



ST. STEPHEN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Welcomes You!



SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

September 20, 2026

8:00 & 10:30 AM Holy Eucharist Rite II

The Very Rev. Trent Moore
The Rev. Deacon John Hager

WELCOME TO ST. STEPHEN’S EPISCOPAL CHURCH!

Thank you for joining us!

Please fill out a visitor card located in your pew and place it in the offering late or hand it to an usher.
We’ll be in touch with you later in the week.

Receiving Holy Communion

When you approach the altar rail, the clergy will place a wafer in your open and with the blessing. You can sip from the chalice or dip (intinct) the wafer, or not. Request gluten-free wafer if preferred. Or request a blessing by crossing your arms over your chest.

Join us This Week: September 20-26

Sunday

- 8:00 AM Holy Communion
- 9:00 AM Adult Forum
- 9:00 AM Children’s Sunday School
- 9:15 AM Chancel Choir Practice
- 10:30 AM Holy Communion | Facebook Live
- 11:45 AM Coffee Hour
- 2:00 PM Church Hike

Tuesday

- 5:30 PM Vestry Meeting
- 7:00 PM Lectio Divina

Wednesday

- 7:00 AM Brotherhood of St. Andrew
- 11:00 AM Rector’s Bible Study
- 6:30 PM Chancel Choir Practice

Thursday

- 7:00 PM St. Dunstan’s Handbells
- 8:30 PM Compline

*The altar flowers are given to the glory of
God in memory of Percy and Irene Bishop,
Terry Stein’s grandparents.*

Serving Today

Clergy:

The Very Rev. Trent Moore

Readers & Chalice Bearers:

- 8:00 AM Troy Elliott
- 10:30 AM Amy McCabe, David Hill

Head Usher:

Peyton Cramer

Ushers:

Julie Yowell, Kerri Bonfidini, Kathy Bushow

Acolytes

Abram Harmon, Jackson Moore

Altar Guild:

Margaret Gossweiler, Mary Tholand,
Marysa Mullen

Livestream

Ron Warner

Music Director

Dr. Wonhee Kang

Chancel Choir

Mission

Sharing what God has given with glad and generous hearts.

Vision

We will be a welcoming and inclusive family of faith rooted in the good news of Jesus Christ, informed by our history and tradition, hopeful for the future, and committed to living out our mission through connection to community.

Prelude – "Sacred Place of Prayer and Song"

Evan Stephens

Entrance Hymn – "Immortal, invisible"

423, Hymnal 1982

Welcome

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

Celebrant: Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

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

Celebrant:

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.***

Gloria

S - 280, Hymnal 1982

***Glory to God in the highest,
and peace to his people on earth.***

***Lord God, heavenly King,
almighty God and Father,
we worship you, we give you thanks,
we praise you for your glory.***

***Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,
Lord God, Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world:
have mercy on us;
you are seated at the right hand of the Father:
receive our prayer.
For you alone are the Holy One,
you alone are the Lord,
you alone are the Most High,
Jesus Christ,
with the Holy Spirit,
in the glory of God the Father. Amen.***

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

People: *And also with you.*

Celebrant: Let us pray.

The Collect of the Day

Celebrant:

Grant us, Lord, not to be anxious about earthly things, but to love things heavenly; and even now, while we are placed among things that are passing away, to hold fast to those that shall endure; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. ***Amen.***

(Please be seated)

First Lesson – Jonah 3:10-4:11

When God saw what the people of Nineveh did, how they turned from their evil ways, God changed his mind about the calamity that he had said he would bring upon them; and he did not do it.

But this was very displeasing to Jonah, and he became angry. He prayed to the Lord and said, “O Lord! Is not this what I said while I was still in my own country? That is why I fled to Tarshish at the beginning; for I knew that you are a gracious God and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love, and ready to relent from punishing. And now, O Lord, please take my life from me, for it is better for me to die than to live.” And the Lord said, “Is it right for you to be angry?” Then Jonah went out of the city and sat down east of the city, and made a booth for himself there. He sat under it in the shade, waiting to see what would become of the city.

The Lord God appointed a bush, and made it come up over Jonah, to give shade over his head, to save him from his discomfort; so Jonah was very happy about the bush. But when dawn came up the next day, God appointed a worm that attacked the bush, so that it withered. When the sun rose, God prepared a sultry east wind, and the sun beat down on the head of Jonah so that he was faint and asked that he might die. He said, “It is better for me to die than to live.”

But God said to Jonah, “Is it right for you to be angry about the bush?” And he said, “Yes, angry enough to die.” Then the Lord said, “You are concerned about the bush, for which you did not labor and which you did not grow; it came into being in a night and perished in a night. And should I not be concerned about Nineveh, that great city, in which there are more than a hundred and twenty thousand persons who do not know their right hand from their left, and also many animals?”

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

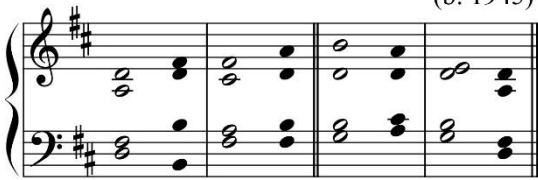
People: *Thanks be to God.*

The Response - Psalm 145:1-8

At 8:00 am: *spoken antiphonally, breaking at the asterisk*

At 10:30 am: *sung in unison*

S 410 Robert Knox Kennedy
(b. 1945)



I will exalt you, O God my *♫* King, *
and bless your Name for ever and ♫ ever.
Every day will I bless *♪* you *
and praise your Name for ever and ♪ ever.
Great is the Lord and greatly to be *♫* praised; *
there is no end to his ♫ greatness.
One generation shall praise your works to *♪* another *
and shall declare your ♪ power.
I will ponder the glorious splendor of your *♫*majesty *
and all your marvelous ♫ works.
They shall speak of the might of your wondrous *♪* acts, *
and I will tell of your ♪ greatness.
They shall publish the remembrance of your great *♫* goodness; *
they shall sing of your righteous ♫ deeds.
The Lord is gracious and full of *♪* compassion, *
slow to anger and of great ♪ kindness.

Second Lesson – Philippians 1:21-30

To me, living is Christ and dying is gain. If I am to live in the flesh, that means fruitful labor for me; and I do not know which I prefer. I am hard pressed between the two: my desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better; but to remain in the flesh is more necessary for you. Since I am convinced of this, I know that I will remain and continue with all of you for your progress and joy in faith, so that I may share abundantly in your boasting in Christ Jesus when I come to you again.

Only, live your life in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that, whether I come and see you or am absent and hear about you, I will know that you are standing firm in one spirit, striving side by side with one mind for the faith of the gospel, and are in no way intimidated by your opponents. For them this is evidence of their destruction, but of your salvation. And this is God's doing. For he has graciously granted you the privilege not only of believing in Christ, but of suffering for him as well-- since you are having the same struggle that you saw I had and now hear that I still have.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

(Please stand)

The Gospel - Matthew 20:1-16

The Very Rev. Trent Moore

Celebrant: The Holy Gospel of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

People: ***Glory to you, Lord Christ.***

Jesus said, “The kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire laborers for his vineyard. After agreeing with the laborers for the usual daily wage, he sent them into his vineyard. When he went out about nine o’clock, he saw others standing idle in the marketplace; and he said to them, ‘You also go into the vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right.’ So they went. When he went out again about noon and about three o’clock, he did the same. And about five o’clock he went out and found others standing around; and he said to them, ‘Why are you standing here idle all day?’ They said to him, ‘Because no one has hired us.’ He said to them, ‘You also go into the vineyard.’ When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his manager, ‘Call the laborers and give them their pay, beginning with the last and then going to the first.’ When those hired about five o’clock came, each of them received the usual daily wage. Now when the first came, they thought they would receive more; but each of them also received the usual daily wage. And when they received it, they grumbled against the landowner, saying, ‘These last worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat.’ But he replied to one of them, ‘Friend, I am doing you no wrong; did you not agree with me for the usual daily wage? Take what belongs to you and go; I choose to give to this last the same as I give to you. Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or are you envious because I am generous?’ So the last will be first, and the first will be last.”

Celebrant: The Gospel of the Lord

People: ***Praise to you Lord Christ***

(Please be seated)

The Sermon

The Very Rev. Trent Moore

(Please stand)

The Nicene Creed

Celebrant and People:

***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.*

(Please kneel as able)

Prayers of the People

Reader: Father, we pray for your holy catholic Church;

People: ***That we all may be one.***

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

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

Reader: We pray for all bishops, priests, and deacons;

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

Reader: We pray for all who govern and hold authority in the nations of the world;

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

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

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

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

People: That they may be delivered from their distress.

Reader: Give to the departed eternal rest.

People: Let light perpetual shine upon them.

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

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

Reader: We pray for all caregivers, who daily offer their hands and hearts to tend the sick, the vulnerable, and those they love. Grant them your grace in moments of weariness; crown their patience with your peace; and remind them that in serving others, they serve you.

For the special needs and concerns of this congregation. We pray especially for those on our parish prayer list.

Martha T	Michelle F	Isabella S	Melanie S
Robert D	Butch D	Billy D	Hannah H
Sally J	Norma G	Tom H	Bob S
Brad H	Barbara H	Rosie S	Fay W
Greg & Linda L	Aaron F	Christjiana & kids	PB C
John H	Jens T	Edwin C	Vernan D
Jack R	Jim M	Virginia M	

The congregation may add their petitions, followed by silence.

We pray for those in the military, law enforcement and first responders and their families, especially:

Carrington T	Ian M	Rhys H	Claire A
Matthew G	Chris S	Ian A	Brenden C
Peyton F	Wes W	Julian M	Aiden J
Samuel M	Walter W	Collin L	
John F, Jr	Steven O	Benjamin K	

We thank you, Lord, for all the blessings of this life. We give thanks for those celebrating birthdays and anniversaries this week, especially:

Sep 22 Wayne D

Sep 25 Billy G

Sep 25 Ellyn V

The congregation may add their thanksgivings, followed by silence.

In our Diocese, we pray for St. Luke's, Simeon Charlottesville and The Falls Church, Falls Church. In the Anglican Communion we pray for The Anglican Church of Australia.

Heavenly Father, our hearts are restless until they rest in you. Therefore, we thank you for our visitors. Fill them with faith, inspire them with hope, and lead them in love. Guide them to the paths that they should take.

Silence

Celebrant:

O Lord our God, accept the fervent prayers of your people; in the multitude of your mercies, look with compassion upon us and all who turn to you for help; for you are gracious, O lover of souls, and to you we give glory, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, now and for ever. ***Amen.***

Silence

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

Silence may be kept.

The Confession of Sin

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 hearts;
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 Absolution

Celebrant:

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. ***Amen.***

(Please stand)

The Peace

Celebrant: The Peace of the Lord be always with you.

People: *And also with you.*

Announcements

Offertory

Celebrant:

Walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself for us, an offering and sacrifice to God.

At 8:00 am

Celebrant: All things come of Thee, O Lord,

People: *and of Thine own have we given Thee.*

(Please stand)

At 10:30 AM (At the Presentation of the gifts)

(Please be seated)

Offertory Anthem - "Let All The World in Ev'ry Corner Sing"

William Allen Pasch

Verse 1:

*Let all the world in ev'ry corner sing, 'My
God and King!'*

*The heav'ns are not too high, His praise may
thither fly:*

*The earth is not too low, His praises there
may grow.*

*Let all the world in ev'ry corner sing, 'My
God and King!'*

Verse 2:

*Let all the world in ev'ry corner sing, 'My
God and King!'*

*The church with psalms must shout, No
door can keep them out:*

*But, above all, the heart Must bear the
longest part.*

*Let all the world in ev'ry corner sing, 'My
God and King!'*

(Please Stand)

Doxology

#380 (v.3), Hymnal 1982

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;

Praise Him, all creatures here below;

Praise Him above, ye heavenly host;

Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost.

THE HOLY COMMUNION

The Great Thanksgiving - Eucharistic Prayer C

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.

Celebrant: God of all power, Ruler of the Universe, you are worthy of glory and praise.

People: Glory to you for ever and ever.

Celebrant: At your command all things came to be: the vast expanse of interstellar space, galaxies, suns, the planets in their courses, and this fragile earth, our island home.

People: By your will they were created and have their being.

Celebrant: From the primal elements you brought forth the human race, and blessed us with memory, reason, and skill. You made us the rulers of creation. But we turned against you, and betrayed your trust; and we turned against one another.

People: Have mercy, Lord, for we are sinners in your sight.

Celebrant: Again and again, you called us to return. Through prophets and sages you revealed your righteous Law. And in the fullness of time you sent your only Son, born of a woman, to fulfill your Law, to open for us the way of freedom and peace.

People: By his blood, he reconciled us. By his wounds, we are healed.

Celebrant: And therefore we praise you, joining with the heavenly chorus, with prophets, apostles, and martyrs, and with all those in every generation who have looked to you in hope, to proclaim with them your glory, in their unending hymn:

(The Sanctus is said in unison at 8:00 a.m. and sung at 10:30 a.m.)

Sanctus

S–125, Hymnal 1982

Celebrant and People:

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

Hosanna in the highest.

Hosanna in the highest.

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

Hosanna in the highest.

Hosanna in the highest.

(Please stand or kneel as you are able).

Celebrant:

And so, Father, we who have been redeemed by him, and made a new people by water and the Spirit, now bring before you these gifts. Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ our Lord.

On the night he was betrayed he took bread, said the blessing, broke the bread, and gave it to his friends, 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, gave thanks, 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."

Remembering now his work of redemption, and offering to you this sacrifice of thanksgiving,

Celebrant and People:

***We celebrate his death and resurrection,
as we await the day of his coming.***

Celebrant: Lord God of our Fathers: God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob; God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ: Open our eyes to see your hand at work in the world about us. Deliver us from the presumption of coming to this Table for solace only, and not for strength; for pardon only, and not for renewal. Let the grace of this Holy Communion make us one body, one spirit in Christ, that we may worthily serve the world in his name.

People: Risen Lord, be known to us in the breaking of the Bread.

Celebrant:

Accept these prayers and praises, Father, through Jesus Christ our great High Priest, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, your Church gives honor, glory, and worship, from generation to generation. Amen.

Celebrant: And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

Celebrant and People:

***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

At 8:00 AM

Celebrant: Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

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

At 10:30 AM

S – 155, Hymnal 1982

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us:

Therefore let us keep the feast.

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Celebrant: 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.

Communion Hymns *(the congregation is invited to join in singing)*

“I am the bread of life”

335, Hymnal 1982

“Let us break bread together”

152, LEVAS

Post Communion Prayer

Celebrant: Let us pray.

Celebrant and 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

Celebrant:

The peace of God, which passes all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God, and of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you, and remain with you always. ***Amen.***

(Please stand)

Closing Hymn

“God of grace and God of glory”

594, Hymnal 1982

The Dismissal

Celebrant: Let us go forth in the name of Christ. Alleluia! Alleluia!

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

Postlude - “Thy Will, O Lord, Be Done”

Robert P. Manookin

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Church Hike

Today at 2:00 PM we will meet at Cedar Mountain Battlefield (9465 General Winder Rd, Rapidan, VA 22733) for a short hike through history. The main trail is easily accessible for all with additional trails that go through the woods. All are welcome to join!

Feets & Seats

The Super Seniors have started their annual collection of NEW socks and underwear and gently used shoes to be given to Culpeper Housing and Shelter for distribution. Collection boxes are located in the Parish Hall and outside the Church Office.

Lectio Divina

The DOK continues to read selections from the 150 Psalms, focusing this week on Psalm 103. Join them Tuesday, September 22nd at 7:00 PM via Zoom. Contact Kitty for more information.

Acolyte Festival

The National Acolyte Festival at the National Cathedral in Washington, DC is October 10th at 9:00 AM. If you would like to go, let Elizabeth or the office know. We will be leaving at 7:00 AM and returning around 4:00 PM.

Blessing of the Animals Service

The Feast of St. Francis - Blessing of the Animals service will be Sunday, October 4th at 5:00 PM on the front lawn. All lovingly restrained pets are welcomed. In the event of rain, the service will be held in the Parish Hall.

Brotherhood of St. Andrew

All men are welcome to join the Brotherhood of St. Andrew Wednesday mornings at 7:00 AM for breakfast and current study of N. T. Wright's book "1st & 2nd Thessalonians."

Thursday Night Compline

Please consider joining the DOK for about 15 minutes on Thursday evenings at 8:30 PM. Come as you are. Lie in bed. Keep your camera off if you choose. Simply listen if that works best for you. It's a great way to rest at the end of the day. Contact Kitty for login information.

Online Giving & Pledge

Scan this QR code to donate to St. Stephen's using your credit card, debit card or PayPal account.



Food Closet Monthly Hot List items

canned chicken, boxed cereal, rice 1-pound bags, black beans 1-pound bags, canned pineapple large can 15 oz, toothpaste, fruit cups

Upcoming Church Events

- September 20 – Hike at Cedar Mountain Battlefield
- October 4 – Blessing of the Animals
- October 17 – Piano Dedication Concert
- October 25 – Trunk or Treat
- November 15 – Stewardship Sunday

Upcoming Family/Youth Events

- September 27 – Youth Group – Game Day
- September 28 – Girls Small Group
- October 9 – EVHS Football Game
- October 10 – Acolyte Festival
- October 16 – Pizza & Nerf Night



STAY CONNECTED

ST. STEPHEN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Located: 115 N. East Street, Culpeper, Virginia 22701
Parking: 120 N. Commerce Street, Culpeper, VA 22701
Phone: 540.825.8786
Email: ssec@ststephensculpeper.net
Website: ststephensculpeper.net
Find Us on Facebook & Instagram

Hours

Church office: Monday - Friday | 9:00 AM - 3:00 PM

Clergy and Staff

The Very Reverend Trent Moore, Rector - tmoore@ststephensculpeper.net
The Reverend Deacon John Hager - jhager@ststephensculpeper.net
Karyn Sizemore, Director of Christian Formation - ksizemore@ststephensculpeper.net
and Administrative Assistant - ssec@ststephensculpeper.net
Wonhee Kang, Music Director - musicdirector@ststephensculpeper.net
Tara Donnelly, Bookkeeper - bookkeeper@ststephensculpeper.net
Ben Simms Sexton - sexton@ststephensculpeper.net
Faith Dickerson, Food Closet Director - directorculpeperfoodcloset@gmail.com
Rusty Booth, Food Closet Warehouse Manager - whculpeperfoodcloset@gmail.com

Vestry & Officers*

Troy Elliott (Sr. Warden)	Jerry St. John
Billy Myers (Jr. Warden)	Ray Walker
Kerri Bonfadini	Becky Walser (Treasurer)*
Cindy Rickett	Jamie Adams (Asst. Treasurer)*
Ron Snellings	Debbie Hoffman (Registrar)*

THE CULPEPER FOOD CLOSET

Hours: Monday - Friday | 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM
Thursdays 4:00 - 6:00 PM
Mail: P.O. Box 343, Culpeper, VA 22701
Located: 120 N. Commerce Street
Phone: 540.825.1177
Email: culpeperfoodcloset1@gmail.com