



# SAINT STEPHEN'S CHURCH

PROVIDENCE, RHODE ISLAND



## SOLEMN EVENSONG & BENEDICTION

MICHAELMAS: THE FEAST OF ST. MICHAEL & ALL ANGELS

29 SEPTEMBER, 2024

**W**ELCOME TO SAINT STEPHEN'S and this service of Choral Evensong for Michaelmas. 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 It may sound old-fashioned, but its meaning is not out of date.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

*Sarah Johnson plays*

<i>Festival Prelude</i> , OP. 66, NO. 1	Horatio Parker (1863–1919)
<i>Prelude on an Old Folk Tune, 'The Fair Hills of Eiré, O'</i>	Amy Beach (1867–1944)
<i>Largo</i> , from <i>Symphonie No. 9, 'From the New World'</i>	Antonín Dvořák (1841–1904) arr. Edwin H. Lemare
<i>Retrospection</i>	Florence Price (1887–1953)
<i>Prelude and Fugue in G Major</i> , BWV 541	Johann Sebastian Bach (1685–1750)

# ORDER OF SERVICE

*¶ All stand at the ringing of the bell.*

## OPENING SENTENCE

Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty, which was, and is, and is to come.

*Revelation 4:8*

## 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 148 *Laudate Dominum*

David Willcocks (1919–2015)

**O** praise the Lord of heaven :  
praise him in the height.

Praise him, all ye angels of his :  
praise him, all his host.

Praise him, sun and moon :  
praise him, all ye stars and light.

Praise him, all ye heavens :  
and ye waters that are above the heavens.

Let them praise the Name of the Lord :  
for he spake the word, and they were made; he commanded, and they were  
created.

He hath made them fast for ever and ever :  
he hath given them a law which shall not be broken.

Praise the Lord upon earth :  
ye dragons, and all deeps;  
Fire and hail, snow and vapours :  
wind and storm, fulfilling his word;

Mountains and all hills :  
fruitful trees and all cedars;

Beasts and all cattle : worms and feathered fowls;

Kings of the earth and all people :  
princes and all judges of the world;  
Young men and maidens, old men and children, praise the Name of the Lord :  
for his Name only is excellent, and his praise above heaven and earth.  
He shall exalt the horn of his people; all his saints shall praise him :  
even the children of Israel, even the people that serveth him. Glory be &c.

**THE FIRST LESSON**

*Daniel 12:1-3*

**A**t that time shall arise Michael, the great prince who has charge of your people  
And there shall be a time of trouble, such as never has been since there was a  
nation till that time; but at that time your people shall be delivered, every one  
whose name shall be found written in the book. And many of those who sleep in  
the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life, and some to shame and  
everlasting contempt. And those who are wise shall shine like the brightness of the  
firmament; and those who turn many to righteousness, like the stars for ever and  
ever.

*¶ All stand for the singing of*

**HYMN 625**

DARWALL'S 148<sup>TH</sup>

**MAGNIFICAT**

*Evening Service in B minor* T. Tertius Noble (1876-1953)

**M**y 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.*

*Revelation 5*

**I**saw in the right hand of him who was seated on the throne a scroll written  
within and on the back, sealed with seven seals; and I saw a strong angel  
proclaiming with a loud voice, "Who is worthy to open the scroll and break its  
seals?" And no one in heaven or on earth or under the earth was able to open the  
scroll or to look into it, and I wept much that no one was found worthy to open  
the scroll or to into into it. When one of the elders said to me, "Weep not; lo, the  
Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has conquered, so that he can open  
the scroll and its seven seals." And between the throne and the four living  
creatures and among the elders, I saw a Lamb standing, as though it had been slain,

with seven horns and with seven eyes, which are the seven spirits of God sent out into all the earth; and he went and took the scroll from the right hand of him who was seated on the throne. And when he had taken the scroll, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb, each holding a harp, and with golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints; and they sang a new song, saying, "Worthy art thou to take the scroll and to open its seals, for thou wast slain and by thy blood didst ransom men for God from every tribe and tongue and people and nation, and hast made them a kingdom and priests to our God, and they shall reign on earth." Then I looked, and I heard around the throne and the living creatures and the elders the voice of many angels, numbering myriads of myriads and thousands of thousands, saying with a loud voice, "Worthy is the Lamb who was slain, to receive power and wealth and wisdom and might and honor and glory and blessing!" And I heard every creature in heaven and on earth and under the earth and in the sea, and all therein, saying, "To him who sits upon the throne and to the Lamb be blessing and honor and glory and might for ever and ever!" And the four living creatures said, "Amen!" and the elders fell down and worshiped.

*¶ All stand.*

**NUNC DIMITTIS**

*Evening Service in B minor*

T. Tertius Noble

**L**ord, ✠ 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.*

Lord, have mercy upon us.  
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

Everlasting God, who hast ordained and constituted the ministries of angels and men in a wonderful order: Mercifully grant that, as thy holy angels always serve and worship thee in heaven, so by thy appointment they may help and defend us on earth; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and 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.*

## THE ANTHEM

Charles Villiers Stanford (1852–1924)

And I saw another angel, ascending from the east, having the seal of the living God; and he cried with a loud voice to the four angels, saying, Hurt not the earth neither the sea, nor the trees, till we have sealed the servants of our God in their foreheads.

And lo, a great multitude, which no man could number, of all nations and kindreds and people, and tongues, stood before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes, and palms were in their hands; And cried with a loud voice, saying, Salvation to our God, which sitteth upon the throne, and unto the Lamb. Amen.

Blessing, and glory, and wisdom, and thanksgiving, and honour, and power, and might be unto our God for ever and ever. Amen.

TEXT: Revelation 7: 2, 3, 9, 10, 12

*¶ 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 scan the QR code below.*



# 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<br>The gate of heaven to man below,<br>Our foes press on from every side,<br>Thine aid supply, thy strength bestow. | 2. All praise and thanks to thee ascend<br>For evermore, blest One in Three;<br>O grant us life that shall not end,<br>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,<br>This great Sacrament revere;<br>Types and shadows have their ending,<br>For the newer rite is here;<br>Faith, our outward sense befriending,<br>Makes our inward vision clear. | 2. Glory let us give and blessing<br>To the Father and the Son,<br>Honor, thanks, and praise addressing,<br>While eternal ages run;<br>Ever too his love confessing<br>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)

*¶ The following antiphon is 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.



*¶ All remain standing as the Sacred Ministers and Choir exit the church.*

*¶ Please join us for a reception in the Library. 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, **Sarah Johnson**. Ms. Johnson is the Associate Director of Music at Trinity Church on the Green in New Haven Connecticut, and a candidate for the Doctor of Musical Arts degree at the Eastman School of Music, where she studies with David Higgs. She received her undergraduate degree from Vassar College where she studied organ with Gail Archer and piano with Todd Crow. Sarah holds a Master of Sacred Music from Boston University, where she studied organ with Peter Sykes.



Our **2024–2025 schedule of S. Stephen's music** is available in the narthex. Please feel free to take one or more and help spread the word of all that is happening in this sacred place!



Calling all Young Adults: Join us for our **Wednesday Night Young Adult Fellowship**. Evening Prayer with Holy Communion begins at 6:30 in the Lady Chapel, followed by a meal in the Guild Hall or a nearby restaurant.



We are excited to announce that Bishop Knisely will be making his **Episcopal visitation to S. Stephen's on Sunday, October 20th**. All those interested in receiving the Sacrament of Confirmation or being Received into the Episcopal Church should contact the Rector ([rector@sstephens.org](mailto:rector@sstephens.org)).



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](http://sstephens.org).



# DATES FOR YOUR CALENDAR

## **Sunday, October 27 at 4pm**

*Solemn Evensong & Benediction* ✠ *Eve of Ss. Simon & Jude*

The red-letter feast of Apostles, Ss. Simon & Jude will be anticipated at S. Stephen's with Solemn Evensong & Benediction. The service will feature 19<sup>th</sup> century Boston composer Horatio Parker's oft-neglected evening anthem, *Iam sol recedit igneus*. This will be paired with Herbert Sumsion's much-loved setting of the Evening Canticles in G. The service is preceded by an organ recital at 3:30pm played by Christopher Wells, former Director of Music at Christ Church, Bronxville, NY and Christ Church, Cranbrook, MI. A reception follows.

## **Sunday, November 10<sup>th</sup> at 10am** ✠

*Solemn Requiem Mass* ✠ *Remembrance Sunday*

S. Stephen's annual remembrance of all the faithful departed will this year be accompanied by Portuguese master, Frei Manuel Carodoso's *Missa pro defunctis* for six voices. The choir will be joined by a consort of sackbuts and cornetti. Join us for what will be rare opportunity to hear this Renaissance masterpiece sung in a liturgical context.

## **Sunday, December 1<sup>st</sup> at 4pm**

*A Service of Advent Lessons and Carols* ✠ *Advent Sunday*

A perennial favorite, this candle-lit service evokes the joyful expectation of the season. The S. Stephen's Schola will sing works of Palestrina, Lloyd, Poston, Nixon, Byrd, Manz, Bruckner, Cleobury & Wood. The service is preceded by an organ recital at 3:30pm played by Buck McDaniel, Director of Music at Church of Our Savior, New York, NY and Artist-in-Residence at The General Theological Seminary. Mr. McDaniel will present a cycle of Advent organ works by world-famous Providence native, Nico Muhly. A festive reception follows.



# 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*