



# SAINT STEPHEN'S CHURCH

PROVIDENCE, RHODE ISLAND



## SOLEMN EVENSONG & BENEDICTION

EVE OF SS. SIMON & JUDE

27 OCTOBER 2024

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 It may sound old-fashioned, but its meaning is not out of date.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

Fr. Benjamin Straley, *Rector*

## **BEFORE THE SERVICE**

*Christopher Wells plays*

*Dance – Rondo*

Philip Moore (b. 1943)

*Scherzo*

Eugène Gigout (1844–1925)

*Psalm Prelude*

Craig Phillips (b. 1961)

*I waited patiently for the Lord, and he inclined unto me, and heard my calling. He brought me also out of the horrible pit, out of the mire and clay, and set my feet upon the rock, and ordered my goings. And he hath put a new song in my mouth, even a thanksgiving unto God. –Ps. 40:1–3*

*Fantasy Toccata*

Craig Phillips

# ORDER OF SERVICE

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

## OPENING SENTENCES

**Y**e are no more strangers and foreigners, but fellow-citizens with the saints and the household of God. —*Ephesians 2:19*

**T**heir sound is gone out into all lands; and their words into the ends of the world. —*Psalm 19:4*

## PRECES & RESPONSES *¶ Sung by the choir.*

Stephen Caracciolo (b. 1962)

*¶* 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 116 *Dilexi, quoniam*

John Fenstermaker (1919–2015)

**M**y delight is in the LORD; :  
because he hath heard the voice of my prayer;

Because he hath inclined his ear unto me; :

therefore will I call upon him as long as I live.

The snares of death compassed me round about, :

and the pains of hell gat hold upon me.

I found trouble and heaviness; then called I upon the Name of the LORD; :

O LORD, I beseech thee, deliver my soul.

Gracious is the LORD, and righteous; :

yea, our God is merciful.

The LORD preserveth the simple: :

I was in misery, and he helped me.

Turn again then unto thy rest, O my soul; :

for the LORD hath rewarded thee.

And why? thou hast delivered my soul from death, :

mine eyes from tears, and my feet from falling.

I will walk before the LORD :

I believed, and therefore will I speak; but I was sore troubled: :

I said in my haste, All men are liars.

What reward shall I give unto the LORD :

for all the benefits that he hath done unto me?

I will receive the cup of salvation, :

and call upon the Name of the LORD.

I will pay my vows now in the presence of all his people: :

right dear in the sight of the LORD is the death of his saints.

Behold, LORD, how that I am thy servant; :

I am thy servant, and the son of thine<sup>1</sup> handmaid; thou hast broken my bonds in sunder.

I will offer to thee the sacrifice of thanksgiving, :

and will call upon the Name of the LORD.

I will pay my vows unto the LORD, in the sight of all his people, :

in the courts of the LORD'S house; even in the midst of thee, O Jerusalem. Praise the LORD.

**PSALM 117** *Laudate Dominum*

Bruce Neswick (b. 1956)

**O** praise the LORD, all ye heathen; :  
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.

**THE FIRST LESSON**

*Isaiah 4:2-6*

**I**n that day the branch of the LORD shall be beautiful and glorious, and the fruit of the land shall be the pride and glory of the survivors of Israel. And he who is left in Zion and remains in Jerusalem will be called holy, every one who has been recorded for life in Jerusalem, when the Lord shall have washed away the filth of the daughters of Zion and cleansed the bloodstains of Jerusalem from its midst by a spirit of judgment and by a spirit of burning. Then the LORD will create over the whole site of Mount Zion and over her assemblies a cloud by day, and smoke and the shining of a flaming fire by night; for over all the glory there will be a canopy and a pavilion. It will be for a shade by day from the heat, and for a refuge and a shelter from the storm and rain.

*¶ All stand and sing the Office Hymn.*

## HYMN

KING'S LYNN



- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <p>1. By all your saints still striving,<br/>         for all your saints at rest,<br/>         Your holy Name, O Jesus,<br/>         for evermore be blessed.<br/>         You rose, our King victorious,<br/>         that they might wear the crown<br/>         And ever shine in splendor<br/>         reflected from your throne.</p> | <p>2. Praise, Lord, for your apostles,<br/>         Saint Simon and Saint Jude.<br/>         One love, one hope, impelled them<br/>         to tread the way, renewed.<br/>         May we with zeal as earnest<br/>         the faith of Christ maintain,<br/>         Be bound in love together,<br/>         and life eternal gain.</p> |
| <p>3. Then let us praise the Father<br/>         And worship God the Son.<br/>         And sing to God the Spirit,<br/>         eternal Three in One,<br/>         Till all the ransomed number<br/>         who stand before the throne<br/>         Ascribe all power and glory<br/>         and praise to God alone.</p>                 |  |

## MAGNIFICAT

*Evening Service in G* Herbert Sumsion (1899–1995)

**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.

Jesus said, "If you love me, you will keep my commandments. And I will pray the Father, and he will give you another Counselor, to be with you for ever, even the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him; you know him, for he dwells with you, and will be in you. "I will not leave you desolate; I will come to you. Yet a little while, and the world will see me no more, but you will see me; because I live, you will live also. In that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you. He who has my commandments and keeps them, he it is who loves me; and he who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I will love him and manifest myself to him." Judas (not Iscariot) said to him, "Lord, how is it that you will manifest yourself to us, and not to the world?" Jesus answered him, "If a man loves me, he will keep my word, and my Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our home with him. He who does not love me does not keep my words; and the word which you hear is not mine but the Father's who sent me. These things I have spoken to you, while I am still with you. But the Counselor, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, he will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all that I have said to you. Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid. You heard me say to you, 'I go away, and I will come to you.' If you loved me, you would have rejoiced, because I go to the Father; for the Father is greater than I. And now I have told you before it takes place, so that when it does take place, you may believe. I will no longer talk much with you, for the ruler of this world is coming. He has no power over me; but I do as the Father has commanded me, so that the world may know that I love the Father. Rise, let us go hence."

*¶ All stand.*

**NUNC DIMITTIS**

*Evening Service in G*

Herbert Sumsion

**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.*

Stephen Caracciolo

*Priest* The Lord be with you.

*Answer* And with thy spirit.

*Priest* Let us pray.

*¶ The people kneel.*

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

**O**ur 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, we thank thee for the glorious company of the apostles, and especially  
on this day for Simon and Jude; and we pray that, as they were faithful and  
zealous in their mission, so we may with ardent devotion make known the love  
and mercy of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ; 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

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

### THE GRACE

**T**he 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

Horatio Parker (1863–1919)

**I**am sol recedit igneus: tu lux perennis unitas, nostris, beata Trinitas, infunde lumen cordibus. Te mane laudum carmine, te deprecamur vespere; digneris ut te supplices laudemus inter cælites. Patri, simulque Filio, tibi que sancte Spiritus, sicut fuit, sit jugiter sæclum per omne gloria.

*As fades the glowing orb of day, to thee, great source of light, we pray; blest three in one, to every heart thy beams of life and love impart. At early dawn, at close of day, to thee our vows we humbly pay; may we, mid joys that never end, with thy bright saints in homage bend. To God the Father, and the Son, and Holy Spirit, three in one, be endless glory, as before the world began, so evermore.*

TEXT: Office Hymn at Vespers; attr. St. Ambrose (340–397)

*¶ 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  
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.

*¶ 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, .

*℞.* **Containing in itself all sweetness.**

*¶ 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, **Christopher Wells**. Christopher Wells is from Annapolis, Maryland, where he began his organ studies with James Dale at the United States Naval Academy. Mr. Wells received his undergraduate degree in organ performance from the Oberlin Conservatory of Music on the Dean's Talent Grant. Mr. Wells took his master's in organ from the University of Michigan as a student of Robert Glasgow. As a recitalist, he has appeared in many venues across the country, among them Church of Saint Mary the Virgin, Saint Thomas Fifth Avenue and the Cathedral of Saint John the Divine, all in New York City. Now a resident of Boston, Mr. Well's previously served as Director of Music at Christ Church, Cranbrook, MI and Christ Church, Bronxville, NY.



November 10th will mark our annual observance of **Remembrance Sunday with a Solemn Requiem Mass at 10am**. We welcome you to submit the names of those faithful departed whom you love but see no longer by submitting them to [office@sstephens.org](mailto:office@sstephens.org) with the subject *Names for Remembrance Sunday*. The Schola will offer the *Missa pro defunctis* of Portuguese master, Frei Manuel Cardoso. The choir will be joined by a consort of sackbuts and cornetti. Join us for what will be rare opportunity to hear this Renaissance tour de force sung in a liturgical context as we remember the faithful departed.



Mark your calendars for our next **Evensong & Benediction on Sunday, November 17<sup>th</sup> at 4pm**. The Schola will sing George Dyson's setting of the Evening Canticles in D major together with Charles Villiers Stanford's most dramatic anthem, *For lo, I raise up*. An Edwardian *tour de force*, Stanford composed the work in 1914 as his artistic response to the atrocities of the First World War. The service will be preceded by a 3:30 pm organ recital played by Andrew Sheranian, Organist and Master of the Choristers at All Saints, Ashmont. A champagne reception follows the service. All are welcome!



S. Stephen's annual service of **Advent Lessons and Carols will be held Sunday, December 1<sup>st</sup> at 4pm**. 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.



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).



# 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

## 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*