

FEAST

OF

ST STEPHEN

CHORAL EUCHARIST

26TH DECEMBER 2021, 11AM

ST BRIDE'S
CHURCH

Opening Sentence

Stephen cried out with a loud voice,
'Lord, do not hold this sin against them.'

Hymn

Christians, awake! salute the happy morn
whereon the Saviour of the world was born;
rise to adore the mystery of love
which hosts of angels chanted from above;
with them the joyful tidings first begun
of God incarnate and the Virgin's Son.

Then to the watchful shepherds it was told,
who heard the angelic herald's voice, 'Behold,
I bring good tidings of a Saviour's birth
to you and all the nations on the earth:
this day hath God fulfilled his promised word,
this day is born a Saviour, Christ the Lord.'

O may we keep and ponder in our mind
God's wondrous love in saving lost mankind;
trace we the babe, who hath retrieved our loss,
from his poor manger to his bitter cross;
tread in his steps, assisted by his grace,
till man's first heavenly state again takes place.

He spake; and straightway that celestial choir
in hymns of joy, unknown before, conspire;
the praises of redeeming love they sang,
and heaven's whole orb with alleluyas rang:
God's highest glory was their anthem still,
peace on the earth, and unto men good will.

Tune: Hereford by S S Wesley 1810-76
Words: J Byrom 1691-1763

Minister The Lord be with you,
All **and also with you.**

Welcome

Prayer of Preparation

All **Almighty God,**
to whom all hearts are open,
all desires known,
and from whom no secrets are hidden:
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.

Prayer of Penitence

Minister *The saints were faithful unto death*
and now dwell in the heavenly kingdom for ever.
As we celebrate their joy,
let us bring to the Lord our sins and weaknesses,
and ask for his mercy.

All **Almighty God, our heavenly Father,**
we have sinned against you
and against our neighbour
in thought and word and deed,
through negligence, through weakness,
through our own deliberate fault.
We are truly sorry
and repent of all our sins.
For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,
who died for us,
forgive us all that is past
and grant that we may serve you
in newness of life to the glory of your name.
Amen.

Minister Almighty God, who forgives all who truly repent,
have mercy upon you,
pardon and deliver you from all your sins,
confirm and strengthen you in all goodness,
and keep you in life eternal;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All **Amen.**

Gloria

Communion Service in F – Herbert Sumsion

Choir

Glory to God in the highest,
and on earth peace, good will to all people.
We praise you, we bless you,
we adore you, we glorify you.
We give thanks to you for your great glory.

Lord God, heavenly King, God, the Father Almighty.
Lord, only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ,
Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father.
You who take away the sins of the world,
have mercy on us:
You who take away the sins of the world,
receive our prayer:
you who are seated at the right hand of the Father,
have mercy on us.

For you alone are holy, you alone are the Lord,
you alone are most high, Jesus Christ,
with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father.
Amen.

Collect

Minister *Gracious Father,*
who gave the first martyr Stephen grace
to pray for those who took up stones against him:
grant that in all our sufferings for the truth
we may learn to love even our enemies
and to seek forgiveness for those who desire our hurt,
looking up to heaven to him who was crucified for us,
Jesus Christ, our mediator and advocate,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

All **Amen.**

Reading
Acts 7: 51-end
read by Philip Keown

Stephen said to the high priest and the council: "You stiff-necked people, uncircumcised in heart and ears, you always resist the Holy Spirit. As your fathers did, so do you. Which of the prophets did not your fathers persecute? And they killed those who announced beforehand the coming of the Righteous One, whom you have now betrayed and murdered, you who received the law as delivered by angels and did not keep it."

Now when they heard these things they were enraged, and they ground their teeth against him. But he, full of the Holy Spirit, gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing at the right hand of God; and he said, "Behold, I see the heavens opened, and the Son of man standing at the right hand of God." But they cried out with a loud voice and stopped their ears and rushed together upon him. Then they cast him out of the city and stoned him; and the witnesses laid down their garments at the feet of a young man named Saul. And as they were stoning

Stephen, he prayed, “Lord Jesus, receive my spirit.” And he knelt down and cried with a loud voice, “Lord, do not hold this sin against them.” And when he had said this, he fell asleep.

This is the word of the Lord.

All **Thanks be to God.**

Hymn

Thou who wast rich beyond all splendour,
all for love's sake becamest poor;
thrones for a manger didst surrender
sapphire-paved courts for stable floor.
Thou who wast rich beyond all splendour,
all for love's sake becomes poor.

Thou who art God beyond all praising,
all for love's sake becamest man;
stooping so low, but sinners raising
heavenwards by thine eternal plan.
Thou who art God beyond all praising,
all for love's sake becamest man.

Thou who art love beyond all telling,
Saviour and King, we worship thee.
Emmanuel, within us dwelling,
make us what thou wouldst have us be.
Thou who art love beyond all telling,
Saviour and King, we worship thee.

Tune: Fragrance, French trad, arr C H Kitson 1874-1944
Words: F Houghton 1894-1972

Gospel Reading

Reader Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ,
according to Matthew.
All **Glory to you, O Lord.**

Matthew 10: 17-22
read by The Revd Dr Jeff Lake, *Associate Priest of St Bride's*

Jesus said to the twelve: Beware of men; for they will deliver you up to councils, and flog you in their synagogues, and you will be dragged before governors and kings for my sake, to bear testimony before them and the Gentiles. When they deliver you up, do not be anxious how you are to speak or what you are to say; for what you are to say will be given to you in that hour; for it is not you who speak, but the Spirit of your Father speaking through you. Brother will deliver up brother to death, and the father his child, and children will rise against parents and have them put to death; and you will be hated by all for my name's sake. But he who endures to the end will be saved.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.
All **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Sermon
The Revd Canon Dr Alison Joyce, *Rector of St Bride's*

Creed

All **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,
was incarnate from the Holy Spirit
and 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,
who with the Father and the Son
is worshipped and glorified,
who 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 Intercession
led by The Revd Canon Dr Alison Joyce

These responses may be used

Lord, in your mercy,
All **Hear our prayer.**

Merciful Father,
All **accept these prayers**
for the sake of your Son,
our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.

The Peace

Minister *May the God of peace sanctify you;*
may he so strengthen your hearts in holiness
that you may be blameless before him
at the coming of our Lord Jesus with his saints.

The peace of the Lord be always with you.
All **And also with you.**

Preparation of the Table

Hymn

All: **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,
though the frost was cruel,
when a poor man came in sight,
gath'ring winter fuel.

Lower voices: **'Hither page and stand by me,**
if thou know'st it, telling,
yonder peasant, who is he?
Where and what his dwelling?'

Upper voices: **'Sire, he lives a good league hence,**
underneath the mountain,
right against the forest fence,
by Saint Agnes' fountain.'

Lower voices: **'Bring me flesh and bring me wine,**
bring me pine logs hither;
thou and I will see him dine,
when we bear them thither.'

All: **Page and monarch forth they went,**
forth they went together;
through the rude wind's wild lament,
and the bitter weather.

Upper voices: **'Sire, the night is darker now,**
and the wind blows stronger;
fails my heart, I know not how;
I can go no longer.'

Lower voices: **'Mark my footsteps, good my page;**
tread thou in them boldly;
thou shalt find the winter's rage
freeze thy blood less coldly.'

All: **In his master's steps he trod,**
where the snow lay dinted;
heat was in the very sod
which the saint had printed.
Therefore, Christian men be sure,
wealth or rank possessing,
Ye who now sill bless the poor,
shall yourselves find blessing.

Tune: 13th century Finnish carol
Words: John Mason Neale 1818-66

Minister Blessed are you, Lord, God of all creation.
Through your goodness we have this bread to offer,
which earth has given and human hands have made.
It will become for us the bread of life.
All **Blessed be God for ever.**

Minister Blessed are you, Lord, God of all creation.
Through your goodness we have this wine to offer,
fruit of the vine and work of human hands.
It will become our spiritual drink.
All **Blessed be God for ever.**

Eucharistic Prayer

Minister The Lord be with you
All **and also with you.**

Minister Lift up your hearts.
All **We lift them to the Lord.**

Minister Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
All **It is right to give thanks and praise.**

Minister Let us pray.

Minister It is indeed right,
it is our duty and our joy,
at all times and in all places
to give you thanks and praise,
holy Father, heavenly King,
almighty and eternal God,
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord.

And now we give you thanks
that your glory is revealed in Stephen and all the saints.
In their lives you have given us
an example of faithfulness to Christ.
In their holiness we find encouragement and hope.
In our communion with them
we share the unity of your kingdom.

Therefore with angels and archangels,
and with all the company of heaven,
we proclaim your great and glorious name,
for ever praising you and singing:

Sanctus and Benedictus
Communion Service in F – Herbert Sumsion

Choir

Holy, holy, holy, Lord,
God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes
in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.

Prayer of Consecration

Minister Accept our praises, heavenly Father,
through your Son our Saviour Jesus Christ,
and as we follow his example
and obey his command,
grant that by the power of your Holy Spirit
these gifts of bread and wine
may be to us his body and his blood;

Who, in the same night that he was betrayed,
took bread and gave you thanks;
he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying:
Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you;
do this in remembrance of me.

In the same way, after supper he took the cup
and gave you thanks;
he gave it to them, saying:
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.
Do this, as often as you drink it,
in remembrance of me.

Therefore, heavenly Father,
we remember his offering of himself
made once for all upon the cross;
we proclaim his mighty resurrection
and glorious ascension;
we look for the coming of his kingdom,
and with this bread and this cup
we make the memorial of Christ your Son our Lord.

Minister Great is the mystery of faith:
All **Christ has died:**
Christ is risen:
Christ will come again.

Minister Accept through him, our great high priest,
this our sacrifice of thanks and praise,
and as we eat and drink these holy gifts
in the presence of your divine majesty,
renew us by your Spirit,
inspire us with your love,
and unite us in the body of your Son,
Jesus Christ our Lord.
Through him, and with him, and in him,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
with all who stand before you in earth and heaven,
we worship you, Father almighty,
in songs of everlasting praise.

All **Blessing and honour and glory and power**
be yours for ever and ever.
Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

Minister Let us pray with confidence as our Saviour has taught us:

All
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.

Breaking of the Bread

Minister We break this bread to share in the body of Christ:
All **Though we are many, we are one body,**
because we all share in one bread.

Giving of Communion

Draw near with faith.
Receive the body of our Lord Jesus Christ
which he gave for you,
and his blood which he shed for you.
Eat and drink in remembrance that he died for you,
and feed on him in your hearts
by faith with thanksgiving.

All **We do not presume**
to come to this your table, merciful Lord,
trusting in our own righteousness,
but in your manifold and great mercies.
We are not worthy so much as to
gather up the crumbs under your table.
But you are the same Lord
whose nature is always to have mercy.
Grant us therefore, gracious Lord,
so to eat the flesh of your dear Son Jesus Christ
and to drink his blood,
that our sinful bodies
may be made clean by his body
and our souls washed
through his most precious blood,
and that we may evermore dwell in him,
and he in us. Amen

Anthem

O little one sweet – Johann Sebastian Bach

O little one sweet, O little one mild,
thy Father's purpose thou hast fulfilled;
thou cam'st from heaven to mortal ken,
equal to be with us poor men,
O little one sweet, O little one mild.

O little one sweet, O little one mild,
with joy thou hast the whole world filled;
thou camest here from heav'ns domain,
to bring men comfort in their pain,
O little one sweet, O little one mild.

O little one sweet, O little one mild,
help us to do as thou hast willed.
Lo, all we have belongs to thee!
Ah, keep us in our fealty!
O little one sweet, O little one mild.

Words: Tr. Percy Dearmer 1867-1936

Prayers after Communion
The minister leads the post communion prayer for the day

Minister Let us pray.

Minister *Merciful Lord, we thank you for the signs of your mercy*
revealed in birth and death:
save us by the coming of your Son,
and give us joy in honouring Stephen,
first martyr of the new Israel;
through Jesus Chirst our Lord.
All **Amen.**

All **Almighty God,**
we thank you for feeding us
with the body and blood of your Son Jesus Christ.
Through him we offer you our souls and bodies
to be a living sacrifice.
Send us out in the power of your Spirit
to live and work to your praise and glory.
Amen.

Hymn

Angels from the realms of glory,
wing your flight o'er all the earth;
ye who sang creation's story
now proclaim Messiah's birth:
come and worship
Christ the new-born king.

Shepherds, in the field abiding,
watching o'er your flocks by night,
God with us is now residing;
yonder shines the infant Light:
come and worship…

Sages, leave your contemplations;
brighter visions beam afar;
seek the great Desire of Nations;
ye have seen his natal star:
come and worship…

Saints before the altar bending,
watching long in hope and fear,
suddenly the Lord, descending,
in his temple shall appear:
come and worship…

Though an infant now we view him,
He shall fill his Father's throne,
gather all the nations to him;
every knee shall then bow down:
come and worship
Christ the new-born king.

Tune: A: Iris. French traditional carol harmonised by M Shaw 1875-1958
Words: J Montgomery 1771-1854

Blessing

Minister *God give you grace to follow his saints*
in faith and hope and love.
And the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be among you and remain with you always.
All **Amen.**

Dismissal

Minister Go in the peace of Christ.
Choir *Thanks be to God.*

Organ Voluntary

Interlude on Good King Wenceslas – William Lloyd Webber

Thank You

We would like to offer our heartfelt thanks to all who have continued to support us during this crisis, both through regular giving and occasional gifts.

This financial support remains vital to our on-going ministry. Although our normal services have now resumed, our ability to raise funds to maintain our ministry and building is still impacted.

The singers, organist, and Director of Music are all freelance professional musicians who have been significantly affected during the pandemic, and your donations have allowed us to help them financially through these difficult times.

We shall continue to offer our online worship - even though this requires additional investment - because no service from St Bride's would be complete without the wonderful music which our choir provides.

If you would like to make a donation to support the work of St Bride's, please do so at:
www.justgiving.com/stbrideschurchfleetstreet

Alternatively, in the UK:
text 5STBRIDES to 70470 to donate £5
text 10STBRIDES to 70470 to donate £10
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ST BRIDE'S CHURCH