

# St. Stephen's Episcopal Church



## The Sixth Sunday of Easter

## The Holy Eucharist Rite II

May 10, 2026 | 8:00 am and 10:00 am

*The 8:00 am service is a spoken service*

*Welcome to St. Stephen's! Thank you for joining us for worship this morning.  
The service is also found in the Book of Common Prayer beginning on page 355.  
All are welcome to receive communion.*

# The Liturgy of the Word

**The Prelude**

Two settings of "All things bright and beautiful"

Maureen Howell  
Michael Burkhart

**The Procession In**

Alleluia, alleluia!

Hymnal 191

**The Opening Acclamation**

*Presider* Alleluia. Christ is risen.

*People* The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia.

**The Gloria (8a.m. spoken, 10a.m.sung)**



Glo - ry to God in the high - est, and peace to God's peo - ple on earth.



Lord God, heav - en - ly King, al - migh - ty God and Fa - ther, we wor - ship you, we



give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry. Lord Je - sus Christ,



on - ly Son of the Fa - ther, Lord God, Lamb of God, you take a - way the



sin of the world: have mer - cy on us; you are seat - ed at the



right - hand - of the Fa - ther: re - ceive our prayer. For



you a - lone are the Ho - ly One, you a - lone are the Lord,

you a-lone are the Most High, Je-sus Christ, with the Ho-ly  
 Spi-rit, in the glo-ry of God the Fa-ther.  
 A - - - - - men.

### The Collect of the Day

*Presider* The Lord be with you

*People* And also with you.

*Presider* Let us pray.

O God, you have prepared for those who love you such good things as surpass our understanding: Pour into our hearts such love towards you, that we, loving you in all things and above all things, may obtain your promises, which exceed all that we can desire; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

### The First Reading

Acts 17:22-31

Paul stood in front of the Areopagus and said, “Athenians, I see how extremely religious you are in every way. For as I went through the city and looked carefully at the objects of your worship, I found among them an altar with the inscription, ‘To an unknown god.’ What therefore you worship as unknown, this I proclaim to you. The God who made the world and everything in it, he who is Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in shrines made by human hands, nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mortals life and breath and all things. From one ancestor he made all nations to inhabit the whole earth, and he allotted the times of their existence and the boundaries of the places where they would live, so that they would search for God and perhaps grope for him and find him—though indeed he is not far from each one of us. For ‘In him we live and move and have our being’; as even some of your own poets have said, ‘For we too are his offspring.’

Since we are God’s offspring, we ought not to think that the deity is like gold, or silver, or stone, an image formed by the art and imagination of mortals. While God has overlooked

the times of human ignorance, now he commands all people everywhere to repent, because he has fixed a day on which he will have the world judged in righteousness by a man whom he has appointed, and of this he has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead.”

*Reader* The Word of the Lord.

*People* Thanks be to God.

## **The Psalm**

*Jubilate Deo*

Psalm 66:7-18

- 7 Bless our God, you peoples; \*  
make the voice of his praise to be heard;
- 8 Who holds our souls in life, \*  
and will not allow our feet to slip.
- 9 For you, O God, have proved us; \*  
you have tried us just as silver is tried.
- 10 You brought us into the snare; \*  
you laid heavy burdens upon our backs.
- 11 You let enemies ride over our heads; we went through fire and water; \*  
but you brought us out into a place of refreshment.
- 12 I will enter your house with burnt-offerings and will pay you my vows, \*  
which I promised with my lips and spoke with my mouth when I was in trouble.
- 13 I will offer you sacrifices of fat beasts with the smoke of rams; \*  
I will give you oxen and goats.
- 14 Come and listen, all you who fear God, \*  
and I will tell you what he has done for me.
- 15 I called out to him with my mouth, \*  
and his praise was on my tongue.
- 16 If I had found evil in my heart, \*  
the Lord would not have heard me;
- 17 But in truth God has heard me; \*  
he has attended to the voice of my prayer.
- 18 Blessed be God, who has not rejected my prayer, \*  
nor withheld his love from me.

## The Second Reading

1 Peter 3:13-22

Now who will harm you if you are eager to do what is good? But even if you do suffer for doing what is right, you are blessed. Do not fear what they fear, and do not be intimidated, but in your hearts sanctify Christ as Lord. Always be ready to make your defense to anyone who demands from you an accounting for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and reverence. Keep your conscience clear, so that, when you are maligned, those who abuse you for your good conduct in Christ may be put to shame. For it is better to suffer for doing good, if suffering should be God's will, than to suffer for doing evil. For Christ also suffered for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, in order to bring you to God. He was put to death in the flesh, but made alive in the spirit, in which also he went and made a proclamation to the spirits in prison, who in former times did not obey, when God waited patiently in the days of Noah, during the building of the ark, in which a few, that is, eight persons, were saved through water. And baptism, which this prefigured, now saves you-- not as a removal of dirt from the body, but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers made subject to him.

*Reader* The Word of the Lord.

*People* Thanks be to God.

## The Sequence Hymn

I sing the almighty power of God

Hymnal 398

## The Gospel

John 14:15-21

*Clergy* The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.

*People* Glory to you, Lord Christ.

Jesus said, "If you love me, you will keep my commandments. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, to be with you forever. This is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, because he abides with you, and he will be in you I will not leave you orphaned; I am coming to you. In a little while the world will no longer see me, but you will see me; because I live, you also will live. On that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you. They who have my commandments and keep them are those who love me; and those who love me will be loved by my Father, and I will love them and reveal myself to them."

*Clergy* The Gospel of the Lord.

*People* Praise to you, Lord Christ.

**The Nicene 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: by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from 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. With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified. He 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 the People**

Form VI

BCP 392

*(The congregation will join in saying names in **bold**)*

In peace, we pray to you, Lord God.

*Silence*

For all people in their daily life and work;

*For our families, friends, and neighbors, and for those who are alone.*

For this community, the nation, and the world;

*For all who work for justice, freedom, and peace.*

For the just and proper use of your creation;

*For the victims of hunger, fear, injustice, and oppression.*

For all who are in danger, sorrow, or any kind of trouble;

*For those who minister to the sick, the friendless, and the needy.*

For the peace and unity of the Church of God;

*For all who proclaim the Gospel, and all who seek the Truth.*

For Sean our Presiding Bishop, and Austin our Bishop; and for all bishops and other ministers;

*For all who serve God in his Church.*

For the special needs and concerns of this congregation, especially **Corky, Maria, Doris, Dick, Wyatt, Scott, Stephen, and Suzette.**

*Silence*

Hear us, Lord;

*For your mercy is great.*

We thank you, Lord, for all the blessings of this life. We give thanks for those celebrating birthdays this week, especially **Gareth, Karl, Kyle and Pamela.**

*Silence*

We will exalt you, O God our King;

*And praise your Name for ever and ever.*

We pray for all who have died that they may have a place in your eternal kingdom.

*Silence*

Lord, let your loving-kindness be upon them;

*Who put their trust in you.*

*The Presider adds a concluding Collect.*

### **The Capital Campaign Prayer**

*Most holy, loving and life-giving God,*

*We give you thanks for the cloud of witnesses, past and present, who by their generosity of Spirit have given us a Sanctuary, a Light on a Hill, that welcomes and embraces all who seek communion with You and with one another. Bless us, yet again, as we look forward and prepare for the future through this Capital Campaign, that we may remain grateful for the past and ever-growing in faithful ministry beyond our walls.*

*We pray in the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord, and through the grace of the Holy Spirit. Amen.*

### **The Peace**

*Presider* The peace of the Lord be always with you.

*People* And also with you.

# The Liturgy of the Table

## The Offertory Sentence

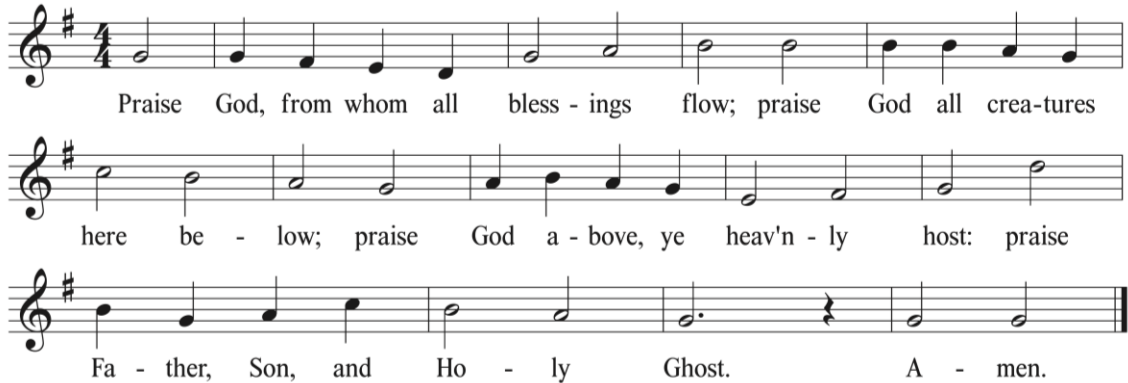
### The Offertory Anthem

Be Still

Rick Sowash

*Be still, and know that I am God – Psalm 46*

### The Doxology



Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise God all creatures  
here below; praise God above, ye heav'nly host: praise  
Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

### The Great Thanksgiving: Eucharistic Prayer A

BCP 361

*Presider* The Lord be with you.

*People* And also with you.

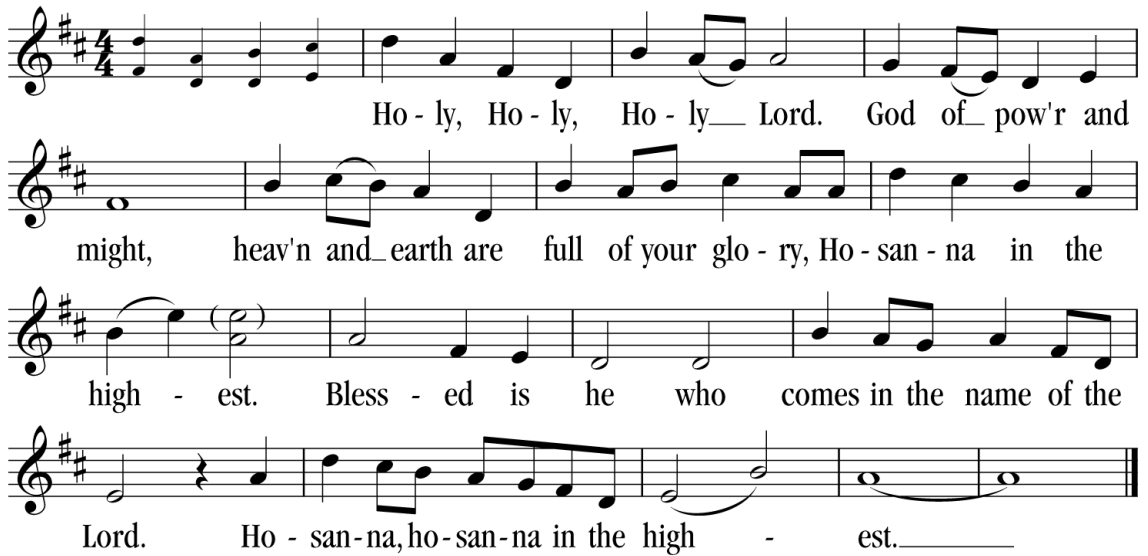
*Presider* Lift up your hearts.

*People* We lift them to the Lord.

*Presider* Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

*People* It is right to give God thanks and praise.

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth, through Jesus Christ our Lord. But chiefly are we bound to praise you for the glorious resurrection of your Son Jesus Christ our Lord; for he is the true Paschal Lamb, who was sacrificed for us, and has taken away the sin of the world. By his death he has destroyed death, and by his rising to life again he has won for us everlasting life. Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:



Ho - ly, Ho - ly, Ho - ly Lord. God of pow'r and  
 might, heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry, Ho - san - na in the  
 high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the  
 Lord. Ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

Holy and gracious Father: In your infinite love you made us for yourself; and, when we had fallen into sin and become subject to evil and death, you, in your mercy, sent Jesus Christ, your only and eternal Son, to share our human nature, to live and die as one of us, to reconcile us to you, the God and Father of all.

He stretched out his arms upon the cross, and offered himself, in obedience to your will, a perfect sacrifice for the whole world.

On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper he took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he 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. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

All: Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again;

We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, O Father, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Recalling his death, resurrection, and ascension, we offer you these gifts.

Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be for your people the Body and Blood of your Son, the holy food and drink of new and unending life in him. Sanctify us also that we may faithfully receive this holy Sacrament, and serve you in unity, constancy, and peace; and at the last day bring us with all your saints into the joy of your eternal kingdom.

All this we ask through your Son Jesus Christ. By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever. AMEN.

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to pray,

### **The Lord's Prayer**

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, and the power and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

### **The Breaking of the Bread**

*Presider* Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.

*People* Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.

*All are welcome to receive communion at God's altar.*

*If you desire prayers of healing by the laying on of hands, please proceed to the Mary Corner after receiving Communion.*

### **The Distribution of Communion**

#### **The Anthem**

#### **The Earth Adorned**

#### **Waldemar Åhlén**

1. The earth adorned in verdant robe  
Sends praises upward surging,  
While soft winds breathe on fragrant flowers  
From winter now emerging.  
The sunshine bright gives warmth and light  
To budding blossoms tender,  
Proclaiming summer splendor.

2. From out the wood, the birds now sing  
And each its song now raises,  
To join with all the universe  
In voicing thankful praises.  
With hope and joy their songs employ  
A rapturous exultation  
In praise of God's creation.

3. O God, amid these joys of life, creation's glory beaming,  
Grant us the grace to keep your word, and live in love redeeming.  
All flesh is grass, the flowers fade, and time is fleeting ever;  
God's word remains forever.

- Carl David af. Wirsen, transcribed Carolyn & Kenneth Jennings

**The Prayer after Communion**      *(please stand)*      BCP 365

*Presider* Let us pray.

*People* Eternal God, heavenly Father, you have graciously accepted us as living members of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ, and you have fed us with spiritual food in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood. Send us now into the world in peace, and grant us strength and courage to love and serve you with gladness and singleness of heart; through Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

### **The Blessing**

**The Procession Out**      All things bright and beautiful      Hymnal 405

### **The Dismissal**

*Clergy* Let us go forth in the name of Christ. Alleluia. Alleluia.

*People* Thanks be to God. Alleluia. Alleluia.

**The Postlude**      The leaves bee greene      William Inglot

## **Altar Flowers**

The flowers on the altar are given to  
the Glory of God and in loving memory of  
BJ Kirwan Hanna and a life well lived  
by Dave and Katie Moore

## **Birthday Blessings**

Gareth Moore	May 11
Karl Belgum	May 12
Kyle Seage	May 14
Pamela Schaefer	May 14



The Capital Campaign is nearing its official launch. To learn more, Vestry members and others will be available during Coffee Connections to walk through the plan and answer questions. Copies of the project booklet, summarizing the ten proposed initiatives, will be on hand as well as a summary of the input are also available online via the St. Stephen's website.

Next up is the Campaign Kickoff Dinner on May 13 at the San Francisco Yacht Club. Those who have RSVP'd positively can look forward to an evening celebrating where we are as a church and the future we're building together. If you're unable to attend, we'll look forward to everyone being together to celebrate the outcome of our campaign in the near future. All church members will be receiving campaign materials including a pledge card in the mail shortly after the dinner.

Most importantly, this campaign is about more than buildings—it's about ensuring that St. Stephen's continues to be a place of faith, connection, and belonging for generations to come. Together, we have both the opportunity and the responsibility to care for what has been entrusted to us and to prepare for what lies ahead.

Questions and ideas are always welcome—please reach out to the Vestry or the Campaign Committee.

### **Giving to St. Stephen's Episcopal Church**

If you would like to donate this morning, but are not carrying cash, feel free to donate with this QR code:



WiFi Guest Network: St Stephens Guest (password: allarewelcome)

## Music Notes

Welcome to worship at St. Stephen's! Worship in our tradition is participatory, so you are encouraged to join in the singing of the hymns and liturgy as they appear in the bulletin and the Hymnal 1982 in the pew racks in front of you. If a hymn has harmony indicated, you're welcome to sing it on the inner stanzas, leaving the first and last stanzas for unison singing.

Today is the sixth Sunday in the season of Easter, which is known in many faith traditions as **Rogation Sunday**, and some of the music this morning picks up on this theme. The commemoration takes place on the Sunday that precedes Ascension Day, which is Thursday. Rogation Sunday is dedicated to prayers for God's blessing on the land, agriculture, and communities.

In early medieval Christian practices, processions and prayers around the community commemorated Rogationtide, which emphasized the connective thread between a land that gave forth abundance in harvest, and the overall health of the community itself. The Church of England expanded this observance to include prayers for work, stewardship of resources, and social well-being. The day serves as a reminder of the interconnectedness of faith, creation, and community life. One of my previous parishes in rural Iowa had a tradition of blessing seeds and agricultural tools this day (it was known colloquially as "drive your tractor to church Sunday").

**Cecil Alexander** (1818-1895), the poet behind "All things bright and beautiful," embodies many of the same themes of Rogation quite well. Married to the chief Anglican bishop of Ireland, she showed her concern for disadvantaged people by traveling many miles each day to provide food, warm clothes, and medical supplies to the sick and poor. The language is quite direct and easy to understand, fitting for its first publication in an 1848 volume, *Hymns for Little Children*.

Hymnologists have been quite taken with the task of determining exactly which "purple-headed mountain" and "river running by" might be referenced here. In retracing Alexander's travels, most scholars have settled on Benevenagh in Londonderry in Northern Ireland, and the nearby River Roe. This fixation on geography probably influenced the verse added by the United Church of Canada for their hymnal:

*The Rocky Mountain splendour,  
The lone wolf's haunting call,  
The Great Lakes and the prairies,  
The forest in the fall.*

See you at rehearsal, in worship, and at work in the world,

Brad

[brad@ststephenschurch.org](mailto:brad@ststephenschurch.org)

## Serving in Worship

<b>Presider</b>		The Rev. Kyle Dice Seage
<b>Minister of Music</b>		Dr. Brad Schultz
<b>Verger</b>		Jo Ann Haseltine
<b>Readers</b>	8 a.m.	Karen Gullett Lilian Murray
	10 a.m.	Janice Dalzell-Piper Lance Dalzell-Piper
<b>Intercessors</b>	8 a.m.	Lilian Murray
	10 a.m.	Chris Mudge
<b>Eucharistic Ministers</b>	8 a.m.	Altar Guild
	10 a.m.	Carol Louie Kathy Winkler
<b>Altar Guild</b>	Team 4	Barbara Garcia-Romero PJ Perring Barbara Gloger Linda Berg Nora Noguez Ellee deGroot
<b>Ushers</b>		Philip Norris Carol Louie Paul Rosenlund
<b>Coffee Connections</b>	Team 10	Lois Cannady, Lead
<b>Streamers</b>		Regan Moore Stewart Walker
<b>Newcomers Greeter</b>		Sally Williamson

# STEPHEN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

## Vestry

Dawn Vroegop, *Senior Warden*  
Leslie Cohl, *Clerk*  
Karl Belgum  
Marsha Dugan  
Gina Hector  
Jill Hinds  
Carol Louie

Jim Purvis, *Junior Warden*  
Bob McCaskill, *Treasurer*  
Elliott Main  
Mary-Ann Milford  
Philip Norris  
Andrew Purvis  
Jennie Taylor

## Staff

Kyle Dice Seage  
Satoko Akuhara Boris  
Elizabeth Gravely  
Angela Huang  
Brad Schultz

Rector  
Events Coordinator  
Parish Administrator  
Bookkeeper  
Minister of Music

If you need assistance during the week, please call or email the church office.  
Our telephone number is 415-435-4501 and the email address is [office@ststephenschurch.org](mailto:office@ststephenschurch.org).

If you would like to reach a member of the staff by email,  
please use their first name (only) followed by [@ststephenschurch.org](mailto:@ststephenschurch.org).

The church office is open Tuesday to Friday from 9:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

If you call and no one is available to answer, please leave a message  
and your call will be returned as soon as possible.

**St. Stephen's Episcopal Church**  
**3 Bayview Avenue, Belvedere, CA 94920**  
**[www.ststephenschurch.org](http://www.ststephenschurch.org)**  
**415-435-4501**