St. Stephen’s Episcopal Church
In the City of Charleston, South Carolina

The Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost

September 6, 2020

We welcome you to St. Stephen’s Episcopal Church,
a house of prayer for all people.

The Reverend Dr. Adam J. Shoemaker, Rector
The Reverend Courtney Davis-Shoemaker, Assistant Priest
The Reverend Greg Smith, Deacon
Wayne Helmly, Organist & Choirmaster
OPENING HYMN 376

Joyful, joyful, we adore thee,
God of glory, Lord of love;
hearts unfold like flowers before thee,
praising thee, their sun above.
Melt the clouds of sin and sadness;
drive the dark of doubt away;
giver of immortal gladness,
fill us with the light of day.

All thy works with joy surround thee,
earth and heaven reflect thy rays,
stars and angels sing around thee,
center of unbroken praise.
Field and forest, vale and mountain,
blooming meadow, flashing sea,
chanting bird and flowing fountain,
call us to rejoice in thee.

Thou art giving and forgiving,
ever blessing, ever blest,
well-spring of the joy of living,
ocean-depth of happy rest!
Thou our Father, Christ our Brother:
all who live in love are thine;
teach us how to love each other,
lift us to the joy divine.

A LITURGY OF THE WORD

The Officiant says

Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

People     And blessed be God’s kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.

The Officiant says

Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name; through Christ our Lord. Amen.
The following is sung

1. Glory to God in the highest, and peace to his people on earth. 2. Lord God, heavenly King, almighty God and Father, we worship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory. 3. Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, Lord God, Lamb of God, 4. you take away the sin of the world: have mercy on us; 5. you are seated at the right hand of the Father: receive our prayer. 6. For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord, 7. you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father. Amen.
THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you.

People And also with you.

Let us pray.

Grant us, O Lord, to trust in you with all our hearts; for, as you always resist the proud who confide in their own strength, so you never forsake those who make their boast of your mercy; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

THE LESSONS

FIRST READING: Exodus 12:1-14

1The Lord said to Moses and Aaron in the land of Egypt: 2This month shall mark for you the beginning of months; it shall be the first month of the year for you. 3Tell the whole congregation of Israel that on the tenth of this month they are to take a lamb for each family, a lamb for each household. 4If a household is too small for a whole lamb, it shall join its closest neighbor in obtaining one; the lamb shall be divided in proportion to the number of people who eat of it. 5Your lamb shall be without blemish, a year-old male; you may take it from the sheep or from the goats. 6You shall keep it until the fourteenth day of this month; then the whole assembled congregation of Israel shall slaughter it at twilight. 7They shall take some of the blood and put it on the two doorposts and the lintel of the houses in which they eat it. 8They shall eat the lamb that same night; they shall eat it roasted over the fire with unleavened bread and bitter herbs. 9Do not eat any of it raw or boiled in water, but roasted over the fire, with its head, legs, and inner organs. 10You shall let none of it remain until the morning; anything that remains until the morning you shall burn. 11This is how you shall eat it: your loins girded, your sandals on your feet, and your staff in your hand; and you shall eat it hurriedly. It is the passover of the Lord. 12For I will pass through the land of Egypt that night, and I will strike down every firstborn in the land of Egypt, both human beings and animals; on all the gods of Egypt I will execute judgments: I am the Lord. 13The blood shall be a sign for you on the houses where you live: when I see the blood, I will pass over you, and no plague shall destroy you when I strike the land of Egypt. 14This day shall be a day of remembrance for you. You shall celebrate it as a festival to the Lord; throughout your generations you shall observe it as a perpetual ordinance.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.
PSALM 149

1 Hallelujah!
Sing to the Lord a new /song; *
sing his praise in the congregation /of the faithful.

2 Let Israel rejoice in his /Maker; *
let the children of Zion be/ joyful in their King.

3 Let them praise his Name in the /dance; *
let them sing praise to him with /timbrel and harp.

4 For the Lord takes pleasure in his /people *
and adorns /the poor with victory.

5 Let the faithful rejoice in /triumph; *
let them be /joyful on their beds.

6 Let the praises of God be in their /throat *
and a two-edged /sword in their hand;

7 To wreak vengeance on the/ nations *
and punishment /on the peoples;

8 To bind their kings in /chains *
and their nobles /with links of iron;

9 To inflict on them the judgment de/creed; *
this is glory for all his faithful people.
/Hallelujah!

SECOND READING: Romans 13:8-14

8Owe no one anything, except to love one another; for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law. 9The commandments, “You shall not commit adultery; You shall not murder; You shall not steal; You shall not covet”; and any other commandment, are summed up in this word, “Love your neighbor as yourself.” 10Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore, love is the fulfilling of the law. 11Besides this, you know what time it is, how it is now the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; 12the night is far gone, the day is near. Let us then lay aside the works of darkness and put on the armor of light; 13let us live honorably as in the day, not in reveling and drunkenness, not in debauchery and licentiousness, not in quarreling and jealousy. 14Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

Reader The Word of the Lord.
People Thanks be to God.
GOSPEL: Matthew 18:15-20

Deacon The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.
People Glory to you, Lord Christ.

[Jesus said,] 15“If another member of the church sins against you, go and point out the fault when the two of you are alone. If the member listens to you, you have regained that one. 16“But if you are not listened to, take one or two others along with you, so that every word may be confirmed by the evidence of two or three witnesses. 17“If the member refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church; and if the offender refuses to listen even to the church, let such a one be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector. 18”Truly I tell you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven. 19”Again, truly I tell you, if two of you agree on earth about anything you ask, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven. 20“For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them.”

Deacon The Gospel of the Lord.
People Praise to you, Lord Christ.

THE SERMON

The Reverend Ann Broomell

THE NICENE CREED

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen. We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father. Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven: by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary, and was made man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end. We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE: FORM II

I ask your prayers for God’s people throughout the world; for Bishop Curry and Bishop Parsley; for this gathering; and for all ministers and people.
Pray for the Church.

Silence

I ask your prayers for peace; for goodwill among nations; and for the well-being of all people.
Pray for justice and peace.

Silence

I ask your prayers for the poor, the sick, the hungry, the oppressed, and those in prison.
Pray for those in any need or trouble.

Silence
I ask your prayers for all who seek God, or a deeper knowledge of him. Pray that they may find and be found by him.

Silence

I ask your prayers for the departed. Pray for those who have died.

Silence

Praise God for those in every generation in whom Christ has been honored. Pray that we may have grace to glorify Christ in our own day.

Silence

The Officiant adds a concluding Collect.

CONFESSION

The Deacon says

Let us confess our sins against God and one another.

Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent. For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us; that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways, to the glory of your Name. Amen.

The Priest stands and says

Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. Amen.

The Officiant concludes with an absolution.

“O BONE, JESU”

Latin:

O bone Jesu, miserere nobis,
quia tu creasti nos, tu redemisti nos
sanguine tuo praetiosissimo.

English translation:

O Jesus, have mercy on us,
Because you created us, you have redeemed us
With your most precious blood.

Francesco Cavalli
Margaret Kelly Cook, soprano
Ricard Bordas, countertenor
O gentle Jesu, show to us your mercy:
For you have created us,
through you we are redeemed
and are saved by your holy sacrifice.

THE SPIRITUAL COMMUNION

The Officiant leads the People in reciting Psalm 63.

O God, you are my God; eagerly I seek you; my soul thirsts for you, my flesh faints for you, as in a barren and dry land where there is no water. Therefore I have gazed upon you in your holy place, that I might behold your power and your glory. For your loving-kindness is better than life itself; my lips shall give you praise. So will I bless you as long as I live and lift up my hands in your Name. My soul is content, as with marrow and fatness, and my mouth praises you with joyful lips, When I remember you upon my bed, and meditate on you in the night watches. For you have been my helper, and under the shadow of your wings I will rejoice. My soul clings to you; your right hand holds me fast.

People and Officiant, led by St. Stephen’s Children and Youth

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy Name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

The Officiant says

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world: have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world: have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world: grant us peace.

In union, O Lord, with faithful eucharistic people throughout the world, we offer you our thanks and praise. We present to you our souls and bodies, earnestly desiring that we may always be united with you. You promise, O Christ, to be present with us in the sacrament of your body and blood, so with confidence we claim your presence among us during this eucharistic fast. Come into our hearts and unite us with you and one another. May your healing grace abound. Let nothing ever separate you from us. May we live in you and you live in us, both in this life and in the life to come. Amen.

Officiant and People

Almighty God, Father of all mercies, we your unworthy servants give you humble thanks for all your goodness and loving-kindness to us and to all whom you have made. We bless you for our creation, preservation, and all the blessings of this life; but above all for your immeasurable love in the redemption of the world by our Lord Jesus Christ; for the means of grace, and for the hope of glory. And, we pray, give us such an awareness of your mercies, that with truly thankful hearts we may show forth your praise, not only with our lips, but in our lives, by giving up our selves to your service, and by walking before you in holiness and righteousness all our days; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory throughout all ages. Amen.
The Officiant concludes with the following:

**BLESSING**

*The Priest blesses the people.*

People    Thanks be to God.

**CLOSING HYMN LEVAS II 74**

Jesu, Jesu, fill us with your love,
show us how to serve the neighbors
we have from you.

Kneels at the feet of his friends,
silently washes their feet,
Master who acts as a slave to them.

*Refrain*

Neighbors are rich and poor,
neighbors are black and white,
neighbors are near and far away.

*Refrain*

Loving puts us on our knees,
serving as though we are slaves,
this is the way we should live with you.

*Refrain*

**DISMISSAL**

Let us go forth in peace to love and serve the Lord.

People    Thanks be to God.

**POSTLUDE: “HYMN TO JOY”**

Ludwig van Beethoven, arr. Richard Elsasser

Adapted from the Rite for Spiritual Communion by the Order of Julian of Norwich.

The worship is over. Now the service begins.
SERVING TODAY:
The Reverend Dr. Adam J. Shoemaker (Officiant)
The Reverend Dr. Ann Broomell (Preacher)
The Reverend Gregory L. Smith (Deacon)
Wayne Helmy (Choirmaster & Organist)
Nancy Rees (First Lesson Reader)
Mason Rees (Second Lesson Reader)
Janine Fiedler (Intercessor)

CAST:
Scott Curry, clarinet and bass
Bill Gesin, piano
Margaret Kelly Cook, soprano
Ricard Bordas, countertenor

LORD’S PRAYER:
Loflin Sakran
Marley Sanders
Aubrey Shoemaker
Malcolm Shoemaker
Hannah Shoemaker
Silas Gesin
Titus Gesin
Bret Nettles
Aoife Fischer
Cotton Fischer

BIBLE STUDY
TUESDAYS AT 10AM
LED BY THE RECTOR, THROUGH ZOOM

Join Rev. Dr. Adam Shoemaker for a discussion on the Gospel reading for each upcoming Sunday service.

CONTACT 67ANSON@GMAIL.COM FOR THE ZOOM LINK!