



Stephen: The Martyred Follower
(Acts 7:54-60)

July 4, 2021

Characters
Rev. Patrick Cherry

Preludes

Organ/Brass/Handbells

Renew Our Freedom (Video)

Celebration of Community

- Happy 4th of July!
- For visitors and members, we have QR codes that will take you directly to our visitor information, online bulletin, upcoming events/news and giving page. Just open your camera and scan the QR code, no app necessary. There are also paper visitor forms in the pew pockets if you would like to fill those in and drop them off in the baskets as you leave the service.
- We have several great summer events! Join us for a Women's Bible Study, Summer Camps and other special events. Please register: saxegotha.org/summer.
- Save the Date for Wednesday Nights in July. Join us at 6 pm for Dinner (Bring Your Own). Worship begins at 6:20 pm in the Light House Auditorium with music and a guest speaker each week. Begins on July 7.
- You should have received an email with a link to fill out a survey. Please dedicate 25 minutes to fill out the survey so that you can provide valuable input about the future direction of our church. You can find that link at saxegotha.org/transition.
- Please take a moment to review the Congregational Care opportunities available. (Show Slide) We are looking for volunteers and would love for you to reach out with where you feel led to serve.

We Gather to Worship

Music of Preparation (Remain seated)

This is my Song (GTG # 340)

Call to Worship

based on 2 Chronicles 7:14 & Philippians 3:20

LEADER: We are the people called in the name of Almighty God

PEOPLE: Let us humble ourselves before the LORD, pray, and seek His face.

L: We must turn from our evil ways and embrace Christ's Kingdom.

P: Christ forgives our sins and sets us free in grace.

L: May the Lord our God heal our land and draw her people into His presence.

P: We acknowledge that our citizenship is primarily in heaven, and from it we await a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ who will transform all creation.

ALL: We gather in His name to worship the Triune God. Let us worship God!

Opening Hymn

#809 God of our Fathers

Prayer for our Nation

LEADER 1: Everlasting God of righteousness and grace, as our nation celebrates this Independence Day, remind us of our complete dependence upon you. We look to you for your wisdom and mercy as important issues are discussed.

P: Lord, hear this prayer for our nation and for our world.

LEADER 2: On this day, we ask you to keep this nation, and all nations, under your care, that we may be people who are at peace, and who are a blessing to others on this earth. Grant our leaders wisdom, that there would be times of peace and justice in our land and in our world, a foretaste of your coming Kingdom.

P: Lord, hear this prayer for our nation and for our world.

L1: On this day, we lift to you all those who are far from home and loved ones, who on this day sail or fly or march in harm's way and keep them always close to you. Where there is combat, grant them compassion for their enemies, and keep them brave in the face of evil. Hold in your loving hands the families of those who are far away. Grant them comfort in their anxieties. And comfort those who grieve, because they have received the dreaded message that their loved one has died. Strengthen those who carry the wounds of war, visible and invisible, and be to them a sure presence.

P: Lord, hear this prayer for our nation and for our world.

L2: On this day keep all of us grounded not in our strength but in yours, ever relying upon the promises of your Gospel. Heal our nation and the collective hearts of the world as we live and labor in a world corrupted by our sin. Set us free from the bondage of our hate, our divisions, our prejudices, our apathy, our selfishness, our greed, our narrow-mindedness, and help us, through the power of your Holy Spirit, to live more fully in the light of your grace.

P: Lord, hear this prayer for our nation and for our world.

ALL: All of this we pray in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

Words of Assurance

Even though we are a stubborn people, still God absolutely loves and forgives us. In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. Hallelujah...AMEN!

Affirmation of Faith

from The Essential Tenets of ECO: A Covenant Order of Evangelical Presbyterians

Jesus prays that His followers will all be one, and so we both pray and work for the union of the church throughout the world. Even where institutional unity does not seem possible, we are bound to other Christians as our brothers and sisters. In Christ the dividing wall of hostility created by nationality, ethnicity, gender, race, and language differences is brought down. God created people so that the rich variety of His wisdom might be reflected in the rich variety of human beings, and the church must already now begin to reflect the eschatological reality of people from every tribe, and tongue, and nation bringing the treasures of their kingdoms into the new city of God.

Gloria Patri

Children's Message(Video)

Dismiss Children to Children's Worship(11:00)

Passing of the Peace

Offertory Hymn

#808 Eternal Father Strong to Save

Offertory Prayer

Thank you to everyone who participated and volunteered to help our 2021 Family VBS to be such a success.

Anthem

8:30 An American Anthem- Laini Ashcraft- soloist

11:00 Paeon of Promise- Sanctuary Choir

Bumper Video

We Hear God's Word

Message

Stephen: The Martyred Follower (Acts 7:54-60)

We Respond to God's Word

Pastoral Prayer and Lord's Prayer

Invitation and Benediction

Closing Hymn

#799 America the Beautiful

Postlude

Brass Ensemble

Alternate Hymn

#599 Jesus is Lord of All

Special Announcements:

The **Flowers** in Sanctuary this Sunday, July 4 are given by Pat Richardson to the Glory of God and in memory of her parents, Bonnie and Leon Smalley.

The **Cradle Cross & Rosebud** in the Sanctuary this Sunday are in honor of London Williams Flores, daughter of Jason and Sarah Flores, born February 14, 2021.

The **Cradle Cross & Rosebud** in the Sanctuary this Sunday are in honor of Easton Brooks Blanchard, son of Ryan and Mary Catherine Blanchard, born May 3, 2021.
Proud Grandparents are Harvey and Sami Blanchard.
