

The Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost
September 20, 2020

St. Stephen's Episcopal Church
Richmond, Virginia

WELCOME

The Rev. Cate Anthony

OPENING HYMN

Hymn 379, God is Love

St. Stephen's Virtual Choir; Brent te Velde, organ

OPENING ACCLAMATION AND COLLECT FOR PURITY

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

John Phillips

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

[Page 233](#), The Book of Common Prayer (Proper 20)

Elizabeth Green

Grant us, Lord, not to be anxious about earthly things, but to love things heavenly; and even now, while we are placed among things that are passing away, to hold fast to those that shall endure; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

THE FIRST LESSON

Philippians 1:21-30

Jerry Canaan

To me, living is Christ and dying is gain. If I am to live in the flesh, that means fruitful labor for me; and I do not know which I prefer. I am hard pressed between the two: my desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better; but to remain in the flesh is more necessary for you. Since I am convinced of this, I know that I will remain and continue with all of you for your progress and joy in faith, so that I may share abundantly in your boasting in Christ Jesus when I come to you again. Only, live your life in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that, whether I come and see you or am absent and hear about you, I will know that you are standing firm in one spirit, striving side by side with one mind for the faith of the gospel, and are in no way intimidated by your opponents. For them this is evidence of their destruction, but of your salvation. And this is God's doing. For he has graciously granted you the privilege not only of believing in Christ, but of suffering for him as well—since you are having the same struggle that you saw I had and now hear that I still have.

INTERLUDE

Excerpt from Hymn 209

Flowers in the Chapel of the Holy Spirit by the Flower Guild @ St. Stephen's

THE GOSPEL

Matthew 20:1-16

Dee Dee Tarkenton

Jesus said, "The kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire laborers for his vineyard. After agreeing with the laborers for the usual daily wage, he sent them into his vineyard. When he went out about nine o'clock, he saw others standing idle in the marketplace; and he said to them, 'You also go into the vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right.' So they went. When he went out again about noon and about three o'clock, he did the same. And about five o'clock he went out and found others standing around; and he said to them, 'Why are you standing here idle all day?' They said to him, 'Because no one has hired us.' He said to them, 'You also go into the vineyard.' When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his manager, 'Call the laborers and give them their pay, beginning with the last and then going to the first.' When those hired about five o'clock came, each of them received the usual daily wage. Now when the first came, they thought they would receive more; but each of them also received the usual daily wage. And when they received it, they grumbled against the landowner, saying, 'These last worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat.' But he replied to one of them, 'Friend, I am doing you no wrong; did you not agree with me for the usual daily wage? Take what belongs to you and go; I choose to give to this last the same as I give to you. Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or are you envious because I am generous?' So the last will be first, and the first will be last."

THE HOMILY

The Rev. Gary Jones

MUSIC FOR MEDITATION

St. Botolph (Hymn 209)

Brent de Velde, piano

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Zoe Green

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

[Form IV](#), page 388 in the Book of Common Prayer

Matthew Clites, Edwina Phillips, Glenna Bailey, Will Stanley

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

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The birth of
Owen Richard Booth
Son of Virginia Ivey Daniel Booth
Grandson of Lynn Ivey
September 11, 2020

The Baptism of
Paige Walker Thomas
Daughter of Whitney Thomas and William Thomas
September 20, 2020

The Baptism of
Mason Rives French
Son of Marshall French and Pearson Moore French
September 20, 2020

CLOSING ANTHEM

“The Lord Bless You and Keep You”

John Rutter

St. Stephen's Virtual Choir

Brent te Velde, organ

THE PEACE

Oliver Green

CLOSING WORDS

Excerpt from *An Altar in the World* by Barbara Brown Taylor

Cate Anthony

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Opening Hymn 379, God is Love; *Abbot's Leigh*; from The Hymnal 1982

Music for meditation, Hymn 209, We walk by faith and not by sight, *St. Botolph*, from The Hymnal 1982; Brent te Velde, piano

Music for Prayers of the People and final credits: “O Beauty Ever Ancient,” by Cory Blake; used with permission; Cory Blake, guitar

Closing Anthem: “The Lord Bless You and Keep You,” music by John Rutter; used with permission of C.F. Peters

Closing words excerpted from *An Altar in the World: A Geography of Faith* by Barbara Brown Taylor; published by HarperCollins.

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All recordings made in accordance with public health and diocesan guidelines.

Join us for an online Sunday Forum at 10 a.m., and for a virtual coffee hour at 10:45 a.m.

Registration and details: ststephensRVA.org/sevenwholedays