We welcome you to St. Stephen’s Episcopal Church, a house of prayer for all people.

We ask that you put your cell phones, pagers and other devices in silent mode.

Please observe a respectful silence during the playing of the prelude for those who use this time for prayer and quiet meditation.
Hymn 525

1 The Church’s one foundation
   is Jesus Christ her Lord;
   she is his new creation
   by water and the word:
   from heaven he came and sought her
   to be his holy bride;
   with his own blood he bought her,
   and for her life he died.

2 Elect from every nation,
   yet one o’er all the earth,
   her charter of salvation,
   one Lord, one faith, one birth;
   one holy Name she blesses,
   partakes one holy food,
   and to one hope she presses,
   with every grace endued.

3 Though with a scornful wonder
   men see her sore oppressed,
   by schisms rent asunder,
   by heresies distressed;
   yet saints their watch are keeping,
   their cry goes up, “How long?”
   and soon the night of weeping
   shall be the morn of song.

4 Mid toil and tribulation,
   and tumult of her war
   she waits the consummation
   of peace for evermore;
   till with the vision glorious
   her longing eyes are blessed,
   and the great Church victorious
   shall be the Church at rest.
Yet she on earth hath union
with God, the Three in One,
and mystic sweet communion
with those whose rest is won.
O happy ones and holy!
Lord, give us grace that we
like them, the meek and lowly,
on high may dwell with thee.

The Word of God

All standing, the Celebrant says

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

People

And blessed be his kingdom, now and for ever.

Amen.

The Celebrant says

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.

The following is sung, all standing

Song of Praise

“Now Thank We All Our God”

1 Now thank we all our God,
with heart, and hands, and voices,
who wondrous things hath done,
in whom his world rejoices;
who from our mothers' arms
hath blessed us on our way
with countless gifts of love,
and still is ours today.

2 O may this bounteous God
through all our life be near us!
with ever-joyful hearts
and blessed peace to cheer us;
to keep us in his grace,
and guide us when perplexed,
and free us from all ills
in this world in the next.
3 All praise and thanks to God
the Father now be given,
the Son, and him who reigns
with them in highest heaven,
eternal, Triune God,
whom earth and heaven adore;
for thus it was, is now,
and shall be, evermore.

Collect of the Day

Celebrant The Lord be with you.
People And also with you.
Celebrant Let us pray.

Keep, O Lord, your household the Church in your steadfast faith and love, that through your grace we may proclaim your truth with boldness, and minister your justice with compassion; for the sake of our Savior Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

Old Testament Lesson 1 Samuel 15:34—16:13

Samuel went to Ramah; and Saul went up to his house in Gibeah of Saul. Samuel did not see Saul again until the day of his death, but Samuel grieved over Saul. And the Lord was sorry that he had made Saul king over Israel. The Lord said to Samuel, “How long will you grieve over Saul? I have rejected him from being king over Israel. Fill your horn with oil and set out; I will send you to Jesse the Bethlehemite, for I have provided for myself a king among his sons.” Samuel said, “How can I go? If Saul hears of it, he will kill me.” And the Lord said, “Take a heifer with you, and say, ‘I have come to sacrifice to the Lord.’ Invite Jesse to the sacrifice, and I will show you what you shall do; and you shall anoint for me the one whom I name to you.” Samuel did what the Lord commanded, and came to Bethlehem. The elders of the city came to meet him trembling, and said, “Do you come peaceably?” He said, “Peaceably; I have come to sacrifice to the Lord; sanctify yourselves and come with me to the sacrifice.” And he sanctified Jesse and his sons and invited them to the sacrifice. When they came, he looked on Eliab and thought, “Surely the Lord’s anointed is now before the Lord.” But the Lord said to Samuel, “Do not look on his appearance or on the height of his stature, because I have rejected him; for the Lord does not see as mortals see; they look on the outward appearance, but the Lord looks on the heart.” Then Jesse called Abinadab, and made him pass before Samuel. He said, “Neither has the Lord chosen this one.” Then Jesse made Shammah pass by. And he said, “Neither has the Lord chosen this one.” Jesse made seven of his sons pass before Samuel, and Samuel said to Jesse, “The Lord has not chosen any of these.” Samuel said to Jesse, “Are all your sons here?” And he said, “There remains yet the youngest,
but he is keeping the sheep.” And Samuel said to Jesse, “Send and bring him; for we will not sit down until he comes here.” He sent and brought him in. Now he was ruddy, and had beautiful eyes, and was handsome. The Lord said, “Rise and anoint him; for this is the one.” Then Samuel took the horn of oil, and anointed him in the presence of his brothers; and the spirit of the Lord came mightily upon David from that day forward. Samuel then set out and went to Ramah.

Reader       The Word of the Lord.
People      Thanks be to God.

Psalm 20

Antiphon:

The Lord gives victory to the anointed.

Psalm Tone:

Antiphon

1 May the lord answer you in the [day] of trouble, *
the Name of the God of [Jacob] defend you;

3 Remember [all] your offerings *
and accept your [burnt] sacrifice;

5 We will shout for joy at your victory and triumph in the [Name of ] Our God; *
may the Lord grant [all your] requests.

2 Send you help from his [ho]-ly place *
and strengthen you [out] of Zion;

4 Grant you your [heart’s] desire *
and prosper [all] your plans.

6 Now I know that the Lord gives victory to [his] anointed; *
he will answer him out of his holy heaven, ...
with the victorious strength of his [right] hand.
Some put their trust in chariots and horses, but we will call upon the Name of the Lord our God. They collapse and fall, but we will arise and stand upright.

O Lord give victory to the king and answer us when we call.

Antiphon

The Epistle 2 Corinthians 5:6-17

We are always confident; even though we know that while we are at home in the body we are away from the Lord—for we walk by faith, not by sight. Yes, we do have confidence, and we would rather be away from the body and at home with the Lord. So whether we are at home or away, we make it our aim to please him. For all of us must appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each may receive recompense for what has been done in the body, whether good or evil. Therefore, knowing the fear of the Lord, we try to persuade others; but we ourselves are well known to God, and I hope that we are also well known to your consciences. We are not commending ourselves to you again, but giving you an opportunity to boast about us, so that you may be able to answer those who boast in outward appearance and not in the heart. For if we are beside ourselves, it is for God; if we are in our right mind, it is for you. For the love of Christ urges us on, because we are convinced that one has died for all; therefore all have died. And he died for all, so that those who live might live no longer for themselves, but for him who died and was raised for them. From now on, therefore, we regard no one from a human point of view; even though we once knew Christ from a human point of view, we know him no longer in that way. So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new!

Reader The Word of the Lord.
People Thanks be to God.

Hymn 589

1 Almighty God, your word is cast like seed upon the ground, now let the dew of heaven descend and righteous fruits abound.

2 Let not our selfishness and hate this holy seed remove, but give it root in every heart to bring forth fruits of love.
3 Let not the world’s deceitful cares
the rising plant destroy,
but let it yield a hundredfold
the fruits of peace and joy.

Holy Gospel
Mark 4:26-34

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

People
Glory be to thee, O Lord

Jesus said, “The kingdom of God is as if someone would scatter seed on the ground, and would sleep and rise night and day, and the seed would sprout and grow, he does not know how. The earth produces of itself, first the stalk, then the head, then the full grain in the head. But when the grain is ripe, at once he goes in with his sickle, because the harvest has come.” He also said, “With what can we compare the kingdom of God, or what parable will we use for it? It is like a mustard seed, which, when sown upon the ground, is the smallest of all the seeds on earth; yet when it is sown it grows up and becomes the greatest of all shrubs, and puts forth large branches, so that the birds of the air can make nests in its shade.” With many such parables he spoke the word to them, as they were able to hear it; he did not speak to them except in parables, but he explained everything in private to his disciples.

The Gospel of the Lord.

People
Praise to you, Lord Christ.

Sermon
The Reverend Dr. Colton Smith

Nicene Creed

All stand.

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.

Prayers of the People: Form VI

In peace, we pray to you, Lord God.

Silence

For all people in their daily life and work;
For our families, friends, and neighbors, and for those who are alone.

For this community, the nation, 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 Michael, our Presiding Bishop, and Skip, our Bishop; and for all bishops and other ministers;
For all who serve God in his Church.

For the special needs and concerns of this congregation.

Silence

The People may add their own petitions

Hear us, Lord;
For your mercy is great.

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

Silence

The People may add their own thanksgivings

We will exalt you, O God our King;
And praise your Name for ever and ever.
We pray for all who have died, especially remembering those who were murdered in the tragic shooting at Mother Emanuel on June 17, 2015: The Rev. Clementa Pinkney, Cynthia Hurd, The Rev. Sharonda Coleman-Singleton, Tywanza Sanders, Ethel Lance, Susie Jackson, Depayne Middleton-Doctor, The Rev. Daniel Simmons, and Myra Thompson; that they may have a place in your eternal kingdom.

Silence

The People may add their own petitions

Lord, let your loving-kindness be upon them;
Who put their trust in you.

We pray to you also for the forgiveness of our sins.

Silence may be kept.

Leader and People

Have mercy upon us, most merciful Father; in your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things done and left undone; and so uphold us by your Spirit that we may live and serve you in newness of life, to the honor and glory of your Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Celebrant concludes with an absolution or a suitable Collect.

Peace

All stand.

Celebrant       The peace of the Lord be always with you.
People          And also with you.

Then the Ministers and the People may greet one another in the name of the Lord.

Announcements

Holy Communion

The Celebrant says an offertory sentence.
Offertory: “Morning Has Broken”  

Offertory: “Morning Has Broken”  

Morning has broken, like the first morning,  
Blackbird has spoken, like the first bird;  
Praise for the singing, praise for the morning,  
Praise for the springing fresh from the Word.

Sweet the rains' new fall sunlit from heaven,  
Like the first dewfall on the first grass;  
Praise for the sweetness of the wet garden,  
Sprung in completeness where his feet pass.

Mine is the sunlight, mine is the morning,  
Born of the one light Eden saw play,  
Praise with elation praise every morning,  
God's recreation of the new day.

Hymn at the Presentation  

Hymn at the Presentation  

Were the whole realm of nature mine,  
that were an offering far too small;  
love so amazing, so divine,  
demands my soul, my life, my all.

Representatives of the congregation bring the people’s offerings of bread and wine, and money or other gifts, to the celebrant. The people stand while the offerings are presented and placed on the Altar.

Great Thanksgiving  

The Lord be with you.  
And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.  
We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.  
It is right to give him thanks and praise.

Then, facing the Holy Table, the Celebrant proceeds  

God of all power, Ruler of the Universe, you are worthy of glory and praise.  
Glory to you for ever and ever.
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. By your will they were created and have their being.

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

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

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:

Celebrant and People
The Celebrant continues

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.

At the following words concerning the bread, the Celebrant is to hold it, or lay a hand upon it, and at the words concerning the cup, to hold or place a hand upon the cup and any other vessel containing wine to be consecrated.

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,

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

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.

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

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.

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

People and Celebrant

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.
Breaking of the Bread

A period of silence is kept.

The Celebrant says

The Gifts of God for the People of God.

...Come to this table you who have much faith, and you who would like to have more. You who come to this sacrament often, and you who have not come for a long time. You who have tried to follow Jesus, and you who have failed. Come, it is Christ who invited us to meet him here... (Invitation, Iona Abbey, Scotland)

Communion

Selections by Scott Curry

Hymn 615

1 “Thy kingdom come!” on bended knee
   the passing ages pray;
   and faithful souls have yearned to see
   on earth that kingdom’s day.

2 But the slow watches of the night
   not less to God belong;
   and for the everlasting right
   the silent stars are strong.

3 And lo, already on the hills
   the flags of dawn appear;
   gird up your loins, ye prophet souls,
   proclaim the day is near:
4 the day to whose clear-shining light
   all wrong shall stand revealed,
   when justice shall be throned in might,
   and every hurt be healed;

5 when knowledge, hand in hand with peace,
   shall walk the earth abroad;
   the day of perfect righteousness,
   the promised day of God.

After Communion, the Celebrant says

Let us pray.

Celebrant and People

Almighty and everliving God, we thank you for feeding us with the spiritual food of the most precious Body and Blood of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ; and for assuring us in these holy mysteries that we are living members of the Body of you Son, and heirs of your eternal kingdom. And now, Father, send us out to do the work you have given us to do, to love and serve you as faithful witnesses of Christ our Lord. To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and for ever. Amen.

Blessing

The priest blesses the people.

Hymn 209

1 We walk by faith, and not by sight;
   no gracious words we hear
   from him who spoke as none e’er spoke;
   but we believe him near.

2 We may not touch his hands and side,
   nor follow where he trod;
   but in his promise we rejoice,
   and cry, “My Lord and God!”

3 Help then, O Lord, our unbelief;
   and may our faith abound,
   to call on you when you are near,
   and seek where you are found:
4 that, when our life of faith is done,
in realms of clearer light
we may behold you as you are,
with full and endless sight.

Dismissal

The Priest dismisses the People.

People

Thanks be to God.

Postlude: Recessional in G

The worship is over. Now the service begins.

The Flowers at the Altar are given to the Glory of God in Thanksgiving for the Marriage between Charles and Chevon Herbert and the love that they share.

SERVING TODAY:
The Reverend Dr. Colton Smith (Celebrant & Preacher)
The Reverend Gregory L. Smith (Deacon)
Wayne Helmy (Choirmaster & Organist)
  Mike Shewan (Verger)
  Ted Washington (Lector)
Susan Roehrich (Eucharistic Minister)
  Maxwell Mowry (Intercessor)
  Robin Bugbee (Crucifer)
Team #3, Captain: Mike Shewan (Usher Team)

Tea Time

There is no Tea Time today.

For more information on Tea Time,
contact Vicki Ravenel at vicki@ravenel.us

Parish Directory Update

An updated Parish Directory will be available on July 5. If you need to update your contact information, check to see if you will be included in the directory, or send in an updated family picture, please email Amanda at 67anson@gmail.com.
In Loving Memory of those murdered three years ago in the tragic shooting at Mother Emanuel AME.

The Rev. Clementa Pinckney

Cynthia Hurd

The Rev. Sharonda Coleman-Singleton

Tywanza Sanders

Ethel Lance

Susie Jackson

Depayne Middleton Doctor

The Rev. Daniel Simmons

Myra Thompson