



SAINT STEPHEN'S CHURCH

PROVIDENCE, RHODE ISLAND



SOLEMN EVENSONG & BENEDICTION

THE THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER

APRIL 14, 2024

WELCOME TO SAINT STEPHEN'S and this service of Eastertide Choral Evensong. Since the earliest days of the Church, Christians have marked the changing times of day with prayer and praise. Evensong is but one part of the worship offered to God by Christian people every hour of the day and night, in every part of the world. For a brief moment, you step into the continual stream of worship which is being offered today and which will be offered to the end of time. The words we pray in Evensong are drawn almost entirely from the Bible, and the primary purpose of this service is to proclaim the wonderful works of God in history and in the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Much of the English of the service is the language spoken and written by our spiritual ancestors more than four hundred years ago. It may sound old-fashioned, but its meaning is not out of date.

We conclude Evensong with Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament, which can be thought of as a stretching out of that moment in the Mass in which the priest displays the Bread and Wine to the faithful just before communion. In Benediction, hymns to the Blessed Sacrament are sung before the priest elevates the consecrated Host displayed in lavish array. The Blessing imparted is not the priest's, but Jesus Christ's. In that moment, we are permitted to simply gaze and adore, and to receive his blessing and love, which we respond to by praising and blessing God.

If you are new or visiting today, please know how welcome you are in this community of faith. We are young and old, rich and poor, married, single and divorced, straight and gay, confident in our faith and full of questions. But the thing we share is a love of Jesus, and a desire to grow in love of God, neighbor, and self. The center of our common life is worship, and I hope you will join us for a Sunday service soon.



Fr. Benjamin Straley, *Rector*

BEFORE THE SERVICE

Peter Stoltzfus Berton plays

Dominus Regit me ('The King of Love my Shepherd is')

Christopher Dearnley (1930–2000)

Passacaglia, Op. 20 (2011)

Peter Stoltzfus Berton (b. 1968)

Choral No. 1 in E Major (1890)

César Franck (1822–1890)

ORDER OF SERVICE

¶ All stand at the ringing of the bell.

OPENING SENTENCES

If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God. *Colossians 3:1*

Christ is not entered into the holy places made with hands, which are the figures of the true; but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God for us. *Hebrews 9:24*

PRECES & RESPONSES *¶ Sung by the choir.*

Jessica French (b. 1984)

✠ O Lord, ✠ open thou our lips.

✠ And our mouth shall shew forth thy praise.

✠ O God, ✠ make speed to save us.

✠ O Lord, make haste to help us.

✠ Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;

✠ As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

✠ Praise ye the Lord.

✠ The Lord's Name be praised.

¶ The people are seated as the choir sings

PSALM 114

Tonus Peregrinus, harm. D. Willcocks (1919–2015)

When Israel came out of Egypt
and the house of Jacob from among the strange people,

Judah was his sanctuary :

and Israel his dominion.

The sea saw that, and fled :

Jordan was driven back.

The mountains skipped like rams :

and the little hills like young sheep.

What aileth thee, O thou sea, that thou fleddest :

and thou Jordan, that thou wast driven back?

Ye mountains, that ye skipped like rams :

and ye little hills, like young sheep?

Tremble, thou earth, at the presence of the LORD :

at the presence of the God of Jacob;

Who turned the hard rock into a standing water :

and the flint-stone into a springing well.

Not unto us, O LORD, not unto us, but unto thy Name give the praise :
for thy loving mercy, and for thy truth's sake.

Wherefore shall the heathen say :

Where is now their God?

As for our God, he is in heaven :

he hath done whatsoever pleased him.

Their idols are silver and gold :

even the work of men's hands.

They have mouths, and speak not :

eyes have they, and see not.

They have ears, and hear not :

noses have they, and smell not.

They have hands, and handle not; feet have they, and walk not :

neither speak they through their throat.

They that make them are like unto them :

and so are all such as put their trust in them.

But thou, house of Israel, trust thou in the LORD :

he is their succour and defence.

Ye house of Aaron, put your trust in the LORD :

he is their helper and defender.

Ye that fear the LORD, put your trust in the LORD :

he is their helper and defender.

The LORD hath been mindful of us, and he shall bless us :

even he shall bless the house of Israel, he shall bless the house of Aaron.

He shall bless them that fear the LORD :

both small and great.

The LORD shall increase you more and more :

you and your children.

Ye are the blessed of the LORD :

who made heaven and earth.

All the whole heavens are the LORD'S :

the earth hath he given to the children of men.

The dead praise not thee, O LORD :

neither all they that go down into silence.

But we will praise the LORD :

from this time forth for evermore. Praise the LORD. Glory be &c.

THE FIRST LESSON*1 John 2:7-17*

Beloved, I am writing you no new commandment, but an old commandment which you had from the beginning; the old commandment is the word which you have heard. Yet I am writing you a new commandment, which is true in him and in you, because the darkness is passing away and the true light is already shining. He who says he is in the light and hates his brother is in the darkness still. He who loves his brother abides in the light, and in it there is no cause for stumbling. But he who hates his brother is in the darkness and walks in the darkness, and does not know where he is going, because the darkness has blinded his eyes. I am writing to you, little children, because your sins are forgiven for his sake. I am writing to you, fathers, because you know him who is from the beginning. I am writing to you, young men, because you have overcome the evil one. I write to you, children, because you know the Father. I write to you, fathers, because you know him who is from the beginning. I write to you, young men, because you are strong, and the word of God abides in you, and you have overcome the evil one. Do not love the world or the things in the world. If any one loves the world, love for the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh and the lust of the eyes and the pride of life, is not of the Father but is of the world. And the world passes away, and the lust of it; but he who does the will of God abides for ever.

*¶ All stand for the singing of***HYMN 193**

PUER NOBIS

MAGNIFICAT*Evening Service in D*

George Dyson (1883-1964)

My soul ✠ doth magnify the Lord : and my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Savior. For he hath regarded the lowliness of his handmaiden. For behold, from henceforth : all generations shall call me blessed. For he that is mighty hath magnified me : and holy is his Name. And his mercy is on them that fear him : throughout all generations. He hath showed strength with his arm : he hath scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts. He hath put down the mighty from their seat : and hath exalted the humble and meek. He hath filled the hungry with good things : and the rich he hath sent empty away. He remembering his mercy hath holpen his servant Israel: as he promised to our forefathers. Abraham and his seed, for ever. Glory be &c.

THE SECOND LESSON*¶ All sit.**Mark 16:9-20*

When Christ rose early on the first day of the week, he appeared first to Mary Magdalene, from whom he had cast out seven demons. She went and told those who had been with him, as they mourned and wept. But when they heard that he was alive and had been seen by her, they would not believe it. After this he

appeared in another form to two of them, as they were walking into the country. And they went back and told the rest, but they did not believe them. Afterward he appeared to the eleven themselves as they sat at table; and he upbraided them for their unbelief and hardness of heart, because they had not believed those who saw him after he had risen. And he said to them, “Go into all the world and preach the gospel to the whole creation. He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned. And these signs will accompany those who believe: in my name they will cast out demons; they will speak in new tongues; they will pick up serpents, and if they drink any deadly thing, it will not hurt them; they will lay their hands on the sick, and they will recover.” So then the Lord Jesus, after he had spoken to them, was taken up into heaven, and sat down at the right hand of God. And they went forth and preached everywhere, while the Lord worked with them and confirmed the message by the signs that attended it. Amen.

¶ All stand.

NUNC DIMITTIS

Evening Service in D

George Dyson

Lord, ✠ now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace: according to thy word. For mine eyes have seen : thy salvation, Which thou hast prepared : before the face of all people : To be a light to lighten the Gentiles : and to be the glory of thy people Israel. Glory be &c.

THE APOSTLE’S CREED *¶ Sung by all.*

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth: And in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord: Who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, Born of the Virgin Mary: Suffered under Pontius Pilate, Was crucified, dead and buried: He descended into hell: The third day he rose again from the dead: He ascended into heaven, And sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty: From thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost: The Holy Catholic Church: the Communion of Saints: The Forgiveness of sins: The Resurrection of the body, ✠ And the Life everlasting. Amen.

THE SUFFRAGES *¶ Sung by the choir.*

Jessica French

Priest The Lord be with you.

Answer And with thy spirit.

Priest Let us pray.

¶ The people kneel as the choir sings

Lord, have mercy upon us.
L Christ, have mercy upon us.
Lord, have mercy upon us.

Our Father, who art in heaven, Hallowed by 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. Amen.

℣ O Lord, show thy mercy upon us.

℟ And grant us thy salvation.

℣ O Lord, save the State.

℟ And mercifully hear us when we call upon thee.

℣ Endue thy ministers with righteousness.

℟ And make thy chose people joyful.

℣ O Lord, save thy people.

℟ And bless thine inheritance.

℣ Give peace in our time, O Lord.

℟ Because there is none other that fighteth for us, but only thou, O God.

℣ O God, make clean our hearts within us.

℟ And take not thy holy Spirit from us.

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

O God, whose blessed Son did manifest himself to his disciples in the breaking of bread: Open, we pray thee, the eyes of our faith, that we may behold him in all his redeeming work; through the same thy Son Jesus Christ our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with thee, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

THE SECOND COLLECT

O God, from whom all holy desires, all good counsels, and all just works do proceed; Give unto thy servants that peace which the world cannot give; that our hearts may be set to obey thy commandments, and also that by thee, we, being defended from the fear of our enemies, may pass our time in rest and quietness; through the merits of Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

THE THIRD COLLECT

Lighten our darkness, we beseech thee, O Lord; and by thy great mercy defend us from all perils and dangers of this night; for the love of thy only Son, our Savior Jesus Christ. Amen.

THE GRACE

The Grace ✠ of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Ghost, be with us all evermore. **Amen.**

¶ The people are seated as the choir sings

THE ANTHEM

Samuel Sebastian Wesley

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to his abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.

To an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for you, who are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation ready to be revealed at the last time.

But as he which hath called you is holy, so be ye holy in all manner of conversation. Pass the time of your sojourning here in fear.

Love one another with a pure heart fervently. See that ye love one another. Love one another with a pure heart fervently.

Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God.

For all flesh is as grass, and all the glory of man as the flower of grass. The grass withereth, and the flower thereof falleth away.

But the word of the Lord endureth for ever. Amen.

¶ An offering will be taken during the Anthem for the music program at S. Stephen's. Our evening choral services are funded entirely outside our operating budget through the generosity of our parishioners, friends, and visitors. We appreciate your support.

To make an electronic gift today, please either visit ssteophens.org/donate or scan the QR code with your smart phone's camera.



BENEDICTION *of the* BLESSED SACRAMENT

¶ The people kneel when the bell is rung after which all sing

O SALUTARIS HOSTIA

WAREHAM



- | | |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1. O saving victim, opening wide
The gate of heaven to man below,
Our foes press on from every side,
Thine aid supply, thy strength bestow. | 2. All praise and thanks to thee ascend
For evermore, blest One in Three;
O grant us life that shall not end,
In our true native land with thee. Amen. |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

¶ Here follows a period of silence after which all sing

TANTUM ERGO

GRAFTON



- | | |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1. Therefore we, before him bending,
This great Sacrament revere;
Types and shadows have their ending,
For the newer rite is here;
Faith, our outward sense befriending,
Makes our inward vision clear. | 2. Glory let us give and blessing
To the Father and the Son,
Honor, thanks, and praise addressing,
While eternal ages run;
Ever too his love confessing
Who from both with both is One. Amen. |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

℣. Thou gavest them Bread from heaven, alleluia.

℟. **Containing in itself all sweetness, alleluia.**

Priest Let us pray.

O God, who in a wonderful Sacrament has left unto us a Memorial of Thy Passion; Grant us, we beseech Thee, so to venerate the Sacred Mysteries of Thy Body and Blood, that we may ever perceive within ourselves the fruit of Thy redemption; who livest and reignest, world without end. **Amen.**

¶ The Priest makes the Sign of the Cross over the Congregation with the Blessed Sacrament.

THE DIVINE PRAISES *¶ Said by the Priest and repeated by the Congregation.*

Blessed be God.

Blessed be his Holy Name.

Blessed be Jesus Christ, true God and true Man.

Blessed be the Name of Jesus.

Blessed be his Most Sacred Heart.

Blessed be Jesus Christ in the Most Holy Sacrament of the altar.

Blessed be the Holy Ghost, the Comforter.

Blessed be the great Mother of God, Mary most holy.

Blessed be the name of Mary, Virgin and Mother.

Blessed be Saint Joseph, Guardian of the Incarnate Word.

Blessed be God in his Angels and in his Saints.

¶ The bell is rung as the Priest places the Sacrament back in the tabernacle and all stand.

PSALM 117

Laudate Dominum

arr. Jeffrey Smith (b. 1960)

¶ Sung by all.



Choir O praise the LORD, all ye nations: praise him all ye peoples. For his merciful kindness is ever more and more toward us: and the truth of the LORD endureth for ever. Praise the LORD. Glory be &c.



VOLUNTARY

Improvisation

¶ Please join us for a reception in the Guild Hall. All are welcome.

If you are new or visiting, please take a moment to fill out a **Visitor Information Card** and deposit it in the offering plate as it comes by. Welcome to S. Stephen's!



A hearty welcome to our recitalist and accompanist for this afternoon's service, **Peter Stoltzfus Berton**. Mr. Berton is the Founding Executive Director of the Choir School of New Port County and Chapel Organist at St. George's School, Middletown.



To keep up to date on all that is happening at S. Stephen's please **sign up for our weekly E-news** at sstephens.org.



S. STEPHEN'S CHURCH

VESTRY

Thomas Bledsoe, *Senior Warden*

Robert Rose, *Junior Warden*

Gregory DePardo, *Treasurer*

Molly Bledsoe Ellis, *Clerk*

Karl Benziger

Jennifer DePardo

Gregory Goins

Muriel Jobbers

Ruth Oliver Jolliffe

Julia Steiny

Louis Verdelotti

CLERGY & STAFF

The Rev'd Fr. Benjamin Straley, *Rector*

The Rev'd Fr. William Locke, *Assisting Priest*

The Rev'd Fr. Michael A. Pearson, *Assisting Priest*

The Rev'd Mtr. Veronica Tierney, *Assisting Priest*

L. Graham Schultz, *Organist & Choirmaster*

Andrew Lonardo, *Sexton*

Kiersten Marek, *Nursery Childcare Provider*

James Busby, *Organist & Choirmaster Emeritus*