

The Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost
October 4, 2020

St. Stephen's Episcopal Church
Richmond, Virginia

WELCOME

Brent te Velde

OPENING HYMN

Hymn 680

O God our help in ages past

St. Stephen's Virtual Choir; Greg Vick, organ

OPENING ACCLAMATION AND COLLECT FOR PURITY

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

Dennis Moseley

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

[Page 233](#), The Book of Common Prayer (Proper 22)

Natalie Daniels

Almighty and everlasting God, you are always more ready to hear than we to pray, and to give more than we either desire or deserve: Pour upon us the abundance of your mercy, forgiving us those things of which our conscience is afraid, and giving us those good things for which we are not worthy to ask, except through the merits and mediation of Jesus Christ our Savior; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

THE GOSPEL

Matthew 21:33-46

Isabelle King, Joan Layne

Jesus said, "Listen to another parable. There was a landowner who planted a vineyard, put a fence around it, dug a wine press in it, and built a watchtower. Then he leased it to tenants and went to another country. When the harvest time had come, he sent his slaves to the tenants to collect his produce. But the tenants seized his slaves and beat one, killed another, and stoned another. Again he sent other slaves, more than the first; and they treated them in the same way. Finally he sent his son to them, saying, 'They will respect my son.' But when the tenants saw the son, they said to themselves, 'This is the heir; come, let us kill him and get his inheritance.'" So they seized him, threw him out of the vineyard, and killed him. Now when the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those tenants?" They said to him, "He will put those wretches to a miserable death, and lease the vineyard to other tenants who will give him the produce at the harvest time."

Jesus said to them, “Have you never read in the scriptures:

‘The stone that the builders rejected
has become the cornerstone;
this was the Lord’s doing,
and it is amazing in our eyes’?

Therefore I tell you, the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people that produces the fruits of the kingdom. The one who falls on this stone will be broken to pieces; and it will crush anyone on whom it falls.”

When the chief priests and the Pharisees heard his parables, they realized that he was speaking about them. They wanted to arrest him, but they feared the crowds, because they regarded him as a prophet.

THE HOMILY

The Rev. Cate Anthony

MUSIC FOR MEDITATION

The King of love my shepherd is, *St. Columba*
Cory Blake, guitar

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Tabitha Venditti, Anne Townsend, Scott Finn

THE LORD’S PRAYER

Caroline Brandt

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

[Form IV](#), page 388 in the Book of Common Prayer
Cordell Briggs, Tony Anthony, Chris Lane, the Rev. Claudia Merritt

Music: *Seek Ye First*

Brent te Velde, piano

We give thanks for all the blessings of this life, especially for the animals who enrich our lives.

CLOSING HYMN

Hymn 405

All things bright and beautiful

St. Stephen’s Virtual Choir

Brent te Velde, organ

THE PEACE

Caroline Jones with Tuck

CLOSING WORDS

Philippians 3: 13, 14

Allison Seay

Beloved, I do not consider that I have made it my own; but this one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal for the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus.

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In celebration of the Feast Day of St. Francis of Assisi, you are invited to bring your pet—or a cherished stuffed animal—for a blessing by our clergy today, between 2:00 p.m. and 4:00 p.m. Clergy will be blessing the animals along Grove Avenue beside the church.

You are welcome to park your car in the parking lot and walk up for the blessing of your pet, if you like (please wear a mask and remain appropriately distanced from others). You are also welcome to remain in your car and we'll bless your animals there.

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Hymn 680, O God, our help in ages past; *St. Anne*; from The Hymnal 1982

Hymn 405, All things bright and beautiful; *Royal Oak*; from The Hymnal 1982

Music for Meditation: The King of Love, *St. Columba*, from The Hymnal 1982; Cory Blake, guitar

Music during Prayers of the People: Seek ye first; *Seek Ye First*; from The Hymnal 1982; Brent te Velde, piano

Photos of 2019 Blessing of the Animals service by Jay Paul

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