

TODAY'S READINGS

First Reading: Exodus 2:1-10

Because the number of Israelites in Egypt had grown so much, the Pharaoh had ordered the slaughter of all male Hebrew babies.

Second Reading: Colossians 3:12-17

Paul encourages Christians, despite their different backgrounds, to love and forgive one another.

Gospel: John 19:25b-27

As he is dying on the cross, Jesus makes provision for his mother, Mary.

FIRST READING Exodus 2.1–10

A reading from the book of Exodus.

1 A man from the house of Levi went and married a Levite woman.

2 The woman conceived and bore a son; and when she saw that he was a fine baby, she hid him for three months.

3 When she could hide him no longer she got a papyrus basket for him, and plastered it with bitumen and pitch; she put the child in it and placed it among the reeds on the bank of the river.

4 His sister stood at a distance, to see what would happen to him.

5 The daughter of Pharaoh came down to bathe at the river, while her attendants walked beside the river. She saw the basket among the reeds and sent her maid to bring it.

6 When she opened it, she saw the child. He was crying, and she took pity on him, 'This must be one of the Hebrews' children,' she said.

7 Then his sister said to Pharaoh's daughter, 'Shall I go and get you a nurse from the Hebrew women to nurse the child for you?'

8 Pharaoh's daughter said to her, 'Yes.' So the girl went and called the child's mother.

9 Pharaoh's daughter said to her, 'Take this child and nurse it for me, and I will give you your wages.' So the woman took the child and nursed it.

10 When the child grew up, she brought him to Pharaoh's daughter, and she took him as her son. She named him Moses, 'because,' she said, 'I drew him out of the water.'

SECOND READING Colossians 3. 12–17

12 As God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience.

13 Bear with one another and, if anyone has a complaint against another, forgive each other; just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive.

14 Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony.

15 And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in the one body. And be thankful.

16 Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly; teach and admonish one another in all wisdom; and with gratitude in your hearts sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God.

17 And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

GOSPEL John 19. 25b–27

25 Standing near the cross of Jesus were his mother, and his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene.

26 When Jesus saw his mother and the disciple whom he loved standing beside her, he said to his mother, 'Woman, here is your son.'

27 Then he said to the disciple, 'Here is your mother.' And from that hour the disciple took her into his own home.

COLLECT

God of compassion,
whose Son Jesus Christ, the child of Mary,
shared the life of a home in Nazareth,
and on the cross drew the whole human family to
himself:

strengthen us in our daily living
that in joy and in sorrow
we may know the power of your presence
to bind together and to heal;
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

Loving God,
as a mother feeds her children at the breast
you feed us in this sacrament with the food and drink of
eternal life:
help us who have tasted your goodness
to grow in grace within the household of faith;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

For Prayer:

A prayer for all those affected by coronavirus

Keep us, good Lord,
under the shadow of your mercy.
Sustain and support the anxious,
be with those who care for the sick,
and lift up all who are brought low;
that we may find comfort
knowing that nothing can separate us from your love
in Christ Jesus our Lord. *Amen.*

Prayers about the outbreak.

Lord Jesus Christ,
you taught us to love our neighbour,
and to care for those in need
as if we were caring for you.
In this time of anxiety, give us strength
to comfort the fearful, to tend the sick,
and to assure the isolated
of our love, and your love,
for your name's sake. **Amen.**

God of compassion,
be close to those who are ill, afraid or in isolation.
In their loneliness, be their consolation;
in their anxiety, be their hope;
in their darkness, be their light;
through him who suffered alone on the cross,
but reigns with you in glory,
Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

We pray for our children and their friends as the
academic year has come to an abrupt end. Help them
to find the motivation to continue with their studies
during these uncertain times.

Pray for all those who are involved with making
difficult decisions which affect the many people who
fall under their care whether they be academic staff,
medical professionals, local employers involved with
the hospitality industry and those who work in the retail
supply chain.

We pray for all local businesses and employees in our
area and those who may suffer financial hardship as a
result of this virus.

We also pray for other conflicts which are happening
throughout the world.

Those who are acutely sick: Elizabeth Upton, Simon
Baynes, David Richards, Rachel Moriarty, Jim Wild,

Joan Earnshaw, Stephanie Willcocks, David Galloway,
Carol Muller, Sharon Herd (Vi Reynolds daughter),
Paul Wiggett, Val Hartley, Linda Ellis, Matthew
Gherardi, Dick Herdegan.

Those with chronic or long term illness: Roy Ray,
Peggy Fells, May Magowan, Jean Wall, Harry
Henderson, Pauline Moyes, Jackie Briggs.

Those who have died: Nellie Wood, Pamela Poll, Eric
Muncer.

DURING THE WEEK

*All services which take place during the week
have been suspended for the moment. All church
based activities have also ceased.*

*Details of funerals and other life events services
will continue to be listed during the week's events
but attendance is limited to a very restricted
number and these are now private services for the
foreseeable future.*

MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY	1.00pm	Funeral of Nellie Wood at St Stephen's
	2.20pm	Committal of Nellie Wood at West Hertfordshire Crematorium

SATURDAY



St Stephen
with St Julian

FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT / MOTHERING SUNDAY

22 March 2020

Welcome to St Stephen's and St Julian's where we
are a living church that proclaims the Gospel of
Jesus Christ through regular worship, service to the
local community and care for each other.

Covid – 19

**All public worship has been suspended in the
Church of England until further notice.**

The church remains open for private prayer and
the clergy are regularly saying prayers and
recording simple services which are available
through our Facebook page
<https://www.facebook.com/ststephenandstjulian>
and also on our website through the Services link
on the front page.
www.ststephenandstjulian.org

Please do continue to pray at home, and use the
“Worship at Home” leaflet to aid your prayer time.