa - vior's side! We
hid - den in forms of bread and wine. Grant

hun - ger; Lord, sup - ply us, nor thy de - lights de -
faint with thirst; re - vive us, of thine a - bun - dance
when the veil is riv - en, we may be - hold, in

ny us, whose hearts to thee draw nigh.
give us, and all we need pro - vide.
hea - ven, thy coun - te - nance di - vine.

Words: Latin, 1661; tr. John Athelstan Laurie Riley (1858-1945), alt. By permission of Oxford University Press. Music: *O Welt, ich muss dich lassen*, present form of melody att. Heinrich Isaac (1450?-1517), alt.; harm. Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750).

Eucharistic Prayer B *(Please stand as able)*

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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. For you are the source of light and life, you made us in your image, and called us to new life in Jesus Christ our Lord. Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn (S130) to proclaim the glory of your Name:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full, full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest. Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest. Hosanna in the highest.**

The Celebrant continues

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.**

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

The Celebrant breaks the consecrated Bread. A period of silence is kept.

Fraction Anthem

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.
Christ our Pass - o - ver is sac - ri - ficed for us;
there - fore let us keep the feast.
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

The Gifts of God for the People of God.

You are invited to come forward and receive Eucharist at this time. We will be sharing wine from a common chalice, so if you would prefer intinction please let the priest know so that they may intinct in a separate chalice reserved for this practice. Gluten free communion is available and a non-alcoholic option in place of the wine is also available upon request.

For those joining via Live-Stream:

A Prayer for a Person Unable to Take the Eucharist

(St. Alphonsus de Liguori, 1696-1787)

My Jesus, I believe that you are truly present in the Blessed Sacrament of the Altar. I love you above all things, and long for you in my soul. Since I cannot now receive you sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. As though you have already come, I embrace you and unite myself entirely to you; never permit me to be separated from you. Amen.

Prayer for Eucharistic Visitor

We offer a prayer from our community to those who are unable to join us as we send the sacrament to them carried by a minister of the church

As you go to the sick and homebound, take with you not only the sacrament that we have celebrated, but also the Word of God which we have heard, as well as the affection of this parish community. Ask for the prayers of those whom you visit in return. Go, now, with God's peace and blessing. AMEN.

Postcommunion Prayer *(Please kneel as able)*

**Loving God,
we give you thanks
for restoring us in your image
and nourishing us with spiritual food
in the Sacrament of Christ's Body and Blood.
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 of God: Father, Son, & Holy Spirit, be with you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

(Please stand as able.)

Let us go forth into the world, rejoicing in the power of the Saints that have come before and the Spirit that is with us now.
Thanks be to God.

Closing Hymn

Community Invitations

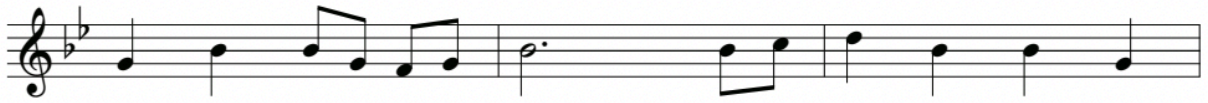
Following the closing hymn you are invited to join us in the Parish Hall for Coffee Hour!

If you are new today, please take a welcome packet, coffee mug, and locally made chocolate (found at the front door)!

The Reign of God



1. The reign of God, like farm - er's field, Bears
 2. The reign of God can - not be found In
 3. The reign of God is like a pearl On
 4. Though hid - den now, the reign of God May,
 5. Like mus - tard tree, the reign of God From
 6. The reign of God is come in Christ; The



weeds a - long with wheat; The good and bad are
 far - off, for - eign land Till in fa - mil - iar
 bar - ren land con - cealed. If once you find that
 yet un - no - ticed, grow; From deep with - in it
 ti - ny seed will spread, Till birds of ev - 'ry
 reign of God is near. A - blaze a - mong us,



in - ter - twined Till har - vest is com - plete.
 face and place We find it close at hand.
 pre - cious pearl, Go out and buy that field.
 ris - es up, Like yeast in swell - ing dough.
 feath - er come To nest, and there be fed.
 kin - dling hearts, The reign of God is here!

Text: Matthew 13:24-33, 44-49, Mark 4:26-34; Delores Dufner, OSB, b.1939, © 1995, 2003, GIA Publications, Inc.
 Tune: McKEE, CM; African American; adapt. by Harry T. Burleigh, 1866-1949

Community Invitations

FISH is in need of bags again!!!

We are in desperate need of full size paper bags.

We also need plastic and any reusable shopping bags. Cloth wine bags hold up to 12 cans and work perfectly as well.

Please drop off bags in the church office, Baird House, OR

Call, email or text Lucy Claxton for pick up.

NO bags will be turned away!!!

Questions or Concerns while Fr. Nic is away?

Contact Becky Edmiston in the office at 360-423-5600

Contact Lisa Sudar for Pastoral Care needs at 360-430-3691

Contact David Piper, Rector's Warden, at 360-355-5309

Contact Rob Painter-Johnson, People's Warden, at 503-583-0165

Office Hours have Changed

Summer Office Hours: Monday -Thursday 9:30-1:00

St. Stephen's
Episcopal Church



SUMMER PICNIC

Join in the fun at the St.
stephen's Summer Picnic!

Date: Saturday, August 3, 2024

**Location: Willow Grove Park,
Pavilion B (Octagon)**

Time: 11 AM to 2:30 PM

7235 Willow Grove Rd, Longview, WA 98632

Potluck Lunch

Grilled Hamburgers, Vegetarian

New This Year:

St. Stephen's 37th Annual Badminton Tournament!

Games and Fellowship for all ages!

Please sign up and specify what type of food or beverage you would like to bring.

Options to Sign-up:

1. Sign-up sheet at Coffee Hour by July 28.
2. Email Becky: admin@sslv.org
3. Call the Church Office: (360) 423-5600

(Dear Friends: The speed limit on Willow Grove Road is 35mph, and it is enforced.)