

ORDER FOR THE PUBLIC WORSHIP OF GOD

“One thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.”
 – Philipians 3:13–14

August 1, 2021	Morning Worship	10:40 a.m.
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God Calls Us to Worship

Welcome and Announcements

Prelude	My Shepherd Will Supply My Need Ms. Lisa Barry, organ	arr. Rawsthorne
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* Responsive Call to Worship	Praise the LORD!	Psalm 146:1–2, 7–10
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Praise the LORD, O my soul! I will praise the LORD as long as I live;
 I will sing praises to my God while I have my being.
The LORD sets the prisoners free; the LORD opens the eyes of the blind.
 The LORD lifts up those who are bowed down; the LORD loves the righteous.
The LORD watches over the sojourners; He upholds the widow and the fatherless, but the way of the wicked He brings to ruin.
 The LORD will reign forever, your God, O Zion, to all generations.
Praise the LORD!

* Hymn	Hallelujah, Praise Jehovah, O My Soul	RIPLEY
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Hallelujah, praise Jehovah, O my soul, Jehovah praise;
I will sing the glorious praises of my God through all my days.
Put no confidence in princes, nor for help on man depend;
He shall die, to dust returning, and His purposes shall end.

Happy is the man that chooses Israel's God to be his aid;
He is blessed whose hope of blessing on the Lord his God is stayed.
Heav'n and earth the Lord created, seas and all that they contain;
He delivers from oppression, righteousness He will maintain.

Food He daily gives the hungry, sets the mourning pris'ner free,
Raises those bowed down with anguish, makes the sightless eye to see.
Well Jehovah loves the righteous, and the stranger He befriends,
Helps the fatherless and widow, judgment on the wicked sends.

Hallelujah, praise Jehovah, O my soul, Jehovah praise;
I will sing the glorious praises of my God through all my days.
Over all God reigns forever, through all ages He is King;
Unto Him, your God, O Zion, joyful hallelujahs sing.

* Prayer of Adoration

God Calls Us to Confess Our Sin and Receive Forgiveness

New Testament Lesson	2 Timothy 4:1–8
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This is the word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God!

General Prayer of Confession

Our Father, You offer us the crown of righteousness. Yet, we confess that, in our sin, we are prone to cherish the prizes of this world over the crown which Christ alone can bestow. Forgive us. And as we receive Your forgiveness, grant us a fresh sense of Your purpose for our lives and the glories of the life to come. For we ask this in Christ's name. Amen.

Silent Prayers of Confession

The Lord's Prayer

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 debts as we forgive our debtors. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil, for Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon	Mr. David German
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* Hymn	Yet Not I, but Through Christ in Me	Robinson, Farren, Thompson
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(Please refer to the song sheet inserted in the bulletin)

God Calls Us to Give and Serve

God's Tithe and Our Offerings

Offertory	The Love of God	Lehman
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Mr. Ron Lorenz, soloist, and Mr. David German, piano

The love of God is greater far than tongue or pen can ever tell;
 It goes beyond the highest star, and reaches to the lowest hell;
 The guilty pair, bowed down with care, God gave His Son to win;
 His erring child He reconciled, and pardoned from his sin.

When years of time shall pass away and earthly thrones and kingdoms fall,
 When men who here refuse to pray, on rocks and hills and mountains call,
 God's love so sure shall still endure, all measureless and strong;
 Redeeming grace to Adam's race the saints' and angels' song.

O love of God, how rich and pure! How measureless and strong!
 It shall forevermore endure the saints' and angels' song!

Could we with ink the ocean fill and were the skies of parchment made,
 Were ev'ry stalk on earth a quill and ev'ry man a scribe by trade,
 To write the love of God above would drain the ocean dry;
 Nor could the scroll contain the whole, though stretched from sky to sky.

* Presentation of Gifts	HENDON
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Take my love; my Lord, I pour at Thy feet its treasure-store.
Take my self, and I will be ever, only, all for Thee. Ever, only, all for Thee.

* Prayer of Dedication

God's Word Is Proclaimed

Prayer for Illumination

Old Testament Lesson	Psalm 139
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All flesh is grass, and all its loveliness is like the flower of the field.
The grass withers, the flower fades, but the word of our God stands forever.

Sermon	Living Characters in God's Book	Pastor Heath Cross
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Prayer of Supplication

God Invites Us to the Lord's Table and Dismisses Us in Peace

Sacrament of the Lord's Supper

Words of Institution

Breaking the Bread	Rock of Ages Mr. David German, piano
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Sharing the Cup

* Hymn	Awake, My Soul, Stretch Every Nerve	CHRISTMAS
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Awake, my soul, stretch ev'ry nerve, and press with vigor on;
A heav'nly race demands your zeal, and an immortal crown, and an immortal crown.

A cloud of witnesses around hold you in full survey;
Forget the steps already trod, and onward urge your way, and onward urge your way.

'Tis God's all animating voice that calls you from on high;
'Tis His own hand presents the prize to your aspiring eye, to your aspiring eye:

That prize with peerless glories bright, which shall new luster boast,
When victors' wreaths and monarchs' gems shall blend in common dust, shall blend in common dust.

Blest Savior, introduced by you, have I my race begun;
And, crowned with vict'ry, at Your feet I'll lay my honors down, I'll lay my honors down.

* Benediction

* Postlude	Marching to Zion Ms. Lisa Barry, organ	arr. Farlee
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* Congregation standing

– ANNOUNCEMENTS –

Welcome: Greetings in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ! We welcome everyone to our time of worship this morning. May the joy of the Lord be your strength as we sing our Lord's praises today. Visitors are encouraged to stop by and meet our pastors in the lobby after the service.

Cell Phones: Please silence all your electronic devices.

Sympathy: We express our sympathy to Susan Thomas due to the recent passing of her father.

SVC Parent's Day Out: Register your preschoolers, ages 1–4, for two days per week, 9:00 a.m.–2:00 p.m. E-mail Anita Murphy, SVC Director of Preschool Ministry, at anitam@stephensvalleychurch.com.

Sunday School Teacher Needed: We are looking for someone to teach the 0–3-year-olds' Sunday school class. If you are interested, contact Anita Murphy at anitam@stephensvalleychurch.com or see her at the Children's Ministry desk.

Starting Point: Visitors are invited and encouraged to attend Pastor Jim's Starting Point class in the office suite conference room through August 15. The class meets from 9:30–10:15 a.m. Greeters will be happy to direct you when you arrive.

Choir: Now is a great time to sign up for our Chancel Choir. Rehearsals will resume Wednesday, August 4, at 6:00 p.m. in the choir room. We look forward to singing great anthems of the church both old and new and, of course, our annual Christmas Concert with Orchestra on December 12. E-mail David German at davidg@stephensvalleychurch.com for more information or to reserve a spot.

Home Fellowship Potluck Dinner: Home Fellowship Groups are a ministry of SVC designed to help our members get to know each other better. This is accomplished by meeting in small groups over a meal on a monthly basis. The focus of the meetings is to build deeper relationships with the people in your group. Our last round of groups was cut short by the pandemic. To relaunch, we are hosting a potluck dinner at the church on Thursday, August 12, from 5:30–7:30 p.m. The church will provide the main course, and we are asking attendees to bring side dishes. Anyone interested in the next round of groups is invited to attend. Register at stephensvalleychurch.com.

Wednesday Nights This Fall: Mark your calendars! August 25–October 13 we will meet in the Fellowship Hall for supper and Bible study. The Bible study series will begin with Dr. David Lawrence teaching two weeks on "Paradise Lost/Paradise Regained." For the following six weeks, Pastor Heath will teach a series on the subject of "How to (Actually) Love Your Neighbor." The meals will be catered and can be purchased through online registration each week. More details will be forthcoming.

Fun Fest: Invite your friends to join us for a great time of food and fun following our worship service on Sunday, August 29. Our worship will again feature special music from our choir accompanied by brass, timpani, organ, and piano. Immediately afterward we will enjoy a delicious meal of fried or grilled catfish, hush puppies, slaw, and white beans. The church will provide free iced tea, lemonade, and water as well as ice cream and watermelon for dessert. A water slide, a slip and slide, and two bounce houses will be on the premises for the children and youth to enjoy! Kids should bring play clothes/swimsuit.

Early Morning Bible Study: Beginning Thursday, September 9, Mike Bishop will lead a Bible study on the book of Ephesians. The class will use a John Stott study guide as a reference but will focus on direct study and application of the Scripture. The group will meet from 6:30–7:30 a.m., and the study will last six weeks. If you are interested in attending, sign up in the lobby or contact Mike Bishop or the church office.

– THIS WEEK'S CALENDAR –

Today, 9:00 a.m.	Officers' Prayer Time
Today, 9:30 a.m.	Sunday School for all ages
Today, 10:40 a.m.	Worship Service
Monday, 9:00 a.m.	Sabbatical Search Career Group
Tuesday, 10:00 a.m.	SVC Women's Bible Study
Tuesday, 11:30 a.m.	SVC Women's Potluck Salad & Dessert Luncheon
Tuesday, 4:00 p.m.	Sweet Half Hour of Prayer (St. Paul Chapel, first floor)
Wednesday, 6:00 p.m.	Choir Rehearsal
Thursday, 10:00 a.m.	SVC Women's Prayer Shawl Ministry (Room 201A)
Friday, 9:00 a.m.	SVC Men's Bible Study (Café)

Financial Update

Average Weekly Offering Needed	\$40,305
July 25 General Fund Offering	\$44,933
Total July General Fund	\$125,046
FY 21–22 General Fund Deficit	\$36,174
Construction Loan to Refinance	\$8,650,000
Additional Construction Loan	\$1,091,172

CHURCH STAFF

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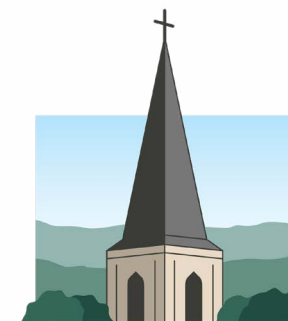
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Stephens Valley Church

Biblical, Reformed, Independent

Living Characters in God's Book

August 1, 2021

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