

The Twenty-first Sunday after Pentecost
October 25, 2020

St. Stephen's Episcopal Church
Richmond, Virginia

WELCOME

Chris Edwards

HYMN 408

Give praise to God, *Mit Freuden zart*, from The Hymnal 1989

St. Stephen's Virtual Choir

Brent te Velde, organ

OPENING ACCLAMATION AND COLLECT FOR PURITY

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

Sam Davis

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

[Page 233](#), The Book of Common Prayer (Proper 24)

Lyla Mann

Almighty and everlasting God, increase in us the gifts of faith, hope, and charity; and, that we may obtain what you promise, make us love what you command; 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

1 Thessalonians 2:1-8

Charlie Fox, Kara Mann

You yourselves know, brothers and sisters, that our coming to you was not in vain, but though we had already suffered and been shamefully mistreated at Philippi, as you know, we had courage in our God to declare to you the gospel of God in spite of great opposition. For our appeal does not spring from deceit or impure motives or trickery, but just as we have been approved by God to be entrusted with the message of the gospel, even so we speak, not to please mortals, but to please God who tests our hearts. As you know and as God is our witness, we never came with words of flattery or with a pretext for greed; nor did we seek praise from mortals, whether from you or from others, though we might have made demands as apostles of Christ. But we were gentle among you, like a nurse tenderly caring for her own children. So deeply do we care for you that we are determined to share with you not only the gospel of God but also our own selves, because you have become very dear to us.

THE GOSPEL

Matthew 22:34-46

Jennifer Matthews

When the Pharisees heard that Jesus had silenced the Sadducees, they gathered together, and one of them, a lawyer, asked him a question to test him. “Teacher, which commandment in the law is the greatest?” He said to him, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.’ This is the greatest and first commandment. And a second is like it: ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.”

Now while the Pharisees were gathered together, Jesus asked them this question: “What do you think of the Messiah? Whose son is he?” They said to him, “The son of David.” He said to them, “How is it then that David by the Spirit calls him Lord, saying,

‘The Lord said to my Lord,
“Sit at my right hand,
until I put your enemies under your feet”’?

If David thus calls him Lord, how can he be his son?” No one was able to give him an answer, nor from that day did anyone dare to ask him any more questions.

THE HOMILY

The Rev. Claudia Merritt

MUSIC FOR MEDITATION

Hymn 8, Morning has broken, *Bunessan*

Brent te Velde, piano

Flowers by the Flower Guild of St. Stephen’s Church

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Helen Pinckney, May Fox, Whitney Melton

THE LORD’S PRAYER

Claire Melton

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

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

Nicole Hakim Yohn, Carter Reid, Susan Davis, the Rev. Will Stanley

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

the Baptism of Alice Izard Epley
daughter of Maria Epley and John Epley
October 25, 2020

the Baptism of Henry Scott Peebles
son of Sarah Tashjian Peebles and Christopher Mackie Peebles
October 25, 2020

the Marriage of
Ashley Seal and Karen Richardson
October 24, 2020

We pray for all who have died, especially
Latisha Leigh Lochabay
November 25, 1960-October 19, 2020

CLOSING ANTHEM

Lord, for Thy Tender Mercy's Sake

Richard Farrant

St. Stephen's Virtual Choir

THE PEACE

Holden Mann

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Thank you to the singers who comprise St. Stephen's virtual choir, for their faithful service and beautiful music.

Abby Outlaw, soprano
Kelsey Snyder, soprano
Stephanie Hill, soprano
Alyssa Shevchuk, alto
Claudia Kessel, alto
Martha Prewitt, alto
Katie Fessler, alto
Matt Hassmer, tenor

Margee Krebs, tenor
Chris Edwards, tenor
Joe MacDonald, tenor
Jim Parham-Smith, bass
James McClure, bass
Travis Krickovic, bass
Malcolm Hines, bass

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Hymn 408, Give praise to God, *Mit Freuden zart*, from The Hymnal 1989

Hymn 8, Morning has broken, *Bunessan*, from The Hymnal 1989; Brent te Velde, piano

Hymn 325, Let us break bread, *Let Us Break Bread*, from The Hymnal 1989; arrangement by Anne Krentz Organ, Augsburg Fortress, OneLicense #A710911; Brent te Velde, piano

Hymn 325, Let us break bread, *Let Us Break Bread*, from The Hymnal 1989; arranged and played by Boo Reiners, guitar; used by permission

Lord, for Thy Tender Mercy's Sake, by Richard Farrant; public domain

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