

**THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT
CONFIRMATION & HOLY EUCHARIST RITE TWO
DECEMBER 17, 2017 ■ 10:30 A.M.**



Welcome to St. Stephen's Episcopal Church

St. Stephen's Episcopal Church has worshipped on this corner of North James and Mulberry Streets in Goldsboro since 1857 — in the same building! We welcome you to our historic building, but more than that, we are happy to have you worship with us.

ORDER OF SERVICE

VOLUNTARY

Veni, Emmanuel

Jan Bender

The People of God gather to proclaim and respond to the Word of God

ENTRANCE RITE

PROCESSIONAL HYMN

Hark! a thrilling voice is sounding

Hymn 59

Bishop: Bless the Lord who forgives all our sins.

People: **His mercy endures for ever.**

The Bishop then continues:

There is one Body and one Spirit;

People: **There is one hope in God's call to us;**

Bishop: One Lord, one Faith, one Baptism;

People: **One God and Father of all.**

Kyrie

Cantor or Choir *All* *Cantor or Choir*

Lord, have mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy. Christ, have mer - cy.

All *Cantor or Choir* *All*

Christ, have mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy.

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Celebrant: Let us pray.

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.**

THE LESSONS (Please be seated.)

The First Reading: 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 *In convertendo*

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**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**

The Second Reading: *1 Thessalonians 5:16-24*

Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. Do not quench the Spirit. Do not despise the words of prophets, but test everything; hold fast to what is good; abstain from every form of evil.

May the God of peace himself sanctify you entirely; and may your spirit and soul and body be kept sound and blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. The one who calls you is faithful, and he will do this.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

The Gospel: *John 1:6-8,19-28* (Please stand.)

Priest: The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.

People: Glory to you, Lord Christ.

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.

Priest: The Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to you, Lord Christ.

THE SERMON

The Right Rev. Robert Skirving

HYMN 348*Lord, we have come at your own invitation*

PRESENTATION AND EXAMINATION OF THE CANDIDATES

The Bishop says:

The Candidate(s) will now be presented.

Presenters: I present Trey Barnes, Sarah Stockton, and Mary Susan Heath for Confirmation.

The Bishop asks the candidates:

Do you reaffirm your renunciation of evil?

Candidates: I do.

Bishop: Do you renew your commitment to Jesus Christ?

Candidates: I do, and with God's grace I will follow him as my Savior and Lord.

After all have been presented, the Bishop addresses the congregation, saying:

Will you who witness these vows do all in your power to support these persons in their life in Christ?

People: We will.

The Bishop then says these or similar words:

Let us join with those who are committing themselves to Christ and renew our own baptismal covenant.

THE BAPTISMAL COVENANT

Bishop: Do you believe in God the Father?

**People: I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

Bishop: Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

**People: I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.
He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit
and born of the Virgin Mary.
He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.
He descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again.
He ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again to judge the living and the dead.**

Bishop: Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

**People: I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting.**

Bishop: Will you continue in the apostles' teaching and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in the prayers?

People: I will, with God's help.

Bishop: Will you persevere in resisting evil, and, whenever you fall into sin, repent and return to the Lord?

People: I will, with God's help.

Bishop: Will you proclaim by word and example the Good News of God in Christ?

People: I will, with God's help.

Bishop: Will you seek and serve Christ in all persons, loving your neighbor as yourself?

People: I will, with God's help.

Bishop: Will you strive for justice and peace among all people, and respect the dignity of every human being?

People: I will, with God's help.

PRAYERS FOR THE CANDIDATES

The Bishop then says to the congregation:

Let us now pray for these persons who have renewed their commitment to Christ.

Leader: Deliver them, O Lord, from the way of sin and death.

People: Lord, hear our prayer.

Leader: Open their hearts to your grace and truth.

People: Lord, hear our prayer.

Leader: Fill them with your holy and life-giving Spirit.

People: Lord, hear our prayer.

Leader: Keep them in the faith and communion of your holy Church.

People: Lord, hear our prayer.

Leader: Teach them to love others in the power of the Spirit.

People: Lord, hear our prayer.

Leader: Send them into the world in witness to your love.

People: Lord, hear our prayer.

Leader: Bring them to the fullness of your peace and glory.

People: Lord, hear our prayer.

A period of silence follows.

Then the Bishop says:

Almighty God, we thank you that by the death and resurrection of your Son Jesus Christ you have overcome sin and brought us to yourself, and that by the sealing of your Holy Spirit you have bound us to your service. Renew in these your servants the covenant you have made with them at their Baptism. Send them forth in the power of that Spirit to perform the service you set before them; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

FOR CONFIRMATION

The Bishop says hands upon each one and says:

Defend, O Lord, your servant N. with your heavenly grace, that he may continue yours for ever, and daily increase in your Holy Spirit more and more, until he comes to your everlasting kingdom. **Amen.**

THE PEACE

Celebrant: The Peace of the Lord be always with you.

People: And also with you.

OFFERTORY ANTHEM *Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus* Jonathan Campbell

AT THE PRESENTATION OF THE OFFERINGS



King of kings, yet born of Ma - ry,



as of old on earth he stood



Lord of lords in hu - man ves - ture,



in the Bo - dy and the Blood



he will give to all the faith - ful



his own self for heaven - ly food

THE HOLY COMMUNION

The Great Thanksgiving (Eucharistic Prayer B)

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Celebrant: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them to the Lord.

Celebrant: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: It is right to give him thanks and praise.

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth. *(Here a Proper Preface is added.)*

Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

Celebrant and People:



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and might,



heaven and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -



san - na in the high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est.



Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -



san - na in the high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

The people stand or kneel.

Then the Celebrant continues:

We give thanks to you, O God, for the goodness and love which you have made known to us in creation; in the calling of Israel to be your people; in your Word spoken through the prophets; and above all in the Word made flesh, Jesus, your Son. For in these last days you sent him to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary, to be the Savior and Redeemer of the world. In him, you have delivered us from evil, and made us worthy to stand before you. In him, you have brought us out of error into truth, out of sin into righteousness, out of death into life.

On the night before he died for us, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper he took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Therefore, according to his command, O Father,

Celebrant and People:

**We remember his death,
We proclaim his resurrection,
We await his coming in glory;**

The Celebrant continues:

And we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, O Lord of all; presenting to you, from your creation, this bread and this wine.

We pray you, gracious God, to send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Sacrament of the Body of Christ and his Blood of the new Covenant. Unite us to your Son in his sacrifice, that we may be acceptable through him, being sanctified by the Holy Spirit. In the fullness of time, put all things in subjection under your Christ, and bring us to that heavenly country where, with all your saints, we may enter the everlasting heritage of your sons and daughters; through Jesus Christ our Lord, the firstborn of all creation, the head of the Church, and the author of our salvation.

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

**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.**

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

The Celebrant breaks the consecrated bread.

Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;
Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.

Facing the people, the Celebrant says the following Invitation
The Gifts of God for the People of God.

COMMUNION HYMN *There's a voice in the wilderness crying* Hymn 75

SENDING FORTH OF EUCHARISTIC VISITORS

In the name of this congregation, we send you forth bearing these holy gifts, that those to whom you go may share with us in the Communion of Christ's Body and Blood. We who are many are one body because we all share one bread, one cup. **Amen.**

Let us pray.

Celebrant and People:

**Almighty and everliving God,
we thank you for feeding us with the spiritual food
of the most precious Body and Blood
of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ;
and for assuring us in these holy mysteries
that we are living members of the Body of your Son,
and heirs of your eternal kingdom.
And now, Father, send us out
to do the work you have given us to do,
to love and serve you
as faithful witnesses of Christ our Lord.
To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit,
be honor and glory, now and for ever. Amen.**

PROCESSION OUT

Lo! he comes with clouds descending

Hymn 57

Priest: Go in peace to love and serve the Lord

People: **Thanks be to God.**

VOLUNTARY

Prepare the Royal Highway

Swedish psalmbook tune

SERVING TODAY

Greeter: Drew Grice

Eucharistic Ministers: Jeff Bland & Bob Cagle

Ushers: Ken Gerrard and his sons, Miller, Hayes and Cam

Crucifer: Kate Harris

Torch Bearers: Jackson Harris & Noah MacDonald

Flag Bearers: Sarah Boyd & Zoe MacDonald

CHURCH STAFF

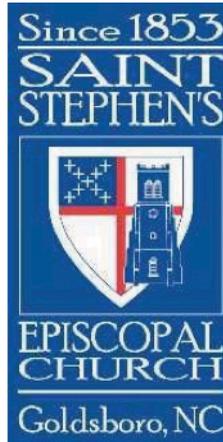
Parish Administrator & Clerk of Vestry: Margie Clark
(mclark@ststephenschurch.com)

Communications Coordinator: Jane Cunningham
(cunninghamjane04@gmail.com)

Director of Children's Choirs: Rebecca Barnes

Treasurer: Emilie Foy

Verger: Ray Harris



St. Stephen's Episcopal Church

200 N. James St., Goldsboro, NC 27530

Church: (919) 734-4263, Rector's cell phone: (336) 745-5950

www.ststephenschurch.com

email: rjhanna14@yahoo.com

CLERGY

The Rt. Rev. Robert Skirving, Bishop

The Rev. Raymond J. Hanna, Rector

CHOIRMASTER

Marshall Foster

(marshallfoster@gmail.com)

DIRECTOR OF CHRISTIAN FORMATION

Xena Markine-Morrison

(xmorrison@ststephenschurch.com)

VESTRY

Senior Warden: Ken Gerrard, Junior Warden: Ann Hine

Nicole Barnes, Margie Clark, Emilie Foy, Chris Garrison, Drew Grice,
Linda Edsall-Huard, Pete Mitchell, Beth Saylor, Kim Smith, Dave Tayloe