

The Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost
September 13, 2020

St. Stephen's Episcopal Church
Richmond, Virginia

WELCOME

The Rev. Donny Dunn

OPENING HYMN

Hymn 525, 'The Church's one foundation, *Aurelia*
St. Stephen's Virtual Choir; Brent te Velde, organ

OPENING ACCLAMATION AND COLLECT FOR PURITY

[Page 355](#), The Book of Common Prayer
Chip Tarkenton

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

[Page 233](#), The Book of Common Prayer (Proper 19)
Julia Monroe

O God, because without you we are not able to please you, mercifully grant that your Holy Spirit may in all things direct and rule our hearts; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

THE FIRST LESSON

Romans 14:1-12

The Rev. Claudia Merritt

Welcome those who are weak in faith, but not for the purpose of quarreling over opinions. Some believe in eating anything, while the weak eat only vegetables. Those who eat must not despise those who abstain, and those who abstain must not pass judgment on those who eat; for God has welcomed them. Who are you to pass judgment on servants of another? It is before their own lord that they stand or fall. And they will be upheld, for the Lord is able to make them stand.

Some judge one day to be better than another, while others judge all days to be alike. Let all be fully convinced in their own minds. Those who observe the day, observe it in honor of the Lord. Also those who eat, eat in honor of the Lord, since they give thanks to God; while those who abstain, abstain in honor of the Lord and give thanks to God.

We do not live to ourselves, and we do not die to ourselves. If we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord; so then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's. For to this end Christ died and lived again, so that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living.

Why do you pass judgment on your brother or sister? Or you, why do you despise your brother or sister? For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God. For it is written,

“As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me,
and every tongue shall give praise to God.”

So then, each of us will be accountable to God.

INTERLUDE

Excerpt from “I want to walk as a child of the light,” *Houston*
Flowers in the Chapel of the Holy Spirit by the Flower Guild @ St. Stephen's

THE GOSPEL

Matthew 18:21-35

Doug Carleton, Reilly Monroe

Peter came and said to Jesus, “Lord, if another member of the church sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?” Jesus said to him, “Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times.

“For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves. When he began the reckoning, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him; and, as he could not pay, his lord ordered him to be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions, and payment to be made. So the slave fell on his knees before him, saying, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.’ And out of pity for him, the lord of that slave released him and forgave him the debt.

But that same slave, as he went out, came upon one of his fellow slaves who owed him a hundred denarii; and seizing him by the throat, he said, ‘Pay what you owe.’ Then his fellow slave fell down and pleaded with him, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you.’ But he refused; then he went and threw him into prison until he would pay the debt. When his fellow slaves saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their lord all that had taken place. Then his lord summoned him and said to him, ‘You wicked slave! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. Should you not have had mercy on your fellow slave, as I had mercy on you?’ And in anger his lord handed him over to be tortured until he would pay his entire debt.

So my heavenly Father will also do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother or sister from your heart.”

THE HOMILY

The Rev. Will Stanley

MUSIC FOR MEDITATION

“I want to walk as a child of the light,” *Houston*
Cory Blake, guitar

THE NICENE CREED

Setting by Calvin Hampton
Kelsey Snyder, Jim Smith-Parham, Martha Prewitt
Brent te Velde, organ

THE LORD’S PRAYER

Chris Holman

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

[Form IV](#), page 388 in the Book of Common Prayer
Lisa Cuseo-Ott, Malcolm Randolph, Katie Chase, Alice Meadows

Music: I come with joy; *Land of Rest; Boo Reiners, guitar*

We give thanks for all the blessings of this life, especially:

The Baptism of

Margaret Ann Pepper Hughes
daughter of Melissa and Jay Hughes
September 6, 2020

Elliott Rae Hardy
daughter of William Culvahouse Hardy and Spencer Ladd Hardy
September 11, 2020

Edward John Casey IV
son of Edward John Casey III and Jessica Lara Casey
September 13, 2020

Jennifer Sue Edmonds
daughter of Brian Michael Edmonds and Isabel Breckinridge Hall Edmonds
September 13, 2020

The Marriage of
Elizabeth Carter Reifsnider and Patrick Lawrence Toohers
September 12, 2020

Sarah Manning Woolley to Joseph Boylan Gisriel
September 12, 2020

CLOSING ANTHEM
“God So Loved the World”
Bob Chilcott
St. Stephen’s Virtual Choir

THE PEACE
Carl Atkins

CLOSING WORDS
Anna Jones

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Opening Hymn 525, The Church’s one foundation, *Aurelia*; from The Hymnal 1982

Music for meditation, Hymn 490, I want to walk as a child of the light, *Houston*; from The Hymnal 1982; Cory Blake, guitar

The Nicene Creed, setting by Calvin Hampton, S-105 from The Hymnal 1982

Closing anthem, “God So Loved the World,” by Bob Chilcott; Oxford University Press, used with permission.

Music for Prayers and the People and final credits: Hymn 302, I come with joy; *Land of Rest*; from The Hymnal 1982; Boo Reiners, guitar

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