

**St Stephen's 10am Service  
18 October 2020**

*Song:* **All Who Are Thirsty**  
All who are thirsty,  
All who are weak,  
Come to the fountain;  
Dip your heart in the stream of life.  
Let the pain and the sorrow  
Be washed away  
In the waves of His mercy,  
As deep cries out to deep.

Come, Lord Jesus, come.  
Come, Lord Jesus, come.

Holy Spirit, come.  
Holy Spirit, come.

As deep cries out to deep,  
As deep cries out to deep,  
As deep cries out to deep we sing:

Brenton Brown | Glenn Robertson  
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*Opening Prayer:*

**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,  
So that we may truly love you and worthily praise  
your holy name  
Through our Saviour Jesus Christ  
Amen**

*Confession:*

St. Paul wrote, "We all have sinned and fallen short of  
the glory of God."  
So let us confess our sins with a sincere and true heart.

**Almighty God, our heavenly Father,  
we have sinned against you  
and against our neighbour  
in thought, 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.**

*Absolution:*

Almighty God who forgives all who truly repent,  
have mercy on you,  
pardon you 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.

*Amen.*

*Songs: Better is One Day*

1. How lovely is Your dwelling place  
O Lord almighty,  
For my soul longs and even faints for You.  
For here my heart is satisfied,  
Within Your presence,  
I sing beneath the shadow of Your wings.

*Chorus*

Better is one day in Your courts;  
Better is one day in Your house;  
Better is one day in Your courts  
Than thousands elsewhere.

2. One thing I ask, and I would seek  
To see Your beauty,  
To find You in the place Your glory dwells.

*Bridge*

My heart and flesh cry out  
For You the living God,  
Your Spirit's water to my soul.  
I've tasted and I've seen,  
Come once again to me;  
I will draw near to You,  
I will draw near to You.

Matt Redman  
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*Made Me Glad*

I will bless the Lord forever,  
I will trust Him at all times.  
He has delivered me from all fear,  
He has set my feet upon a rock,  
And I will not be moved.  
And I'll say of the Lord

*Chorus*

You are my shield, my strength,  
My portion Deliverer,  
My shelter strong tower,  
My very present help  
In time of need.

Whom have I in heaven but You?  
There's none I desire besides You  
And You have made me glad.  
I'll say of the Lord, ....

Miriam Webster  
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*1<sup>st</sup> Reading:*

Isaiah 45:1-7

*2<sup>nd</sup> Reading*

1 Thessalonians 1:1-10

*Gospel Reading:*

Matthew 22:15-22

*Sermon*

*Intercessions*

When we are assailed by fears and doubts, it is a battle at times to believe a new day is truly dawning. Therefore, we put on the helmet of salvation, knowing even when our faith seems to fail us, we can hope in Your eternal promises. Your Word makes it clear that we win in the end. The enemy's doom is sure. One day, all the kingdoms of the world will become Yours. No matter what we are facing, when we see You on that great day, we'll become like You, and our pain and brokenness will pass away.

**Heavenly Father, fill us with fresh hope today. No matter how life's battles are ebbing and flowing around us, we take our stand in You. Heal our broken cities and countries from their divisions and pour out Your Spirit on our world.**

Lord, You have armed us with the planet's most powerful weapon—the sword of the Spirit—Your precious Word. When we speak Your Word, explosive power is released. Even as Your Son, Jesus, defeated Satan in the wilderness through Your Word, we too can rely on Your Word in our battles today.

**Heavenly Father, in the name of Your Son Jesus, we command COVID-19 to be uprooted from our planet and eradicated. We also employ Your powerful Word as we battle the divisions in both Your Church and the nations we serve: "For he himself is our peace, who has made us both one and has broken down in his flesh the dividing wall of hostility." In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.**

*Collect:*

**God of nations, help us to reflect and share the goodness that surrounds us. Help us to win justice for poor and rich alike, and bring trust and friendship to all our different races; through our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.**

*Final Song: My Lighthouse*

In my wrestling and in my doubts,  
In my failures You won't walk out,  
Your great love will lead me through,  
You are the peace in my troubled sea whoa oh.  
You are the peace in my troubled sea.

In the silence You won't let go,  
In the questions Your truth will hold,  
Your great love will lead me through,  
You are the peace in my troubled sea whoa oh.  
You are the peace in my troubled sea.

*Chorus*

*My Lighthouse, my Lighthouse,  
Shining in the darkness,  
I will follow You oh.  
My Lighthouse, my Lighthouse,  
I will trust the promise*

*You will carry me safe to shore,  
Safe to shore, safe to shore, safe to shore.*

I won't fear what tomorrow brings,  
With each morning I'll rise and sing,  
My God's love will lead me through,  
You are the peace in my troubled sea whoa oh.  
You are the peace in my troubled sea.

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*Blessing*

Go now to love and serve the Lord, go in peace  
**Amen, we go in the name of Christ.**

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