

**FIRST SUNDAY IN ADVENT
HOLY EUCHARIST: RITE TWO
DECEMBER 3, 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

Veni Emmanuel

Kenneth Leighton

HYMN 56

O come, O come, Emmanuel

Veni, veni, Emmanuel

(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.)

Almighty God, give us grace to cast away the works of darkness, and put on the armor of light, now in the time of this mortal life in which your Son Jesus Christ came to visit us in great humility; that in the last day, when he shall come again in his glorious majesty to judge both the living and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal; through him 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 64:1-9*

O that you would tear open the heavens and come down,
so that the mountains would quake at your presence—

as when fire kindles brushwood
and the fire causes water to boil—

to make your name known to your adversaries,
so that the nations might tremble at your presence!

When you did awesome deeds that we did not expect,
you came down, the mountains quaked at your presence.

From ages past no one has heard,
no ear has perceived,

no eye has seen any God besides you,
who works for those who wait for him.

You meet those who gladly do right,
those who remember you in your ways.

But you were angry, and we sinned;
because you hid yourself we transgressed.

We have all become like one who is unclean,
and all our righteous deeds are like a filthy cloth.

We all fade like a leaf,
and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away.

There is no one who calls on your name,
or attempts to take hold of you;

for you have hidden your face from us,
and have delivered us into the hand of our iniquity.

Yet, O Lord, you are our Father;
we are the clay, and you are our potter;
we are all the work of your hand.

Do not be exceedingly angry, O Lord,
and do not remember iniquity forever.
Now consider, we are all your people.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Psalm 80:1-7, 16-18 *Qui regis Israel*

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

1 Hear, O Shepherd of Israel, leading Joseph like a flock; *
shine forth, you that are enthroned upon the cherubim.

**2 In the presence of Ephraim, Benjamin, and Manasseh, *
stir up your strength and come to help us.**

3 Restore us, O God of hosts; *
show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.

**4 O Lord God of hosts, *
how long will you be angered
despite the prayers of your people?**

5 You have fed them with the bread of tears; *
you have given them bowls of tears to drink.

**6 You have made us the derision of our neighbors, *
and our enemies laugh us to scorn.**

7 Restore us, O God of hosts; *
show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.

**16 Let your hand be upon the man of your right hand, *
the son of man you have made so strong for yourself.**

17 And so will we never turn away from you; *
give us life, that we may call upon your Name.

**18 Restore us, O Lord God of hosts; *
show the light of your countenance, and we shall be saved.**

**Glorify 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 Corinthians 1:3-9 (Please be seated.)*

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that has been given you in Christ Jesus, for in every way you have been enriched in him, in speech and knowledge of every kind — just as the testimony of Christ has been strengthened among you — so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ. He will also strengthen you to the

end, so that you may be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. God is faithful; by him you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

HYMN 61

“Sleepers, wake!” A voice astounds us

Wachet auf

(Please stand as you are able.)

The Gospel: *Mark 13:24-37 (Please stand.)*

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

People: Glory to you, Lord Christ.

Jesus said, “In those days, after that suffering,

the sun will be darkened,

and the moon will not give its light,

and the stars will be falling from heaven,

and the powers in the heavens will be shaken.

Then they will see ‘the Son of Man coming in clouds’ with great power and glory. Then he will send out the angels, and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven.

“From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near. So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that he is near, at the very gates. Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all these things have taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

“But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. Beware, keep alert; for you do not know when the time will come. It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his slaves in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to be on the watch. Therefore, keep awake—for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or at dawn, or else he may find you asleep when he comes suddenly. And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake.”

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 — FIRST SUNDAY IN ADVENT

(Please kneel as you are able.)

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

Lord, have mercy.

For a peace that passes all understanding, for mercy, and forgiveness of our many sins, let us pray.

Lord, have mercy.

For the leadership of our Bishop Rob, our priest David, all the clergy of Goldsboro, and for her citizens, those within church doors and the many more who stand outside. For all of God's people, 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 seasonable weather and for the gift of abundant food, let us give thanks. May we remember the one true source so that we may become a channel of blessing for others. Let us pray.

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.

For those traveling this season, may they share the joy of hope with family and friends. Just as your star led the magi to Bethlehem, may the light of discernment govern the direction of our thoughts, words, and deeds during this time of Advent. Let us pray to God.

Lord, have mercy.

For those who sleep on our doorsteps and those who lack necessities, for those who suffer from mental illness and for the victims of addiction, we pray for them and all those who minister to them. Help us to see the great divide of prejudice and indifference that separates us from others and which creates division within ourselves. Let us pray.

Lord, have mercy.

For all those who have died and who are especially missed this season, we pray. Help us to remember the example of their ministry among us that we, too, may experience rebirth now and in the life to come. Let us pray for our own redemption.

Lord, have mercy.

In the communion of St. Stephen's 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.

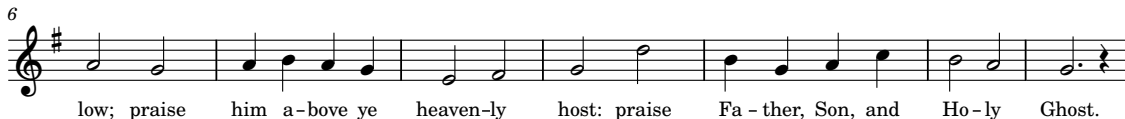
OFFERTORY

Hark! A Herald Voice is Calling

Richard Shepherd

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 64

O heavenly Word, eternal Light

O Heiland, reiss

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 57 *Lo! he comes, with clouds descending*
(Please stand as you are able.)

Helmsley

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 *Improvisation on Helmsley*

SERVING TODAY

Celebrant: The Rev. David Wyly

Organist: Patrick Ritsch

Ushers: Donnie Barnes & Katherine MacDonaldx

Eucharistic Visitors: Bob & Jan Cagle

Live Stream Technician: James Ruggles

The flowers on the altar are given in honor of the marriage of Kathryn Randolph McMillan and Walter Lee Christian Cox IV by Mr. and Mrs. Stuart Bridges McMillan.

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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