



# SHAWNEE *park*

CHRISTIAN REFORMED CHURCH

Sunday, April 25, 2021, 10:00 AM

\*Please stand as you are able.

PRELUDE *Rock of Ages (When the Day Seems Long)*, -McCracken -Worship Leaders only

\*WELCOME

\*CALL TO WORSHIP: FROM PSALM 31

**All: In you, LORD, I have taken refuge.**

*Leader: Let me never be put to shame; deliver me in your righteousness.  
Turn your ear to me, come quickly to my rescue;  
be my rock of refuge; a strong fortress to save me.*

**All: In you, LORD, I have taken refuge.**

*Leader: Since you are my rock and my fortress, for the sake of your name  
lead and guide me. Keep me free from the trap that is set for me,  
for you are my refuge. Into your hands I commit my spirit;  
deliver me, LORD, my faithful God.*

**All: In you, LORD, I have taken refuge.**

*Leader: My times are in your hands; deliver me from the hands of my enemies,  
from those who pursue me. Let your face shine on your servant;  
save me in your unfailing love.*

**All: In you, LORD, I have taken refuge.**

\*GOD'S GREETING

\*SONG OF PRAISE

*Oceans (Where Feet May Fail)* - Crocker

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

\*SONG OF RESPONSE

*And Can It Be* – Wesley

CONGREGATIONAL PRAYER

OUR GIFTS TO THE LORD

ICCF

\*SONG OF PREPARATION

*A Mighty Fortress Is Our God* - Luther

SCRIPTURE READING

**Acts 7:1-3, 23-41, 48-8:1a**

Stephen's Speech to the Sanhedrin

<sup>1</sup> Then the high priest asked Stephen, "Are these charges true?" <sup>2</sup> To this he replied: "Brothers and fathers, listen to me! The God of glory appeared to our father Abraham while he was still in Mesopotamia, before he lived in Harran.

<sup>3</sup> 'Leave your country and your people,' God said, 'and go to the land I will show you.'

<sup>23</sup> "When Moses was forty years old, he decided to visit his own people, the Israelites. <sup>24</sup> He saw one of them being mistreated by an Egyptian, so he went to his defense and avenged him by killing the Egyptian. <sup>25</sup> Moses thought that his own people would realize that God was using him to rescue them, but they did not. <sup>26</sup> The next day Moses came upon two Israelites who were fighting. He tried to reconcile them by saying, 'Men, you are brothers; why do you want to hurt each other?' <sup>27</sup> "But the man who was mistreating the other pushed Moses aside and said, 'Who made you ruler and judge over us? <sup>28</sup> Are you thinking of killing me as you killed the Egyptian yesterday?' <sup>29</sup> When Moses heard this, he fled to Midian, where he settled as a foreigner and had two sons. <sup>30</sup> "After forty years had passed, an angel appeared to Moses in the flames of a burning bush in the desert near Mount Sinai. <sup>31</sup> When he saw this, he was amazed at the sight. As he went over to get a closer look, he heard the Lord say: <sup>32</sup> 'I am the God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob.' Moses trembled with fear and did not dare to look. <sup>33</sup> "Then the Lord said to him, 'Take off your sandals, for the place where you are standing is holy ground.

<sup>34</sup> I have indeed seen the oppression of my people in Egypt. I have heard their groaning and have come down to set them free. Now come, I will send you back to Egypt.’ <sup>35</sup> “This is the same Moses they had rejected with the words, ‘Who made you ruler and judge?’ He was sent to be their ruler and deliverer by God himself, through the angel who appeared to him in the bush. <sup>36</sup> He led them out of Egypt and performed wonders and signs in Egypt, at the Red Sea and for forty years in the wilderness. <sup>37</sup> “This is the Moses who told the Israelites, ‘God will raise up for you a prophet like me from your own people.’<sup>[E]</sup> <sup>38</sup> He was in the assembly in the wilderness, with the angel who spoke to him on Mount Sinai, and with our ancestors; and he received living words to pass on to us. <sup>39</sup> “But our ancestors refused to obey him. Instead, they rejected him and in their hearts turned back to Egypt. <sup>40</sup> They told Aaron, ‘Make us gods who will go before us. As for this fellow Moses who led us out of Egypt—we don’t know what has happened to him!’ <sup>41</sup> That was the time they made an idol in the form of a calf. They brought sacrifices to it and reveled in what their own hands had made.

<sup>48</sup> “However, the Most High does not live in houses made by human hands. As the prophet says: <sup>49</sup> “‘Heaven is my throne, and the earth is my footstool. What kind of house will you build for me? says the Lord. Or where will my resting place be? <sup>50</sup> Has not my hand made all these things?’ <sup>51</sup> “You stiff-necked people! Your hearts and ears are still uncircumcised. You are just like your ancestors: You always resist the Holy Spirit! <sup>52</sup> Was there ever a prophet your ancestors did not persecute? They even killed those who predicted the coming of the Righteous One. And now you have betrayed and murdered him— <sup>53</sup> you who have received the law that was given through angels but have not obeyed it.”

### **The Stoning of Stephen**

<sup>54</sup> When the members of the Sanhedrin heard this, they were furious and gnashed their teeth at him. <sup>55</sup> But Stephen, full of the Holy Spirit, looked up to heaven and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. <sup>56</sup> “Look,” he said, “I see heaven open and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God.” <sup>57</sup> At this they covered their ears and, yelling at the top of their voices, they all rushed at him, <sup>58</sup> dragged him out of the city and began to stone him. Meanwhile, the witnesses laid their coats at the feet of a young man named Saul.

<sup>59</sup> While they were stoning him, Stephen prayed, “Lord Jesus, receive my spirit.”  
<sup>60</sup> Then he fell on his knees and cried out, “Lord, do not hold this sin against them.” When he had said this, he fell asleep.

**Acts 8:1a**

<sup>1</sup> And Saul approved of their killing him.

SERMON

## The Spirit and Stephen

PRAYER

\*SONG OF RESPONSE

*By Faith* - Getty

\*GOD’S BLESSING

\*CLOSING PRAISE

*I Love to Tell the Story* - Hankey

**Preacher:** Rev. Darrin Compagner

**Musicians:** Barb Banaszak, Aaron Polet, Phil Van Eck, Joyce Altena, Faith Van’t Land

**Offering:** **ICCF** – Inner City Christian Federation (ICCF) *assists individuals who are facing homelessness or foreclosure. ICCF also assists people with renting, buying a home, getting a mortgage, finances, and home maintenance.*

SHAWNEE PARK CHRISTIAN REFORMED CHURCH  
2255 Tecumseh Dr. SE ▪ Grand Rapids, MI 49506 ▪ 616-452-6971  
[www.shawneeparkcrc.org](http://www.shawneeparkcrc.org), [fvantland@shawneeparkcrc.org](mailto:fvantland@shawneeparkcrc.org)  
CCLI License: #337332