



WOODYNOOK CRC

May 24, 2020

PECULIAR TREASURES: STEPHEN

Welcome

Call to Worship: Psalm 46

God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble.
Therefore we will not fear, though the earth give way
and the mountains fall into the heart of the sea,
though its waters roar and foam and the mountains quake with their surging.
He says, "Be still, and know that I am God;
I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth."
The Lord Almighty is with us; the God of Jacob is our fortress.

Song: This Is My Father's World

God's Greeting and Candle Lighting

Song: Jesus Strong and Kind

Confession:

Saving God, like Israel before us we are filled with joy when you deliver us from
bondage and we praise you when you defeat our foes.
Yet we are less trusting when you lead us into the desert:
the long way, the unknown path, the journey of trial, trust, and refining.
Forgive us for questioning the path you have chosen for us.
Forgive our complaining along the way. Forgive the times we've stumbled
when the journey was long and hard. Deliver us from our Egypts.
Lead us on our unexpected journeys. Sustain us in our deserts.
Bring us to our promised lands.

Assurance:

The same God who delivered Israel from her slavery is the God who delivers us from
our slavery to sin. God has made a way to freedom through the blood of Jesus Christ.
Thanks be to God!
The same God who gave Israel a pillar of cloud by day and a pillar of fire by night is
the God who sent the Spirit to lead and to guide.
Let us follow with joy!
Amen.

Song: I Am Not My Own

Children's Time

Song: Hold me Jesus

Scripture Reading: Acts 6:8-15; 7:44-60

Sermon- Peculiar Treasures: Stephen

- "I am a hypocrite, and so are you." How do you respond to this confession and accusation?
 - Why was Stephen killed?

- What are some of the growing difficulties for the community of believers?
 - What is the big question everyone is wrestling with?

- What do we learn from the accusations against Stephen and his defense?

- One benefit of the health restrictions due to COVID-19 is ...?
 - What does this reveal for you? What thing(s) might be a little too important for you in your religious life?

Song: The Heart of Worship

Congregational Prayer

Offering and Announcements

God's Parting Blessing

Song: My Friends May You Grow in Grace