

# The Church of Saint Stephen-in-the-Fields



**Fifth Sunday of Easter**

**May 2, 2021**

**I am the vine, you are the branches, says the Lord.  
Those who abide in me, and I in them, bear much fruit.**

*John 15.5*

**Celebrant:** The Rev'd Maggie Helwig

## ORDER OF SERVICE

### THE GATHERING OF THE COMMUNITY

#### Prelude

#### Easter Greeting

*Celebrant* Alleluia! Christ is risen.

*Response* **He is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

*Celebrant* May his grace and peace be with you.

*Response* **May he fill our hearts with joy.**

#### Land Acknowledgement

*Celebrant* Though people may be joining us from many regions, we acknowledge that the Church of St. Stephen-in-the-Fields stands on occupied land, the traditional territory of the Mississaugas of the Credit (an Anishnaabe people), the Haudenosaunee Confederacy, and the Huron-Wendat and Petun nations, land covered by the Dish With One Spoon wampum belt covenant. We acknowledge that we have broken the treaties. We acknowledge the damage done by colonialism, and the role that our church has played in this, and we pledge ourselves to work for a future of justice and reconciliation.

#### Hymn 514: *Jesus, joy of our desiring*

WERDE MUNTER

- 1 Jesus, joy of our desiring,  
holy wisdom, love most bright:  
drawn by thee, our souls aspiring  
soar to uncreated light.  
Word of God, our flesh that fashioned,  
with the fire of life impassioned,  
striving still to truth unknown,  
soaring, dying round thy throne.
- 2 Through the way where hope is guiding,  
hark, what peaceful music rings,  
where the flock, in thee confiding,  
drink of joy from deathless springs.  
Theirs is beauty's fairest pleasure;  
theirs is wisdom's holiest treasure.  
Thou dost ever lead thine own  
in the love of joys unknown.

## **Collect for Purity**

*Celebrant* Almighty God,  
to you all hearts are open, all desires known,  
and from you no secrets are hidden.  
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.

*Response* **Amen.**

## **Confession and Absolution**

*Celebrant:* Dear friends in Christ,  
God is steadfast in love and infinite in mercy,  
welcoming sinners and inviting us to this table.  
Let us confess our sins, confident in God's forgiveness.

*Celebrant* Most merciful God,

*Response* **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 neighbours 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.**

*Celebrant* Almighty God have mercy upon you,  
pardon and deliver you from all your sins,  
confirm and strengthen you in all goodness,  
and keep you in eternal life;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

*Response* **Amen.**

## **Peace**

*Celebrant* The peace of the Lord be always with you.

*Response* **And also with you.**

## Gloria

*Hurd*

*Celebrant* Glory to God in the highest,  
*Cantor* **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.**

## Collect of the Day

*Celebrant* Let us pray.  
Almighty God,  
your Son Jesus Christ is the way, the truth, and the life.  
Give us grace to love one another  
and walk in the way of his commandments,  
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever.

*Cantor* **Amen.**

## LITURGY OF THE WORD

*A period of silence is observed after each reading and the homily.*

### First Lesson: Acts 8.26-40

*Reader* A reading from the Acts of the Apostles.

Then an angel of the Lord said to Philip, 'Get up and go towards the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza.' (This is a wilderness road.) So he got up and went. Now there was an Ethiopian eunuch, a court official of the Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, in charge of her entire treasury. He had come to Jerusalem to worship and was returning home; seated in his chariot, he was reading the prophet Isaiah. Then the Spirit said to Philip, 'Go over to this chariot and join it.' So Philip ran up to it and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah. He asked, 'Do you understand what you are reading?' He replied, 'How can I, unless someone guides me?' And he invited Philip to get in and sit beside him. Now the passage of the scripture that he was reading was this: 'Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter, and like a lamb silent before its shearer, so he does not open his mouth.

In his humiliation justice was denied him. Who can describe his generation? For his life is taken away from the earth.'

The eunuch asked Philip, 'About whom, may I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?' Then Philip began to speak, and starting with this scripture, he proclaimed to him the good news about Jesus. As they were going along the road, they came to some water; and the eunuch said, 'Look, here is water! What is to prevent me from being baptized?' He commanded the chariot to stop, and both of them, Philip and the eunuch, went down into the water, and Philip baptized him. When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord snatched Philip away; the eunuch saw him no more, and went on his way rejoicing. But Philip found himself at Azotus, and as he was passing through the region, he proclaimed the good news to all the towns until he came to Caesarea.

*Reader*      The word of the Lord.

*Response*    **Thanks be to God.**

**Psalm 22.24-30** *Deus, deus meus*



*Cantor 1*    MY PRAISE is of him in the great as-semb-ly; /  
I will perform my vows in the presence of those who wor-ship^him.

*Cantor 2*    **The poor shall be satis-fied, and those who seek the Lord  
shall praise him: /**

**“May your heart live for ev-er.!”**

*Cantor 1*    All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the Lord, /  
and all the families of the nations shall bow be-fore him.

*Cantor 2*    **For kingship belongs to the Lord; /  
he rules ov-er the na-tions.**

*Cantor 1*    To him alone all who sleep in the earth bow down in wor-ship; /  
all who go down to the dust fall be-fore him.

*Cantor 2*    **My soul shall live for him; my descendants shall serve him; /  
they shall be known as the Lord's for ev-er.**

*Cantor 1*    They shall come and make known to a people yet un-born /  
the saving deeds that he has^done.

**Epistle:** 1 John 4.7-21

*Reader* A reading from the first epistle of John.

Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. God's love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him. In this is love, not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins.

Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God lives in us, and his love is perfected in us.

By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. And we have seen and do testify that the Father has sent his Son as the Saviour of the world. God abides in those who confess that Jesus is the Son of God, and they abide in God. So we have known and believe the love that God has for us.

God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God, and God abides in them.

Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness on the day of judgement, because as he is, so are we in this world. There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear; for fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not reached perfection in love. We love because he first loved us. Those who say, 'I love God', and hate their brothers or sisters, are liars; for those who do not love a brother or sister whom they have seen, cannot love God whom they have not seen. The commandment we have from him is this: those who love God must love their brothers and sisters also.

*Reader* The word of the Lord.

*Response* **Thanks be to God.**

**Gospel acclamation: Alleluia**

*Cantor* **Alleluia. I am the vine, you are the branches, says the Lord.  
Those who abide in me, and I in them, bear much fruit. Alleluia.**

*Gospeller* The Lord be with you.

*Response* **And also with you.**

*Gospeller* The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, according to John.

*Response* **Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

### **Holy Gospel:** John 15.1-8

Jesus said, 'I am the true vine, and my Father is the vine-grower. He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing. Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples.

*Gospeller* The Gospel of Christ.

*Response* **Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

**Homily** Mtr. Maggie Helwig

### **Nicene Creed**

*Celebrant* Let us confess our faith, as we say,

*Response* **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.  
With the Father and the Son  
he is worshipped 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.**

### **Intercessions**

*Bidding*     Your kingdom, let it come!  
*Response*    **Your will, let it be done!**

### **CELEBRATION OF THE EUCHARIST**

**Offertory hymn 488:** *The tree of life my soul hath seen*

PINEHAM

- 1     The tree of life my soul hath seen,  
      laden with fruit and always green.  
      The trees of nature fruitless be  
      compared with Christ the apple tree.
- 2     His beauty doth all things excel.  
      By faith I know, but ne'er can tell  
      the glory which I now can see  
      in Jesus Christ the apple tree.
- 3     For happiness I long have sought,  
      and pleasure dearly I have bought.  
      I missed in all; but now I see  
      'tis found in Christ the apple tree.
- 4     I'm weary with my former toil.  
      Here I will sit and rest awhile.  
      Under the shadow will I be  
      of Jesus Christ the apple tree.

5 This fruit doth make my soul to thrive.  
It keeps my dying faith alive;  
which makes my soul in haste to be  
with Jesus Christ the apple tree.

### **Prayer over the Gifts**

*Celebrant* Gracious God,  
you show us your way  
and give us your divine life.  
May everything we do  
be directed by the knowledge of your truth.  
We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ the risen Lord.

*Response* **Amen.**

### **Eucharistic Prayer 3**

*Celebrant* The Lord be with you.

*Cantor* **And also with you.**

*Celebrant* Lift up your hearts.

*Cantor* **We lift them to the Lord.**

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

*Cantor* **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

### **Preface of Easter**

*Celebrant* Blessed are you, gracious God,  
creator of heaven and earth,  
because you bid your faithful people  
we give you thanks and praise  
for the glorious resurrection of your Son  
Jesus Christ the Lord;  
for he is the true paschal lamb  
who has taken away the sin of the world.  
By his death he destroyed death,  
and by his rising to life again  
he has won for us eternal life.  
Therefore, joining our voices  
with the whole company of heaven,  
we sing our joyful hymn of praise  
to proclaim the glory of your name.

## **Sanctus and Benedictus**

*Proulx*

***Cantor* 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.**

*Celebrant* We give thanks to you, Lord our God,  
for the goodness and love  
you have made known to us in creation;  
in calling Israel to be your people;  
in your Word spoken through the prophets;  
and above all in the Word made flesh,  
Jesus your Son.  
For in these last days you sent him  
to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary,  
to be the Saviour and Redeemer of the world.  
In him, you have delivered us from evil,  
and made us worthy to stand before you.  
In him, you have brought us out of error into truth,  
out of sin into righteousness, out of death into life.  
On the night he was handed over to suffering and death,  
a death he freely accepted,  
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, Father, according to his command,

***Response* we remember his death,  
we proclaim his resurrection,  
we await his coming in glory;**

*Celebrant* and we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving  
to you, Lord of all;  
presenting to you, from your creation, this bread and this wine.  
We pray you, gracious God,  
to send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts,  
that they may be the sacrament of the body of Christ  
and his blood of the new covenant.  
Unite us to your Son in his sacrifice,  
that we, made acceptable in him,  
may be sanctified by the Holy Spirit.  
In the fullness of time, reconcile all things in Christ,  
and make them new,  
and bring us to that city of light  
where you dwell with all your children;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord,  
the firstborn of all creation, the head of the Church,  
and the author of our salvation;  
by whom, and with whom, and in whom,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
all honour and glory are yours, almighty Father,  
now and for ever.

*Response* **Amen.**

### **The Lord's Prayer**

*McNeil Robinson*

*Celebrant* As our Saviour taught us, let us pray,  
*Cantor* **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.**

### **Breaking of the Bread**

*Celebrant* Lord, we died with you on the cross.

*Response* **Now we are raised to new life.**

*Celebrant* We were buried in your tomb.

*Response* **Now we share in your resurrection.**

*Celebrant* Live in us, that we may live in you.

## **Agnus Dei**

*Senshur*

***Cantor*** Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world:  
have mercy on us.  
Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world:  
have mercy on us.  
Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world:  
grant us peace.

## **Prayer after Communion**

***Celebrant*** Let us pray.  
God of love,  
in this eucharist we have heard your truth  
and shared in your life.  
May we always walk in your way,  
in the name of Jesus Christ the Lord.

***Response*** Amen.

## **Doxology**

***Celebrant*** Glory to God,  
***Response*** whose power, working in us,  
can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine.  
Glory to God from generation to generation,  
in the Church and in Christ Jesus, for ever and ever. Amen.

## **Blessing**

***Celebrant*** The peace of God, which passes 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 with you all, and remain with you always.

***Response*** Amen.

**Hymn 487: *Where charity and love prevail***

TWENTY-FOURTH (PRIMROSE)

- 1 Where charity and love prevail, there God is ever found;  
brought here together by Christ's love, by love are we thus bound.
- 2 With grateful joy and holy fear his charity we learn;  
let us with heart and mind and strength now love him in return.
- 3 Forgive we now each other's faults as we our faults confess;  
and let us love each other well in Christian holiness.
- 4 Let strife among us be unknown, let all contention cease;  
be his the glory that we seek, be ours his holy peace.
- 5 Let us recall that in our midst dwells God's begotten Son;  
as members of his body joined, we are in him made one.
- 6 Love can exclude no race or creed if honoured be God's name;  
our common life embraces all whose Father is the same.

**Dismissal**

*Deacon* Go forth in peace, to love and serve the Lord. Alleluia.

*Response* **Thanks be to God. Alleluia.**

**Announcements**

**Invitation to "coffee hour"**

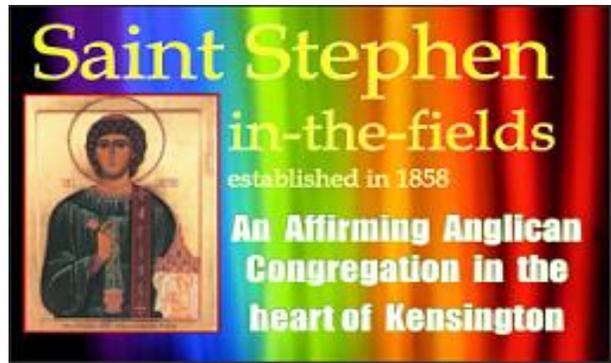
**Postlude**

**"Coffee hour" on Zoom**

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our website is [www.saintstephens.ca](http://www.saintstephens.ca)



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