

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

12th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
August 23, 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 worshiping 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.**

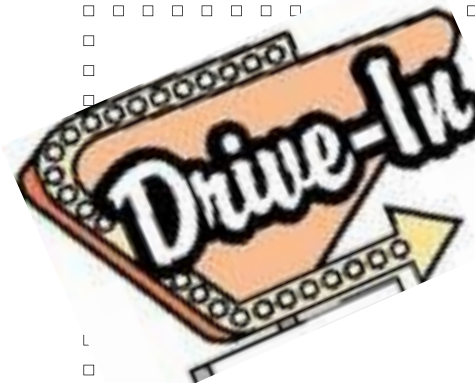


*The Altar Flowers are given
by Mark Linder & Mary Dean
Celebrating their 44th anniversary*

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 ☺.



**Sunday, Sept. 20
10:30 am
Church Parkinglot**

Stay tuned for more info.
On our “Live” Drive-in Worship
in the safety of your own car.



Prayer Concerns

Short Term: Healthcare workers & teachers, Sherilyn Jager & family, Family of Delores Price, Family of Al Mitchell, Jennifer & family, Family of Cheryl Den-ny, Jean Patterson, Nicholas Gross & family, Sheila & Terri, Frank Giammona,

Derek, Heather, Kevin, Family of Suzanne Duval, Vanessa, Rose, Shelly Barker & family, Sam, George Webber & Family, Cox Family, Becky & Aaron Johnson, Marlene Simmen & fami-ly, Lorraine Chavez, Kimberly & Danny, Lora Schraft Poulson, Chuck, Michael, Kayla, Don, Lina, Sal, Katarina, Taiyo, Mateo, Stephanie Jager, Cabel, Miller, 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 Lind-quist, 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.

August Benevolence Offering

**California Lutheran University
&
Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary**

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

"For the Beauty of the Earth" #879

**For the beauty of the earth,
for the beauty of the skies,
For the love which from our birth
over and around us lies:**

REFRAIN
**Christ, our God, to thee we raise
This our sacrifice of praise.**

**For the wonder of each hour
Of the day and of the night,
Hill and vale and tree and flow'r,
Sun and moon and stars of light:** REFRAIN

**For the joy of ear and eye,
For the heart and mind's delight,
For the mystic harmony
Linking sense to sound and sight:** REFRAIN

**For the joy of human love,
Brother, sister, parent, child,
For the friends on earth and friends above;
For all gentle thoughts and mild:** REFRAIN

**For each perfect gift of thine,
Peace on earth and joy in heav'n;
For thyself, best gift divine,
To our world so freely giv'n:** REFRAIN

God Give Us Life By Ray Makeever

*Call to Worship

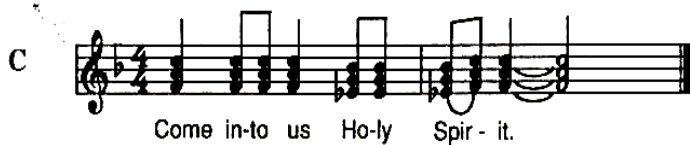
L In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth, breathing life into all creatures.



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



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



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.



*Closing Hymn

"Lift High the Cross" Red #660

REFRAIN:

**Lift high the cross, the love of Christ proclaim
Till all the world adore his sacred name.**

REFRAIN

**Come, Christians, follow where our captain trod,
Our king victorious, Christ, the Son of God.**

REFRAIN

**All newborn servants of the Crucified
Bear on their brows the seal of him who died.**

REFRAIN

**O Lord, once lifted on the glorious tree,
As thou hast promised, draw us all to thee.**

REFRAIN

**So shall our song of triumph ever be:
Praise to the Crucified for victory!**

REFRAIN

*Dismissal

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

Communion Hymn

"Mothering God, You Gave Me Birth" #735

**Mothering God, you gave me birth,
in the bright morning of this world.
Creator, source of ev'ry breath,
you are my rain, my wind, m sun.**

**Mothering Christ, you took my form,
Offering me your food of light,
Grain...of life, and grape of love,
your very body for my peace.**

**Mothering spirit, nurt'ring one,
In arms of patience hold me close,
So that in faith I root and grow
until I flow'r, until I know.**

*Communion Blessing

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

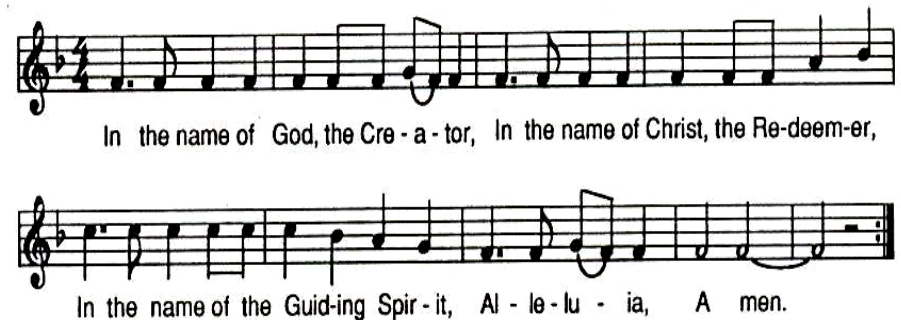
C: Amen

*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*



Solo voice sings first line; congregation second.

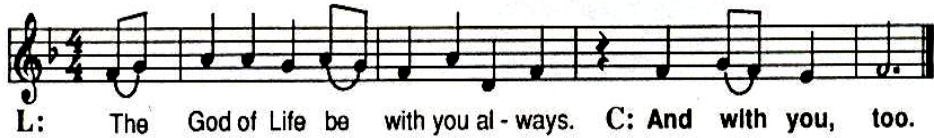
Verse

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

Refrain

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



*Prayer of the Day

Celebrate pg. 1

P: Let us pray
C: **Amen**

First Reading

Isaiah 51:1-6

Celebrate pg. 1

R: Word of God. Word of Life.

C: Thanks be to God.

Read Responsively

Psalms 138

Celebrate pg. 2

Second Reading

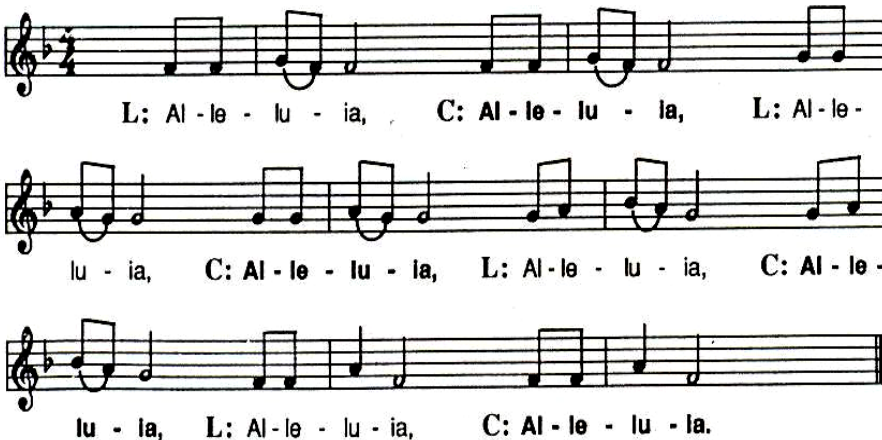
Romans 12:1-8

Celebrate pg. 3

R: Word of God. Word of Life.

C: Thanks be to God.

*Gospel Acclamation



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

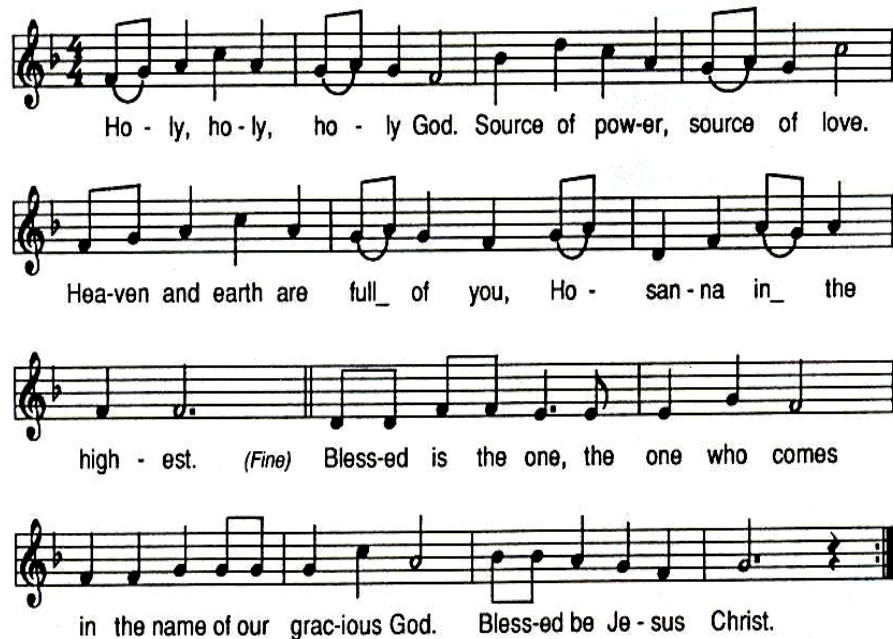


2. Lamb of God, who'd give your soul
To see a broken world made whole,
Have mercy upon us. mercy upon us... etc.

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 16th Chapter.
C: **Glory to you, O God.**

*The Gospel Matthew 16:13-20 Celebrate pg. 3

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

Sermon Pastor James Lapp

*Hymn of the Day "My Hope is Built on Nothing Less" #596

My hope is built on nothing less
than Jesus' blood and righteousness;
No merit of my own I claim,
but wholly lean on Jesus' name.

REFRAIN

On Christ, the solid rock, I stand;
All other ground is sinking sand,
All other ground is sinking sand.

When darkness veils his lovely face,
I rest on his unchanging grace;
In ev'ry high and stormy gale
My anchor holds within the veil. REFRAIN

His oath, his covenant, his blood
sustain me in the raging flood;
When all supports are washed away,
He then is all my hope and stay. REFRAIN

When he shall come with trumpet sound,
Oh, may I then in him be found,
Clothed in his righteousness alone,
Redeemed to stand before the throne! REFRAIN

*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.