

SAINT LUKE'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH



The Fourth Sunday after Pentecost (Proper 9)
Saturday, July 2, 2022
5:00 O'clock PM Vigil

SAINT LUKE'S: A USER'S GUIDE

Welcome to all who are worshipping with us today. If you are a visitor or a newcomer, please make yourself known to the priest or greeter and let us know if we can be of help to you.



COVID-19 Protocols for Gathering

The Episcopal Diocese of Bethlehem recommends the [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention \(CDC\)](#) "[How to Protect Yourself & Others](#)" web page for detailed advice about our continuing effort to prevent the spread of COVID-19.

General Guidelines

Indoor Gathering

When considering indoor gathering and worship, each parish should determine the following:

- Your county's "[COVID-19 Community Level](#)" as calculated by the CDC
- The Vestry's consensus to open for indoor gathering/worship
- The agreement of the Rector/Priest-in-charge to open for indoor gathering/worship

Parish leadership should develop and communicate prevention steps for their parish as informed by the CDC's "[How to Protect Yourself & Others](#)" and "[COVID-19 Community Level](#)" web pages. People with symptoms, a positive COVID-19 test, or exposed to someone with COVID-19 should consider online worship/gathering instead of gathering in-person while masked.

Masking

As suggested by the CDC, "People may choose to mask at any time." Additionally, the following masking recommendations are suggested based on your county's "[COVID-19 Community Level](#)":

- High: Everyone should wear a mask indoors
- Medium: People at high risk for severe illness should wear a mask indoors
- Low: No mask requirement indoors

The CDC's "[Use and Care of Masks](#)" web page is a good resource for learning more about the importance of masks for indoor gathering.

Specific Recommendations

Singing

Congregational or choir singing should follow the "Masking" guidelines above.

Eucharist

For indoor worship in counties with a "[COVID-19 Community Level](#)" of Medium or High should consider these recommendations for celebrating the Eucharist:

- The Celebrant should sanitize hands liberally and wear a mask.
- The Sacrament should be received by the communicants in only one kind (the Bread).
- Any person who delivers the Bread to the communicants should sanitize hands liberally and wear a mask.
- The Cup should be received only by the Celebrant.

There are no COVID-19 specific recommendations for celebrating the Eucharist in counties with a "[COVID-19 Community Level](#)" of Low.

Last updated: March 9, 2022



SAINT LUKE'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH
Said Ante communion with Distribution from the Reserved
Sacrament - 5:00 O'clock PM (Vigil)
The Reverend Rebecca A. Barnes, Rector
The Reverend Chris Sutton, Guest Officiant and Preacher

Our Mission Statement

To spread the Gospel to all people through hospitality, service, and spiritual growth.

The Fourth Sunday after Pentecost

July 2, 2022

Broadcast Link: <https://www.facebook.com/St-Lukes-Episcopal-Church-Scranton-PA-215512459865/>

(Please silence all cell-phones & digital devices until after the Service! Thank you.)

“BCP” with a page number, refers to The Book of Common Prayer.
The Collect of the Day, the First and Second Lessons, and the Gospel are on the bulletin insert.

PRAYER BEFORE THE SERVICE

O Almighty God, *who pourest* out on all who desire it the spirit of grace and of supplication: Deliver us, when we draw near to *thee*, from coldness of heart and wanderings of mind, that with steadfast thoughts and kindled affections we may worship *thee* in spirit and in truth; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

All stand as the procession enters the nave.

OPENING ACCLAMATION

BCP page 355

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

People And blessed be his kingdom, now and for ever, Amen.

THE COLLECT FOR PURITY

BCP page 355

The Celebrant may say

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.**

When appointed, the following hymn or some other song of praise is sung or said, all standing

THE GLORIA

BCP page 356

GLORY to God in the highest,
and peace to his people on earth.

Lord God, heavenly King,
almighty God and Father,
we worship you, we give you thanks,
we praise you for your glory.
Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,
Lord God, Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world:
have mercy on us;
you are seated at the right hand of the Father:
receive our prayer.
For you alone are the Holy One,
you alone are the Lord,
you alone are the Most High,
Jesus Christ,
with the Holy Spirit,
in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

BCP page 230

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People And also with you.

Celebrant Let us pray.

O GOD, you have taught us to keep all your commandments by loving you and our neighbor: Grant us the grace of your Holy Spirit, that we may be devoted to you with our whole heart, and united to one another with pure affection; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

All sit.

THE FIRST READING Isaiah 66:10-14

Reader A reading from the Book of the Prophet Isaiah.

THUS says the Lord:
"Rejoice with Jerusalem, and be glad for her,
all you who love her;
rejoice with her in joy,
all you who mourn over her--
that you may nurse and be satisfied
from her consoling breast;
that you may drink deeply with delight
from her glorious bosom.

For thus says the LORD:

I will extend prosperity to her like a river,
and the wealth of the nations like an overflowing stream;
and you shall nurse and be carried on her arm,
and dandled on her knees.
As a mother comforts her child,
so I will comfort you;
you shall be comforted in Jerusalem.

You shall see, and your heart shall rejoice;
your bodies shall flourish like the grass;

and it shall be known that the hand of the LORD is with his servants,
and his indignation is against his enemies."

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Read in unison, the leader beginning with the first phrase and the people joining in the bolded text.

- 1 Be joyful in God, all you lands; *
sing the glory of his Name;
sing the glory of his praise.
- 2 Say to God, "How awesome are your deeds! *
because of your great strength your enemies cringe before you.
- 3 All the earth bows down before you, *
sings to you, sings out your Name."
- 4 Come now and see the works of God, *
how wonderful he is in his doing toward all people.
- 5 He turned the sea into dry land,
so that they went through the water on foot, *
and there we rejoiced in him.
- 6 In his might he rules for ever;
his eyes keep watch over the nations; *
let no rebel rise up against him.
- 7 Bless our God, you peoples; *
make the voice of his praise to be heard;
- 8 Who holds our souls in life, *
and will not allow our feet to slip.

THE SECOND READING

Galatians 6:1-16

Reader A reading from the Letter of St. Paul to the Galatians.

MY friends, if anyone is detected in a transgression, you who have received the Spirit should restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness. Take care that you yourselves are not tempted. Bear one another's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ. For if those who are nothing think they are something, they deceive themselves. All must test their own work; then that work, rather than their neighbor's work, will become a cause for pride. For all must carry their own loads.

Those who are taught the word must share in all good things with their teacher.

Do not be deceived; God is not mocked, for you reap whatever you sow. If you sow to your own flesh, you will reap corruption from the flesh; but if you sow to the Spirit, you will reap eternal life from the Spirit. So let us not grow weary in doing what is right, for we will reap at

harvest-time, if we do not give up. So then, whenever we have an opportunity, let us work for the good of all, and especially for those of the family of faith.

See what large letters I make when I am writing in my own hand! It is those who want to make a good showing in the flesh that try to compel you to be circumcised-- only that they may not be persecuted for the cross of Christ. Even the circumcised do not themselves obey the law, but they want you to be circumcised so that they may boast about your flesh. May I never boast of anything except the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world. For neither circumcision nor uncircumcision is anything; but a new creation is everything! As for those who will follow this rule-- peace be upon them, and mercy, and upon the Israel of God.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**



Reap what you sow
Ernesto Ybarra

THE HOLY GOSPEL

Luke 10:1-11, 16-20

All stand

Reader The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.

People **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

THE LORD appointed seventy others and sent them on ahead of him in pairs to every town and place where he himself intended to go. He said to them, "The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; therefore ask the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest. Go on your way. See, I am sending you out like lambs into the midst of wolves. Carry no purse, no bag, no sandals; and greet no one on the road. Whatever house you enter, first say, 'Peace to this house!' And if anyone is there who shares in peace, your peace will rest on that person; but if not, it will return to you. Remain in the same house, eating and drinking whatever they provide, for the laborer deserves to be paid. Do not move about from house to house. Whenever you enter a town and its people welcome you, eat what is set before you; cure the sick who are there, and say to them, 'The kingdom of God has come near to you.' But whenever you enter a town and they do not welcome you, go out into its streets and say, 'Even the dust of your town that clings to our feet, we wipe off in protest against you. Yet know this: the kingdom of God has come near.'

"Whoever listens to you listens to me, and whoever rejects you rejects me, and whoever rejects me rejects the one who sent me."

The seventy returned with joy, saying, "Lord, in your name even the demons submit to us!" He said to them, "I watched Satan fall from heaven like a flash of lightning. See, I have given you authority to tread on snakes and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy; and nothing will hurt you. Nevertheless, do not rejoice at this, that the spirits submit to you, but rejoice that your names are written in heaven."

Reader The Gospel of the Lord.

People **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

THE SERMON

Deacon Chris Sutton

All sit.

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.

The Leader and People pray responsively

Father, we pray for your holy Catholic Church;

That we all may be one.

Grant that every member of the Church may truly and humbly serve you;

That your Name may be glorified by all people.

We pray for all bishops, priests, and deacons;

That they may be faithful ministers of your Word and Sacraments.

We pray for all who govern and hold authority in the nations of the world;

That there may be justice and peace on the earth.

Give us grace to do your will in all that we undertake;

That our works may find favor in your sight.

Have compassion on those who suffer from any grief or trouble;

That they may be delivered from their distress.

Give to the departed eternal rest.

Let light perpetual shine upon them.

We praise you for your saints who have entered into joy;

May we also come to share in your heavenly kingdom.

Let us pray for our own needs and those of others.

Silence

The People may add their own petitions.

The Celebrant adds a concluding Collect.

Celebrant Almighty and eternal God, ruler of all things in heaven and earth: Mercifully accept the prayers of your people, and strengthen us to do your will; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

THE CONFESSION OF SIN

BCP page 359

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

Silence may be kept.

Minister and People

**Most merciful God,
we confess that we have sinned against you
in thought, word, and deed,
by what we have done,
and by what we have left undone.
We have not loved you with our whole heart;
we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.
We are truly sorry and we humbly repent.
For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,
have mercy on us and forgive us;
that we may delight in your will,
and walk in your ways,
to the glory of your Name. Amen.**

The Deacon says

Almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us all our sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen us in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep us in eternal life. **Amen.**

THE PEACE

BCP page 360

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. In an effort to observe social distancing when passing of The Peace, we ask that you please remain in your pew and exchange with those immediately near you or with a wave or bow.

THE HOLY COMMUNION

OFFERTORY SENTENCE

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

Ascribe to the Lord the honor due his Name; bring offering and come into his courts. *Psalm 96:8*

The Deacon continues

Let us pray in the words
our Savior Christ has taught us,

THE LORD'S PRAYER *(Contemporary)*

S-148

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.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

The Celebrant says

The Gifts of God for the People of God.

We invite those who are joining via livestreaming to make an Act of Spiritual Communion

<https://news.forwardmovement.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/Spiritual-Communion.pdf>

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

BCP page 365

Let us pray.

Celebrant and People

Eternal God, heavenly Father, **you have graciously accepted us as living members of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ, and you have fed us with spiritual food in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood. Send us now into the world in peace, and grant us strength and courage to love and serve you with gladness and singleness of heart; through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

GREETINGS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE DISMISSAL

BCP page 366

Celebrant Let us go forth into the world rejoicing in the power of the Spirit.
People **Thanks be to God.**

PRAYER AFTER THE SERVICE

Grant, we beseech *thee*, Almighty God, that the words which we have heard this day with our outward ears, may, through *thy* grace, be so grafted inwardly in our hearts, that they may bring forth in us the fruit of good living, to the honor and praise of *thy* Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

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SPECIAL MINISTERS

Saturday, 5:00 pm: L. Savinelli and M. Savinelli (Ushers and Altar Guild); D. Kraus (Crucifer and Acolyte); TBD (Lector); TBD (Intercessor).

Sunday, 10:00 am: D. Kraus, A. Wrazien (Altar Guild); TBD (Ushers); A. Guthrie (Crucifer); A. Wrazien, D. Kraus (Lectors); S. Sollami (Intercessor); TBD (Counters).

***Servers are needed at every service:** If you are interested in serving, please contact Mother Barnes. A sign-up sheet for the month may be found in Israel Lounge.

THIS WEEK AT ST. LUKE'S

Welcome to St. Luke's as we return to in-person worship! **Live streaming and zoom gatherings continue from St. Luke's.** Please join us on our [Facebook page](#) for the streaming of the services.

** (Note: if you are NOT a Facebook member, when you click on the link it will ask you to sign in or create an account, which you can ignore and just scroll down the page a bit till you see the service.)

Click [here](#) for a copy of the Book of Common Prayer!

Click [here](#) for a copy of Enriching Our Worship 1. This contains supplemental liturgical materials (i.e. Canticles) we occasionally use for Morning and Evening Prayer.

Daily Office: Morning and Evening Prayer – Morning Prayer at 9 AM; Evening Prayer at 5PM are live-streamed on Sunday; Tuesday through Saturday morning.

***Please note that there will be no live-streaming during Mother Barnes' vacation. All are encouraged to continue praying the Daily Office individually. The order of service for the daily office may be found at Mission St. Clare**
<https://www.missionstclare.com/english/index.html>

SATURDAY, JULY 2 – MOSES THE BLACK

- 9AM – Morning Prayer

SATURDAY, JULY 2 – THE FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST (Proper 9)

The Fourth Sunday after Pentecost – Proper 9 (Lectionary Readings)

- 5PM – Said Holy Eucharist II
[Click here for the 5 PM service leaflet](#)

SUNDAY, JULY 3 – THE FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST (Proper 9)

See above for Lectionary Readings

- 9AM Morning Prayer Rite I
- 10AM - Sung Holy Eucharist II
[Click here for the 10AM service leaflet](#)
- 5PM - Evening Prayer

MONDAY, JUNE 4 – INDEPENDENCE DAY (NO SCHEDULED SERVICES/EVENTS).

- 9AM – Morning Prayer
- 5PM – Evening Prayer

TUESDAY, JULY 5 – FERIA

- 9AM – Morning Prayer
- 5PM – Evening Prayer

WEDNESDAY, JULY 6 – EVA LEE MATTHEWS

- 9AM – Morning Prayer ([streamed on our parish Facebook page](#))
- 12:10 PM – Healing Eucharist
- 5PM – Evening Prayer ([streamed on our parish Facebook page](#))

THURSDAY, JULY 7– FERIA

- 9AM – Morning Prayer ([streamed on our parish Facebook page](#))
- 5PM – Evening Prayer ([streamed on our parish Facebook page](#))
- 5:30PM – Centering Prayer - Our ongoing group meets each Thursday at 5:30 BOTH IN THE CHAPEL AT ST. LUKE'S AND ON ZOOM. All are welcome to join in. To access the "zoom chapel" click [here](#). Click [here](#) for a brochure on *The Method of Centering Prayer*.

FRIDAY, JULY 8 – PRISCILLA AND AQUILA

- 9AM – Morning Prayer ([streamed on our parish Facebook page](#))
- 5PM – Evening Prayer ([streamed on our parish Facebook page](#))

SATURDAY, JULY 9 – FERIA

- 9AM – Morning Prayer ([streamed on our parish Facebook page](#))

Our latest edition of the St. Luke's Newsletter is hot off the press. Click here to see the [JULY 2022 edition](#) or go to the newsletter tab on our parish website.

Announcements and Upcoming Events



Centering Prayer Group: Each Thursday evening at 5:30PM an ongoing weekly Centering Prayer group meets. Centering Prayer is a contemplative form of prayer geared toward the cultivation of interior silence or “centering.” This form of prayer invites one to enter into a deeper relationship with God by being open and receptive to the presence and action of God in our lives. No prior experience is necessary. For more information, contact Mother Barnes at mthrbarnes@gmail.com or call the parish office.

► **Resources for Children:** We have new welcome bags for our youngest attendees to enjoy during Mass. The bags are filled with sensory engaging toys and books and are available from an usher. Weekly lectionary materials are also available for our youngest members and visitors.

► **Cypress House at St. Luke’s – NEPA Day of Giving:** Mother Barnes and the Board of Cypress House would like to thank all who contributed during the NEPA Day of Giving. Through the generosity of many, we raised over \$6,000 which includes having won a “Golden Ticket” \$1000 prize. Cypress House is a non-profit organization affiliated with St. Luke’s, Scranton. We aspire to help incarcerated people get back on their feet through employment, vocational training, and educational opportunities at our future central-city bakery and café. To learn more about our Cypress House ministry, please visit the Cypress House website, www.cypresshouse.org

► **Mother Barnes Vacation – June 22 – July 5**

Mother Barnes will be taking some time off over the next two weeks. In her absence, the following supply clergy will be covering for her: Father Tyler Parry (Saturday 6/25), Father Dan Jones (Sunday 6/26 and 7/3). Deacon Chris Sutton (July 2). The office will be staffed by members of the Vestry. Please note the weekend Eucharists will be fully covered, but there will be no midweek Healing Eucharist; Wednesday Eucharists will resume July 6. There will also not be any live-streamed services during this time. This includes the Daily Office and Saturday/Sunday Eucharists. In the event of a pastoral emergency, please contact Fr. Jones at (570) 346-4558 or Mickey Baccoli, Senior Warden at (570) 878-6464,

► **Lay ministers needed in worship and hospitality:** Readers, intercessors (prayers of the people), ushers, and coffee hour hosts are needed on a regular basis. Sign-up sheets are located in Israel lounge. Should you have any questions or concerns, please speak with Mother Barnes.

► **Catch Up With the Congregation:** Coffee Hour is a wonderful time for us to gather together as a parish community. If you would like to host the hour with a light snack or homemade goodie, please sign up on the board in Israel Lounge. If you have a favorite coffee mug you'd like to contribute for use during coffee hour, please bring it in; St. Luke's is trying to minimize the use of paper products!

Upcoming concerts



Nine Greek Definitions of Love – Sunday, July 10 at 3PM

Madison Zahorsky, Soprano, with Xu Cheng, Piano; Evan Howard, Cello.

The Nine Greek Definitions of Love provide insight on the varied shadings of love that have been experienced throughout humanity for millennia. The ancient Greeks subscribed to the philosophy that love needed to be balanced and come from many sources in order to be fulfilling. The theme of Love is no stranger to the vocal musical canon. This program illuminates the many possibilities of love in art and in our lives. Program will feature works of Jonathan Dove, Amédée-Ernest Chausson, Gabriel Fauré, Samuel Barber, Richard Wagner, Franz Schubert, Jason Robert-Brown and more. A free will offering will be taken.



At its April meeting the Vestry approved affiliating with Holy Hikes, an Episcopal organization, and adopting our group as an official ministry of St. Luke's. The May walk around Lake Scranton was the first hike under our new chapter title name *Holy Hikes Northeast Pennsylvania*.

Holy Hikes Northeast Pennsylvania plans to meet on the third Saturday of each month through October. The contemplative hike is structured to celebrate Eucharist as we walk and find ways of being in prayer, reflection, and communion with God's Creation.



The July hike will be on the Countryside Conservancy Trolley Trail followed by a BBQ with friends from our Convocation III. The focus for the July is especially to have an event for youth and families. In August we will hike in Montrose at Salt Springs State Park and be joined by friends from St. Paul's,

Montrose. For more information contact David at drwegner@epix.net or check the parish Facebook page for updates.

In a Pastoral Emergency, please contact—The Reverend Rebecca A. Barnes, Rector at 646-533-1836/e-mail at mthrbarnes@gmail.com. If you, or a family member, are in the hospital, a health care facility, or are home bound and would like to have a visit from Mother Barnes or a member of our Pastoral Care Committee, please contact the parish office. Due to the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act, commonly known as HIPAA, hospitals no longer automatically provide churches with names of admitted parishioners. If you or a family member are hospitalized or in a health care facility someone acting on your behalf will need to notify the church to assure that proper pastoral care may be offered. St. Luke's church complies with all HIPAA requirements and cannot provide personal information for sick or injured members without permission of the member or his or her close family member. Additionally, if you or a loved one are hospitalized or homebound and desire regular Eucharistic visitation, please notify the parish office. Eucharistic Visitations are customarily made once per month; weekly visits may be scheduled upon request.



Pastoral word from Presiding Bishop Michael Curry on shooting at St. Stephen's

Dear friends in Christ:

By now you are aware that last night a shooter entered St. Stephen's Episcopal Church in Vestavia Hills, Alabama, killing two children of God and injuring a third.

Even as I write, I am on the way to [the commemoration of the nine who were martyred](#) in 2015 at Mother Emanuel AME Church in Charleston, South Carolina. The plague of gun violence in the United States affects us all, and now it has affected a congregation in The Episcopal Church.

We join together in prayer with Bishop Glenda Curry, Bishop Brian Prior, the clergy and people of St. Stephen's, and the whole [Episcopal Diocese of Alabama](#). I want to encourage us as a church to offer special prayers this Sunday for those affected by the shooting at St. Stephen's—and for all victims of gun violence.

I commend to you the website of [Bishops United Against Gun Violence](#), which has prayers, [liturgical resources](#), and many [other kinds of information](#).

As the prophet Isaiah wrote (41:10):

Do not fear, for I am with you,
do not be afraid, for I am your God;
I will strengthen you, I will help you,
I will uphold you with my victorious right hand.

I invite you to join me in prayer:

Eternal God of love, we know that you do not willingly inflict pain upon or grieve your children, and your dream for all is life abundant.

We come to you now in sorrow and sadness at the death and violence inflicted on our siblings of St. Stephen's Church in Vestavia Hills, Alabama. Receive the souls of those who have died. Grant them peace in your arms of love. Be with those who are injured and suffer, those who are grieving, and those who are frightened and dispirited. Help us as a nation to find ways to bring an end to this scourge of violence, which hurts your children and our human family. Give us the strength we need, the courage we must have, and the faith in you that will see us through. All this we pray and ask in the name of the prince of peace—your son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

The Most Rev. Michael B. Curry
Presiding Bishop and Primate
The Episcopal Church



The Episcopal
Diocese of Bethlehem

A Special Prayer from the Bishop

*"Fear not, for I am with you;
be not dismayed, for I am your God.
I will strengthen you, yes,
I will help you ..." Isaiah 41:10*

Dear People of Bethlehem,

Once again, gun violence has entered our communities, ravaging the lives of many. On Friday (June 16, 2022), a gunman opened fire during a potluck dinner at St. Stephen's Episcopal Church in Vestavia Hills, Alabama. Yesterday, we learned that three people were killed.

We weep, and we mourn while wondering what we can do to end this senseless violence. We may even feel helpless as we wonder what it will take for sensible gun legislation to be created and implemented.

Yet, we must persist in working for this important legislation, because God's arm is long and mighty. The journey may be arduous, but the Life-destination is always before us. And with God's help, we will move the needle and point it towards Life, Peace, Hope and Justice.

In confidence, let us pray.

Let us pray for our family at St. Stephen's Episcopal Church in Vestavia Hills, Alabama.

Let us pray for the departed souls of the three individuals who were killed.

Let us pray for the grieving families and friends.

Let us pray for The Rev. John Burrus, assisting clergy and lay leadership as God guides them in caring for the community.

Let us pray for the shooter and his family.

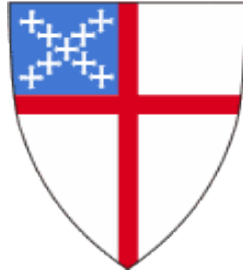
Let us pray for a nation being ravaged by gun violence.

Let us pray for courage and holy boldness to advocate for an end to gun violence and the institution of gun safety laws.

Lastly, let us pray for continued strength and continued hope in God's justice and God's deliverance.

Amen.

Know of my love,



ST. LUKE'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH
"In the heart of things"

The Rev'd Rebecca A. Barnes, Rector

Ms. Maria Zengion, Organist and Choirmaster

The Vestry

Mickey Baccoli, (2025—Senior Warden),
Rick Ammenhauser (2024 —Junior Warden),
Jane Merolla (2023), Kathy Selemba (2025—Clerk),
Francis McMullen (2024), Bernard Ott (2025),
Jeremy Rich (2024), Sharon Sollami (2023),
and Amanda Wrazien (2023).

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