

St Stephen the Martyr Anglican Church, Burnaby
Morning Prayer Together and Apart

August 9, 2020

10th Sunday after Pentecost

The Feast of St Stephen

Opening Words



HYMN CP-503 *Fight the Good Fight*

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A Penitential Rite & Territorial Acknowledgment

The freedom in which we live is bounded by promises we are called to keep.

As children of Noah, we inherit his Covenant: to honour all life.

Grafted on to the root of Abraham, we inherit his Covenant: we are blessed, so that we might be a blessing to all nations.

Having received, through Moses, the Ten Commandments, we inherit his covenant: to worship no other gods; to rest from ceaseless work; to honour the wisdom of our elders; to keep our promises; to disavow idolatry, blasphemy, murder, theft, dishonesty, and greed.

As Canadians we are party to the treaties which formed us as a nation. This land where we now live is the ancestral lands of the Squamish, Musqueam, Tsleil-Watuth, and Kwiketlem nations.

In our baptism, we vow to seek, and find, and honour God in scripture and sacrament, in each other, in the stranger, the outsider, and the marginalized. We vow to seek justice, safeguard the integrity of creation, to resist evil and whenever we fall into sin, to repent and return to the Lord.

In the death, resurrection, and ascension of Jesus we are embraced into a new covenant, of eternal hope, and the forgiveness of sins.

According to our baptismal covenant, we confess that we have failed to live within the bounds of these promises. We confess our sins- individual, institutional, and systemic, and repent of the harm that is caused by our collective failure to honour all life.

Trusting that God keeps God's promises, that light shines in the darkness and is not overcome, that love has power to make all things new; that God's will can and one day shall be done on earth as it is in heaven: we ask for strength and courage to live each day as people of covenant, vow, and treaty.

Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

Opening Responses

The kingdom of God is at hand;

O Come, Let us worship.

Lord, open our lips

And our mouth shall proclaim your praise.

O God, make speed to save us.

O Lord, make haste to help us.

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.

The kingdom of God is at hand;

O Come, Let us worship.

The Jubilate – Psalm 100

Make a joyful noise to God, all the earth.

We will worship the Holy One with gladness;

Come into the Divine's presence with singing.

We sing, for God made us, and we are God's people.

Enter the gates of holiness with thanksgiving and praise.

We give thanks to God, for God is good.

Know that the Creator remains steadfast for all generations.

We rejoice, for God's steadfast love endures forever.

(adapted from an inclusive language version by Ana Gobledale, UK)

Proclamation of the Word



A Reading From the Book of Acts

Stephen, full of grace and power, did great wonders and signs among the people. Then some of those who belonged to the synagogue of the Freedmen (as it was called), Cyrenians, Alexandrians, and others of those from Cilicia and Asia, stood up and argued with Stephen. But they could not withstand the wisdom and the Spirit with which he spoke. Then they secretly instigated some men to say, 'We have heard him speak blasphemous words against Moses and God.' They stirred up the people as well as the elders and the scribes; then they suddenly confronted him, seized him, and brought him before the council. They set up false witnesses who said, 'This man never stops saying things against this holy place and the law; for we have heard him say that this Jesus of Nazareth will destroy this place and will change the customs that Moses handed on to us.' And all who sat in the council looked intently at him, and they saw that his face was like the face of an angel.

Then the high priest asked him, 'Are these things so?' And Stephen replied: 'Brothers and fathers, listen to me... 'You are forever opposing the Holy Spirit, just as your ancestors used to do. Which of the prophets did your ancestors not persecute? They killed those who foretold the coming of the Righteous One, and now you have become his betrayers and murderers. You are the ones that received the law as ordained by angels, and yet you have not kept it.'

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.

Acts 6:8–7:2a, 51c–60

Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's People.

All: Thanks be to God!



Psalm 31:1-7, 16

In you, O Lord, have I taken refuge; let me never be put to shame;
deliver me in your righteousness.

Incline your ear to me; make haste to deliver me.

Be a strong rock, a castle to keep me safe, for you are my crag and my stronghold;
for the sake of your name, lead me and guide me.

Take me out of the net that they have secretly set for me,
for you are my tower of strength.

**Into your hands I commend my spirit,
for you have redeemed me, O Lord, O God of truth.**

You hate those who pay regard to worthless idols,
But I trust in the Lord.

**I will exult and rejoice in your steadfast love,
Because you have seen my affliction
and have taken heed of my adversities.**

Make your face to shine upon your servant,
and in your loving-kindness save me."

Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's People.

All: Thanks be to God!



Gospel Reading

The Lord be with you.

All: And also with you.

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

All: Glory to you Lord Jesus Christ

Therefore I send you prophets, sages, and scribes, some of whom you will kill and crucify, and some you will flog in your synagogues and pursue from town to town, so that upon you may come all the righteous blood shed on earth, from the blood of righteous Abel to the blood of Zechariah son of Barachiah, whom you murdered between the sanctuary and the altar. Truly I tell you, all this will come upon this generation.

‘Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the city that kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to it! How often have I desired to gather your children together as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, and you were not willing! See, your house is left to you, desolate. For I tell you, you will not see me again until you say, “Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.” ’

Matthew 23:34–39

The Gospel of Christ

All: Praise to You, Lord Jesus Christ.

Reflection: The Rev. Ruth Monette



Musical Reflection – Ugo Onwujiobi

Affirmation of Faith

**Hear, O Israel,
the Lord our God, the Lord is one.
Love the Lord your God with all your heart,
with all your soul, with all your mind,
and with all your strength.
This is the first and the great commandment.
The second is like it: Love your neighbour as yourself.
There is no commandment greater than these.**

Intercessions and Thanksgivings

In peace, we pray to you, Lord God.

Silence

For all people in their daily life and work;

For our families, friends, and neighbours, and for all those who are alone.

For our parish family, remembering this week: Rosemarie Bell, Joy Borthwick, Colleen Butterley and family, Man-Gyung Choi & Soo Hee Yu, and David Choi and Anna Choi.

**For those who normally would use our facilities: the AA groups, choirs,
exercise groups, daycares, and faith groups.**

For this community, our country, and the world;

For all who work for justice, freedom, and peace.

For the just and proper use of your creation;

For the victims of hunger, fear, injustice, and oppression.

For all who are in danger, sorrow, or any kind of trouble;

For those who minister to the sick, the friendless, and the needy.

For the peace and unity of the Church of God;

For all who proclaim the gospel, and all who seek the truth.

For +Melissa our archbishop, Ruth our rector, and for all bishops and other ministers;

For the ministries within the Diocese of New Westminster, remembering especially St. Mary, Kerrisdale; St. Mary the Virgin, South Hill; and St. Mary the Virgin, Sapperton.

For all who serve God in the world, remembering our companion Diocese, the Episcopal Diocese of Northern Philippines

and our companion parish, St Stephen Mission in Bunga.

Hear us, Lord;

For your mercy is great.

For those who have asked for our prayers: Pam Park, Vivian Kroeker, Shannon Bathurst, Victor Baird, Lydia Holmlund, Moira Small, Hank Kassteen, Mike Koombes, Marianne Sweet, Audrey Watson, Lenora Morse, Barb Hunter, Ken Fraser, and Linda Uno.

For our own needs and those of others.

Silence. People may add their own petitions.

Hear us, Lord;

For your mercy is great.

We pray for all those who have died in the peace of Christ, and for those whose faith is known to you alone, that they may have a place in your eternal kingdom.

Silence. People may name their remembered dead

Rest eternal grant to them, O Lord,

And let light perpetual shine upon them.

Lord, let your loving kindness be upon them;

Who put their trust in you.

We thank you, Lord, for all the blessings of this life.

Silence. People may add their own thanksgivings

We will exalt you, O God;

And praise your name for ever and ever.

Collect of the Day

Grant us grace, O Lord, that like Stephen we may learn to love even our enemies and seek forgiveness for those who desire our hurt; through your Son Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

Gathering our prayers and praises into one, let us pray as our Saviour taught us,

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come, your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.**

Give us today our daily bread.

Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.

Save us from the time of trial, and deliver us from evil.

**For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours,
now and for ever. Amen.**

Let us bless the Lord.

Thanks be to God. Alleluia!

May the God of hope fill us with all joy and peace in believing through the power of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.



HYMN CP-346 *I'll Praise My Maker while I've Breath.*

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Closing Announcements

503 Fight the Good Fight with All Thy Might

1 Fight the good fight with all thy might, Christ is thy
 2 Run the straight race through God's good grace; lift up thine
 3 Cast care a - side, lean on thy guide; his bound - less
 4 Faint not, nor fear, his arms are near; he chang - eth

strength and Christ thy right; lay hold on life and
 eyes and seek his face. Life with its path be -
 mer - cy will pro - vide; trust, and the trust - ing
 not and thou art dear. On - ly be - lieve, and

it shall be thy joy and crown e - ter - nal - ly.
 fore us lies; Christ is the way and Christ the prize.
 soul shall prove Christ is its life, and Christ its love.
 thou shalt see that Christ is all in all to thee.

I'll Praise My Maker While I've Breath 346

1 I'll praise my Ma - ker while I've breath, and when my voice is
 2 Hap - py are they whose hopes re - ly on Is - rael's God; who
 3 The Lord pours eye - sight on the blind; the Lord sup - ports the
 4 I'll praise God while I'm grant - ed breath; and when my voice is

lost in death, praise shall em - ploy my no - bler powers;
 made the sky and earth and seas, with all their train;
 faint - ing mind; and sends the la - bouring con - science peace.
 lost in death, praise shall em - ploy my no - bler powers;

my days of praise shall ne'er be past, while life and thought
 whose truth for - ev - er stands se - cure, who saves the op - pressed,
 God helps the strang - er in dis - tress, the wid - ow and
 my days of praise shall ne'er be past, while life and thought

and be - ing last, or im - mor - tal - i - ty en - dures.
 who feeds the poor, whose prom - ise none shall trust in vain.
 the fa - ther - less, and grants the pris - oner sweet re - lease.
 and be - ing last, or im - mor - tal - i - ty en - dures.