



# St Stephen with St John Westminster

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**Today:**

10:00am Parish Eucharist

6:00pm Evensong

Morning & Evening Prayer are said Monday to Friday, 9.15am & 6.00pm

Silent Hour on Tuesdays at 5pm

BCP Wednesdays at 12:30pm.

## Weekly Notes

25<sup>th</sup> April 2021

(The Fourth Sunday of Easter)

**NHS Covid Testing Kits** are now available to collect at the church.

**Half an hour** before Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh's funeral last Saturday our bell was tolled by Stephanie Pattenden (with assistance from Jim) 99 times. Correspondence about our tribute can be found in the National bell ringers magazine - here is the link: ["Ringing World BellBoard"](#)

**Electoral Roll Revision** is set to begin on the 28<sup>th</sup> of April. Application forms are available at the back of church for the updating or application and must be signed and returned in hard copy by the 8<sup>th</sup> of May. Thank you

### Dates for your Diary

- 8<sup>th</sup> May – Final day for Electoral Forms to be submitted
- 13<sup>th</sup> May – Ascension Day
- 23<sup>rd</sup> May – APCM
- 30<sup>th</sup> May – Evensong meditation: The Holy Trinity, Formulae and Families
- 19<sup>th</sup> June – Helena's ordination to the Priesthood
- 20<sup>th</sup> June to 4<sup>th</sup> July – St Stephen's Week
- 3<sup>rd</sup> July – Jeremy's ordination to the Diaconate

## Prayer of Preparation

**Almighty God,  
to whom all hearts are open,  
all desires known,  
and from whom no secrets are hidden:  
cleanse the thoughts of our hearts  
by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit,  
that we may perfectly love you,  
and worthily magnify your holy name;  
through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

## The Gathering

### *Entrance Hymn*

### *The Introduction*

*Remain standing as the minister says*

Grace, mercy and peace from God our Father  
and the Lord Jesus Christ be with you  
**and also with you.**

Alleluia Christ is risen.  
**He is risen indeed. Alleluia.**

## The Liturgy of the Word

### **Invitation to Confession**

In baptism we died with Christ,  
so that as Christ was raised from the dead, we might walk in newness of life.  
Let us receive new life in him  
as we confess our sins in penitence and faith.

Like Mary at the empty tomb,  
we fail to grasp the wonder of your presence. Lord, have mercy.  
**Lord, have mercy.**

Like the disciples behind locked doors,  
we are afraid to be seen as your followers. Christ, have mercy.  
**Christ, have mercy.**

Like Thomas in the upper room, we are slow to believe.  
Lord, have mercy.  
**Lord, have mercy.**

Or

We have lived by our own strength,  
and not by the power of your resurrection. In your mercy forgive us.  
**Lord, hear us and help us.**

We have lived by the light of our own eyes, as faithless and not believing.  
In your mercy forgive us.  
**Lord, hear us and help us.**

We have lived for this world alone, and doubted our home in heaven. In your mercy  
forgive us.  
**Lord, hear us and help us.**

### **The Absolution**

May the God of love and power  
forgive you and free you from your sins,  
heal and strengthen you by his Spirit,  
and raise you to new life in Christ our Lord.  
**Amen.**

### **Gloria in Excelsis**

**Glory to God in the highest,  
and peace to his people on earth.  
Lord God, heavenly King,  
almighty God and Father,  
we worship you, we give you thanks,  
we praise you for your glory.**

**Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,  
Lord God, Lamb of God,  
you take away the sin of the world:  
have mercy on us;  
you are seated at the right hand of the Father:  
receive our prayer.**

**For you alone are the Holy One,  
you alone are the Lord,  
you alone are the Most High,  
Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit,  
in the glory of God the Father.  
Amen.**

## **The Collect**

Almighty God,  
whose Son Jesus Christ is the resurrection and the life:  
raise us, who trust in him,  
from the death of sin to the life of righteousness,  
that we may seek those things which are above,  
where he reigns with you  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever.

**Amen.**

*Silence is kept*

## **The Liturgy of the Word**

### **First Reading: Acts 4.5-12**

The next day their rulers, elders, and scribes assembled in Jerusalem, with Annas the high priest, Caiaphas, John, and Alexander, and all who were of the high-priestly family. When they had made the prisoners stand in their midst, they inquired, ‘By what power or by what name did you do this?’ Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them, ‘Rulers of the people and elders, if we are questioned today because of a good deed done to someone who was sick and are asked how this man has been healed, let it be known to all of you, and to all the people of Israel, that this man is standing before you in good health by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead. This Jesus is

“the stone that was rejected by you, the builders; it has become the cornerstone.”

There is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among mortals by which we must be saved.’

This is the word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

### **Psalm 23**

- 1 *The Lord is my shepherd; therefore can I lack nothing.*
- 2 *He makes me lie down in green pastures and leads me beside still waters.*
- 3 *He shall refresh my soul and guide me in the paths of righteousness for his name’s sake.*
- 4 *Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil; for you are with me your rod and your staff, they comfort me.*
- 5 *You spread a table before me in the presence of those who trouble me; you have anointed my head with oil and my cup shall be full.*
- 6 *Surely goodness and loving mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the Lord for ever.*

## **Second Reading: 1 John 3.16-end**

We know love by this, that he laid down his life for us—and we ought to lay down our lives for one another. How does God’s love abide in anyone who has the world’s goods and sees a brother or sister in need and yet refuses help?

Little children, let us love, not in word or speech, but in truth and action. And by this we will know that we are from the truth and will reassure our hearts before him whenever our hearts condemn us; for God is greater than our hearts, and he knows everything. Beloved, if our hearts do not condemn us, we have boldness before God; and we receive from him whatever we ask, because we obey his commandments and do what pleases him.

And this is his commandment, that we should believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ and love one another, just as he has commanded us. All who obey his commandments abide in him, and he abides in them. And by this we know that he abides in us, by the Spirit that he has given us.

This is the word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## **The Gospel Reading: John 10.11-18**

Alleluia, alleluia.

Jesus said, ‘I am the resurrection and the life.

Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die.’

**Alleluia.**

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

‘I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. The hired hand, who is not the shepherd and does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and runs away—and the wolf snatches them and scatters them. The hired hand runs away because a hired hand does not care for the sheep. I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, just as the Father knows me and I know the Father. And I lay down my life for the sheep. I have other sheep that do not belong to this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. So there will be one flock, one shepherd. For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life in order to take it up again. No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it up again. I have received this command from my Father.’

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

## The Sermon

## The Creed

We believe in one God,  
the Father, the Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth,  
of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,  
the only Son of God,  
eternally begotten of the Father,  
God from God, Light from Light,  
true God from true God,  
begotten, not made,  
of one Being with the Father;  
through him all things were made.  
For us and for our salvation  
he came down from heaven,  
was incarnate from the Holy Spirit  
and the Virgin Mary and was made man.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;  
he suffered death and was buried.  
On the third day he rose again  
in accordance with the Scriptures;  
he ascended into heaven  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.  
He will come again in glory  
to judge the living and the dead,  
and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the Lord, the giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,  
who with the Father and the Son  
is worshipped and glorified,  
who has spoken through the prophets.  
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.  
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

We look for the resurrection of the dead,  
and the life of the world to come.  
Amen.

## The Prayers of Intercession

Lord , in your mercy  
**hear our prayer.**

**In our parish cycle of prayer:** Our Young People, Seniors and their champions, and local ambulance service

**For those who live in:** Chapter Street and Regency Place

**As part of St Stephen's link with the Church in Myanmar:**

Bishop Clement Sun Oo, Bishop of Pyay Missionary Diocese, and for a just and peaceful solution to the recent troubles

**We pray for our New York City link parish:**

The Church of the Holy Trinity and their Rector, Revd John F. Beddingfield, praying particularly for their adult education programme

**In our Diocesan Cycle of Prayer:**

Pray for the Anglican Communion in Japan (Nippon Sei Ko Kai): Luke Kenichi Muto (Archbishop, and Bishop of Kyushu)

Göteborg (Sweden): Susanne Rappmann (Bishop)

With Confident Disciples: we pray for those working to uphold, administer and teach the law in our city

Pray for the work of Sara Black, Area Administrator, and all other Stepney Area staff and advisers

**Among those who have asked for our prayers:**

Robin Fairfax; Vera Godsall; Marian Hall; Jean Haswell; Dyfrig Jones; Alan Mack; Michael Pryce Jones; Miriam Lesmond; Pete Read; Henry Taylor; John Travis-Clarke; Gay Widmer; Anne Norman-Butler; Marian McHale; Amal Griffin; Fraser Copley and his dad, Kevin Copley; Pete Barney; Tom Robinson; Ramone, his parents Anne and Mo, and his brothers Liam and Raheem; John Turpin; Tony Reid; Mark O'Donnell; Jan Broad; Angela Farquhar; Lynette Burrows; Michael Cross; Joanna Smith; Baby Alexander and his parents Rebecca and Oliver Peachey; Janet St John Austen; Tony Sewell

**For the Years' Mind of:** Elaine Webster; Noel Haliday; Leslie Francis Squires; Joyce Cane; Teresa Gall; John Mayatt; Lena Efford

And at the end

Merciful God,  
**accept these prayers  
for the sake of your Son,  
our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.**

## Introduction to the Peace

The risen Christ came and stood among his disciples and said, 'Peace be with you.'  
Then were they glad when they saw the Lord. Alleluia.

The peace of the Lord be always with you  
**and also with you.**

Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

## Offertory Hymn

*Offering is available online at [CAF Donate](#), or please leave donations in the box by the North Door at the end of the service.*

## The Eucharistic Prayer

The Lord be with you  
**and also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.  
**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.  
**It is right to give thanks and praise.**

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, always and everywhere to give you thanks, almighty and eternal Father, and in these days of Easter to celebrate with joyful hearts the memory of your wonderful works. For by the mystery of his passion Jesus Christ, your risen Son, has conquered the powers of death and hell and restored in men and women the image of your glory. He has placed them once more in paradise and opened to them the gate of life eternal. And so, in the joy of this Passover, earth and heaven resound with gladness, while angels and archangels and the powers of all creation sing for ever the hymn of your glory.

**Holy, holy, holy Lord,  
God of power and might.  
Heaven and earth are full of thy glory.  
Hosanna in the highest.**

**Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord.  
Hosanna in the highest.**

We praise and bless you, loving Father, through Jesus Christ, our Lord;  
and as we obey his command, send your Holy Spirit,  
that broken bread and wine outpoured  
may be for us the body and blood of your dear Son.

On the night before he died he had supper with his friends  
and, taking bread, he praised you.  
He broke the bread, gave it to them and said:  
Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you;  
do this in remembrance of me.

When supper was ended he took the cup of wine.  
Again he praised you, gave it to them and said:  
Drink this, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant,  
which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins.  
Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.

So, Father, we remember all that Jesus did,  
in him we plead with confidence his sacrifice  
made once for all upon the cross.

Bringing before you the bread of life and cup of salvation,  
we proclaim his death and resurrection  
until he comes in glory.

Great is the mystery of faith:

**Christ has died:**

**Christ is risen:**

**Christ will come again.**

Lord of all life, help us to work together for that day when your kingdom comes  
and justice and mercy will be seen in all the earth.

Look with favour on your people, gather us in your loving arms  
and bring us with St Stephen,  
St John and all the saints  
to feast at your table in heaven.

Through Christ, and with Christ,  
and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all honour and glory are yours,  
O loving Father, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

## **The Lord's Prayer**

Let us pray with confidence as our Saviour has taught us:

**Our Father, who art in heaven,  
hallowed be thy name;  
thy kingdom come; thy will be done;  
on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread.  
And forgive us our trespasses,  
as we forgive those who trespass against us.  
And lead us not into temptation;  
but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom,  
the power and the glory,  
for ever and ever. Amen.**

## **Breaking of the Bread**

*The president breaks the consecrated bread*

We break this bread  
to share in the body of Christ.  
**Though we are many, we are one body, because we all share in one bread.**

## **Agnus Dei**

**Jesus, Lamb of God,  
have mercy on us.**

**Jesus, bearer of our sins  
have mercy on us.**

**Jesus, redeemer of the world,  
grant us your peace.**

Alleluia! Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.  
**Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia!**

*During Communion please stay in your seats, and Communion will be brought to you.*

## **The Post Communion Prayer**

Merciful Father,  
you gave your Son Jesus Christ to be the good shepherd,  
and in his love for us to lay down his life and rise again:  
keep us always under his protection,  
and give us grace to follow in his steps;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen**

**Loving God,**  
**whether we are in your church or joining online from another place,**  
**we give you thanks for restoring us in your image and**  
**nourishing us with spiritual food in the Sacrament of Christ's Body and Blood.**  
**Now send us forth a people forgiven, healed, and renewed;**  
**that we may proclaim your love to the world and**  
**continue in the risen life of Christ our Saviour. Amen.**

**Notices**

**Final Hymn**

***The Dismissal***

**The Blessing**

The God of peace,  
who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus,  
that great shepherd of the sheep,  
through the blood of the eternal covenant,  
make you perfect in every good work to do his will,  
working in you that which is well-pleasing in his sight;  
and the blessing ...

Filled with the Spirit's power,  
go in the light and peace of Christ. Alleluia, alleluia.  
**Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia.**