

SECOND SUNDAY IN ADVENT
HOLY EUCHARIST: RITE TWO
DECEMBER 10, 2023 ■ 10:30 A.M.



Welcome to St. Stephen's Episcopal Church

St. Stephen's is a community of people made more complete by the grace of a perfect God, who proclaim the Gospel by sharing the reconciling love of Christ with others through redeeming acts of hospitality, forgiveness, justice, and peace.

ORDER OF SERVICE

VOLUNTARY

Prelude on *Winchester New*

HYMN 76

On Jordan's bank the Baptist's cry

Winchester New

(Please stand as you are able.)

Officiant: Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

People: **And blessed be His kingdom, now and forever. Amen**

Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy name; through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

SONG OF PRAISE S100

Ho - ly God, Ho - ly and Might - y, Ho - ly Im -
mor - tal One, Have mer - cy up - on us. Ho - ly God,
Ho - ly and Might - y, Ho - ly Im - mor - tal One, Have mer - cy
up - on us. Ho - ly God, Ho - ly and Might - y,
Ho - ly Im - mor - tal One, Have mer - cy up - on us.

Setting: From *New Plainsong*; David Hurd (b. 1950)

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Celebrant: Let us pray.

(Please stand or kneel as you are able.)

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 for ever. **Amen.**

THE LESSONS *(Please be seated.)*

The First Reading: *Isaiah 40:1-11*

Comfort, O comfort my people,
says your God.
Speak tenderly to Jerusalem,
and cry to her
that she has served her term,
that her penalty is paid,
that she has received from the Lord's hand
double for all her sins.

A voice cries out:

“In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord,
make straight in the desert a highway for our God.
Every valley shall be lifted up,
and every mountain and hill be made low;
the uneven ground shall become level,
and the rough places a plain.
Then the glory of the Lord shall be revealed,
and all people shall see it together,
for the mouth of the Lord has spoken.”

A voice says, “Cry out!”

And I said, “What shall I cry?”

All people are grass,
their constancy is like the flower of the field.
The grass withers, the flower fades,
when the breath of the Lord blows upon it;
surely the people are grass.
The grass withers, the flower fades;
but the word of our God will stand for ever.
Get you up to a high mountain,
O Zion, herald of good tidings;
lift up your voice with strength,
O Jerusalem, herald of good tidings,
lift it up, do not fear;
say to the cities of Judah,
“Here is your God!”

See, the Lord God comes with might,
and his arm rules for him;
his reward is with him,
and his recompense before him.
He will feed his flock like a shepherd;
he will gather the lambs in his arms,
and carry them in his bosom,
and gently lead the mother sheep.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13 *Benedixisti, Domine*

(Please stand as you are able. The psalm will be read responsively by whole verse.)

1 You have been gracious to your land, O Lord, *
you have restored the good fortune of Jacob.

**2 You have forgiven the iniquity of your people *
and blotted out all their sins.**

8 I will listen to what the Lord God is saying, *
for he is speaking peace to his faithful people
and to those who turn their hearts to him.

**9 Truly, his salvation is very near to those who fear him, *
that his glory may dwell in our land.**

10 Mercy and truth have met together; *
righteousness and peace have kissed each other.

**11 Truth shall spring up from the earth, *
and righteousness shall look down from heaven.**

12 The Lord will indeed grant prosperity, *
and our land will yield its increase.

**13 Righteousness shall go before him, *
and peace shall be a pathway for his feet.**

**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: *2 Peter 3:8-15a (Please be seated.)*

Do not ignore this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like one day. The Lord is not slow about his promise, as some think of slowness, but is patient with you, not wanting any to perish, but all to come to repentance. But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a loud noise, and the elements will be dissolved with fire, and the earth and everything that is done on it will be disclosed.

Since all these things are to be dissolved in this way, what sort of persons ought you to be in leading lives of holiness and godliness, waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be set ablaze and dissolved, and the elements will melt with fire? But, in accordance with his promise, we wait for new heavens and a new earth, where righteousness is at home.

Therefore, beloved, while you are waiting for these things, strive to be found by him at peace, without spot or blemish; and regard the patience of our Lord as salvation.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

HYMN 65

Prepare the way, O Zion

Bereden väg för Herran

(Please stand as you are able.)

The Gospel: *Mark 1:1-8 (Please stand.)*

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

People: Glory to you, Lord Christ.

The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

As it is written in the prophet Isaiah,

“See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you,
who will prepare your way;
the voice of one crying out in the wilderness:
‘Prepare the way of the Lord,
make his paths straight.’”

John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. And people from the whole Judean countryside and all

the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. Now John was clothed with camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. He proclaimed, "The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

Priest: The Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to you, Lord Christ.

THE SERMON

The Rev. David Wyly

THE NICENE CREED *(All stand.)*

**We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God, begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father.
Through him all things were made.**

**For us and for our salvation
he came down from heaven:
by the power of the Holy Spirit
he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary,
and was made man.**

**For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.**

**On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

**He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son.
With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified.
He has spoken through the Prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE — SECOND SUNDAY IN ADVENT

(Please kneel as you are able.)

With our minds and hearts attuned to the Advent of our Saviour's birth, let us pray to the Father, saying,

Lord, have mercy.

For our own rebirth, let us pray that we may make amends. Give us hope and perseverance to focus on your purpose for our lives. May we build your kingdom here on earth.

Lord, have mercy.

For peace in the world, we pray that we come to understand God's will for all people. May we look toward Jesus' birth as a time for relinquishing the prejudice, hatred, fear, and hunger that separate us from each other. Let us pray.

Lord, have mercy.

For this city of Goldsboro, for every city and community, may those who live together there, cultivate a right spirit of community and love for one another. Let us pray to the Father, who sent his son to reconcile us to himself.

Lord, have mercy.

For the hope that comes when a child is born, let us pray. May each and every child experience the promise of a future and know that God has a plan and purpose for them.

Lord, have mercy.

For the good, rich earth that God has given us and which sustains life. May we have the wisdom and foresight to care for it. Help us to serve you and all people as worthy stewards. Let us pray to the Creator.

Lord, have mercy.

For those who come to labor and produce our crops, may they find welcome among us. Let us remember that Mary and Joseph were sojourners and that the baby Jesus was born in a stable. No room for them in the inn, God's purpose was still fulfilled. Let us pray to our heavenly Father.

Lord, have mercy.

Just as your star led the magi to Bethlehem, may our hearts be turned toward the light of compassion for all. During this time of Advent, may our thoughts, words, and deeds light the way for others to find you. Let us pray to God.

Lord, have mercy.

With grateful hearts, we remember the example of Joseph whose leadership, strength, and courage protected his family from harm. May we be bold in our efforts to protect those among us who are most vulnerable. Let us pray.

Lord, have mercy.

In the communion of St. Stephens Episcopal Church and with all the saints, let us commend ourselves, and one another, to Christ, our God.

To thee, O Lord, our God, we pray.

(Silence)

(The Celebrant may add a concluding Collect.)

Amen.

CONFESSION OF SIN

**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.**

THE PEACE

(Please stand as you are able.)

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

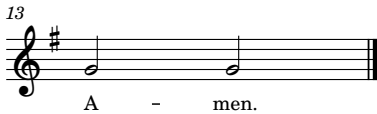
People: **And also with you.**

OFFERTORY

O day of God Draw Nigh

AT THE PRESENTATION OF THE OFFERINGS

(Please stand as you are able.)



THE HOLY COMMUNION

The Great Thanksgiving (Eucharistic Prayer A)

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:

Sanctus S124

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and might, hea - ven and
earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est.
Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

The people stand or kneel.

Then the Celebrant continues:

Holy and gracious Father: In your infinite love you made us for yourself, and, when we had fallen into sin and become subject to evil and death, you, in your mercy, sent Jesus Christ, your only and eternal Son, to share our human nature, to live and die as one of us, to reconcile us to you, the God and Father of all.

He stretched out his arms upon the cross, and offered himself, in obedience to your will, a perfect sacrifice for the whole world.

On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, 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 we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Celebrant and People:

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

The Celebrant continues:

We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, O Father, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Recalling his death, resurrection, and ascension, we offer you these gifts.

Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be for your people the Body and Blood of your Son, the holy food and drink of new and unending life in him. Sanctify us also that we may faithfully receive this holy Sacrament, and serve you in unity, constancy, and peace; and at the last day bring us with all your saints into the joy of your eternal kingdom.

All this we ask through your Son Jesus Christ: By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever.
Amen.

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.

FRACTION ANTHEM S161

Lamb of God, you take a - way the sins of the world:
have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the
sins of the world: have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God,
you take a - way the sins of the world: grant us peace.

Facing the people, the Celebrant says the following Invitation:

The Gifts of God for the People of God

All baptized Christians, regardless of denomination or age, are welcome to receive Holy Communion. Please come forward at the appropriate time. You may receive both the bread and wine, one or the other, come forward for a blessing, or remain seated.

HYMN 54

Savior of the nations come

Nun Komm der Heiland Heidan

THE POST COMMUNION PRAYER

Let us pray.

(Please kneel as you are able.)

Celebrant and People

**Eternal God, heavenly Father,
you have graciously accepted us as living members
of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ,
and you have fed us with spiritual food
in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood.
Send us now into the world in peace,
and grant us strength and courage
to love and serve you**

**with gladness and singleness of heart;
through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

SENDING OF EUCHARISTIC VISITORS

THE BLESSING

HYMN 67 *Comfort, comfort ye my people*
(Please stand as you are able.)

Psalm 42

THE DISMISSAL

The Deacon, or the Celebrant, dismisses them with these words

Let us go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

VOLUNTARY

Prelude in G

JS Bach

SERVING TODAY

Celebrant: The Rev. David Wyly

Organist: Patrick Ritsch

Ushers: Susan & Tom Brown

Eucharistic Visitors: Geoff & Lee Hulse

Live Stream Technician: James Ruggles

The flowers on the altar are given to the glory of God and in memory of Jimmy Neese on the occasion of his birthday by his wife, daughter and grandson.

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WELCOME TO ST. STEPHEN'S!

Name: _____

Address: _____

Email address: _____

Phone Numbers: Home _____ Cell _____

I am new to the parish, I would like the Clergy to call.

I am interested in _____ ministry.

Marital Status: _____

Date of Birth: _____

Anniversary Date: _____

Baptism Date and Location: _____

Confirmation Date and Location: _____

Please list the people who reside with you and their ages:

Any additional information you wish to include?

Please tear off this sheet with your information entered and place in the offering plate or give to an usher or greeter. Thank you! We look forward to meeting you!



St. Stephen's Episcopal Church

200 N. James St., Goldsboro, NC 27530

Church: (919) 734-4263

www.ststephenschurch.com

email: admin@ststephenschurch.com

CLERGY

The Rt. Rev. Robert Skirving, Bishop

The Rev. David Wylly

Rector@ststephenschurch.com

CHURCH STAFF

Organist and Choirmaster: Patrick Ritsch

organist@ststephenschurch.com

Church Administrative Assistant: Vicky Bailey

admin@ststephenschurch.com

Communications Coordinator: Jane Cunningham

cunninghamjane04@gmail.com

Church Sexton: Alfie Barnes

VESTRY

Senior Warden: Katherine MacDonald, Junior Warden: Betty Duncan,

Treasurer: Bob Cagle, Clerk: Nancy Headen

Other Vestry Members Include: Meredith Adams, Don Barnes, Will Bland, Todd Brantley
Susan Brown, Betty Duncan, David Huard, Gwyn LaFave, Larry Tingen, Sallie Wahl