

The Church of England
in Central Windsor
SAID
EUCCHARIST
Thursday 26th December 2024

10:00am

St Stephen's Day



**A warm welcome to St Stephen & St Agnes Church
for our service today**

Please don't feel embarrassed if babies and small children
cry or make a noise.

Please stand for :

THE GREETING

The priest says

In the name of the Father†, and of the Son,
and of the Holy Spirit.

All **Amen.**

The priest greets the people

The Lord be with you

All **and also with you.**

Please sit for:

WORDS OF WELCOME AND ANY NOTICES

Please stand for the:

INVITATION TO CONFESSION

As Stephen rebuked God's people for not listening to the word of God, let us confess our stubbornness and sin which resist the Holy Spirit.

You call us to listen to your voice

Lord, have mercy.

All **Lord, have mercy.**

You command us to flee from idolatry

Christ, have mercy.

All **Christ, have mercy.**

You ask us to forgive our persecutors

Lord, have mercy.

All **Lord, have mercy.**

ABSOLUTION

The priest says

May the God of all healing and forgiveness draw you to himself,
that you may behold the glory of his Son, the Word made flesh,
and be cleansed from all your sins†,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All **Amen.**

THE GLORIA IN EXCELSIS

All **Glory to God in the highest,
and peace to his people on earth.
Lord God, heavenly King,
almighty God and Father,
we worship you, we give you thanks,
we praise you for your glory.**

**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;
you are seated
at the right hand of the Father:
receive our prayer.**

**For you alone are the Holy One,
you alone are the Lord,
you alone are the Most High,
Jesus Christ,
with the Holy Spirit,
in the glory of God the Father.
Amen.**

THE COLLECT

The priest says:

Gracious Father,
who gave the first martyr Stephen
grace to pray for those who took up stones against him:
grant that in all our sufferings for the truth
we may learn to love even our enemies
and to seek forgiveness for those who desire our hurt,
looking up to heaven to him who was crucified for us,
Jesus Christ, our mediator and advocate,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever..

All **Amen**

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

Please sit for:

FIRST READING

Acts 7.51–60

Stephen said to the high priest and the council:

⁷ ⁵¹ ‘You stiff-necked people, uncircumcised in heart and ears, you are for ever opposing the Holy Spirit, just as your ancestors used to do. ⁵²Which of the prophets did your ancestors not persecute? They killed those who foretold the coming of the Righteous One, and now you have become his betrayers and murderers. ⁵³You are the ones that received the law as ordained by angels, and yet you have not kept it.’

⁵⁴ When they heard these things, they became enraged and ground their teeth at Stephen. ⁵⁵ But filled with the Holy Spirit, he gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. ⁵⁶ ‘Look,’ he said, ‘I see the heavens opened and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God!’ ⁵⁷ But they covered their ears, and with a loud shout all rushed together against him. ⁵⁸ Then they dragged him out of the city and began to stone him; and the witnesses laid their coats at the feet of a young man named Saul. ⁵⁹ While they were stoning Stephen, he prayed, ‘Lord Jesus, receive my spirit.’ ⁶⁰ Then he knelt down and cried out in a loud voice, ‘Lord, do not hold this sin against them.’ When he had said this, he died.

At the end the reader says:

This is the word of the Lord.

All **Thanks be to God.**

Please stand for:

GOSPEL READING

When the Gospel is announced the reader says or sings:

Alleluia, alleluia

I see the heavens opened

and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God.

All **Alleluia.**

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew

All **Glory to you, O Lord.**

Matthew 10.17–22

Jesus said to the twelve:

10¹⁷ Beware of them, for they will hand you over to councils and flog you in their synagogues; ¹⁸and you will be dragged before governors and kings because of me, as a testimony to them and the Gentiles. ¹⁹When they hand you over, do not worry about how you are to speak or what you are to say; for what you are to say will be given to you at that time; ²⁰for it is not you who speak, but the Spirit of your Father speaking through you. ²¹Brother will betray brother to death, and a father his child, and children will rise against parents and have them put to death; ²²and you will be hated by all because of my name. But the one who endures to the end will be saved.

At the end the reader says:

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

All **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Please sit for:

SERMON

Please stand for:

THE NICENE CREED

All **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,
was incarnate from the Holy Spirit
and 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,
who with the Father and the Son is worshipped and glorified,
who 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.

Please sit for:

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

These responses may be used

All Lord, in your mercy
hear our prayer.

All Lord hear us
Lord graciously hear us

And at the end

All Merciful Father,
**accept these prayers
for the sake of your Son,
our Saviour Jesus Christ.
Amen.**

THE LITURGY OF THE SACRAMENT

Please stand for:

THE PEACE

Jesus said, 'In the world you face persecution.
But take courage; I have conquered the world.' *John 16.33*

All The peace of the Lord be always with you
and also with you.

Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

You are invited to exchange a sign of peace with your neighbour.

PREPARATION OF THE TABLE

*The altar is prepared and bread and wine are placed upon it.
The priest takes the bread and wine.*

Look upon us in mercy not in judgement;
draw us from hatred to love;
make the frailty of our praise
a dwelling place for your glory.

All **Amen**

THE EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

All The Lord be with you
and also with you.

All Lift up your hearts.
We lift them to the Lord.

All Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give thanks and praise.

Father, we give you thanks and praise
through your beloved Son Jesus Christ, your living Word,
through whom you have created all things;
who was sent by you in your great goodness to be our Saviour.
By the power of the Holy Spirit he took flesh;
as your Son, born of the blessed Virgin,
he lived on earth and went about among us;
he opened wide his arms for us on the cross;
he put an end to death by dying for us;
and revealed the resurrection by rising to new life;
so he fulfilled your will and won for you a holy people.

And now we give you thanks
for the example of your chosen servant Stephen;
as a deacon he preached the good news of your Kingdom;
he saw your glory, and as the first martyr
he committed his spirit to the Saviour.

Therefore with angels and archangels,
and with all the company of heaven,
we proclaim your great and glorious name,
for ever praising you and singing:

All **Holy, holy, holy Lord,
God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.**

**Blessed is he who comes
in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.**

Lord, you are holy indeed, the source of all holiness;
grant that by the power of your Holy Spirit,
and according to your holy will,
these gifts of bread and wine
may be to us the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ;
who, in the same night that he was betrayed,
took bread and gave you thanks;
he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying:
Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you;
do this in remembrance of me.

In the same way, after supper
he took the cup and gave you thanks;
he gave it to them, saying:
Drink this, all of you;
this is my blood of the new covenant,
which is shed for you and for many for the
forgiveness of sins.
Do this, as often as you drink it,
in remembrance of me.

Great is the mystery of faith

All **Christ has died:
Christ is risen:
Christ will come again.**

And so, Father, calling to mind his death on the cross, his perfect sacrifice made once for the sins of the whole world; rejoicing in his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension, and looking for his coming in glory, we celebrate this memorial of our redemption. As we offer you this our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving, we bring before you this bread and this cup and we thank you for counting us worthy to stand in your presence and serve you.

Send the Holy Spirit on your people and gather into one in your kingdom all who share this one bread and one cup, so that we, in the company of the Blessed Virgin Mary, St Stephen, St Agnes, St John the Baptist and all the saints, may praise and glorify you for ever, through Jesus Christ our Lord; by whom, and with whom, and in whom, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all honour and glory be yours, almighty Father, for ever and ever.

All Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

The priest says

Rejoicing in the presence of God here among us, let us pray with confidence as our Saviour has taught us.

Please feel free to use either the traditional or the contemporary version as we pray together

**All Our Father, who art in heaven, All
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,
the power and the glory,
for ever and ever.
Amen.**

**All 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.
Lead us not into temptation
but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours
now and for ever.
Amen.**

BREAKING OF THE BREAD

The priest breaks the consecrated bread.

We break the bread of life,
and that life is the light of the world.

All **God here among us, light in the midst of us,
bring us to light and life**

AGNUS DEI

All **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.**

GIVING OF COMMUNION

The priest says the invitation to communion

Christ is the true bread which has come down from heaven.

All **Lord, give us this bread always.**

If you are confirmed or a communicant member of the Church of England or any other Christian church, you are welcome to receive communion with us this morning. Otherwise, you are warmly invited to come forward to receive a blessing. Please bring the service booklet with you so we know you wish to receive a blessing.

Gluten free wafers are available on request.

PRAYERS AFTER COMMUNION

Merciful Lord,
we thank you for the signs of your mercy
revealed in birth and death:
save us by the coming of your Son,
and give us joy in honouring Stephen,
first martyr of the new Israel;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All **Amen.**

All **Almighty God,
we thank you for feeding us
with the body and blood of your Son Jesus Christ.
Through him we offer you our souls and bodies
to be a living sacrifice.
Send us out in the power of your Spirit to live and work to your
praise and glory
Amen**

THE DISMISSAL

Please stand for :

THE BLESSING

God give you grace to be faithful witnesses,
to see heaven opened
and the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ;
and the blessing of God almighty,
the Father†, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be among you and remain with you always.

All **Amen.**

Final Hymn

All **Good King Wenceslas looked out
On the Feast of Stephen
When the snow lay 'round about
Deep and crisp and even**

All **Brightly shone the moon that night
Though the frost was cruel
When a poor man came in sight
Gath'ring winter fuel**

M **"Hither, page, and stand by me
If thou know'st it, telling
Yonder peasant, who is he?
Where and what his dwelling?"**

W **"Sire, he lives a good league, hence
Underneath the mountain
Right against the forest fence
By Saint Agnes' fountain"**

M **"Bring me flesh and bring me wine
Bring me pine logs hither
Thou and I will see him dine
When we bear them thither"**

All Page and monarch forth they went
Forth they went together
Through the rude wind's wild lament
And the bitter weather

W "Sire, the night is darker now
And the wind blows stronger
Fails my heart, I know not how
I can go no longer"

M "Mark my footsteps, my good page
Tread thou in them boldly
Thou shalt find the winter's rage
Freeze thy blood less coldly"

All In his master's steps he trod
Where the snow lay dinted
Heat was in the very sod
Which the saint had printed

All Therefore, Christian folk, be sure
Wealth or rank possessing
Ye who now will bless the poor
Shall yourselves find blessing

The priest says

Go in peace. Proclaim the Word made flesh.

All **Glory, thanks and praise to God**

The ministers and people depart.

If you are visiting today or attending for the first time, we hope that you have felt "at home" here, that you will be refreshed by today's service of worship and that you will return in the future.

We shall be delighted if you decide to make our church community your spiritual home.

You are welcome to take this service sheet away with you for private reflection or to give to a friend.

If you would like to know more about the Christian faith, please ask! You can also find out more by following the "Our Faith" link on the Church of England website: www.churchofengland.org

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