

CHRISTMAS EVE
HOLY EUCHARIST: RITE TWO
DECEMBER 24, 2023 • 5:30 & 11:00 P.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

(5:30pm) Extended Organ Prelude on Carols of the Season

(11:00pm) Whence Is That Goodly Fragrance Flowing? arr. E. Larter

HYMN 83

O come, all ye faithful

Adeste fideles

Celebrant: Blessed be God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit

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

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.

GLORIA



An - gels we have heard on high Sweet - ly sing - ing o'er the plains,
Shep - herds, why this ju - bi - lee? Why your joy - ous strains pro - long?
Come to Beth - le - hem and see Christ Whose birth the an - gels sing;



And the moun - tains in re - ply E - cho - ing their joy - ous strains.
What the glad - some ti - dings be Which in - spire your heaven - ly song?
Come a - dore on bend - ed knee, Christ the Lord, the new - born King.



Glo - - - - - ri - a,



in ex - cel - sis De - o! Glo - - - - -



- - - ri - a, in ex - cel - sis De - o!

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Celebrant: Let us pray.

O God, you have caused this holy night to shine with the brightness of the true Light: Grant that we, who have known the mystery of that Light on earth, may also enjoy him perfectly in heaven; where with you and the Holy Spirit he lives and reigns, one God, in glory everlasting. **Amen.**

THE LESSONS (Please be seated.)

The First Reading: *Isaiah 9:2-7*

The people who walked in darkness
have seen a great light;
those who lived in a land of deep darkness —
on them light has shined.
You have multiplied the nation,
you have increased its joy;
they rejoice before you
as with joy at the harvest,
as people exult when dividing plunder.
For the yoke of their burden,
and the bar across their shoulders,
the rod of their oppressor,
you have broken as on the day of Midian.
For all the boots of the tramping warriors
and all the garments rolled in blood
shall be burned as fuel for the fire.
For a child has been born for us,
a son given to us;
authority rests upon his shoulders;
and he is named
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

His authority shall grow continually,
and there shall be endless peace
for the throne of David and his kingdom.
He will establish and uphold it
with justice and with righteousness
from this time onward and forevermore.
The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Psalm 96 *Cantate Domino*

- 1 Sing to the Lord a new song; *
sing to the Lord, all the whole earth.
- 2 Sing to the Lord and bless his Name; ***
proclaim the good news of his salvation from day to day.
- 3 Declare his glory among the nations *
and his wonders among all peoples.
- 4 For great is the Lord and greatly to be praised; ***
he is more to be feared than all gods.
- 5 As for all the gods of the nations, they are but idols; *
but it is the Lord who made the heavens.
- 6 Oh, the majesty and magnificence of his presence! ***
Oh, the power and the splendor of his sanctuary!
- 7 Ascribe to the Lord, you families of the peoples; *
ascribe to the Lord honor and power.
- 8 Ascribe to the Lord the honor due his Name; ***
bring offerings and come into his courts.
- 9 Worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness; *
let the whole earth tremble before him.
- 10 Tell it out among the nations: “The Lord is King! ***
he has made the world so firm that it cannot be moved;
he will judge the peoples with equity.”

11 Let the heavens rejoice, and let the earth be glad;
let the sea thunder and all that is in it; *
let the field be joyful and all that is therein.

**12 Then shall all the trees of the wood shout for joy
before the Lord when he comes, *
when he comes to judge the earth.**

13 He will judge the world with righteousness *
and the peoples with his truth.

**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: *Titus 2:11-14*

For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all, training us to renounce impiety and worldly passions, and in the present age to live lives that are self-controlled, upright, and godly, while we wait for the blessed hope and the manifestation of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ. He it is who gave himself for us that he might redeem us from all iniquity and purify for himself a people of his own who are zealous for good deeds.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

HYMN 87

Hark! the herald angels sing

Mendelssohn

The Gospel: *Luke 2:1-14(15-20)* (Please stand.)

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

People: Glory to you, Lord Christ.

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid; for see — I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.” And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying,

“Glory to God in the highest heaven,
and on earth peace among those whom he favors!”

[When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.” So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.]

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.

CHRISTMAS EVE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Intercessor says:

In the stillness of this holy season of Christmas, let us pray to God, saying, “God of love, hear our prayer.”

Christians around the world are celebrating the birth of your son, Jesus. Unite us in faith, that we may shine with one light, and scatter all darkness. God of love,
hear our prayer.

You pierced the cosmic silence with the utterance of your Word made flesh. Inspire leaders everywhere with your message of compassion and justice. God of love,
hear our prayer.

By joining heaven and earth in your son, you affirmed the holiness of our earthly habitation. Encourage all people to bless it, and to keep it a hallowed home for all its occupants. God of love,
hear our prayer.

The Messiah is born, and promise is born anew. Renew our hope, individually and as a community, and strengthen the bonds we share with others, both within and beyond these walls. God of love,

hear our prayer.

Shepherds heard and conveyed your angel's good news of great joy. Give us grace to understand and share your gospel of love. God of love,

hear our prayer.

Multitudes of heavenly hosts proclaimed glory to you and peace on earth. Kindle in our hearts the courage and strength to work for peace and reconciliation. God of love,

hear our prayer.

Jesus came to us as a baby cradled in a borrowed bed of straw, because there was no room at the inn. Open our eyes and hearts to the needs of the homeless and the hungry.

God of love,

hear our prayer.

You sent Jesus to illuminate all who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death. Tend the embers of comfort and healing for all who suffer in body, mind, or spirit, especially Randy Anderson, Margie Clarke, Glenda Futch, Ed Futch, Debby Hickey, Marguerite Pennington, Pat Sasser, Marjorie Snyder, Betsy Toomey and John Wolfe. God of love,

hear our prayer.

By making Jesus incarnate in the world, you offered to all people the blessing of holiness. Lend your glory to those who have died, especially those we name now, either silently or aloud. At the last day gather us all in your eternal life. God of love,

hear our prayer.

Gracious God, hear the concerns, gratitude, and intercessions of your people here gathered, offered silently or aloud.

Celebrant:

God of love, the feast of Christmas reminds us that you are with us at all times and in all places; hear our prayers and send your Holy Spirit to guide us. In the name of you Son, our Savior, Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

Celebrant and People

**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 Bishop, when present, or the Priest, stands and says
 Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus
 Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in
 eternal life. **Amen.**

THE PEACE

Celebrant: The Peace of the Lord be always with you.
 People: **And also with you.**

OFFERTORY ANTHEM (5:30pm) *Love Came Down at Christmas* Arlen Clarke
 (11:00pm) *O Holy Night* Adolphe Adam

THE DOXOLOGY

Praise God, from whom all bless-ings flow; praise him all crea-tures here be -

6

low; praise him a-bove ye heaven-ly host: praise Fa-ther, Son, and Ho-ly Ghost.

13

A - men.

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.

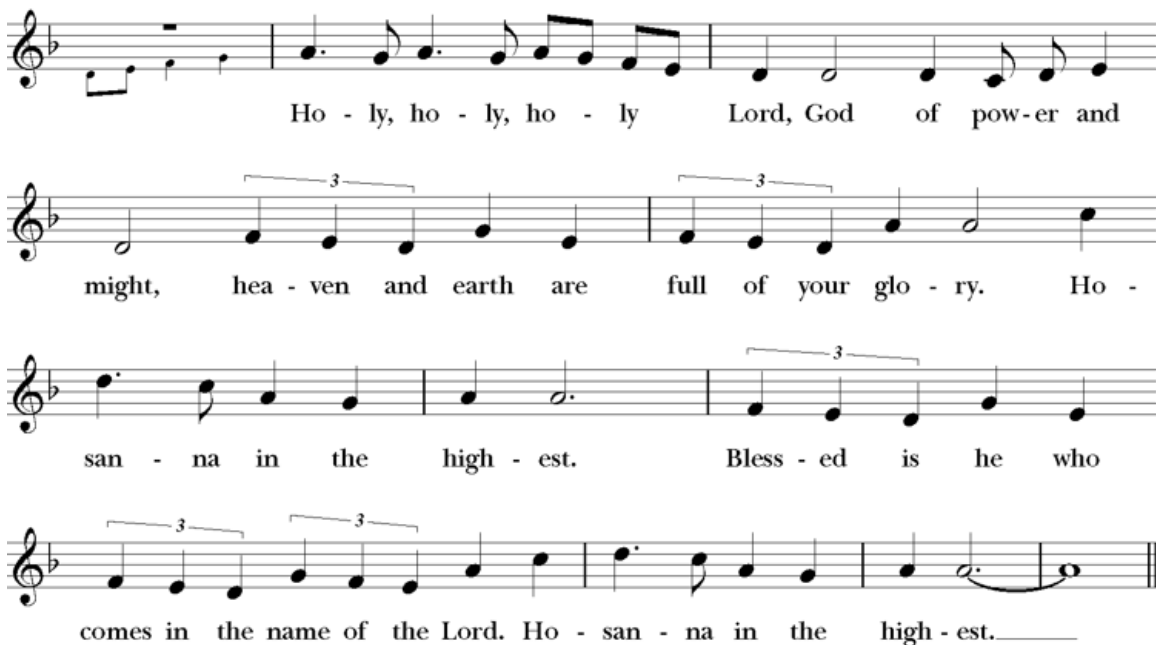
People: It is right to give him thanks and praise.

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

Sanctus S129



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:

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.

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 S155

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le -

lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. Christ our Pass - o - ver is

sac - ri - ficed for us; there - fore let us keep the feast.

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

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

COMMUNION

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 82

Of the Father's love begotten

Divinum mysterium

Hymn 101

Away in a manger

Cradle Song

Hymn 111

Silent night, holy night

Stille Nacht

Before the singing of Silent Night, the Rector will light a candle and distribute the light through the congregation. Please light your neighbor's candle by holding your candle straight and having your neighbor light his/her candle from yours. As we sing Silent Night, we remember how Christ came into the world to be our light. Please extinguish your candles after the Prayer of Thanksgiving and place them in the basket as you leave the church.

THE POST COMMUNION PRAYER

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.**

THE BLESSING

HYMN 100

Joy to the world

Antioch

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

Let us go forth in the name of Christ

People **Thanks be to God.**

VOLUNTARY

(5:30) *In dulci jubilo*
(11:00pm) *In the Bleak Midwinter*

JS Bach
arr. E. Larter

The Flowers on the Altar

The poinsettias on the altar tonight are given to the Glory of God and in thanksgiving for and in memory of friends and family by St. Stephen's parishioners.

SERVING CHRISTMAS EVE, 5:30 P.M.

Celebrant: The Rev. David Wyly

Organist: Patrick Ritsch

Live Stream Technician: James Ruggles

Ushers: Kyle and Mike Saylor

SERVING CHRISTMAS EVE, 11:00 P.M.

Celebrant: The Rev. David Wyly

Organist: Patrick Ritsch

Live Stream Technician: James Ruggles

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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

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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