

Worship online at www.ststephenslutheran.org

Recorded for you to view anytime.

Please participate by having your worship bulletin and Celebrate ready

Zoom Bible Studies with Pastor Jim on Thursdays 11am & 7pm.
Check your email on Wednesday for the link to the Zoom meeting.

Our Mission Statement

St. Stephen's is a welcoming, healing community who worship
God in Christ, nurture people growing in faith,
serve others with acceptance and love,
invite people to share the joy of the spirit.

Reconciling in Christ

"We welcome all who are seeking God's love and grace.
We welcome all because God welcomes all, regardless of
race or culture, sexual orientation, gender identity,
gender expression, or relationship status.

We welcome all without regard to addictions, physical or
mental health, imprisonment, socio-economic circumstances,
or anything that too often divides us. Our unity is in Christ."

St. Stephen's Lutheran Church E.L.C.A.

2500 Soquel Avenue Santa Cruz, CA 95062

831/476-4700 FAX 831/476-3918

email: office@ststephenslutheran.org

Web Address: www.ststephenslutheran.org

Office Hours: Mon.—Thurs. 8:30 am—2:30 pm

Ministers: The People of St. Stephen's

Pastor: Rev. James P. Lapp

Church Administrator: Leslie Lapp

Church Musician: Gary Roberts

Sunday School: Leslie Lapp

Pre-School Director: Kathy Berens

Custodian: John Hopping

Videographers: Kent Madsen & Barb Rice

Music used by permission Onelicense #A-706539

EIGHTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
July 26, 2020

WELCOME AND A NOTE TO VISITORS

Welcome Visitor! We pray the service will be a blessing for you and that you will join us again soon. Thank you for worshipping with us — your presence is a joy to this faith community. Please fill out the “Worship Slip” and place it in the offering plate. Nursery care is available, the ushers can direct you.

(*) Asterisk means, “Please Stand”

The Gathering

*Prayer of Confession and Forgiveness

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,
Whose steadfast love is everlasting,
Whose faithfulness endures from generation to generation.

C: Amen

P: Trusting in the mercy of God, let us confess the ways we have missed God’s mark.

Silence is kept for reflection.

P: Reconciling God,

**C: We confess that we do not trust your abundance,
And we deny your presence in our lives.
We place our hope in ourselves
And rely on our own efforts.
We fail to believe that you provide enough for all.
We abuse your good creation for our own benefit.
We fear difference and do not welcome others
As you have welcomed us.
We sin in thought, word, and deed.
By your grace, forgive us;
Through your love, renew us;
And in your Spirit, lead us;
So that we may live and serve you in newness of life.
Amen.**

Live Worship option

If any of you would like to participate, we are open to a **few people** Reading Scripture and offering the Prayers of Intercession from the Celebrate page. Or if you would just like to come to worship – Saturdays 11:00 am. Masked & Socially distanced of course.

Call Leslie at 476-4700 to schedule your spot ☺.

**Campfire Worship
with Mt. Cross
Every Sunday Night in July
at 7:30PM**



We are hosting an Omega Worship Watch Party on our Facebook page. We’ll have songs and stories and prayers around a campfire and give you a way to do camp at Join us at www.mtcross.org/mtcrossministries



**Provide Lunches for
the volunteers**

Tuesday, July 28 by 10:30 am

(4th Tuesday of each month)

Sandwiches, fruit, cookies, and drink. Call the office to Sign-up for one or more items. 476-4700.

Prayer Concerns

Short Term: Healthcare workers, Sam Loya, Jennifer & family, Family of Cheryl Denny, Jean Patterson, Nicholas Gross & family, Sheila & Terri, Frank Giammona, Derek, Heather, Kevin, Family of Suzanne Duval, Vanessa, Rose, Shelly Barker & family, George Webber & Family, Cox Family, Becky & Aaron Johnson, Marlene Simmen & family, Lorraine Chavez, Kimberly & Danny, Lora Schraft Poulson, Doug Hahn, Michael, Kayla, Don, Lina, Katarina, Taiyo, Mateo, Stephanie Jager, Cabel, Kyle, Noah, Esdras, Jackson, Joe, Pat, Riley, Shelby, Frank, Kaitlyn, Daniel, Ryder, Jenny, Abby, Immigrant families, The Homeless, Our Nation's leaders, Mt. Cross, St. Stephen's Child Development Ctr, Pastor Jim and Our Church Family. **Long Term:** The Sanders Family, Linda Johnson, Bailey Ingalls, Jan Shadle, Vi Olly, John B., Michelle, Josh, CJ, Susan Anderson, Rick, Bobbie Erickson, Edna Lindquist, Richard C., Eric VonSchell, Lauri Hollist, Ken Pahel, Pat M., Gary, Brouse Family, Janet Baker, Sandy Godvine, Janelle Yung, Barry & Barbara, Chris & Lorie Juhl, Karin, Will, Chris, Pat Hubbard, Cathy, Pearl Runquist, Volpi & Robe Family, men and women of Armed Forces, and the Youth of today.

**July Benevolence Offering =
Homeless Service Center**

P: Beloved of God,
By the overwhelming abundance of divine mercy
We have peace with God through † Christ Jesus,
Through whom we have obtained grace upon grace.
Our sins are forgiven.
Let us live now in hope.
For hope does not disappoint
Because God's love has been poured into our hearts
Through the Holy Spirit.

C: **Amen.**

*Opening Hymn

"God, Who Stretched the Spangled Heavens" Red #771

**God, who stretched the spangled heavens
infinite in time and place,
Flung the suns in burning radiance
through the silent fields of space:
We, your children in your likeness,
share inventive pow'rs with you;
Great Creator, still creating,
show us what we yet may do.**

**We have ventured worlds undreamed of
since the childhood of our race;
Known the ecstasy of winging
through untraveled realms of space;
Probed the secrets of the atom,
yielding unimagined pow'r,
Facing us with life's destruction
or our most triumphant hour.**

**As each far horizon beckons,
may it challenge us anew:
Children of creative purpose,
serving others, hon'ring you.
May our dreams prove rich with promise;
each endeavor well begun;
Great Creator, give us guidance
till our goals and yours are one.**

God Give Us Life By Ray Makeever

*Call to Worship


L In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth, breathing life into all creatures.

C 
Come in-to us Ho-ly Spir - it.

L In the beginning God created the people of the earth, naming humanity the embodiment of the divine presence.

C 
Come in-to us Ho-ly Spir - it.

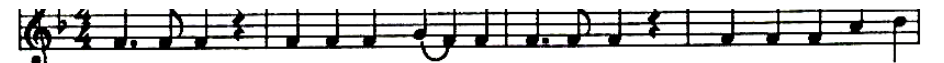
L In the beginning God guided the darkness over the earth, leading it into light, forming a communion from the chaos.

C 
Come in-to us Ho-ly Spir - it.

L As it was in the beginning, is now, and will be...

C **God give us life!**

***Benediction** Solo voice first time; congregation second time.


God of Life: God the cre - a - tor, God of Hope: Christ the Re-deem-er,


God of Peace: Ho - ly Spir - it, Bless you now and al - ways.

*Closing Hymn

“Sent Forth by God’s Blessing” Red #547

**Sent forth by God’s blessing,
our true faith confessing,
the people of God from this dwelling take leave.
The supper is ended.
Oh, now be extended
The fruits of this service in all who believe.
The seed of Christ’s teaching,
Receptive souls reaching,
Shall blossom in action for God and for all.
Your grace shall incite us, your love shall unite us
To work for your kingdom and answer your call.**

**With praise and thanksgiving
To God ever living,
The tasks of our ev’ry day life we will face –
Our faith ever sharing,
In love ever caring,
Embracing God’s children, the whole human race.
With your feast you feed us,
With your light now lead us;
Unite us as one in this life that we share.
Then may all the living with praise and thanksgiving
Give honor to Christ and his name that we bear.**

*Dismissal

Go in peace. Christ is with you.
Thanks be to God.

Communion Hymn

"My Faith Looks Up to Thee"

Red #759

**My faith looks up to thee,
thou Lamb of Calvary, Savior divine!
Now hear me while I pray, Take all my guilt away,
oh, let me from this day be wholly thine!**

**May thy rich grace impart
strength to my fainting heart,
My zeal inspire; As thou has died for me,
Oh, may my love to thee
Pure, warm, and changeless be,
A living fire!**

**While life's dark maze I tread
And griefs around me spread,
Be thou my guide; Bid darkness turn to day,
Wipe sorrow's tears away,
Nor let me ever stray from thee aside.**

**When ends life's transient dream,
When death's cold, sullen stream shall o'er me roll;
Blest Savior, then , in love
Fear and distrust remove;
Oh, bear me safe above, a ransomed soul!**

*Communion Blessing

P: May this Holy Communion of our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you and keep you in God's grace now and forever

C: Amen

*Post Communion Prayer

P: God of the welcome table,
In this meal we have feasted on your goodness
And have been united by your presence among us.
Empower us to go forth sustained by these gifts
So that we may share your neighborly love with all,
Through Jesus Christ, the giver of abundant life.

C: Amen

*Leader sings first time, women only second time;
whole congregation third time*



In the name of God, the Cre - a - tor, In the name of Christ, the Re - deem - er,



In the name of the Guid - ing Spir - it, Al - le - lu - ia, A men.

Solo voice sings first line; congregation second.



L Come let us wor-ship God. Come let us wor-ship God.



C Come let us wor-ship God. Come let us wor-ship God.



L Wel-come ev-'ry-one to the love of God.



C Wel-come ev-'ry-one to the love of God.

- Verses:
- 2. Rest for the weary
 - 3. Food for the hungry
 - 4. Hope for the children



L: The God of Life be with you al - ways. C: And with you, too.

*Prayer of the Day

Celebrate pg. 1

P: Let us pray

C: Amen

First Reading

1 Kings 3:5-12

Celebrate pg. 1

R: Word of God. Word of Life.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

Read Responsively

Psalms 119:129-136

Celebrate pg. 2

Second Reading

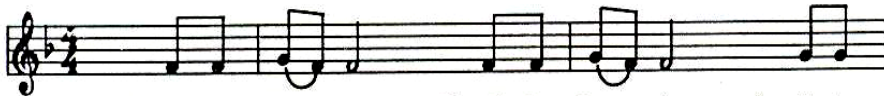
Romans 8:26-39

Celebrate pg. 3

R: Word of God. Word of Life.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

*Gospel Acclamation



L: Al - le - lu - ia, C: Al - le - lu - ia, L: Al - le -



lu - ia, C: Al - le - lu - ia, L: Al - le - lu - ia, C: Al - le -



lu - ia, L: Al - le - lu - ia, C: Al - le - lu - ia.

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.

Lamb of God: vs. 1 and 2 only



1. Lamb of God, who takes a - way the sin of



all the world to - day, Have mer - cy up - on us,



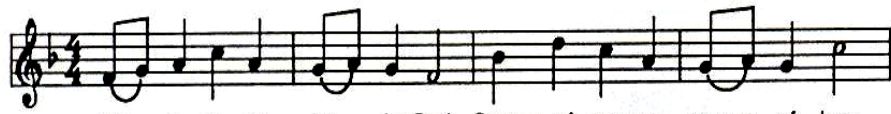
mer - cy up - on us, mer - cy up - on us, and give us your peace.

2. Lamb of God, who'd give your soul
To see a broken world made whole,
Have mercy upon us. mercy upon us... etc.

Holy Communion

As we continue to worship at a distance, please provide your own bread and fruit of the vine to commune with. Use the words "The Body of Christ given" and "The Blood of Christ shed" when you receive each of the elements.

Holy Holy



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly God. Source of pow-er, source of love.



Hea-ven and earth are full_ of you, Ho - san-na in_ the



high - est. *(Fine)* Bless-ed is the one, the one who comes



in the name of our grac-ious God. Bless-ed be Je - sus Christ.

*Words of Institution

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it and gave it to his disciples saying: "Take and eat; this my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me." Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying; "This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me."

*The Lord's Prayer

**C: 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,**

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew the 13th Chapter.
C: **Glory to you, O God.**

*The Gospel Matthew 13:31-52 Celebrate pg. 3

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord
Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon Pastor James Lapp

*Hymn of the Day

"Come, Ye Thankful People, Come" Red #693

**Come, ye thankful people, come;
raise the song of harvest home.
All be safely gathered in ere the winter storms begin.
God, our maker, doth provide for our wants to be supplied.
Come to God's own temple, come,
raise the song of harvest home.**

**All the world is God's own field, Fruit unto his praise to yield;
Wheat and tares together sown, Unto joy or sorrow grown.
First the blade, and then the ear, Then the full corn shall appear.
Lord of harvest, grant that we
Whole-some grain and pure may be.**

**For the Lord our God shall come
And shall take his harvest home;
From his field shall in that day All offenses purge away;
Give his angels charge at last In the fire the tares to cast,
But the fruitful ears to store In his garner evermore.**

**Even so, Lord, quickly come To thy final harvest home.
Gather then thy people in, Free from sorrow, free from sin,
There, forever purified, In thy garner to abide.
Come, with all thine angels, come,
Raise the glorious harvest home!**

*Prayers of the Church

Celebrate Pg. 4

*Passing of the Peace

P: May the peace of God be with you always.

C: **And also with you.**

Offering—*Please continue to give by mail, website or church mailbox*

*Offertory Hymn *Solo voice sings first time through;
Congregation sings through twice as gifts are presented.*

Come bring them to the ta - ble. Bring the
gifts of bread and wine. The hopes and dreams of all the
1.
peo - ple, the of - fring of our lives.
2,3.
of - fring of our lives, the of - fring of our lives.

*Offering Prayer

P: God of goodness and growth, all creation is yours,
And your faithfulness is as firm as the heavens.
Water and word, wine and bread:
These are signs of your abundant grace.
Nourish us through these gifts,
That we might proclaim your steadfast love
In our communities and in the world,
Through Jesus Christ, our strength and our song.

C: **Amen.**

The Great Thanksgiving

L The God of Life be with you al - ways.
C And with you, too.
L Lift up your hearts, Lift up your minds.
C We lift them joy - ful - ly un - to God.
L Let us thank our grac - ious God.
C It is right to give God thanks and praise.
L The God of Life be with you al - ways.
C And with you, too.