

**FIRST SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS**  
**HOLY EUCHARIST: RITE TWO**  
**DECEMBER 26, 2021 ■ 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.

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**ORDER OF SERVICE**

**VOLUNTARY**

*Pastorale on Adeste Fideles*

David Schelat

**HYMN 87**

*Hark! the herald angels sing*

Mendelssohn

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 heav - en - 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.

Almighty God, you have poured upon us the new light of your incarnate Word: Grant that this light, enkindled in our hearts, may shine forth in our lives; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

## THE LESSONS (Please be seated.)

**The First Reading: *Isaiah 61:10-62:3***

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.

For Zion's sake I will not keep silent,  
and for Jerusalem's sake I will not rest,

until her vindication shines out like the dawn,  
and her salvation like a burning torch.

The nations shall see your vindication,  
and all the kings your glory;

and you shall be called by a new name  
that the mouth of the Lord will give.

You shall be a crown of beauty in the hand of the Lord,  
and a royal diadem in the hand of your God.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

**Psalm 147:13-21** *Laudate Dominum*

13 Worship the Lord, O Jerusalem; \*  
praise your God, O Zion;

**14 For he has strengthened the bars of your gates; \*  
he has blessed your children within you.**

15 He has established peace on your borders; \*  
he satisfies you with the finest wheat.

**16 He sends out his command to the earth, \*  
and his word runs very swiftly.**

17 He gives snow like wool; \*  
he scatters hoarfrost like ashes.

**18 He scatters his hail like bread crumbs; \*  
who can stand against his cold?**

19 He sends forth his word and melts them; \*  
he blows with his wind, and the waters flow.

**20 He declares his word to Jacob, \*  
his statutes and his judgments to Israel.**

21 He has not done so to any other nation; \*  
to them he has not revealed his judgments.  
Hallelujah!

**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:** *Galatians 3:23-25; 4:4-7*

Now before faith came, we were imprisoned and guarded under the law until faith would be revealed. Therefore the law was our disciplinarian until Christ came, so that we might be justified by faith. But now that faith has come, we are no longer subject to a disciplinarian.

But when the fullness of time had come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, in order to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as children. And because you are children, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, “Abba! Father!” So you are no longer a slave but a child, and if a child then also an heir, through God.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

**The Gospel:** *John 1:1-18* (Please stand.)

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

**People: Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

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. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth. (John testified to him and cried out, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me ranks ahead of me because he was before me.'") From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. No one has ever seen God. It is God the only Son, who is close to the Father's heart, who has made him known.

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 SEASON 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.**

Gracious God, we give you thanks for the abundant blessings of this life especially for those celebrating birthdays this week, Xena Markine-Morrison, Kyle Saylor, Isabelle Sumrell, John Eine, Linda Richter, Lu Snipes and Jamie Livengood, and for those celebrating anniversaries and for all other thanksgivings we name now either silently or aloud. 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 Bob Cagle, Will Fickling, Debby Hickey, Frank Joyner, Melissa Knebel, Sue McDonald, John Peacock, Suzanne Thorne, Betsy Toomey and Lloyd Turlington and those we name now, either silently or aloud. God of love,

**hear our prayer.**

By making Jesus incarnate in the world, you offered to all people the blessing of holiness. Grant 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.**

*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 your 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

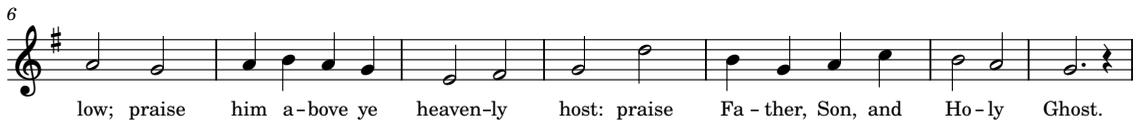
Celebrant: The Peace of the Lord be always with you.  
People: **And also with you.**

## HYMN 78

*O little town of Bethlehem*

Forest Green

## THE DOXOLOGY



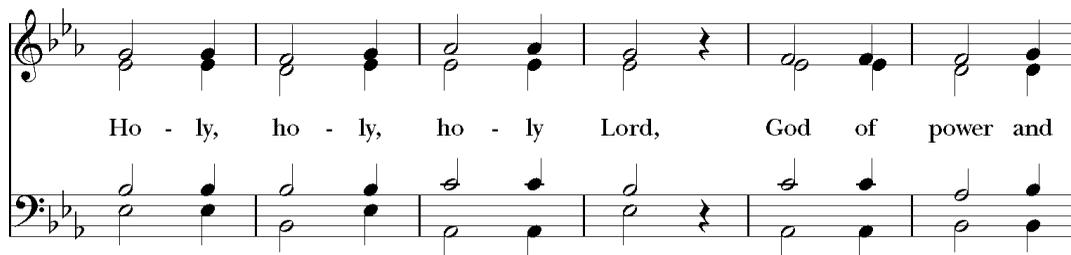
## THE HOLY COMMUNION

### The Great Thanksgiving (Eucharistic Prayer A)

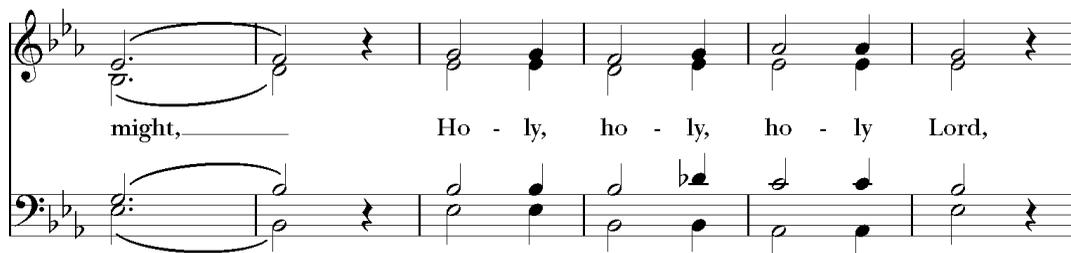
Celebrant: The Lord be with you.  
People: **And also with you.**  
Celebrant: Lift up your hearts.  
People: **We lift them to the Lord.**  
Celebrant: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.  
People: **It is right to give him thanks and praise.**

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:**

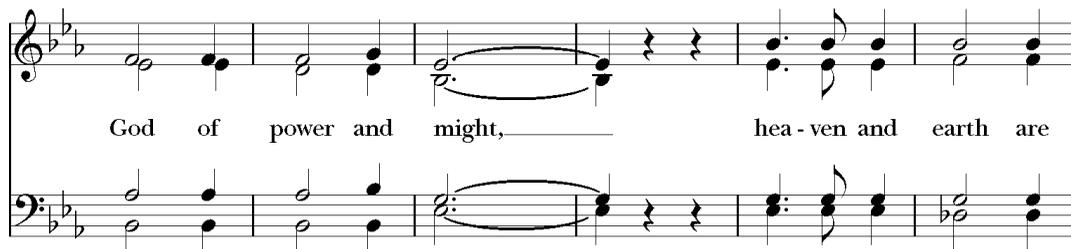
# Sanctus S130



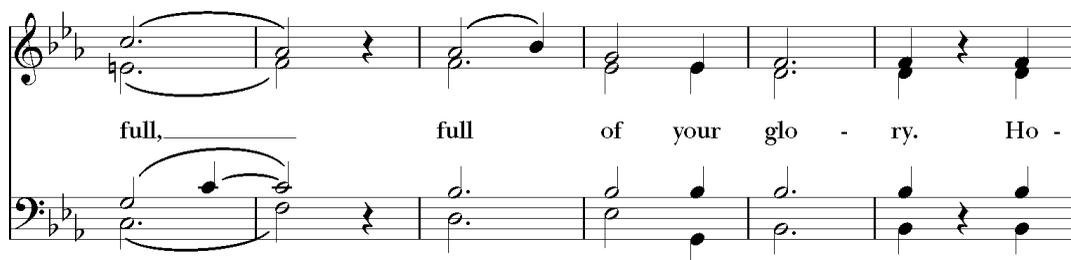
Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of power and



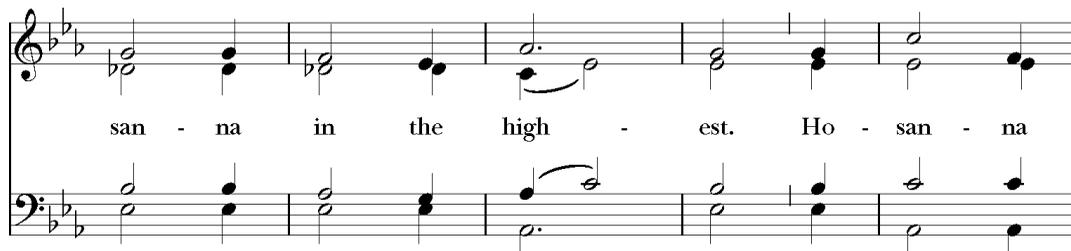
might, Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord,



God of power and might, hea - ven and earth are



full, full of your glo - ry. Ho -



san - na in the high - est. 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. 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 S167

*Antiphon*  
*Cantor; then All*



The dis - ci - ples knew the Lord Je - sus in the break - ing of the bread.

*Cantor*



1. The bread which we break, al - le - lu - ia,



is the com - mun - ion of the bo - dy of Christ. [Ant.]

*Cantor*



2. One bo - dy are we, al - le - lu - ia,



for though man - y we share one bread. [Ant.]

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

**HYMN 112**

*In the bleak midwinter*

Cranham

## THE POST COMMUNION PRAYER

Let us pray.

**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.**

## **THE BLESSING**

### **HYMN 107**

*Good christian friends, rejoice*

*In dulci jubilo*

*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**

*Carillon on Antioch*

Mary Beth Bennett

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

*You are invited to choose a Sunday and make a donation to the Flower Fund so that a Memorial or Thanksgiving event can be observed. The required donation for two arrangements is \$120; if the cost is prohibitive, maybe a joint donation can be made? Please contact Vicky Bailey at the Church Office at [admin@ststephenschurch.com](mailto:admin@ststephenschurch.com) or 919-734-4263 to send details of the Memorial/Thanksgiving.*

## **SERVING TODAY**

**Celebrant:** The Rev. David Wyly

**Organist:** Christopher Pharo

**Ushers:** Ed Futch and Russ Jones

**Live Stream Technician:** Steven Smith

**Acolyte:** Reagan Wyly

**Lectors:** Geoff Hulse and Ed Futch

### **Licensing Information for Music**

The Hymnal 1982, Service Music - #280 Canticle 20, Glory to God: Gloria in excelsis

The Hymnal 1982, Service Music - #125 The Holy Eucharist II, Holy, holy, holy Lord: Sanctus

The Hymnal 1982, Service Music - #154 The Holy Eucharist, Fraction Anthem: Christ our Passover



**St. Stephen's Episcopal Church**

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**CLERGY**

**The Rt. Rev. Robert Skirving, Bishop**

**The Rev. David Wyly**

[Rector@ststephenschurch.com](mailto:Rector@ststephenschurch.com)

**CHURCH STAFF**

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**Communications Coordinator: Jane Cunningham**

[communications@ststephenschurch.com](mailto:communications@ststephenschurch.com)

**Church Sexton: Alfie Barnes**

**VESTRY**

Senior Warden: Lori Allen; Junior Warden: Mike Saylor;

Will Bland, Tom Brown, Duffy Fleming, Kathy Harris, Mary Susan Heath,  
Mary Lee Jeffreys, Katherine MacDonald, Paul Rutter, Leon Stockton and Sallie Wahl