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

The Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost
August 16, 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 537

Christ for the world we sing! 
The world to Christ we bring 
with loving zeal; 
the poor, and them that mourn, 
the faint and overborne, 
sin-sick and sorrow-worn, 
whom Christ doth heal.

Christ for the world we sing! 
The world to Christ we bring 
with fervent prayer; 
the wayward and the lost, 
by restless passions tossed, 
redeemed at countless cost 
from dark despair.

Christ for the world we sing! 
The world to Christ we bring 
with one accord; 
with us the work to share, 
with us reproach to dare, 
with us the cross to bear, 
for Christ our Lord.

Christ for the world we sing! 
The world to Christ we bring 
with joyful song; 
the new-born souls, whose days, 
reclaimed from error’s ways, 
inspired with hope and praise, 
to Christ belong.

A LITURGY OF THE WORD

The Celebrant says

Blessed be the one, holy, and living God.

People   Glory to God for ever and ever.

The Celebrant 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, 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

God be with you.

People And also with you.

Let us pray.

Almighty God, you have given your only Son to be for us a sacrifice for sin, and also an example of godly life: Give us grace to receive thankfully the fruits of his redeeming work, and to follow daily in the blessed steps of his most holy life; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

THE LESSONS

FIRST READING: Genesis 45:1-15

1 Joseph could no longer control himself before all those who stood by him, and he cried out, “Send everyone away from me.” So no one stayed with him when Joseph made himself known to his brothers. 2 And he wept so loudly that the Egyptians heard it, and the household of Pharaoh heard it. 3 Joseph said to his brothers, “I am Joseph. Is my father still alive?” But his brothers could not answer him, so dismayed were they at his presence. 4 Then Joseph said to his brothers, “Come closer to me.” And they came closer. He said, “I am your brother, Joseph, whom you sold into Egypt. 5 And now do not be distressed, or angry with yourselves, because you sold me here; for God sent me before you to preserve life. 6 For the famine has been in the land these two years; and there are five more years in which there will be neither plowing nor harvest. 7 God sent me before you to preserve for you a remnant on earth, and to keep alive for you many survivors. 8 So it was not you who sent me here, but God; he has made me a father to Pharaoh, and lord of all his house and ruler over all the land of Egypt. 9 Hurry and go up to my father and say to him, ‘Thus says your son Joseph, God has made me lord of all Egypt; come down to me, do not delay. 10 You shall settle in the land of Goshen, and you shall be near me, you and your children and your children’s children, as well as your flocks, your herds, and all that you have. 11 I will provide for you there—since there are five more years of famine to come—so that you and your household, and all that you have, will not come to poverty.’ 12 And now your eyes and the eyes of my brother Benjamin see that it is my own mouth that speaks to you. 13 You must tell my father how greatly I am honored in Egypt, and all that you have seen. Hurry and bring my father down here.” 14 Then he fell upon his brother Benjamin’s neck and wept, while Benjamin wept upon his neck. 15 And he kissed all his brothers and wept upon them; and after that his brothers talked with him.

Reader Hear what the Spirit is saying to God’s people.

People Thanks be to God.
ANTIPHON:

1 Oh how good and pleasant it is, * when brethren live together in unity!

2 It is like fine oil upon the head * that runs down upon the beard,

3 Upon the beard of Aaron, * and runs down upon the collar of his robe.

Antiphon

4 It is like the dew of Hermon * that falls upon the hills of Zion.

5 For there the Lord has ordained the blessing: * life for evermore.

Antiphon

SECOND READING: Romans 11:1-2a, 29-32

1 I ask, then, has God rejected his people? By no means! I myself am an Israelite, a descendant of Abraham, a member of the tribe of Benjamin. 2 God has not rejected his people whom he foreknew. 29 For the gifts and the calling of God are irrevocable.

30 Just as you were once disobedient to God but have now received mercy because of their disobedience, 31 so they have now been disobedient in order that, by the mercy shown to you, they too may now receive mercy. 32 For God has imprisoned all in disobedience so that he may be merciful to all.

Reader Hear what the Spirit is saying to God’s people.
People Thanks be to God.
Jesus left that place and went away to the district of Tyre and Sidon. Just then a Canaanite woman from that region came out and started shouting, “Have mercy on me, Lord, Son of David; my daughter is tormented by a demon.” But he did not answer her at all. And his disciples came and urged him, saying, “Send her away, for she keeps shouting after us.” He answered, “I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel.” But she came and knelt before him, saying, “Lord, help me.” He answered, “It is not fair to take the children’s food and throw it to the dogs.” She said, “Yes, Lord, yet even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their masters’ table.” Then Jesus answered her, “Woman, great is your faith! Let it be done for you as you wish.” And her daughter was healed instantly.

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

THE SERMON

The Reverend Dr. Adam J. Shoemaker

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. With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified. He has spoken through the Prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. 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 Celebrant adds a concluding Collect.*

**CONFESSION**

*The Deacon says*

Let us confess our sins against God and one another.

_God of all mercy, we confess that we have sinned against you, opposing your will in our lives. We have denied your goodness in each other, in ourselves, and in the world you have created. We repent of the evil that enslaves us, the evil we have done, and the evil done on our behalf. Forgive, restore, and strengthen us through our Savior Jesus Christ, that we may abide in your love and serve only your will. Amen._

**ABSOLUTION**

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

**“HOW VERY GOOD AND PLEASANT”**

_Arlen Clarke_

Silke Sida, soprano; Anne Lewis, alto; Craig Reinecker, bass

How very good and pleasant,  
How very good to see,  
When kindred live together,  
together in unity.  
It is like the dew of Hermon,  
Which falls upon the hills,  
For there the Lord gives blessing,  
And there our spirit fills.
For peace shall come upon you,
Annointing ev'ry race,
The precious oil of Aaron,
The precious gift of grace.
The po,Or shall be uplifted,
The scornful be made low,
The Lord ordains his blessing,
And life, forever more.

How very good and pleasant,
How very good to see,
When kindred live together,
together in unity.
It is like the dew of Hermon,
Which falls upon the hills,
For there the Lord gives blessing,
And there our spirit fills.

EUCHARISTIC PRAYER 2 Enriching our Worship

Celebrant The Lord be with you
People And also with you.
Celebrant Lift up your hearts.
People We lift them to the Lord.
Celebrant Let us give thanks for the Lord our God.
People It is right to give our thanks and praise.

The Celebrant continues

We praise you and we bless you, holy and gracious God, source of life abundant.
From before time you made ready the creation.
Your Spirit moved over the deep
and brought all things into being: sun, moon, and stars;
earth, winds, and waters;
and every living thing.

You made us in your image,  
and taught us to walk in your ways.
But we rebelled against you, and wandered far away; and yet, as a mother cares for her children, 
you would not forget us.
Time and again you called us  
to live in the fullness of your love.

And so this day we join with Saints and Angels
in the chorus of praise that rings through eternity, lifting our voices to magnify you as we sing (say):
Celebrant and People

The Celebrant continues

Glory and honor and praise to you, holy and living God. To deliver us from the power of sin and death and to reveal the riches of your grace, you looked with favor upon Mary, your willing servant, that she might conceive and bear a son, Jesus the holy child of God. Living among us, Jesus loved us. He broke bread with outcasts and sinners, healed the sick, and proclaimed good news to the poor. He yearned to draw all the world to himself yet we were heedless of his call to walk in love. Then, the time came for him to complete upon the cross the sacrifice of his life, and to be glorified by you.

At the following words concerning the bread, the Celebrant is to hold it, or lay a hand upon it; and at the words concerning the cup, to hold or place a hand upon the cup and any other vessel containing the wine to be consecrated.

On the night before he died for us, Jesus was at table with his friends. He took bread, gave thanks to you, broke it, and gave it to them, and said: “Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.” As supper was ending, Jesus took the cup of wine. Again, he gave thanks to you, gave it to them, and said: “Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is poured out for you and for all for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me.”
Now gathered at your table, O God of all creation, and remembering Christ, crucified and risen, who was and is and is to come, we offer to you our gifts of bread and wine, and ourselves, a living sacrifice.

Pour out your Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Body and Blood of Christ. Breathe your Spirit over the whole earth and make us your new creation, the Body of Christ given for the world you have made. In the fullness of time bring us, with Saint Stephen all your saints, from every tribe and language and people and nation, to feast at the banquet prepared from the foundation of the world. Through Christ and with Christ and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, to you be honor, glory, and praise, for ever and ever. AMEN.

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 Celebrant says

The Gifts of God for the People of God.

As the Communion Hymn is be played those with consecrated wafers at home are invited to communicate themselves.

COMMUNION HYMN 301

Bread of the world, in mercy broken, Wine of the soul, in mercy shed, by whom the words of life were spoken, and in whose death our sins are dead: look on the heart by sorrow broken, look on the tears by sinners shed; and be thy feast to us the token that by thy grace our souls are fed.

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

God of abundance, you have fed us with the bread of life and cup of salvation; you have united us with Christ and one another; and you have made us one with all your people in heaven and on earth. Now send us forth in the power of your Spirit, that we may proclaim your redeeming love to the world and continue for ever in the risen life of Christ our Savior. Amen.
BLESSING

The Priest blesses the people.

People Thanks be to God.

CLOSING HYMN 380

From all that dwell below the skies
let the Creator’s praise arise!
Let the Redeemer’s Name be sung
through every land, by every tongue!

Eternal are thy mercies, Lord,
and truth eternal is thy word:
thy praise shall sound from shore to shore
till suns shall rise and set no more.

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
praise him, all creatures here below;
praise him above, ye heavenly host:
praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

DISMISSAL

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE: ON “OLD 100TH”

Fred Bock

Adapted from Enriching our Worship.

The worship is over. Now the service begins.
SERVING TODAY:
The Reverend Dr. Adam J. Shoemaker (Celebrant & Preacher)
The Reverend Courtney Davis-Shoemaker (Assisting)
The Reverend Gregory L. Smith (Deacon)
Wayne Helmly (Choirmaster & Organist)
Sandi Teel (First Lesson Reader)
Brooking Limehouse (Second Lesson Reader)
Joey Froneberger (Intercessor)
Silke Sida (Soprano)
Anne Lewis (Alto)
Craig Reinecker (Bass)
Bill Gesin (Sanctus Soloist)
Scott Curry (Sanctus Soloist)

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