



ST. STEPHEN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Order for Worship—First Sunday after the Epiphany
January 10, 2020 at 10am

PRELUDE

OPENING HYMN — Litany of Reconciliation

In the com - ing of the trou - bles, God is found.
In the weak and stum - bling bod - y God is found.
In the heart that asks for - give - ness, God is found.
5 In the earth re - newed in jus - tice, God is found.
In the ris - ing of my fair one, God is found.

In the sight be - yond our see - ing, God is found.
As we tell the Sab - bath sto - ries, God is found.
In the wea - ry with their bur - dens, God is found.
As the dew falls on the dry bones, God is found.
9 In each hu - man touch, a mys - t'ry, God is found.

As we come to know the oth - er has a right to be at ta - ble,
As we face the bread to - geth - er, when my heart does not re - sist you,
In the weep - ing, in the mend - ing, as our child - hood meets its end - ing,
In the free - dom of the wa - ters, as we wel - come all the voic - es,
13 In the full - ness of our sing - ing, as the spir - it comes a - mong us,

God is found. Mm

6. In the lost who seek the holy, God is found.
In their broken hopes and hungers, God is found.
As we listen, we remember even healers can be wounded,
God is found. Mm...

7. In the healing of the sorrows, God is found.
As we waken to compassion, God is found.
In forgiving our detractors, even when they rise against us,
God is found. Mm...

8. In the famine of your absence, God is found.
In the gap that separates us, God is found.
When together as we work to forge a common life between us,
God is found. Mm...

Presider The Word of life which was from the beginning
 People **we proclaim to you.**
 Presider The darkness is passing away
 and the true light is already shining;
 People **the Word of life which was from the beginning.**
 Presider That which we heard, which we saw with our eyes,
 and touched with our own hands,
 People **we proclaim to you.**
 Presider For our fellowship is with the Father,
 and with his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.
 People **The Word of life which was from the beginning**
we proclaim to you.

Prayer In Times of Conflict (BCP 824)

O God, you have bound us together in a common life. Help us, in the midst of our struggles for justice and truth, to confront one another without hatred or bitterness, and to work together with mutual forbearance and respect; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

SONG OF PRAISE — God of Mercy

Bernadette Farrell

1. God of mer - cy, you are with us.
 2. God of pa - tience, strong and gen - tle,
 3. Lord, have mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy.

1. Fill our hearts with your kind - ness.
 2. fill our hearts with your kind - ness.
 3. Lord, have mer - cy up - on us.

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COLLECT OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

God of the tearing heaven, whose holiness is unveiled by one who is submerged in all the pain and sin of earth: give us faith to follow him who goes to the heart of darkness bearing only the Spirit of gentle, insistent peace; through Jesus Christ, the promised one. **Amen.**

A READING FROM THE BOOK OF GENESIS

(Genesis 1:1-5)

In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth, the earth was a formless void and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters. Then God said, "Let there be light"; and there was light. And God saw that the light was good; and God separated the light from the darkness. God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day.

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

Thanks be to God.



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- 1 Ascribe to God, you | heaven•ly | beings, *
ascribe to | **God** | glory • and | strength.
- 2 Ascribe due honor to God's | holy | Name; *
worship the Most | High • in the | beauty • of | holiness.
- 3 The voice of God is upon the waters; the God of | glory | thunders; *
God is up- | on the | mighty | waters.
- 4 The voice of God is a | power•ful | voice; *
the voice of | God • is a | voice of | splendor.
- 5 The voice of God breaks the | cedar | trees; *
God | breaks the | cedars • of | Lebanon;
- 6 God makes Lebanon | skip • like a | calf *
and Mount | Hermon • like a | young wild | ox.
- 7 The voice of God splits the flames of fire; the voice of | God • shakes the | wilderness; *
God shakes the | wilder- | ness of | Kadesh.
- 8 The voice of God makes the | oak trees | writhe *
and | strips the | forests | bare.
- 9 And in the | temple • of the | Holy One, *
--- | all are | crying, | "Glory!"
- 10 God sits enthroned a- | bove the | flood, *
enthroned as | Sovereign • for | ever- | more.
- 11 God shall give | strength • to the | people; *
God shall give the | people • the | blessing • of | peace.

While Apollos was in Corinth, Paul passed through the interior regions and came to Ephesus, where he found some disciples. He said to them, “Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you became believers?” They replied, “No, we have not even heard that there is a Holy Spirit.” Then he said, “Into what then were you baptized?” They answered, “Into John’s baptism.” Paul said, “John baptized with the baptism of repentance, telling the people to believe in the one who was to come after him, that is, in Jesus.” On hearing this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. When Paul had laid his hands on them, the Holy Spirit came upon them, and they spoke in tongues and prophesied— altogether there were about twelve of them.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to God’s people.

Thanks be to God.

SEQUENCE HYMN — Be Still and Know

Barbara Bridge

Be still and know that I am God. Be still and know that I

am. Be still and know. Be still. Be. Be.

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THE GOSPEL

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

(Mark 1:4-11)

Glory to you, Lord Christ.

John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. Now John was clothed with camel’s hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. He proclaimed, “The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.”

In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him. And a voice came from heaven, “You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Christ.

HOMILY —The Rev. Christy Laborda Harris

HYMN — The Light Shines through the Darkness

**The light shines through the darkness,
The light shines through the darkness,
The light shines through the darkness,
And will never grow dim.**

HYMN — The Lord is my Light

**The Lord is my light, my light and my hope,
In God I trust; in God I trust.**

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The Baptismal Covenant

Presider Do you believe in God the Father?

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

Presider Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

People **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.**

Presider Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

People **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.**

Presider Will you continue in the apostles' teaching and fellowship, in the breaking of the bread, and in the prayers?

People **I will, with God's help.**

Presider Will you persevere in resisting evil, and, whenever you fall into sin, repent and return to the Lord?

People **I will, with God's help.**

Presider Will you proclaim by word and example the Good News of God in Christ?

People **I will, with God's help.**

Presider Will you seek and serve Christ in all persons, loving your neighbor as yourself?
People **I will, with God's help.**

Presider Will you strive for justice and peace among all people, and respect the dignity of every human being?
People **I will, with God's help.**

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Adapted from Prayers of the People during a time of election by Rev. Shannon Kelly, Missioner for Young Adult and Campus Ministries of the Episcopal Church

Loving God, creator of this world who is the source of our wisdom and understanding, watch over this nation during this time of conflict and turmoil. Help us to see how our faith informs our principles and actions. God, our creator,
Guide us in truth and love.

We pray for peace, for calm, for love, and for understanding. God, our creator,
Guide us in truth and love.

We give thanks for and pray for the safety of those defending our government, for first responders, and for essential workers. God, our creator,
Guide us in truth and love.

We pray for healing for our communities and our country. God, our creator,
Guide us in truth and love.

Help us create communities that will build your kingdom here on earth – communities that will protect the poor, stand up for the vulnerable, advocate for those who are not seen and heard, and listen to everyone's voice. God, our creator,
Guide us in truth and love.

We pray for this nation that is deeply divided. May we come together for the common good and do as you have called us to do – to act justly, love mercy, and walk humbly with you through creation. God, our creator,
Guide us in truth and love.

Help us to listen in love, work together in peace, and collaborate with one another as we seek the betterment of our community and world. God, our creator,
Guide us in truth and love.

Comfort and heal all those who suffer in body, mind, or spirit; [especially] give them courage and hope in their troubles, and bring them the joy of your salvation. God, our creator,
Guide us in truth and love.

We commend to your mercy all who have died, [especially] that your will for them may be fulfilled; and we pray that we may share with all your saints in your eternal kingdom. God, our creator,
Guide us in truth and love.

Eternal God, in whose perfect kingdom no sword is drawn but the sword of righteousness, no strength known but the strength of love: So mightily spread abroad your Spirit, that all peoples may be gathered under the banner of the Prince of Peace, as children of one Father; to whom be dominion and glory, now and for ever. **Amen.**
(For Peace, BCP 815)

CONFESSION

The grace of God has dawned upon the world through our Savior Jesus Christ. Let us confess our sins.

Deacon Lord Jesus, illuminate the darkness in our hearts: Lord, have mercy.
People **Lord, have mercy.**

Deacon Lord Jesus, open our eyes to your saving love: Christ, have mercy.
People **Christ, have mercy.**

Deacon Lord Jesus, unstop our ears to hear your living word: Lord, have mercy.
People **Lord, have mercy.**

ABSOLUTION

May the God of love and power forgive you and free you from your sins, heal and strengthen you by the Spirit, and raise you to new life in Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

As our savior Christ has taught us, we now pray,

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.

BLESSING

May the God of love and power forgive you and free you from your sins, heal and strengthen you by the Spirit, and raise you to new life in Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

DISMISSAL

Go in peace to walk in love, mercy and justice. Alleluia. Alleluia.
Thanks be to God. Alleluia. Alleluia.

CLOSING HYMN — Stay with Me

Jacques Berthier

Stay with me, re - main here with me, watch and
pray, watch and pray.