

The Voice of St. Stephen

Volume 12 Issue 11

November 2018

A DAY OF THANKSGIVING REMEMBER THAT GOD HAS PROVIDED

The original thanksgiving celebration was held by the Pilgrim settlers during their second winter in America in 1621. The first winter killed 44 of the original 102 colonists. At one point their daily food ration was down to five kernels of corn apiece, but then a trading vessel arrived, swapping them grain for beaver pelts, providing for their severe need. The next summer's crop brought hope, and Governor William Bradford decreed that December 13, 1621, be set aside as a day of feasting and prayer to show the gratitude of the colonists that they were still alive.

From that time forward, Thanksgiving has been celebrated as a day to give thanks to God for his gracious and sufficient provision. President Abraham Lincoln officially set aside the last Thursday of November, in 1863, "as a day of thanksgiving and praise to our beneficent Father." In 1941, Congress ruled that after 1941, the fourth Thursday of November be observed as Thanksgiving Day and be a legal holiday.

Scripturally, we find things related to the issue of thanksgiving from cover to cover. People offered up sacrifices out of gratitude. The Israelites sang songs of thanksgiving as they were delivered from Egypt. The Mosaic Law set aside three times each year for remembering God's provision and grace. The Psalms are packed full of songs of thanksgiving. Thanksgiving is to always be a part of our prayers. Of all of God's gifts, the greatest is the gift of his Son, Jesus Christ. For this the Apostle Paul says, "Thanks be to God for his indescribable gift!"

We, like the Pilgrims, have a choice. In life there will always be those things that go wrong, but there will also be much to be thankful for. As our culture becomes increasingly secular, the actual "giving of thanks to God" during our annual Thanksgiving holiday is being overlooked, leaving only the feasting. May God grant that he may find us grateful every day for all of his gifts, spiritual and material. God is good, and every good gift comes from him. We are his beloved children for whom he cares deeply. May he also find us to be his grateful children.

St Stephen Anglican Church
Anglican Church in North America

PASTOR'S CORNER

A FEW WORDS FROM FATHER JIM

True thanksgiving is made manifest in our lives by living thanks daily. Even as another Thanksgiving Day is around the corner, let us consider how to lead a lifestyle of thanksgiving every day throughout the year. There are three things that are needed for leading a lifestyle of thanks to God. Saint Paul spells them out in his first letter to the Thessalonians where he writes, "Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you."

First of all, rejoice always. Saint Paul exhorts the church to rejoice even in the middle of the persecution they were suffering at the time. Understand that he is speaking of joy, and not happiness. Happiness is circumstantial and an emotion that we can't control. We will be happy when our circumstances are good and unhappy when circumstances are not so good. Rejoicing on the other hand, isn't a spontaneous emotion but an intentional act of faith. Rejoicing is a decision we make.

Saint Paul then advises the Christians in Thessalonica to pray without ceasing. He stresses it so much because prayer is the heavenly fuel that keeps the flame of joy burning even in times of trials. The dictionary defines perseverance as "persistence in doing something despite difficulty or delay in achieving success". As human beings, we are results oriented and praying can be difficult when results don't come quickly. We are wired to look for substitutes when a given avenue seems to have failed. But unlike the world, we must pray persistently, although we may not see results right away, and maybe never the results we want.

Even when in despair, Job thanked God when everything was lost. Jesus thanked the Father before he fed thousands in the middle of nowhere. Paul and Silas thanked and praised God from inside a prison cell in Philippi. St. Ignatius of Loyola prayed that he may become agreeable bread to the Lord while he was being devoured by lions. John Hus while being burned alive at the stake prayed that God will have mercy upon him.

We need to give thanks in everything. Thanksgiving brings immunity to our hearts and minds in Christ Jesus against the circumstances of life, and it also nourishes our faith. Let's take the time this year to make a fresh commitment for leading a life that gives thanks to the Lord.

In
EVERYTHING
give thanks.

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

COMMUNITY INTEREST

NEWS AND UPCOMING EVENTS

PRAYER SERVICE ON THANKSGIVING DAY

Each year at this time we give God thanks for all that we have received throughout this past year and in our lives. We will have a Service of Prayerful Thanksgiving at 9:30 AM on Thursday, November 22. Please bring a token of your Thanksgiving meal (bread, wine, etc.) to church with you so that we can together bless this holy meal that we share with our families. As a community, let's remember the reason for the day.

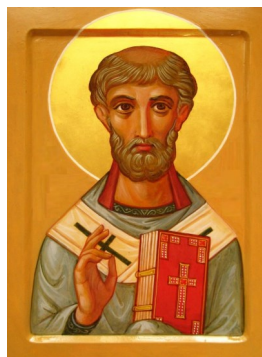
BISHOP BILL ILGENFRITZ TO VISIT



Bishop Bill Ilgenfritz will be at Saint Stephen the second weekend in November. He will be available for the Sacrament of Reconciliation on Saturday morning, November 10, and will be available for personal audiences that afternoon. We will then have a community dinner at 6:00 PM. He will then celebrate the Holy Eucharist and preach on Sunday, November 11. Please join us in this celebration.

THIS MONTH IN CHURCH HISTORY

Saint Clement of Rome died on November 23, 101 AD. According to legend, he was tied to an anchor and thrown into the sea. He is listed by Irenaeus and Tertullian as the third Bishop of Rome, holding office from 88 AD until his death. A disciple of Saint Peter and considered "the first apostolic father," his letter to the church of Corinth was regarded as scripture by many Christians in the third and fourth centuries. He was also credited with the Apostolic Constitutions, the largest collection of Christian ecclesiastical law.



THE SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Saint James wrote, "Confess your sins to one another, and pray for one another, that you may be healed." In addition to the healing grace that flows from God, spiritual and psychological healing comes from openly revealing our sins. The Sacrament of Reconciliation will be available at the church from 10:30 AM until Noon on Saturday, November 10, as well as at any time by appointment.



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ESSAY ON REAL PRESENCE BY TOM HOOPES

When friends told me that they believed that the Eucharist is not bread anymore but really Jesus, truly present, I didn't understand. "You mean you believe the bread recalls Jesus Christ, right?" I said. But no, they believed that, after the consecration, the bread was Jesus. Once I understood what they were saying, I thought they were crazy.

First, they had to convince me the church actually teaches this. They used several sources to prove it. Then I begrudgingly believed that real presence" was a thing., but I still thought it was crazy. Why would God want to take the appearance of bread? Why would he want to be eaten?

Bob Dylan helped me understand. After losing my faith in high school, I became open to Christianity again because of Bob Dylan. In the title song from his album *Saved*, Dylan concisely summed up his beliefs this way: "I was blinded by the devil, Born already ruined, Stone-cold dead, As I stepped out of the womb, By His grace I have been touched, By His word I have been healed, By His hand I've been delivered, By His Spirit I've been sealed, I've been saved, By the blood of the Lamb, Saved, by the blood of the Lamb."

How could Jesus' blood get from Palestine two millennia ago to save Bob Dylan, or me, today? It does so spiritually, the Protestants believe. But I couldn't believe in that. God did things in a much more natural way than that in every other instance I knew of. If the blood of Jesus could reverse what I had inherited, that blood had to actually be in me.

And that's when I got it. Jesus said, "Unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you do not have life with in you, for my flesh is real food and my blood is real drink." You were saved by the blood of Jesus directly. Dylan acknowledged it later in life when he sang, "I never could learn to drink that blood and call it wine." Lots of Scriptures suddenly began to take on new life, when you see that God is preparing the way for the Eucharist: Melchizedek's wine, the Manna in the desert, the Passover Lamb, and the multiplication of the loaves.

But one made the most sense to me for the first time: The supper at the end of the walk to Emmaus. In the story, Jesus meets two of his disciples after his death. They don't recognize him until he breaks the bread — then he goes away. That never sounded real to me. But, I finally understood that he would do something odd like that if he was trying to communicate something earthy. But what was he trying to communicate? The Eucharist makes it clear: "I am no longer with you in this (body) form, but in this (bread) form." And so, I believed. And still do.

LECTIONARY / READER / ACOLYTE SCHEDULE

11/04/18 Twenty-fourth Sunday after Pentecost

First Reading	Deuteronomy 6:1-9	Vicki Lockett
Psalms 119	Prayers of the People	Jessica Cook
Second Reading	Hebrews 7:23-28	Vicki Lockett
Gospel Reading	Mark 12:28-34	

11/11/18 Twenty-fifth Sunday after Pentecost

First Reading	1 Kings 17:8-16	Joyce Curry
Psalms 146	Prayers of the People	Mark Styles
Second Reading	Hebrews 9:24-28	Joyce Curry
Gospel Reading	Mark 12:38-44	

11/18/18 Twenty-sixth Sunday after Pentecost

First Reading	Daniel 12:1-13	Diana Flatico
Psalms 16	Prayers of the People	Kathy Caccamo
Second Reading	Hebrews 10:31-39	Diana Flatico
Gospel Reading	Mark 13:14-23	

11/25/18 Christ the King Sunday

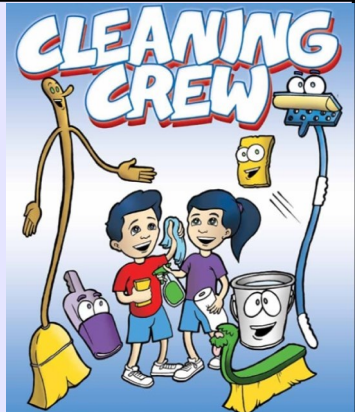
First Reading	Daniel 7:9-14	Brian Shoemaker
Psalms 93	Prayers of the People	Vicki Lockett
Second Reading	Revelation 1:1-8	Brian Shoemaker
Gospel Reading	John 18:33-37	

12/02/18 First Sunday of Advent

First Reading	Zechariah 14:4-9	Jessica Cook
Psalms 25	Prayers of the People	Joyce Curry
Second Reading	1 Thessalonians 3:9-13	Jessica Cook
Gospel Reading	Luke 21:25-31	

Church Cleaning Schedule

10/29 - 11/03	D Renfrow / D Flatico
11/05 - 11/10	V O'Banion / B Brown
11/12 - 11/17	J Curry / J Cook
11/19 - 11/24	Rachelle Lo / Family
11/26 - 12/01	D Renfrow / D Flatico
12/03 - 12/08	V O'Banion / B Brown



St Stephen Anglican Church

Church Location:	8005 Vaughn Mill Rd. Louisville, KY 40228
Mailing Address:	P.O. Box 91485 Louisville, KY 40291
Church Office:	502-231-1326
Church E-Mail:	ststephen@ststephenlouisville.org
Rector:	Father Jim Curry
Cell Phone:	502-930-7018
E-Mail:	fatherjim@ststephenlouisville.org
Associate Rector:	Father Rickey Brown
Cell Phone:	502-827-8291
E-Mail:	rickey@bardstowncable.net
Pastoral Associate:	Deacon Clay Cook
Cell Phone:	502-269-8410
E-Mail:	clay.cook125@gmail.com
Office Manager:	Position Open
Altar Guild Ministry:	Brenda Brown
Outreach Ministry:	Joyce Curry
Fellowship Ministry:	Jessica Cook
Facilities Manager:	John Lyons
Adult Bible Study	9:30 AM
Worship & Holy Eucharist	10:30 AM

Our hope is that Saint Stephen Anglican Church is not just a place that you attend once a week, but a place where you can connect with people and be involved in life changing ministry. Faith should touch and inform every part of our lives. Come on in. We've been expecting you.

Thanksgiving
Thursday,
November 22



Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good;
his love endures forever.

1 CHRONICLES 16:34