

ST. STEPHEN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Third Sunday after Pentecost

June 26, 2022, 8:00 and 10:30 am Worship Services



The Feast of William Alexander Guerry

Our Mission

is to be one with God and humanity in Christ by living the Gospel with love and compassion.



Our Vision

is to become comfortable with Jesus Christ and boldly proclaim Him.

WELCOME TO ST. STEPHEN'S!

It is a joy to have you worship with us today. We believe everyone who worships with us is sent to us by God. So, welcome.

As we gather for worship, we want to remind everyone of a few important items:

- On March 2, 2022, Bishop Ruth Woodliff-Stanley issued an update to COVID-19 Guidance for the Diocese. Therefore, masks are now optional at St. Stephen's.
- Please turn off or silence your electronic devices.
- We strongly encourage you to enter the sanctuary in silence as you prepare for worship. Thank you.

WHY ARE YOU HERE?

As you come in this morning and settle into your seat, I invite you to think about the following:

- ❖ Wherever we go, we have a reason for going there. What is your reason for being here this morning?
- ❖ God is merciful and kind to us each and every day. What thanksgiving do you bring to God this morning?
- ❖ Because each day brings many challenges, what concern(s) do you bring to God this morning?
- ❖ As your Rector, I have come with thanksgiving for God's grace and mercy and to worship Him; because today is a reminder to me that another week has ended and a new week has begun. It is my hope that you have come to do the same. I encourage you to join me as we call upon our God and worship Him.

Canon Wilmot—a son of God

The flag that is flying for the month of June is raised by *Judy and Ted Tattersall*, in loving memory of Judy's brother, Staff Sergeant Stephen L. Jones USAF, 4/24/50 – 12/28/21. Stephen served in Vietnam and was awarded the Bronze Star and two Purple Hearts. Stephen's son, Eric, said "He was the greatest father and the most loving grandfather. He taught me how to be a good father to my children. He is dearly missed and we will never forget him. Happy Father's Day in Heaven. Love, Eric."

✝ *This symbol represents the point at which we sign ourselves with the sign of the cross during worship.*

Prelude ***Beneath the Cross of Jesus*** R. Rowland-Raybold

✝ Announcements ✝

Please stand for the Opening Prayer.

Opening Hymn ***O Worship the King*** Hymnal 388

O worship the King, all glorious above!
O gratefully sing his power and his love!
Our shield and defender, the Ancient of Days,
pavilioned in splendor, and girded with praise.

O tell of his might! O sing of his grace!
Whose robe is the light, whose canopy space.
His chariots of wrath the deep thunderclouds form,
and dark is his path on the wings of the storm.

The earth, with its store of wonders untold,
Almighty, thy power hath founded of old,
hath stablished it fast by a changeless decree,
and round it hath cast, like a mantle, the sea.

Thy bountiful care, what tongue can recite?
It breathes in the air; it shines in the light;
it streams from the hills, it descends to the plain,
and sweetly distills in the dew and the rain.

The Word of God

The People standing, the Celebrant says:

Blessed be God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

People *And blessed be his Kingdom, now and for ever.*
Amen.

The Celebrant and People say

Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid: 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.

Song of Praise

To God Be the Glory

To God be the glory, great things He hath done!

So loved He the world that He gave us His Son,
Who yielded His life an atonement for sin,
And opened the life-gate that all may go in.

Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, let the earth hear His voice!

Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, let the people rejoice!

O come to the Father thro' Jesus the Son,

And give Him the glory, great things He hath done!

Great things He hath taught us, great things He hath done,

And great our rejoicing thro' Jesus the Son,
But purer and higher and greater will be
Our wonder, our transport, when Jesus we see.

Refrain

The Collect for the Feast of William Alexander Guerry

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People *And also with you.*

Celebrant Let us pray.

God of truth and sacrifice, we give thanks for your servant William Alexander Guerry, who, like the church's first martyr, gave witness to your liberating gospel and echoed Christ's healing words of forgiveness. May we also seek your truth as we offer ourselves in obedience to the same. All this we pray through him who is forever the bishop and reformer of our souls, Jesus Christ our Savior

People *Amen.*

The Lessons

May we hear the Word of God through these words.

A Reading from the Book of the Prophet Isaiah 61:1–4

The spirit of the Lord God is upon me, because the Lord has anointed me; he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed, to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and release to the prisoners; to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all who mourn; to provide for those who mourn in Zion – to give them a garland instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, the mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit. They will be called oaks of righteousness, the planting of the Lord, to display his glory. They shall build up the ancient ruins, they shall raise up the former devastations; they shall repair the ruined cities, the devastations of many generations.

The Word of the Lord

People **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 116:1—8

(to be read responsively by the Lay Reader and the Congregation)

L I love the LORD, because he has heard the voice of my supplication, *
because he has inclined his ear to me whenever I called upon him.

**C The cords of death entangled me; the grip of the grave
took hold of me; *
I came to grief and sorrow.**

L Then I called upon the Name of the LORD: *
"O LORD, I pray you, save my life."

**C Gracious is the LORD and righteous; *
our God is full of compassion.**

L The LORD watches over the innocent; *
I was brought very low, and he helped me.

**C Turn again to your rest, O my soul. *
for the LORD has treated you well.**

L For you have rescued my life from death, *
my eyes from tears, and my feet from stumbling.

**C I will walk in the presence of the LORD *
in the land of the living.**

Celebrant and People

**Glory to the † Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit:
As it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.**

May we hear the Word of God through these words.

A Reading from the Acts of the Apostles 7:54–60

When they heard these things, they became enraged and ground their teeth at Stephen. But filled with the Holy Spirit, he gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. “Look,” he said, “I see the heavens opened and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God!” But they covered their ears, and with a loud shout all rushed together against him. Then they dragged him out of the city and began to stone him; and the witnesses laid their coats at the feet of a young man named Saul. While they were stoning Stephen, he prayed, “Lord Jesus, receive my spirit.” Then he knelt down and cried out in a loud voice, “Lord, do not hold this sin against them.” When he had said this, he died.

The Word of the Lord

People Thanks be to God.

Gradual Hymn

Amazing Grace

LEVAS 181

Amazing grace! how sweet the sound,
That saved a wretch like me!
I once was lost, but now am found,
Was blind, but now I see.

’Twas grace that taught my heart to fear,
And grace my fears relieved;
How precious did that grace appear
The hour I first believed!

Please stand.

When the Gospel is being announced, a cross is made,

✝ (on the forehead) in my mind to understand it,

✝ (on the lips) on my lips to proclaim it, and

✝ (over the heart) in my heart to live it.

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke 12:2—8

People *Glory to you, Lord Christ.*

Nothing is covered up that will not be uncovered, and nothing secret that will not become known. Therefore whatever you have said in the dark will be heard in the light, and what you have whispered behind closed doors will be proclaimed from the housetops. “I tell you, my friends, do not fear those who kill the body, and after that can do nothing more. But I will warn you whom to fear: fear him who, after he has killed, has authority to cast into hell. Yes, I tell you, fear him! Are not five sparrows sold for two pennies? Yet not one of them is forgotten in God’s sight. But even the hairs of your head are all counted. Do not be afraid; you are of more value than many sparrows. And I tell you, everyone who acknowledges me before others, the Son of Man also will acknowledge before the angels of God.”

The Gospel of the Lord

People *Praise to you, Lord Christ.*

Sermon Hymn

When we’ve been there ten thousand years,
Bright shining as the sun,
We’ve no less days to sing God’s praise
Than when we’d first begun.

❖ Sermon

Wilmot T Merchant II ❖

Please use this time to silently reflect on what the Lord has spoken to you.

Please stand.

The Nicene Creed

We believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, and 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

(We bow for the two lines in bold.)

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.

Please sit or kneel for The Prayers of the People.

The Prayers of the People

The Prayer Leader and People pray responsively.

Leader The Lord be with you.

People *And also with you.*

Leader Let us pray.

Father, we pray for your holy Catholic and Apostolic Church;

People *That we all may be one.*

Grant that every member of the Church may truly and humbly serve you;

People *That your Name may be glorified by all people.*

We pray for Justin, the Archbishop of Canterbury, Michael our Presiding Bishop, Ruth our Bishop, Wilmot our priest, and for all bishops and other ministers;

People *That they may be faithful ministers of your Word and Sacraments.*

We pray for all who govern and hold authority in the nations of the world, for Joseph our President, Henry our Governor, and Marilyn our Mayor;

People *That there may be justice and peace on the earth.*

Give us grace to do your will in all that we undertake;

People *That our works may find favor in your sight.*

Have compassion on those who suffer from any grief or trouble;

People *That they may be delivered from their distress.*

Give to the departed eternal rest, especially Bishop Guerry, and Judy Gasper;

People *Let light perpetual shine upon them.*

We praise you for your saints who have entered into joy;

People *May we also come to share in your heavenly kingdom.*

Let us pray for our own needs and those of our loved ones and others, for the men and women who are serving in the armed forces, and all others who serve to preserve and protect lives, and those who have asked us to remember them in our prayers, especially our families, friends, and loved ones.

Lord in your mercy

People *Hear our prayer.*

Let us pray for the people in disaster and troubled areas and those affected by acts of violence here at home, especially in Buffalo, New York and Uvalde, Texas, Vestavia, Alabama, and all around the world. Let us also pray for the many volunteers who are working to assist our brothers and sisters in those areas that have been devastated either by man-made or natural disaster.

Lord, in your mercy.

People *Hear our prayer.*

Let us pray for God's people throughout the world, especially the Anglican Communion, The Episcopal Church, and The Episcopal Diocese of South Carolina. Today we are praying for:

Lord, in your mercy.

People *Hear our prayer.*

A Prayer for the Human Family

O God, you made us in your own image and redeemed us through Jesus your Son: Look with compassion on the whole human family; take away the arrogance and hatred which infect our hearts; break down the walls that separate us; unite us in bonds of love; and work through our struggle and confusion to accomplish your purposes on earth, especially during this time of conflict for our brothers and sisters in Ukraine and Russia; that, in your good time, all nations and races may serve you in harmony around your heavenly throne; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

People *Amen*

**Additional Prayers*

LET US GIVE THANKS FOR OUR VISITORS.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO: Kathy Scott (6/27), Darlene Eichler (6/30), Mary McLaren (7/1), Jo Patterson (7/1), Carole Hunter (7/2).

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY TO: Kurt & Sandra Schultz (6/28), Harry & Amy Austin, Jr. (6/29), Bruce & Donna Wilt (6/29), Andy & Maryanne Dauer (7/1).

LET US PRAY FOR OUR PARISH FAMILY.

INTERCESSORY AND THANKSGIVING PRAYER. As we continue to hold one another up in prayer in this parish, this week we are praying for: **Bob & Barbara** Allen, **Carrie** Allread, **Teresa & James** Anderson, **Len & Cathy** Arruzzo, **Harry Jr., Amy, & Harry III** Austin, **Sarah** Austin, **Holly & Bob** Ayer, and **James, Mark, Luke, & Ashley, Mike & Becky** Baker, **Terry & Nancy** Barbee, **Nina** Barnes.

Celebrant and People

Gracious and most loving God, we join them in committing to you whatever concerns they may have, asking you to let your will be done for them. We also join them in giving you thanks, for your many blessings bestowed upon them and their loved ones. We praise you and thank you, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Confession of Sin

Celebrant Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

Celebrant and people

Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us, that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways, to the glory of your Name. Amen.

The Celebrant stands and says

Almighty God have mercy ✠ on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life.

***People* Amen.**

Please stand.

The Peace

Jesus said, *Peace I leave with you; my Peace I give to you . . .* John 14:27

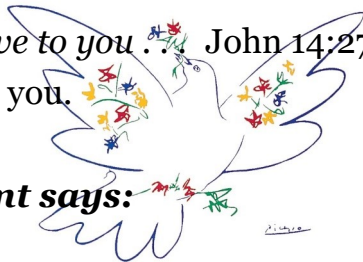
Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People ***And also with you.***

At the conclusion of the peace the Celebrant says:

Celebrant God is Good!

People ***All the Time.***



The Holy Communion

Offertory

God of the Sparrow

Carl Schalk

Doxology—to be sung

Praise God, from Whom all blessings flow;

praise Him, all creatures here below;

O Praise Him! Alleluia!

Praise Him above, ye heavenly host:

praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

O Praise Him! O Praise Him!

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Amen.

The Great Thanksgiving and Sanctus Eucharistic Prayer A

People remain standing

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

People: ***And also with you.***

Celebrant: Lift up your hearts.

People: ***We lift them to the Lord.***

Celebrant: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and every-where to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Because you are greatly glorified in the assembly of your saints. All your creatures praise you, and your faithful servants bless you, confessing before the rulers of this world the great Name of your only Son.

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:

Celebrant and People

S129

Bow during the underlined text

Holy, holy, holy Lord,

**God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

Hosanna in the highest.

✠ Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

Please sit, kneel or remain standing.

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:

Celebrant and People

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

The Celebrant continues

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.

People *Amen.*

And now, let us sing in thanksgiving the prayer our Savior Christ taught us,

Celebrant and People

Our Father, which 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 debts,

as we forgive our debtors.

And lead us not into temptation,

but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom,

and the power, and the glory,

for ever. *Amen.*

† † † † † † † † † †



The Breaking of the Bread

Celebrant and People—to be sung

S154

Al-le-lu-ia. Al-le-lu-ia. Al-le-lu-ia.

Christ our Pass-o-ver is sac-ri-ficed for us;

There-fore let us keep the feast.

Al-le-lu-ia. Al-le-lu-ia. Al-le-lu-ia.

The Celebrant says the following Invitation

The Gifts of God for the People of God.

Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you,
and feed on him in your hearts by faith,
with thanksgiving.

This is the Lord's table, not of the church, but of the Lord.

*It is made ready for those who love Him
and for those who want to love Him more.*

*So come, you who have much faith and you who have little;
You who have been here often and you who have not been here long;
You who have tried to follow and you who have failed;
Come, because it is the Lord who invites you.
It is His will that those who want Him should meet Him here.*

Please join in singing our Communion Hymns.

They'll Know We Are Christians

We are one in the Spirit, we are one in the Lord
We are one in the Spirit, we are one in the Lord
And we pray that all unity may one day be restored

*And they'll know we are Christians by our love, by our love
Yes, they'll know we are Christians by our love*

We will walk with each other, we will walk hand in hand
We will walk with each other, we will walk hand in hand
And together we'll spread the news that God is in our land

Refrain

We will work with each other, we will work side by side
We will work with each other, we will work side by side
And we'll guard each one's dignity and save each one's pride

Refrain

All praise to the Father, from whom all things come
And all praise to Christ Jesus, his only Son
And all praise to the Spirit who makes us one

Refrain

Blessed Assurance

LEVAS 184

Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine!
O what a foretaste of glory divine!
Heir of salvation, purchase of God,
Born of His spirit, washed in His blood.

*This is my story, this is my song,
Praising my savior all the day long;
This is my story, this is my song,
Praising my savior all the day long.*

Perfect submission, perfect delight,
Visions of rapture now burst on my sight;
Angels descending, bring from above
Echoes of mercy, whispers of love.

*This is my story, this is my song,
Praising my savior all the day long;
This is my story, this is my song,
Praising my savior all the day long.*

Perfect submission, all is at rest,
I in my savior am happy and blest;
Watching and waiting, looking above,
Filled with His goodness, lost in His love.

Refrain

Dear Lord and Father of Mankind

Hymnal 652

Dear Lord and Father of mankind, forgive our foolish ways!

Reclothe us in our rightful mind, in purer lives thy service find,
in deeper reverence, praise.

In simple trust like theirs who heard, beside the Syrian sea,
the gracious calling of the Lord, let us, like them, without a word,
rise up and follow thee.

O Sabbath rest by Galilee! O calm of hills above,
where Jesus knelt to share with thee the silence of eternity
interpreted by love!

Drop thy still dews of quietness, till all our strivings cease;
take from our souls the strain and stress,
and let our ordered lives confess
the beauty of thy peace.

Breathe through the heats of our desire thy coolness and thy balm;
let sense be dumb, let flesh retire;
speak through the earthquake, wind, and fire,
O still, small voice of calm.

After Communion, the Celebrant says: Let us pray.

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 Celebrant gives the blessing

The God of peace, who has exalted our Lord Jesus Christ, give you his Spirit to lead you into all truth, and boldness to confess that Jesus is Lord; and through the blood of the everlasting 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 of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and your loved ones far and near and remain with all of you for ever.

People Amen.

Please be seated.

✠ Announcements ✠

Please stand.

Benediction—*to be sung*

God be with you till we meet again;

By His counsels guide, uphold you,

With His sheep securely fold you,

God be with you till we meet again.



All hail the power of Jesus' Name!

Let angels prostrate fall;
bring forth the royal diadem,
and crown him Lord of all!

Bring forth the royal diadem,
and crown him Lord of all!

Crown him, ye martyrs of our God,
who from his altar call:

praise him whose way of pain ye trod,
and crown him Lord of all!

Praise him whose way of pain ye trod,
and crown him Lord of all!

Hail him, the Heir of David's line,
whom David Lord did call,
the God incarnate, Man divine,
and crown him Lord of all!

The God incarnate, Man divine,
and crown him Lord of all!

Celebrant We are called to be one with God and each other in Christ.
People ***By living the Gospel with love and compassion.***

Celebrant Alleluia. Alleluia. Let us go in peace to love and serve God and
one another.
People ***Thanks be to God. Alleluia. Alleluia.***

THE WORSHIP HAS ENDED. LET THE SERVICE BEGIN.

“... what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?” (Micah 6:8)



The Altar Flowers are given in loving memory of Judy Gasper, beloved Parish Administrative Assistant who served St. Stephen's from 1999 to 2015.

Judy would have celebrated her 80th birthday today. May her soul rest in peace and rise in glory.

Canon Merchant

God is good! All the time!



PARTICIPANTS IN THE CELEBRATION

Ministers: The Congregants of St. Stephen's, Family, Friends and Visitors
Celebrant: The Rev. Canon Dr. Wilmot T. Merchant II, Rector
Guest Organist: Jane Willard

MINISTERS, LAYLEADERS AND STAFF OF ST. STEPHEN'S

The Most Rev. Michael Bruce Curry, Presiding Bishop, The Episcopal Church
The Right Rev. Ruth Woodliff-Stanley, Bishop, The Diocese of SC
The Rev. Canon Dr. Wilmot T. Merchant, II, Rector

Vestry Members

- ❖ Henry Saunders, Senior Warden (2022) ❖ B.J. Mills, Junior Warden (2023)
- ❖ Cheryl Brugier (2022) ❖ Michele Hennessy (2022) ❖ Pete Barr (2023)
- ❖ Babs Raley (2023) ❖ Betty Berginski (2024) ❖ Richard B. Martin, Jr. (2024)
- ❖ Bill Simpson, Jr. (2024) ❖ Joyce Saftner (Associate 2023)

Vestry Officers

- ❖ Eileen Carzon, Treasurer ❖ Bill Mann, Assistant Treasurer
- ❖ Jane Buckner, Parish/Vestry Clerk

Staff

- ❖ Sharon Weaver, Admin. Asst. ❖ June Meletzke, Financial Secretary
- ❖ Roberta Rowland-Raybold, Director of Music/Organist
- ❖ Tommy Mizell, Facility Manager ❖ Nancy Lopez, Sexton