



Saint Stephen's Chapel

Order of Worship

“We seek to glorify God by preaching His Word and spreading the gospel of Grace in Boldness and Selflessness.”

In the Sanctuary, we cross the threshold of the secular to the sacred, from the common to the uncommon, from the profane to the holy, from darkness to light.

Order of Worship

Saint Stephen's Chapel

September 17, 2023

The Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost

The prelude is a sacred curtain dropped between the world and the sanctuary. The dimming of the lights is the signal for the congregation to observe silence. During this time, be prayerful and reverent in preparation for the worship of our holy God in His sanctuary. (Please silence all phones and electronic devices.)

“The doctrine of propitiation is precisely this that God loved the objects of his wrath so much that he gave his only son to the end that he by his blood should make provision for the removal of his wrath.” **John Murray**

“God has chosen to save the world through the cross, through the shameful and powerless death of the crucified Messiah. If that shocking event is the revelation of the deepest truth about the character of God, then our whole way of seeing the world is turned upside down ... all values are transformed ... God refuses to play games of power and prestige on human terms.” **Richard Hays**

Invitation to Reflection

Rev. Don Kinkead

Call to Solemn Worship

Rev. Manny Alaniz

Minister: Seek the Lord while he may be found; call upon him while he is near; let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts; let him return to the Lord, that he may have compassion on him, and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon.

Isaiah 55:6-7

*** Song of Adoration**

Oh Love That Will Not Let Me Go

O Love that will not let me go
I rest my weary soul in thee
I give thee back the life I owe
That in thine ocean depths its flow
May richer, fuller be

O light that followest all my way
I yield my flickering torch to thee
My heart restores its borrowed ray
That in thy sunshine's blaze its day
May brighter, fairer be

O Joy that seekest me through pain
I cannot close my heart to thee
I trace the rainbow through the rain
And feel the promise is not vain
That morn shall tearless be

O Cross that liftest up my head
I dare not ask to fly from thee
I lay in dust life's glory dead
And from the ground there blossoms red
Life that shall endless be).

Miner

***Prayer of Invocation**

Mr. Daniel Quintanilla

***Affirmation of Faith**

*The Apostles Creed*¹

Leader: Christian, "what do we believe?"

All: I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to hell². The third day he rose again from the dead. He ascended to heaven and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty. From there he will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic³ church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.

¹ Although not written by the apostles, the Apostles Creed is a concise summary of their teachings. It originated in the 2nd century and developed into its present form by the 6th century.

² By referring to Jesus descent into hell, the Christian embraces two truths. Firstly, Jesus received the full sentence of hell on behalf of his people while on the cross. Secondly, Jesus experienced the reign of death by remaining in the tomb after the crucifixion.

³ The term catholic refers to the church universal, knowing no racial, economic, geographic or language barriers.

Offertory Prayer

*** Song of Praise**

When I Survey The Wondrous Cross

When I survey the wondrous cross
On which the Prince of Glory died
My richest gain I count but loss
And pour contempt on all my pride
Forbid it Lord that I should boast
Save in the death of Christ my God
All the vain things that charm me most
I sacrifice them to His blood

(Chorus) O the Wonderful Cross

O the Wonderful Cross

Bids me come and die to find

that I may truly live

O the Wonderful Cross

O the Wonderful Cross

All who gather here by grace draw near
and bless Your name

See from His head, His hands, His feet
Sorrow and love flow mingled down
Did e'er such love and sorrow meet
Or thorns compose so rich a crown? (Chorus)

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

Demands my soul, my life, my all.

Watts

God's Renewal

The Law of God

Mr. Jordan Wright

Leader: Do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. Let all bitterness and wrath and anger and clamor and slander be put away from you, along with all malice. Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you. (Ephesians 4:30-32)

Public Confession

Leader: Let us confess our sins together.

All: **O Lord, I have a wild heart, and cannot stand before you. I am like a bird before a man. How little I love your truth, follow your ways and serve those around me! I neglect prayer. My mind is a bucket without a bottom, with no spiritual understanding. My conscience is without conviction or contrition, with no sins to acknowledge. My heart is without affection, and full of leaks. Give me a broken heart that yet carries home the water of grace.**

Silent Confession {Take a few moments to silently confess your failures and shortcomings.}

*** Assurance of Pardon and Comfort**

John 11:25-26

{God reminds our forgetful hearts of the grace that is ours in Jesus.}

Leader: I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live, and everyone who lives and believes in me shall never die.

*** Song of Renewal**

Come, People of the Risen King

Come, people of the Risen King
Who delight to bring Him praise
Come all and tune your hearts to sing
To the Morning Star of grace
From the shifting shadows of the earth
We will lift our eyes to Him
Where steady arms of mercy reach
To gather children in

(Chorus) Rejoice, Rejoice! Let every tongue rejoice!
One heart, one voice; O Church of Christ, rejoice!

Come, those whose joy is morning sun,
And those weeping through the night
Come, those who tell of battles won
And those struggling in the fight
Over all the world, His people sing
Shore to shore we hear them call
The Truth that cries through every age
“Our God is all in all” (Chorus x2).

Getty & Thompson

Announcements

Prayer for the People

Mr. Wright

**Congregation Stands*

The Greeting of Peace:

Leader: Let the peace of Christ dwell in your hearts. To this peace we are called as members of a single body. The peace of Christ be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

***Scripture Reading**

John 1:1-5, 14

Rev. Kinkead

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ²He was in the beginning with God. ³All things were made through him, and without him was not anything made that was made. ⁴In him was life, and the life was the light of men. ⁵The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

¹⁴And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.

Reader: This is The Word of The LORD

People: **Thanks be to God**

The Sermon

Rev. Alaniz

“Who is Jesus?”

Sermon Series: Gospel Christianity (Foundations)

Celebration of Holy Communion

Rev. Alaniz

A Word About Communion at Saint Stephen’s Chapel:

Communion is an opportunity for all of us to seek the Lord. It is an occasion for baptized Christians to be strengthened by our Savior. All who trust alone in Christ as Savior and Lord, embrace the Gospel, live at peace with their neighbor, and seek strength to live more faithfully are welcome to come forward. If you are not a Christian, please consider spending this time in prayer. Children who have not received their first communion should come forward with their hands folded and the wine server will pray for them.

“Whoever, therefore, eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty concerning the body and blood of the Lord. Let a person examine himself, then, and so eat of the bread and drink of the cup. For anyone who eats and drinks without discerning the body eats and drinks judgment on himself.” (I Corinthians 11:27-29)

Minister: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Minister: Lift up your hearts.

People: **We lift them up unto the Lord.**

Minister: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: **It is right to give him thanks and praise.**

Prayer of Consecration

Words of Institution

Minister: Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

**All: Christ has died
Christ is risen
Christ will come again**

Minister: Christ, our Passover, has been sacrificed for us

People: Therefore, let us keep the feast

Minister: The gifts of God are for the people of God

*** Song of Communion**

Be Thou My Vision

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Be Thou my vision, O Lord of my heart
Naught be all else to me, save that Thou art
Thou my best thought, by day or by night
Waking or sleeping, Thy presence my light

Be Thou my wisdom, and Thou my true Word
I ever with Thee and Thou with me, Lord
Thou my great Father, and I Thy true son
Thou in me dwelling, and I with Thee one

Riches I heed not, nor man's empty praise
Thou mine inheritance, now and always
Thou and Thou only, first in my heart
High king of heaven, my treasure Thou art

High king of heaven, my victory won
May I reach heaven's joys, O bright heaven's sun!
Heart of my own heart, whatever befall
Still be my vision, O ruler of all).

Communion Prayer

***Benediction Doxology**

Isaiah 6 (Sanctus)

Holy, holy, holy is The LORD of hosts!
Holy, holy, holy is The LORD of hosts!
The whole earth is full of His glory
The whole earth is full of His glory
The whole earth is full of His glory
Holy is The LORD!

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***Benediction**

Rev. Alaniz

Leader: May the Lord bless you and keep you. May the Lord make his face shine upon you and be gracious unto you. May the Lord turn his face to you and give you his peace. Go in His peace.

People: Amen! (With great enthusiasm)

Postlude**

**Congregation Stands*

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Worship: (New time & Location)

Every Sunday, **5:00p.m.**, at
6585 Heath Road, SATX 78250

Contact Information:

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Saint Stephen's Chapel

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SaintStephensChapel.org

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Serving Today, September 17th

- Childcare & Training in the Pews – Jackie Wright
- Hospitality – Evette Ruiz Back

Serving Next Sunday, September 24th

- Childcare & Training in the Pews – Sandy Alaniz
 - Hospitality – Jackie Wright
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ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- **Prayer Gathering** – Coming soon - before worship
 - **Potluck** – Also coming soon – before worship
 - **Virtual and In-Person Bible Study Groups:** via *Zoom*, every other week.
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Church Session:

Lead Pastor: Rev. Manny Alaniz
Associate Pastors: Rev. Don Kinkead
Ruling Elder: Thomas Jordan Wright

Music Leaders:

Anthony Sanders – Vocals, Guitar, Piano

Director Of Children's Ministry:

Jackie Wright

Audio / Visual Technician:

Daniel Quintanilla
Alexander Harrison

