

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 Statement

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
Music Directors: Gary Roberts
Sunday School: Leslie Lapp
Pre-School Director: Kathy Berens
Custodian: John Hopping

Music used by permission Onelicense #A-706539

6th Sunday after Pentecost

July 4, 2021

Welcome to people new to this church or faith, long time Lutherans, and Christians and faiths from every tradition. Welcome to all who have no church home, want to follow Christ, have doubts, or do not believe. Welcome to new visitors and old friends. Welcome to people of every age and size, color and culture, sexual orientation and marital status, ability and challenge. Welcome to believers and questioners & questioning believers. This is a place where you are welcome to celebrate & sorrow, rejoice & recover. This is a place where lives are made new.

Welcome on this GLORIOUS day!

Instructions: Please fill out the enclosed orange "Worship Slip" and place it in the offering plate with your offering, as a sign of thanksgiving for all of God's blessings.

Prelude

The Gathering

*Prayer of Confession and Forgiveness

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism.

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity † one God,
Full of compassion and mercy,
Abounding in steadfast love,

C: Amen.

P: Trusting God's promise of forgiveness,
Let us confess our sin against God and one another.

Silence for reflection and self-examination

P: Eternal God our creator,

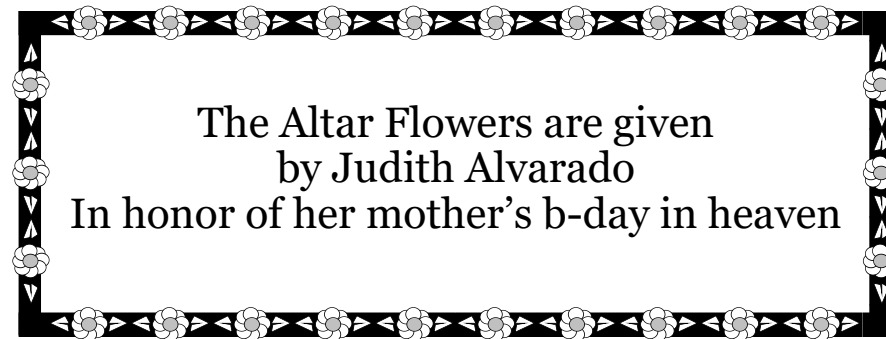
C: in you we live and move and have our being.

Look upon us, your children,

The work of your hands.

Forgive us all our offenses,

And cleanse us from proud thoughts & empty desires.



Habitat For Humanity Lunches

July 27

The 4th Tuesday of each month we provide lunch for the volunteers. Please call the office if you can bring sandwiches or fruit.

For more info See www.habitatmontereybay.org

Thursday Bible Studies

Zoom with Pastor Jim

(check email on Weds. for link)

11am -12noon and 7:30 pm—8:30 pm

We will be looking at the upcoming scripture readings for Sunday, to enrich our worship experience and uncover some of the deeper truths of our faith. As we grow in our faith, we grow together in spirit and community.

July Special Offering

Homeless Service Center

Outdoor Worship Dates

(Inclement weather cancels)

July 11 & 25th at 10am.

(2nd and 4th Sundays thereafter.)

Please remember to wear a mask or two, bring
your own chair, or remain in your car.
Holy Communion will be offered with
pre-sealed cups and wafer.

**For all other Sundays, a recorded
service on our Website is provided:
“www.ststephenslutheran.org”**

**We will resume indoor, in-person,
public worship services on
Sunday, September 12th at 10 a.m.**

(Subject to County Health
Dept. Rules)



**By your grace draw us near to you,
Our refuge and our strength;
Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

P: Since we are justified by faith,
We have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.
God's love has been poured into our hearts,
Through the Holy Spirit given to us.
In the mercy of almighty God,
Christ died for us while we still were sinners;
God † forgives you all your sins.

C: Amen.

***Opening Hymn**

“All Are Welcome” Red #641

**Let us build a house where love can dwell
and all can safely live,
A place where saints and children tell
how hearts learn to forgive.
Built of hopes and dreams and visions,
rock of faith and vault of grace;
Here the love of Christ shall end divisions:**

REFRAIN

**All are welcome, all are welcome,
all are welcome in this place.**

**Let us build a house where prophets speak,
and words are strong and true,
where all God's children dare to seek
to dream God's reign anew.
Here the cross shall stand as witness
and as symbol of God's grace;
Here as one we claim the faith of Jesus:**

REFRAIN

**Let us build a house where love is found
in water, wine and wheat:
A banquet hall on holy ground
where peace and justice meet.
Here the love of God, through Jesus,
is revealed in time and space;
As we share in Christ the feast that frees us:**

REFRAIN

Let us build a house where hands will reach
beyond the wood and stone
To heal and strengthen serve and teach,
and live the Word they've known.
Here the outcast and the stranger
bear the image of God's face;
Let us bring an end to fear and danger:

REFRAIN

Let us build a house where all are named,
their songs and visions heard
And loved and treasured, taught and claimed
as words within the Word.
Built of tears and cries and laughter,
prayers of faith and songs of grace,
Let this house proclaim from floor to rafter:

REFRAIN

Greeting

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: And also with you

*Prayer of the Day

P: Let us pray: now and forever.

Celebrate p.1

C: Amen.

The Word of God

First Reading

Ezekiel 2:1-5

Celebrate pg. 1

Psalm (chant responsively)

Psalm 123

Celebrate pg. 2

Second Reading

2 Corinthians 12:2-10

Celebrate pg. 3

REFRAIN:

*We are called to act with justice,
we are called to love tenderly;
We are called to serve one another,
To walk humbly with God.*

Come! Open your heart!

Show your...mercy to all those in fear!

We are called to be hope for the hopeless

So all hatred and blindness... will be...no more.

REFRAIN

Sing! Sing a new song!

Sing of that great day when all will be one!

God will reign and we'll walk with each other

As sisters and brothers... united in love.

REFRAIN

*Dismissal

P: Go in peace. The Spirit sends us forth to serve.

C: Thanks be to God.

Postlude

Gary Roberts

Prayer Concerns **Short Term:** Family of Lu Sluiter, Family of Jean Petersen, Family of Betty Kievlan, Hannah Mullen Family, Jo Ann, Bobbie Erickson, Rachel B., Anne & Chloe Johnston, Eugene Gross, Leslie Lapp and Family, Healthcare workers, teachers, Marla Meek and family, Kathy Allen and Family, Beth Stiles, Casey, Nancy and Sam, Marisa, Margot Wilson, Kent, Donna, Betsy, Tom, Anna, Krispa, Patsy, Zachary, Frank Giammona, Heather, Kevin, Vanessa, Rose, Sam, George Webber & Family, Cox Family, Becky & Aaron Johnson, Lorraine Chavez, Lora Schraft Poulson, Nelleke, Kayla, Don, Lina, Sal, Katarina, Taiyo, Mateo, Stephanie Jager, Cabel, Miller, Kyle, Noah, Esdras, Jackson, Immigrant families, The Homeless, Our Nation's leaders, Mt. Cross, St. Stephen's Child Development Ctr, Pastor Jim and Our Church Family. **Long Term:** Jan Wagner, The Sanders Family, Linda Johnson, Bailey Ingalls, Jan Shadle, Vi Olly, John B., Michelle, Josh, CJ, Jeff Tarantino, Susan Anderson, Rick, 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, Rev. Jack Zoellner, men and women of Armed Forces, and the Youth of today.

The Sending

*Communion Blessing

P: May this Holy Communion from Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in God's grace now and forever.

C: Amen

*Post Communion Prayer

P: Let us pray:

Jesus Christ, host of this meal,
You have given us not only this bread and cup,
But your very self, that we may feast on your great love.
Filled again by these signs of your grace,
May we hunger for your reign of justice,
May we thirst for your way of peace,
For you are Lord forevermore.

C: Amen

*Blessing

P: May God, whose power working in us
Can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine,
Grant you the gifts of faith and hope.
Almighty God, Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit,
Bless you now and forever.

C: Amen.

*Closing Hymn

"We Are Called" Red #720

**Come! Live in the light!
Shine with the joy and the love of the Lord!
We are called to be light for the kingdom,
To live in the freedom of the city of God.**

*Gospel Acclamation "Halle, Halle, Halelujah" Red #172

**Halle, halle, halle—lu-u-jah!
Halle, halle, halle—lu-u-jah!
Halle, halle, halle—lu-u-jah!
Halleujah! Halle-lu-jah!**

*Gospel Reading Mark 6:1-13 Celebrate pg. 3

P: The Holy Gospel acc. to St. Mark the 6th chapter.

C: Glory to you. O God

(The Gospel is read)

P: The Gospel of our Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon Rev. James P. Lapp

*Hymn of the Day "Christ Is Risen! Shout Hosanna!" #383

**Christ is risen! Shout Hosanna! Celebrate this day of days!
Christ is risen! Hush in wonder: all creation is amazed.
In the desert all surrounding,
see, a spreading tree has grown.
Healing leaves of grace abounding
bring a taste of love unknown.**

**Christ is risen! Raise your spirits fro the caverns of despair.
Walk with gladness in the morning.
See what love can do and dare.
Drink the wine of resurrection, not a servant, but a friend.
Jesus is our strong companion.
Joy and peace shall never end.**

**Christ is risen! Earth and heaven
nevermore shall be the same.
Break the bread of new creation
where the world is still in pain.
Tell its grim, demonic chorus:
"Christ is risen! Get you gone!"
God the First and Last is with us. Sing Hosana, ev'ryone!**

The Communion Meal

* Passing of the Peace

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

C: **And also with you.**

Offering— We honor and worship God by returning some of the gifts with which we have been blessed.

Offertory Prayer

P: Merciful God,
You open wide your hand
And satisfy the need of every living thing.
You have set this feast before us.
Open our hands to receive it.
Open our hearts to embrace it.
Open our lives to live it.
We pray this through Christ our Lord.

C: **Amen.**

*Great Thanksgiving

P: May God be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

P: Lift up your hearts.

C: **We lift them up to God**

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: **It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

Eucharistic Prayer

P: It is indeed right, our duty and our joy...

*Words of Institution

*Lord's Prayer

C: Our Father, in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as it is 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 forever. Amen

P: The gifts of God for the people of God.
Come for all is ready!

Holy Communion

We have changed our practice in order to reflect our concern for the most vulnerable among us. Jesus often lifted up those who were most at risk in life as ones that we all need to care for lovingly. May this way of receiving draw us nearer to God's ways.

Please have your prepared elements ready to receive Holy Communion. Please commune yourself or a loved one with you with the words: "The Body of Christ given." and "The Blood of Christ shed."

Communion Hymn

"Take Oh, Take Me As I Am" #814 (repeat often)

Take, oh, take me as I am;
summon out what I shall be;
Set your seal upon my heart and live in me.