

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

20th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
October 18, 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.**



Provide Lunches

for the volunteers

Tuesday, Oct. 27 by 10:30 am

Sandwiches & fruit needed.

Call the office to Sign-up 476-4700.

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**

**Reformation Sunday
October 25 @ 10:30
Church Parkinglot**

Bring your own chairs & masks



Prayer Concerns

Short Term: Healthcare workers, teachers, Family of Eleanor Zoellner, Grace Schmidt, Anna, Krispa, Patsy, Zachary Sherilyn Jager & family, Family of Delores Price, Family of Al Mitchell, Jennifer & family, Family of Cheryl Den-

ny, Jean Patterson, Sheila & Terri, Frank Giammona, 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, Tai-yo, 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.

October Benevolence Offering

St. Stephen's Child Development Center

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

"God is Here"

Red #526

**God is here! As we your people
meet to offer praise and prayer,
May we find in fuller measure
what it is in Christ we share.
Here, as in the world around us,
all our varied skills and arts
wait the coming of the Spirit
Into open minds and hearts.**

**Here are symbols to remind us
Of our life long need of grace;
Here are table, font, and pulpit;
Here the cross has central place.
Here in honesty of preaching,
Here in silence, as in speech,
Here, in newness and renewal,
God the Spirit comes to each.**

**Here our children find a welcome
in the Shepherd's flock and fold;
Here as bread and wine are taken,
Christ sustains us as of old.
Here the servants of the Servant
Seek in worship to explore
What it means in daily living
To believe and to adore.**

**Lord of all, of church and kingdom,
In an age of change and doubt,
Keep us faithful to the gospel;
Help us work your purpose out.
Here, in this day's dedication,
All we have to give, receive;
We, who cannot live without you,
We adore you! We believe!**

God Give Us Life By Ray Makeever

*Call to Worship

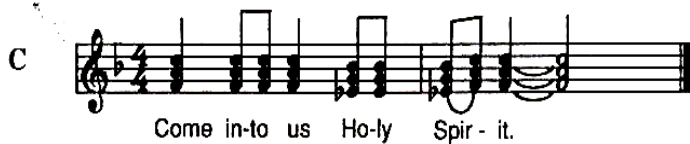
- L** In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth, breathing life into all creatures.



- 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!

*Closing Hymn

"Lift Every Voice and Sing" Red #841

Lift ev'ry voice and sing till earth and heaven ring,
Ring with the harmonies of liberty.
Let our rejoicing rise high as the list'ning skies,
Let it resound loud as the rolling sea.
Sing a song full of the faith that the dark past has taught us;
Sing a song full of the hope that the present has brought us;
Facing the rising sun of our new day begun,
Let us march on till victory is won.

Stony the road we trod, bitter the chast'ning rod,
Felt in the days when hope unborn had died;
Yet with a steady beat, have not our weary feet
Come to the place for which our parents sighed?
We have come over a way that with tears has been watered;
We have come,
treading our path through the blood of the slaughtered,
Out from the gloomy past, till now we stand at last
Where the white gleam of our bright star is cast.

God of our weary years, God of our silent tears,
Thou who hast brought us thus far on the way;
Thou who hast by thy might led us into the light,
Keep us forever in the path, we pray.
Lest our feet stray from the places, our God, where we met thee;
Lest, our hearts
drunk with the wine of the world, we forget thee;
Shadowed beneath thy hand, may we forever stand,
True to our God, true to our native land.

*Dismissal

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

Communion Hymn "Here is Bread" Red #483

Here is bread, here is wine
 Christ is with us, he is with us
 Break the bread, taste the wine
 Christ is with us here

REFRAIN In this bread there is healing!
 In this cup is life forever!
 In this moment, by the Spirit
 Christ is with us here

Here is grace, here is peace
 Christ is with us, He is with us
 Know his grace, find his peace
 Feast on Jesus here **REFRAIN**

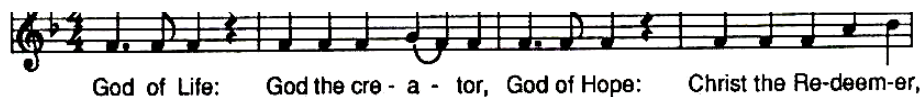
Here we are, joined in one
 Christ is with us, He is with us
 We'll proclaim till he comes
 Jesus crucified! **REFRAIN**

*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

*Benediction Solo voice first time; congregation second time.



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

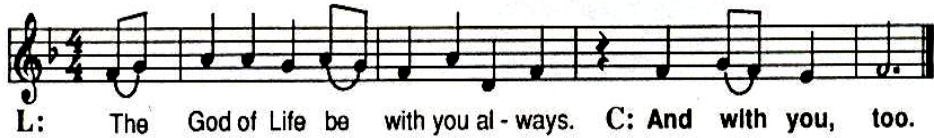


L Wel-come ev'-ry-one to the love of God.



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



*Prayer of the Day

Celebrate pg. 1

P: Let us pray
C: Amen

First Reading

Isaiah 45:1-7

Celebrate pg. 1

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

Read Responsively

Psalm 96:1-9

Celebrate pg. 2

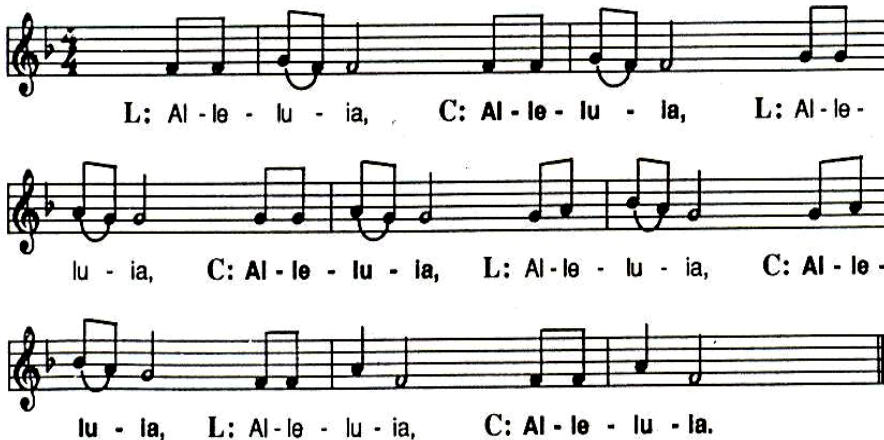
Second Reading

Thessalonians 1:1-10

Celebrate pg. 3

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

*Gospel Acclamation



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.

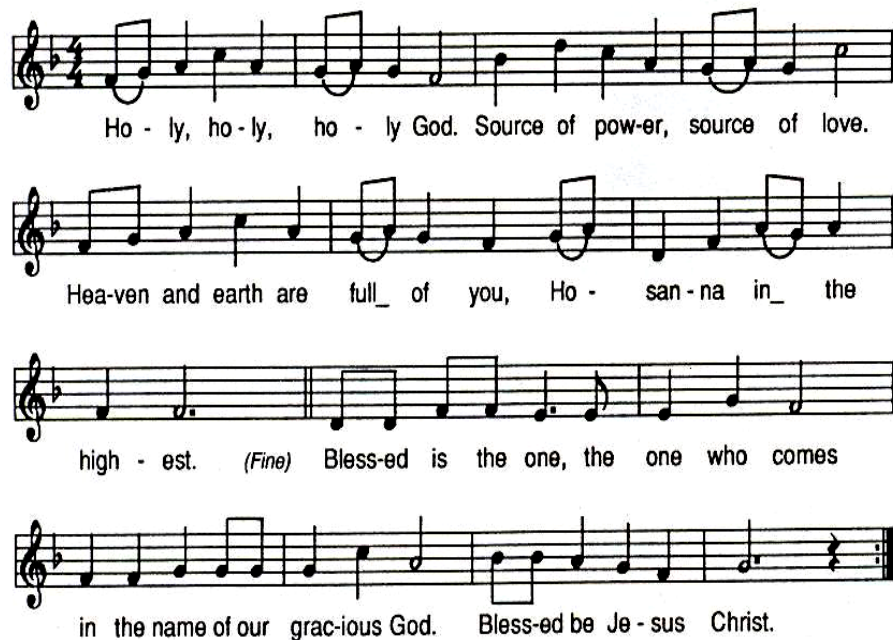
Holy Communion

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.

*Invitation to Communion

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

Holy Holy



*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,
as we forgive those who sin against us;
Save us from the time of trial,

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew the 22nd Chapter.
C: **Glory to you, O God.**

*The Gospel Matthew 22:15-22 Celebrate pg. 3

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

Sermon Pastor James Lapp

*Hymn of the Day

"For the Fruit of All Creation" Red #679

**For the fruit of all creation, thanks be to God.
For these gifts to ev'ry nation, thanks be to God.
For the plowing, sowing, reaping,
silent growth while we are sleeping,
Future needs in earth's safe keeping, thanks be to God**

**In the just reward of labor, God's will is done.
In the help we give our neighbor, God's will is done.
In our world wide task of caring
for the hungry and despairing,
In the harvests we are sharing, God's will is done.**

**For the harvests of the Spirit, thanks be to God.
For the good we all inherit, thanks be to God.
For the wonders that astound us,
for the truths that still confound us,
Most of all, that love has found us, thanks be to God.**

*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.