

The Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost
September 27, 2020

St. Stephen's Episcopal Church
Richmond, Virginia

WELCOME

Betsy Tyson

OPENING HYMN

Hymn 686, Come thou fount of every blessing
St. Stephen's Virtual Choir; Brent te Velde, organ

OPENING ACCLAMATION AND COLLECT FOR PURITY

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

Lee Mumford

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

[Page 233](#), The Book of Common Prayer (Proper 21)

Louise Kirby

O God, you declare your almighty power chiefly in showing mercy and pity:
Grant us the fullness of your grace, that we, running to obtain your promises,
may become partakers of your heavenly treasure; 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

Exodus 17:1-3, 7

Anne Lynde

From the wilderness of Sin the whole congregation of the Israelites journeyed by stages, as the Lord commanded. They camped at Rephidim, but there was no water for the people to drink. The people quarreled with Moses, and said, "Give us water to drink." Moses said to them, "Why do you quarrel with me? Why do you test the Lord?" But the people thirsted there for water; and the people complained against Moses and said, "Why did you bring us out of Egypt, to kill us and our children and livestock with thirst?" He called the place Massah and Meribah, because the Israelites quarreled and tested the Lord, saying, "Is the Lord among us or not?"

THE SECOND LESSON

Philippians 2:1-13

Stephanie Hill Blackwood

If then there is any encouragement in Christ, any consolation from love, any sharing in the Spirit, any compassion and sympathy, make my joy complete: be of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves. Let each of you look not to your own interests, but to the interests of others. Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus,

who, though he was in the form of God,
did not regard equality with God
as something to be exploited,
but emptied himself,
taking the form of a slave,
being born in human likeness.
And being found in human form,
he humbled himself
and became obedient to the point of death--
even death on a cross.
Therefore God also highly exalted him
and gave him the name
that is above every name,
so that at the name of Jesus
every knee should bend,
in heaven and on earth and under the earth,
and every tongue should confess
that Jesus Christ is Lord,
to the glory of God the Father.

Therefore, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed me, not only in my presence, but much more now in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling; for it is God who is at work in you, enabling you both to will and to work for his good pleasure.

INTERLUDE

Excerpt from Hymn 469

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

THE GOSPEL

Matthew 21: 23-32

Roger Kirby, Donna Ransone

When Jesus entered the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people came to him as he was teaching, and said, "By what authority are you doing these things, and who gave you this authority?" Jesus said to them, "I will also ask you one question; if you tell me the answer, then I will also tell you by what authority I do these things. Did the baptism of John come from heaven, or was it of human origin?" And they argued with one another, "If we say, 'From heaven,' he will say to us, 'Why then did you not believe him?' But if we say, 'Of human origin,' we are afraid of the crowd; for all regard John as a prophet." So they answered Jesus, "We do not know." And he said to them, "Neither will I tell you by what authority I am doing these things.

"What do you think? A man had two sons; he went to the first and said, 'Son, go and work in the vineyard today.' He answered, 'I will not'; but later he changed his mind and went. The father went to the second and said the same; and he answered, 'I go, sir'; but he did not go. Which of the two did the will of his father?" They said, "The first." Jesus said to them, "Truly I tell you, the tax collectors and the prostitutes are going into the kingdom of God ahead of you. For John came to you in the way of righteousness and you did not believe him, but the tax collectors and the prostitutes believed him; and even after you saw it, you did not change your minds and believe him.

THE HOMILY

The Rev. Gary Jones

MUSIC FOR MEDITATION

Hymn 469, There's a wideness in God's mercy, *St. Helena*

Brent te Velde, piano

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Bill Newman

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

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

Lainey Schaaf, Kate Schaaf, Laura Kirby, Jim Ransone

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

The Baptism of

Lyle Ann Moore

daughter of Aubrey Lawrence Moore and William Thomas Moore

granddaughter of Deb and Rick Lawrence

September 26, 2020

The Baptism of
Brooks Harrison McCullough
son of Katherine Rose McCullough and Brian Michael McCullough
September 27, 2020

The Baptism of
Louise Clark Hanley
daughter of Ashley Byars Hanley and Brendan Clark Hanley
September 27, 2020

The Marriage of
Carter Spurgeon Younts and Allison Whitney Hicks
August 22, 2020

CLOSING HYMN

Hymn 516, Come down, O love divine
St. Stephen's Virtual Choir; Brent te Velde, organ

THE PEACE

Edward Schaaf

+++

Hymn 686, Come thou fount of every blessing, *Nettleton*, from The Hymnal 1982

Music for Meditation: Hymn 469, There's a wideness in God's mercy, *St. Helena*, from The Hymnal 1982; Brent te Velde, piano

Hymn 516, Come down, O love divine, *Down Ampney*, from The Hymnal 1982

Music during Prayers of the People and closing credits: Hymn 686, *Nettleton*, from The Hymnal 1982; Boo Reiners, banjo and guitar

The Rite Stuff, Copyright©1998 by Church Publishing Incorporated, All rights reserved; from Copyright©1977; used by permission. Adapted from Common Worship, Copyright © The Archbishops' Council of the Church of England, 2000-2006; All of the official Common Worship publications are being published by Church House Publishing. Copyrighted music used with OneLicense #A710911.

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