

**St. Stephen's Episcopal Church**  
**DAILY MORNING PRAYER LITURGY**  
**RITE TWO**



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**Sunday, December 13, 2020**

**Prelude**

played by Marshall Foster, St. Stephen's Organist-Choirmaster

The Officiant begins the service with an Advent Scripture

Watch, for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or in the morning, lest he come suddenly and find you asleep. Mark 13:35, 36

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

Silence.

Officiant and People together,

**Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent. For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us; that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways, to the glory of your Name. Amen**

Officiant

Almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen us in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep us in eternal life. **Amen**

## **The Invitatory and Psalter**

Officiant Lord, open our lips.

**People And our mouth shall proclaim your praise.**

Officiant and People

**Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

Officiant Our King and Savior now draws near: Come let us adore him.

### **Officiant and People**

Venite Psalm 95:1-7

**Come, let us sing to the Lord; \*let us shout for joy to the Rock of our salvation.**

**Let us come before his presence with thanksgiving \*and raise a loud shout to him with psalms.**

**For the Lord is a great God, \*and a great King above all gods.**

**In his hand are the caverns of the earth, \*and the heights of the hills are his also.**

**The sea is his, for he made it, \*and his hands have molded the dry land.**

**Come, let us bow down, and bend the knee, \*and kneel before the Lord our Maker.**

**For he is our God, and we are the people of his pasture and the sheep of his hand. \*Oh, that today you would hearken to his voice!**

Officiant Our King and Savior now draws near: Come let us adore him.

### **The Collect**

Stir up your power, O Lord, and with great might come among us; and, because we are sorely hindered by our sins, let your bountiful grace and mercy speedily help and deliver us; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and for ever. Amen

Reader:

A Reading from Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11

The spirit of the Lord God is upon me,  
because the Lord has anointed me;

he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed,  
to bind up the brokenhearted,

to proclaim liberty to the captives,  
and release to the prisoners;

to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor,  
and the day of vengeance of our God;  
to comfort all who mourn;

to provide for those who mourn in Zion—  
to give them a garland instead of ashes,  
the oil of gladness instead of mourning,  
the mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit.

They will be called oaks of righteousness,  
the planting of the Lord, to display his glory.

They shall build up the ancient ruins,  
they shall raise up the former devastations;

they shall repair the ruined cities,  
the devastations of many generations.

For I the Lord love justice,  
I hate robbery and wrongdoing;

I will faithfully give them their recompense,  
and I will make an everlasting covenant with them.

Their descendants shall be known among the nations,  
and their offspring among the peoples;

all who see them shall acknowledge  
that they are a people whom the Lord has blessed.

I will greatly rejoice in the LORD,  
my whole being shall exult in my God;

for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation,  
he has covered me with the robe of righteousness,

as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland,  
and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.

For as the earth brings forth its shoots,  
and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up,  
so the Lord God will cause righteousness and praise  
to spring up before all the nations.

Reader: The Word of the Lord

**People: Thanks be to God**

## **Psalm 126**

Officiant:

1 When the Lord restored the fortunes of Zion, \*  
then were we like those who dream.

2 Then was our mouth filled with laughter, \*  
and our tongue with shouts of joy.

3 Then they said among the nations, \*  
“The Lord has done great things for them.”

4 The Lord has done great things for us, \*  
and we are glad indeed.

5 Restore our fortunes, O Lord, \*  
like the watercourses of the Negev.

6 Those who sowed with tears \*  
will reap with songs of joy.

7 Those who go out weeping, carrying the seed, \*  
will come again with joy, shouldering their sheaves.

Officiant and People

**Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit:  
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

Reader:

A Reading from the Seventh Chapter of the Gospel of St. John John 1:6-8,19-28  
There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to  
testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the

light, but he came to testify to the light.

This is the testimony given by John when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, "Who are you?" He confessed and did not deny it, but confessed, "I am not the Messiah." And they asked him, "What then? Are you Elijah?" He said, "I am not." "Are you the prophet?" He answered, "No." Then they said to him, "Who are you? Let us have an answer for those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?" He said, "I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness, 'Make straight the way of the Lord,'" as the prophet Isaiah said. Now they had been sent from the Pharisees. They asked him, "Why then are you baptizing if you are neither the Messiah, nor Elijah, nor the prophet?" John answered them, "I baptize with water. Among you stands one whom you do not know, the one who is coming after me; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandal." This took place in Bethany across the Jordan where John was baptizing.

Reader: The Word of the Lord

**People: Thanks be to God**

**Reflection: The Reverend Alan Neale**

### **The Prayers**

Officiant The Lord be with you.

**People And also with you.**

Officiant Let us pray.

### **Officiant and People**

**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 trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us;  
and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.**

**For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory,**

**For ever and ever. Amen**

Officiant Show us your mercy, O Lord;

**People And grant us your salvation.**

Officiant      Clothe your ministers with righteousness;  
**People**        **Let your people sing with joy.**

Officiant      Give peace, O Lord, in all the world;  
**People**        **For only in you can we live in safety.**

Officiant      Lord, keep this nation under your care;  
**People**        **And guide us in the way of justice and truth.**

Officiant      Let your way be known upon earth;  
**People**        **Your saving health among all nations**

Officiant      Let not the needy, O Lord, be forgotten;  
**People**        **Nor the hope of the poor be taken away.**

Officiant      Create in us clean hearts, O God;  
**People**        **And sustain us with your Holy Spirit.**

Officiant:

Merciful God, who sent your messengers the prophets to preach repentance and prepare the way for our salvation:

Give us grace to heed their warnings and forsake our sins,  
that we may greet with joy the coming of Jesus Christ our Redeemer;  
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen**

Dear Lord,

At this time of pandemic,

Let us foster respect and solidarity with others, especially those who are weak or poor.

Let us remain calm and ignore unsubstantiated rumours.

Let us take advantage of living together as a family.

Let us attend to moments of prayer.

Let us cultivate responsibility, patience and hope. **Amen.**

Almighty God, you know the needs of your Church in every place: look graciously upon us, the people of St. Stephen's, and grant us the guidance of your Holy Spirit as we seek a new Rector for this parish.

Give us discernment, wisdom, and confidence in your timing.

Guide the members of our Search Committee, as they labor to be faithful in seeking your will.

We pray for the life of our parish, that we may continue to be strengthened in our mission to be Jesus Christ's heart, hands and feet to our neighbors no matter where they are on their journey of faith.

Bless us with mutual trust and respect, courage, and foresight as you shepherd our community through its journey.

Grace us with continuous direction and inspire us toward genuine self-reflection. All this we ask as we walk in your ways to the glory of your name. **Amen.**

Interim Rector – Alan Neale

Go out into the world in peace. Have courage!

Hold fast to what is good. Return no one evil for evil.

Strengthen the faint-hearted, support the weak, help the suffering.

Honor all people.

Love and serve the Lord your God, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit.

And the blessing of God Almighty, Creator, Redeemer and Sustainer,

Be with you now, today and always. **Amen**

Minister      Let us bless the Lord

**People      Thanks be to God**

Postlude: played by Marshall Foster, St. Stephen's Organist-Choirmaster

Officiant: Tom Brown

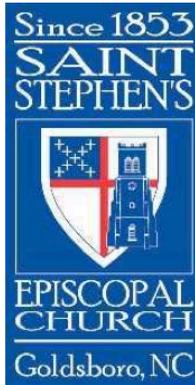
Crucifer: Daniel Sharp

Reader: Margaret Sharp

Organist: Marshall Foster

Minister: Alan Neale

Recording: Xena Markine-Morrison



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**CLERGY**

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The Rev. Alan Neale, Interim Rector

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**VESTRY**

Senior Warden: Adam Livengood; Junior Warden: Lori Allen; Mary Mills Borden,  
Todd Brantley, Tom Brown, Duffy Fleming, Kathy Harris, Mary Susan Heath,  
Mary Lee Jeffreys, Alice Royal, Paul Rutter and Mike Saylor