



St. Augustine's Church

A Church Family in the Heart of the City



Mosaic of St. Stephen – St. Stephen Walbrook, London

December 26, 2021 10:00 AM

Saint Stephen the Martyr
Morning Prayer
December 26, 2021

Prelude

Mary Lee Voort

Opening Hymn: #145 "Good King Wenceslas"

**Good King Wenceslas looked out on the feast of Stephen,
when the snow lay round about deep and crisp and even.
Brightly shone the moon that night, thought the frost was cruel,
when a poor man came in sight, gathering winter fuel.**

**"Hither, page, and stand by me, if thou knowest it, telling:
yonder peasant, who is he? Where and what his dwelling?"
"Sire, he lives a good league hence, underneath the mountain,
right against the forest fence, by St. Agnes' fountain."**

**"Bring me flesh and bring me wine, bring me pine-logs hither;
thou and I will see him dine, when we fear them thither."
Page and monarch forth they went, for they went together,
through the rude wind's wild lament, and the bitter weather.**

**"Sire, the night is darker now, and the wind blows stronger:
fails my heart, I know not how; I can go no longer."
"Mark my footsteps, my good page; tread thou in them boldly.
Thou shalt find the winter's rage freeze thy blood less coldly."**

**In his master's steps he trod, where the snow lay dinted;
heat was in the very sod which the saint had printed.
Therefore, Christians all, be sure, wealth and rank possessing,
ye who now will bless the poor, shall yourselves find blessings.**

Welcome and Announcements
Children's Focus

The Rev. Dr. Gillian Breckenridge

The Penitential Rite

The sacrifice of God is a broken spirit: a broken and contrite heart, O God,
you will not despise. Psalm 51.18

Seek the Lord while he wills to be found, call upon him when he draws near; let the wicked forsake their ways, and the evil ones their thoughts; and let them return to the Lord, and he will have compassion, and to our God, for he will richly pardon.

Isaiah 55.6, 7

If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God is faithful and just, and will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. 1 John 1.8, 9

The officiant says to the people,

Dear friends in Christ, as we prepare to worship almighty God, let us with penitent and obedient hearts confess our sins, that we may obtain forgiveness by his infinite goodness and mercy.

All kneel and silence is kept. The officiant and people say together,

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 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.

Officiant 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.

People **Amen.**

(all stand)

Blessed are you, O Christ, Son of God,
you were before time began
and came into the world to save us.
Blessed are you, Sun of righteousness;
you shine with the Father's love
and illumine the whole universe.
Blessed are you, Son of Mary;
born a child, you shared our humanity.
Let heaven and earth shout their praise.

With all the voices of heaven
we celebrate the coming of our Saviour.
Let heaven and earth shout their praise.

With all the creatures on earth
we sing and dance at his birth.
Praise and honour and glory to you, O Lord most high.

The Invitatory

To us a child is born: **O come, let us worship.**

Jubilate

Psalm 100

**Be joyful in the Lord, all you lands; *
serve the Lord with gladness
and come before his presence with a song.**

**Know this: The Lord himself is God; *
he himself has made us, and we are his;
we are his people and the sheep of his pasture.**

**Enter his gates with thanksgiving;
go into his courts with praise; *
give thanks to him and call upon his name.**

**For the Lord is good; his mercy is everlasting; *
and his faithfulness endures from age to age.**

The Proclamation of the Word

At the conclusion of each reading, the reader shall say:

The Word of the Lord.

And the people shall respond:

Thanks be to God.

First Reading: Jeremiah 26:1-9, 12-15

Michael Larsen

Early in the reign of Jehoiakim son of Josiah king of Judah, this word came from the Lord: ²“This is what the Lord says: Stand in the courtyard of the Lord’s house and speak to all the people of the towns of Judah who come to worship in the house of the Lord. Tell them everything I command you; do not omit a word. ³ Perhaps they will listen and each will turn from their evil ways. Then I will relent and not inflict on them the disaster I was planning because of the evil they have done. ⁴ Say to them, ‘This is what

the Lord says: If you do not listen to me and follow my law, which I have set before you, ⁵and if you do not listen to the words of my servants the prophets, whom I have sent to you again and again (though you have not listened), ⁶then I will make this house like Shiloh and this city a curse among all the nations of the earth.'”

⁷The priests, the prophets and all the people heard Jeremiah speak these words in the house of the Lord. ⁸But as soon as Jeremiah finished telling all the people everything the Lord had commanded him to say, the priests, the prophets and all the people seized him and said, “You must die! ⁹Why do you prophesy in the Lord’s name that this house will be like Shiloh and this city will be desolate and deserted?” And all the people crowded around Jeremiah in the house of the Lord.

Psalm 148



Hal-le-lujah!

Praise God from the heavens;
sing praise in the heights.
Sing praise, all angels,
sing praise, all you heavenly host. R.

Sing praise, sun and moon;
sing praise, all you shining stars.
Sing praise, heaven of heavens,
and you waters above the heavens. R.

Let them praise your name, O God;
for you commanded, and they were created.
You made them stand fast for ever and ever;
you gave them a law which shall not pass away. R.

O praise God from the earth,
you sea-monsters and all deeps;
Fire and hail, snow and fog,
tempestuous wind, doing God's will; R.

Mountains and all hills, fruit trees and all cedars:
Wild beasts and all cattle,
creeping things and flying birds;
Rulers of the earth and all peoples,

princes and all sovereigns of the world;
Young men and women,
old and young together. R.

Let them praise your name, O God,
for your name only is exalted,
your splendour is over earth and heaven.
You have raised up strength for your people
and praise for all your loyal servants,
the children of Israel, a people who are near you.
Hallelujah! R.

Second Reading Acts 6:8-7:2a, 51c-60

Greg Young

Now Stephen, a man full of God's grace and power, performed great wonders and signs among the people. ⁹Opposition arose, however, from members of the Synagogue of the Freedmen (as it was called)—Jews of Cyrene and Alexandria as well as the provinces of Cilicia and Asia—who began to argue with Stephen. ¹⁰But they could not stand up against the wisdom the Spirit gave him as he spoke.

¹¹Then they secretly persuaded some men to say, "We have heard Stephen speak blasphemous words against Moses and against God."

¹²So they stirred up the people and the elders and the teachers of the law. They seized Stephen and brought him before the Sanhedrin. ¹³They produced false witnesses, who testified, "This fellow never stops speaking against this holy place and against the law. ¹⁴For we have heard him say that this Jesus of Nazareth will destroy this place and change the customs Moses handed down to us."

¹⁵All who were sitting in the Sanhedrin looked intently at Stephen, and they saw that his face was like the face of an angel.

Then the high priest asked Stephen, "Are these charges true?"

²To this he replied: "Brothers and fathers, listen to me! The God of glory appeared to our father Abraham while he was still in Mesopotamia, before he lived in Harran.

Gradual Hymn: #122 "In the Bleak Midwinter"

**In the bleak midwinter, frosty wind made moan,
earth stood hard as iron, water like a stone;
snow had fallen, snow on snow, snow on snow,
in the bleak midwinter, long ago.**

**Our God, heaven cannot hold him, nor earth sustain;
heaven and earth shall flee away when he comes to reign.
In the bleak midwinter a stable place sufficed
the Lord God almighty, Jesus Christ.**

**Angels and archangels may have gathered there;
cherubim and seraphim thronged the air;
but his mother only in her maiden bliss,
worshipped the beloved with a kiss.**

**What can I give him, poor as I am?
If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb;
if I were a wise man, I would do my part;
yet what I can, I give him – my heart.**

Gospel Reading Matthew 23:34-39

Tim Pope

Reader The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

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

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

Therefore I am sending you prophets and sages and teachers. Some of them you will kill and crucify; others you will flog in your synagogues and pursue from town to town. ³⁵ And so upon you will come all the righteous blood that has been shed on earth, from the blood of righteous Abel to the blood of Zechariah son of Berekiah, whom you murdered between the temple and the altar. ³⁶ Truly I tell you, all this will come on this generation. ³⁷ "Jerusalem, Jerusalem, you who kill the prophets and stone those sent to you, how often I have longed to gather your children together, as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, and you were not willing. ³⁸ Look, your house is left to you desolate. ³⁹ For I tell you, you will not see me again until you say, 'Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Reader The Gospel of Christ.

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

Sermon

The Rev. Steve Bateman

Anthem

“Joy Has Dawned” – K. Getty and S. Townend

Karen Hudson, soprano

The Apostles' Creed *(all stand)*

Celebrant Let us confess the faith of our baptism, as we say,

All

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen

Prayers of the People

(all kneeling)

Greg Young

Anglican Cycle of Prayer: We pray for Iglesia Anglicana de la Region Central de America.

Diocesan Cycle of Prayer: In our diocese we pray for Cathedral Church of the Redeemer, Calgary.

In our companion diocese of the Windward Islands we pray for St. George with St. Vincent, St. Peter, St. Luke and St. Alban on Grenada and The Ven. Michael Marshall. We also pray for St. Patrick with St. Mary and St. Francis on Grenada.

Parish Cycle of Prayer: We pray for those providing music ministry and for the Deputy Warden of Worship, Michael Larsen. (Senior Choir, Handbell Choir, and “Confessions” Worship Band.

The Collect

(All kneel)

Celebrant Let us pray.

All

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 for ever. Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

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

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, the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

Closing Hymn: # 154 "Joy to the World"

**Joy to the world! The Lord is come: let earth receive her King.
Let ev'ry heart prepare Him room, and heaven and nature sing,
And heaven and nature sing, and heaven, and heaven and nature sing.**

**Joy to the earth! The Savior reigns: let us glad songs employ,
While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains repeat the sounding joy,
repeat the sounding joy, repeat, repeat the sounding joy.**

**No more let wrongs and sorrows grow, nor thorns infest the ground;
he comes to make his blessings flow far as our sin is found,
far as our sin is found, far as, far as our sin is found.**

**He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the nations prove
the glories of His righteousness and wonders of His love,
and wonders of His love, and wonders, wonders of His love.**

**Dismissal The Grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship
of the Holy Spirit be with us all evermore. Amen**

Postlude

**"Go, Tell it on the Mountain" – arr. G. Lanier
Jayla Matchett, clarinet**

Flowers at the altar are in loving memory of
The Siewert and Bres family loved ones, Bob & Anne,
Connie, Roy and Dorothy, James, David and Gladys, Shirley, and Doreen.

Thank you to our technical crew this morning.
Sound: Barry Adams, Brad Gillespie Videography: Ayo Aramide, Jonathan Legg



403-327-3970



office@staug.org



www.staug.org

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Be sure to check the box that says, "weekly church bulletin and notices", or contact the office.*

What's New?

Annual Meeting of Parishioners

Please join us on Wednesday, February 16, 2022. If you have a sense that you or someone you know may be called to a ministry as a Warden or Parish Council member, please speak to one of the current wardens or one of the clergy.

Christmas Office Hours

Monday, Dec. 27, and Tuesday Dec. 28: **OFFICE CLOSED**

Wednesday, Dec 29, and Thursday Dec 30: open 9 a.m. - noon and 1 - 4 p.m.

Friday, Dec. 31: open 9 a.m. - noon

Monday, Jan. 3: **OFFICE CLOSED**

No Sunday School Today

Families, please note that we will not have Sunday School during the 10am service on December 26 (Boxing Day/ Feast of St. Stephen). We will have activity kits available for children to use during the service, and just a reminder that children are encouraged to bring a Christmas gift they received to show the congregation that day!

Mission News

Please check out the link below for encouraging developments in the Diocese of Calgary regarding mission. It is written by our very own Jane Harris-Zsovan.

<https://anglicanplanet.net/re-imagining-mission-in-the-diocese-of-calgary/>

2022 Offering Envelopes

The offering envelopes for 2022 are now available for pick up in the Narthex.

Giving to St. Augustine's year-end reminder

Please be aware that offerings need to be received at the Church **on or before December 31** in order to be included in 2021 contribution statements for income tax purposes.

Offerings may be put in the offering plate during a service, mailed to or dropped off at the Church (in the Church mailbox, which is located to the right of the main doors, if the office is not open), or e-transferred to givings@staug.org. Thanks to all who returned their stewardship 2022 forms. Please continue to return these as you are able.

Young people take note

Homework club will be taking a Christmas break. Stay tuned for our 2022 start date.

Confirmation Class is starting in the new year!

We are excited to announce that confirmation class will be starting back early in the new year. If you have someone in grade 7 or 8 in your household and they would like to join

the class or if you would like to ask some questions and find out more about it, please speak to either Rev. Steve or Rev. Gillian or reach out to the church office (office@staug.org, 403 327 3970).

Volunteers needed

We need additional volunteers to serve as Greeters and Sidespeople at our in-person services on Sundays and/or special services. Greeters are the people who welcome you at the door and record your name and phone number for contact tracing. Sidespeople are "ushers," showing you to your seat and letting you know when it's your row's turn to go forward for communion. Both roles are essential to making people feel welcome and helping them participate in the service. We are hoping that volunteers would commit to one Sunday every 4-8 weeks. Please email Karen Hammond at hammondk108@gmail.com if you can consider helping us out in this way.

Holy goats!

HOLY GOATS are back – for the person who has everything, you can GIVE A GOAT! Over the years, St. Augustine's has provided over 150 goats through the Primate's World Relief and Development Fund to families globally. Goats are a good source of nutrition, food security and income for families. A gift of \$50 will fund an incredible goat program. Donations can be made to the church office, in the Sunday collection or through e-transfer (goats). **Deadline: December 30th.**

For more information, contact Chris Burton at dcburton@telusplanet.net

Midweek worship and prayer schedule

Thursday Eucharist:

Weekly at 9:30 am, BCP (in-person) no pre-registration – sign in upon arrival.

Daily Office

No Morning Prayer the week after Christmas. Resumes: January 4, 2022

No Compline the week after Christmas. Resumes: January 3, 2022