

The Eighth Sunday after Pentecost  
July 26, 2020

St. Stephen's Episcopal Church  
Richmond, Virginia

WELCOME

*Lynn Ivey, junior warden, St. Stephen's vestry*

HYMN 410

Praise my soul the King of Heaven

*St. Stephen's Virtual Choir*

*Brent te Velde, organ*

OPENING ACCLAMATION AND COLLECT FOR PURITY

The Book of Common Prayer, page 355

*Robyn Kay*

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

*Mike Koschak*

O God, the protector of all who trust in you, without whom nothing is strong, nothing is holy: Increase and multiply upon us your mercy; that, with you as our ruler and guide, we may so pass through things temporal, that we lose not the things eternal; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

THE GOSPEL: MATTHEW 13:31-33, 44-52

*Mark Williams, Nancy Emerson*

Jesus put before the crowds another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed that someone took and sowed in his field; it is the smallest of all the seeds, but when it has grown it is the greatest of shrubs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches."

He told them another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like yeast that a woman took and mixed in with three measures of flour until all of it was leavened."

"The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which someone found and hid; then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field."

“Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls; on finding one pearl of great value, he went and sold all that he had and bought it.

“Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was thrown into the sea and caught fish of every kind; when it was full, they drew it ashore, sat down, and put the good into baskets but threw out the bad. So it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come out and separate the evil from the righteous and throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

“Have you understood all this?” They answered, “Yes.” And he said to them, “Therefore every scribe who has been trained for the kingdom of heaven is like the master of a household who brings out of his treasure what is new and what is old.”

#### THE HOMILY

*Josh Rockett, director of outreach*

#### MUSIC FOR MEDITATION

Seek ye first (Hymn 711)

*Brent te Velde, piano*

#### THE LORD’S PRAYER

*Gibson Bowles*

#### THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE, FORM VI

The Book of Common Prayer, page 892

*Alston Williams, Mac Hines, Jenny Speight, Chris Hillsman, David Alltop*

#### CONCLUDING COLLECT

For those we love, the Book of Common Prayer, page 831

*The Rev. Gary D. Jones*

#### CLOSING ANTHEM

“Come, Renew Us” by Eleanor Daley

*St. Stephen’s Virtual Choir*

#### THE PEACE

*Reilly Spitzer*

#### CLOSING WORDS

*The Rev. Cate Anthony*

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Music for Meditation: Hymn 711, Seek ye first, from The Hymnal 1982; Brent te Velde, piano

Music during Prayers of the People: *Veni Creator*, public domain; Brent te Velde, piano

Closing hymn: “Come, Renew Us,” by Eleanor Daley; Alliance Music Publications; used by permission.

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