

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

**15th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
September 13, 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

*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,
The one who fashions us,
The one who heals us,
The one who reforms us again and again.

C: Amen

P: Let us confess our sin, calling for God’s transforming power.

Silence is kept for reflection and self-examination.

P: Source of all life,

**C: We confess that we have not allowed
Your grace to set us free.
We fear that we are not good enough.
We hear your word of love freely given to us,
Yet we expect others to earn it.
We turn the church inward,
Rather than moving it outward.
Forgive us. Stir us.
Reform us to be a church powered by love,
Willing to speak for what is right,
Act for what is just,
And seek the healing of your whole creation.
Amen.**



*The Altar Flowers are given
By Paul & Connie Cunningham
In Celebration of their 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 😊.



**OUTDOOR
WORSHIP**

**Next Sunday
Sept. 20 @ 10:30
Church Parkinglot**

Bring your own chairs & masks

Prayer Concerns



Short Term: Firefighters & Evacuees, Healthcare workers & teachers, Grace Schmidt, Zachary Sherilyn Jager & family, Family of Delores Price, Family of Al Mitchell, 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, Sam, George Webber & Family, Cox Family, Becky & Aaron Johnson, Marlene Simmen & family, 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 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.

September Benevolence Offering

**Lutheran Campus Ministry
CSUMB and UCSC**

- P: God hears our cry and sends the Spirit to change us
And to empower our lives in the world.
Our sins are forgiven.
† God's love is unconditional,
And we are raised up as God's people
Who will always be made new,
In the name of Jesus Christ.
- C: **Amen.**

*Opening Hymn

"Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise" Red #834

**Immortal, invisible, God only wise,
In light inaccessible hid from our eyes,
Most blessed, most glorious, the Ancient of Days,
Almighty, victorious, thy great name we praise!**

**Unresting, unhasting, and silent as light,
Nor wanting, nor wasting, thou rulest in might;
Thy justice like mountains high soaring above
Thy clouds which are fountains of goodness and love.**

**To all, life thou givest, to both great and small;
In all life thou livest, the true life of all;
We blossom and flourish like leaves on the tree,
And wither and perish, but naught changeth thee.**

**Thou reignest in glory; thou dwellest in light;
Thine angels adore thee, all veiling their sight;
All laud we would render; oh, help us to see
'tis only the splendor of light hideth thee!**

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.

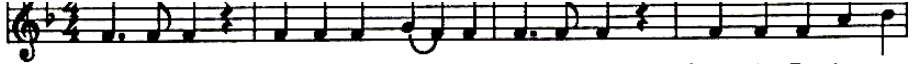
L In the beginning God guided the darkness over the earth, leading it into light, forming a communion from the chaos.

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

"In Thee Is Gladness" #867

- 1. In thee is gladness, amid all sadness,
Jesus, sunshine of my heart.
By thee are given the gifts of heaven,
thou the true Redeemer art.
Our souls thou wakest, our bonds thou breakest.
Who trusts thee surely has built securely,
and stands forever: Alleluia!
Our hearts are pining to see thy shining;
dying or living, to thee are cleaving;
naught can us sever: Alleluia!**
- 2. Jesus is ours! We fear no powers,
not of earth or sin or death.
He sees and blesses in worst distresses,
he can change them in a breath.
Wherefore the story tell of God's glory
with heart and voices; all heav'n rejoices
in him forever: Alleluia!
We shout for gladness, triumph o'er sadness,
love him and praise him and still shall raise him
glad hymns forever: Alleluia!**

*Dismissal

Go in peace. Sound the good news.
Thanks be to God.

*Invitation to Communion

P: Speak to us, O Lord, in the breaking of the bread,
and make us one with you.

Communion Hymn

“Jesus Loves Me” Red #595

**Jesus loves me! This I know,
for the Bible tells me so;
Little ones to him belong,
they are weak, but he is strong.**

REFRAIN

**Yes, Jesus loves me, yes, Jesus loves me,
Yes, Jesus loves me, the Bible tells me so.**

**Jesus loves me! He who died
heaven’s gates to open wide;
He will wash away my sin,
let his little child come in.**

REFRAIN

**Jesus loves me! He will stay
close beside me all the way;
When at last I come to die,
he will take me home on high.**

REFRAIN

*Prayer after Communion

P: Holy and compassionate God,
In bread and wine you give us gifts
That form us to be humble and courageous.
May your words come to life
In our serving and in our witness,
That we might speak a living voice
Of healing and justice to all the world,
Through Jesus Christ, our rock and our redeemer.

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.

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

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

Genesis 50:15-21

Celebrate pg. 1

R: Word of God. Word of Life.
C: **Thanks be to God.**

Read Responsively

Psalms 103:1-13

Celebrate pg. 2

Second Reading

Romans 14:1-12

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,

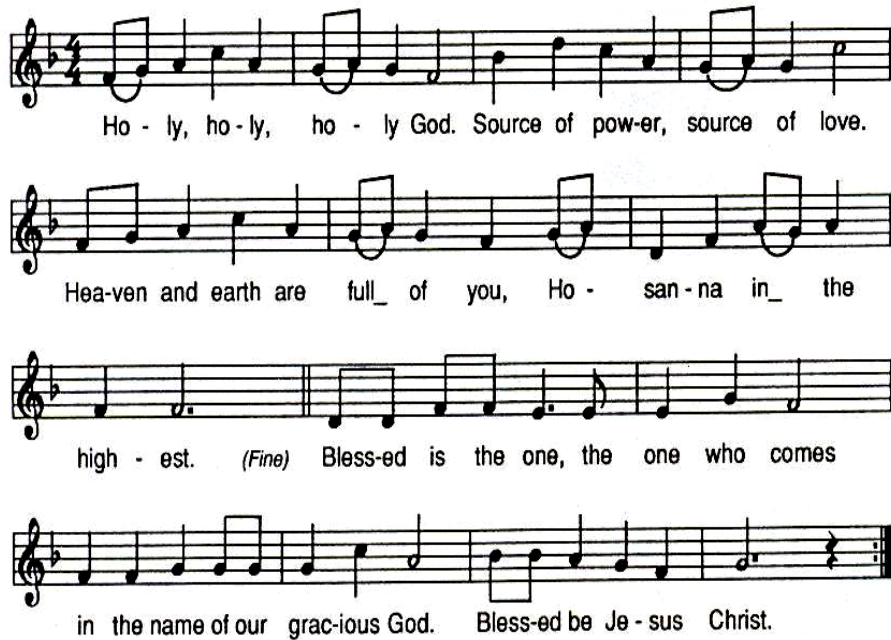
mer - cy up - on us, mer - cy up - on us, and give us your peace.

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 18th Chapter.
C: **Glory to you, O God.**

*The Gospel Matthew 18:21-35 Celebrate pg. 3

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

Sermon

Pastor James Lapp

*Hymn of the Day

"Forgive Our Sins As We Forgive" #605

**"forgive our sins as we forgive,"
You taught us, Lord, to pray;
But you alone can grant us grace
To live the words we say.**

**How can your pardon reach and bless
The unforgiving heart
That broods on wrongs and
Will not let old bitterness depart?**

**In blazing light your cross reveals
The truth we dimly knew:
How trifling others' debts to us;
How great our debt to you!**

**Lord, cleanse the depths within our souls
And bid resentment cease;
Then, by your mercy reconciled,
Our lives will spread your peace.**

*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 life,
You give us these gifts of the earth,
These resources of our life and our labor.
Take them, offered in great thanksgiving,
And use them to set a table that will heal the whole creation;
Through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Light.

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.