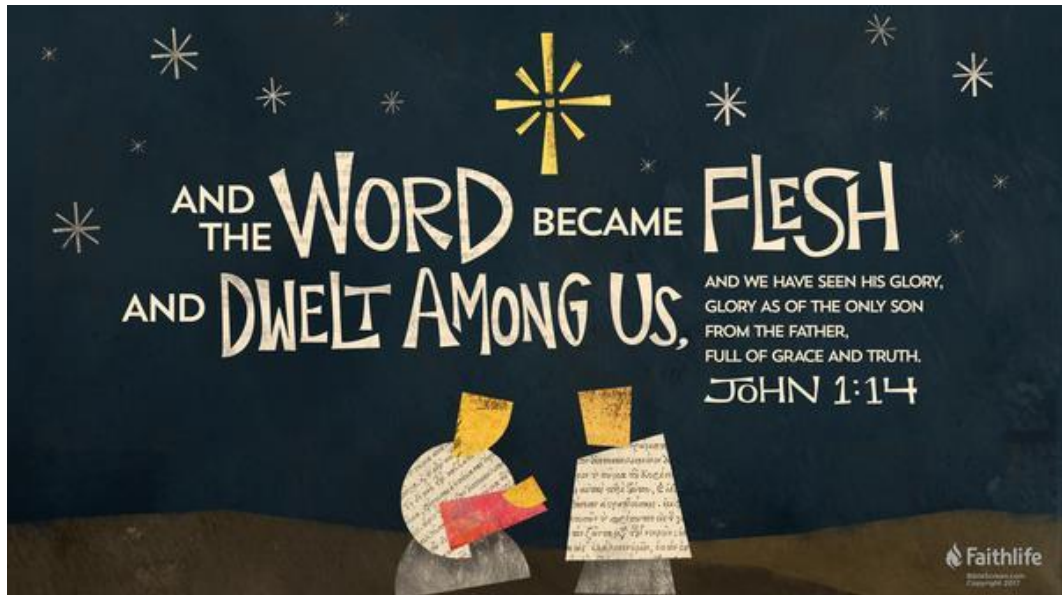




Welcome to St. Stephen's Episcopal Church

*Saint Stephen's welcomes everyone who wishes to follow Christ, worship together, grow in faith and share God's love through service to others.*

## FIRST SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS



**Christmas** 84

1 Love came down at Christ - mas, love all love - ly, love di - vine;  
 2 Wor - ship we the God - head, love in - car - nate, love di - vine;  
 3 Love shall be our to - ken; love be yours and love be mine,  
 love was born at Christ - mas: star and an - gels gave the sign.  
 wor - ship we our Je - sus, but where - with for sa - cred sign?  
 love to God and neigh - bor, love for plea and gift and sign.

Words: Christina Rossetti (1830-1894), alt.  
 Music: Gartan, melody from *Petrie Collection of Irish Melodies, Part II*, 1902;  
 harm. David Evans (1874-1948) 67. 67

Opening Hymn (*Love came down at Christmas*)

*1982 Hymnal #84*

### The Greeting

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

**People**      **And blessed be his kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.**

**Presider**    *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.*

**Glory to God in the highest,  
and peace to his people on earth.  
Lord God, heavenly King,  
almighty God and Father,  
we worship you, we give you thanks,  
we praise you for your glory.  
Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,  
Lord God, Lamb of God,  
you take away the sin of the world:  
have mercy on us;  
you are seated at the right hand of the Father:  
receive our prayer.  
For you alone are the Holy One,  
you alone are the Lord,  
you alone are the Most High,  
Jesus Christ,  
with the Holy Spirit,  
in the glory of God the Father. Amen.**

Gloria/Glory to God

BCP p. 356

### **The Collect of the Day**

**Presider**    *The Lord be with you.*

**People**      **And also with you.**

**Presider**    *Let us pray.*

**All:**            **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.**

*(please be seated for the lessons)*

## **The Word of God**

**First Reading** from the book of: **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 bor-  
ders; \*  
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 wa-  
ters flow.

20 He declares his word to Jacob, \*  
his statutes and his judgments to Is-  
rael.

21 He has not done so to any other na-  
tion; \*

to them he has not revealed his judg-  
ments.

Hallelujah!

**Second Reading** from the book of **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.**

## **Gospel Reading John 1:1-18**

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

**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.

**Reader:** The Gospel of the Lord

**People:** **Praise to you, Lord Christ**

## **Sermon**

**The Nicene Creed** *All say together*

**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.**

## **Prayers of the People**

Leader: *Let us pray to God, who came among us in the birth of Jesus:*

*Gracious God, as a star rose, and drew people from great distances to Bethlehem that they might greet the Christ-child; Draw us, your Church, and all of your people to you – that we might be the Church and the People who you call us to be. Lord, in your mercy,*

**People: Hear our prayer.**

Leader: *As you gave Mary your Holy Spirit, filling her with the delight of your Presence; Fill us with your Spirit, and renew our lives.  
Lord, in your mercy,*

**Hear our prayer.**

Leader: *As Gentiles streamed to Jesus' Light, and Kings to the brightness of his rising; Draw our nation, our President, and all in authority, to His brightness.  
Lord, in your mercy,*

**Hear our prayer.**

Leader: *As angels sang 'glorias' to you and proclaimed peace on earth, and goodwill among all peoples; Bring us your peace, and bring to an end terror and strife. Lord, in your mercy,*

**Hear our prayer.**

Leader: *As shepherds were drawn away from their flocks by night; Draw those who do not know you yet to the knowledge and love of you. Lord, in your mercy,*

**Hear our prayer.**

Leader: *As Jesus was born in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn; Be especially present with those who have no where to lay their head, those who are vulnerable, and those who are hungry. Lord, in your mercy,*

**Hear our prayer.**

Leader: *As the Holy Family gathered together in Bethlehem, and traveled together to far off lands; Bless all families, especially the families of our parish, and protect those who travel. Lord, in your mercy,*

**Hear our prayer.**

Leader: *As your son came to proclaim the forgiveness of sins, and the gift of Life Eternal; Give to the departed eternal rest and let Light perpetual shine on them. Lord, in your mercy,*

**Hear our prayer.**

Leader: *Let us pray for our own needs and those of others, (people add their own prayers either silently or aloud). Lord, in your mercy*

**Hear our prayer.**

**Celebrant:** *O Lord our God, may the Light and Hope of this night/season, and of your Son's Incarnation, reassure our hearts that you are among us, that you hear our prayer, and that you will be with us always, even to the end of the age. In the name of Jesus of Nazareth we pray. Amen.*

## **Exchange of the Peace**

Presider *May the peace of Christ be always with you*  
All **And also with you.**



*(The Ministers and People exchange socially distant signs of peace (peace sign, namaste, virtual hug)*

## **Offertory**

Presider: *Through Christ let us continually offer to God the sacrifice of praise, that is, the fruit of lips that acknowledge his Name.*

Offertory Music



# The Holy Communion

## The Great Thanksgiving

Rite II Prayer D BCP p. 372

Presider *The Lord be with you.*

People **And also with you.**

Presider *Lift up your hearts.*

People **We lift them to the Lord.**

Presider *Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.*

People **It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

*Presider*

*It is truly right to glorify you, Father, and to give you thanks; for you alone are God, living and true, dwelling in light inaccessible from before time and forever.*

***People:***

***Fountain of life and source of all goodness, you made all things and fill them with your blessing; you created them to rejoice in the splendor of your radiance.***

*Countless throngs of angels stand before you to serve you night and day; and, beholding the glory of your presence, they offer you unceasing praise. Joining with them, and giving voice to every creature under heaven, we acclaim you, and glorify your Name, as we sing (say),*

*Celebrant and People*

All:

**Holy, Holy, Holy Lord, God of power and might,  
heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

**Hosanna in the highest.**

**Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.**

**Hosanna in the highest.**

*Then the Presider continues*

*We acclaim you, holy Lord, glorious in power. Your mighty works reveal your wisdom and love.*

**You formed us in your own image, giving the whole world into our care, so that, in obedience to you, our Creator, we might rule and serve all your creatures.**

*When our disobedience took us far from you, you did not abandon us to the power of death. In your mercy you came to our help, so that in seeking you we might find you.*

**Again and again you called us into covenant with you, and through the prophets you taught us to hope for salvation.**

*Father, you loved the world so much that in the fullness of time you sent your only Son to be our Savior. Incarnate by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, he lived as one of us, yet without sin.*

**To the poor he proclaimed the good news of salvation; to prisoners, freedom; to the sorrowful, joy. To fulfill your purpose he gave himself up to death; and, rising from the grave, destroyed death, and made the whole creation new.**

*And, that we might live no longer for ourselves, but for him who died and rose for us, he sent the Holy Spirit, his own first gift for those who believe, to complete his work in the world, and to bring to fulfillment the sanctification of all.*

**When the hour had come for him to be glorified by you, his heavenly Father, having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end.**

*At supper with them he 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."*

*Father, we now celebrate this memorial of our redemption.*

*Recalling Christ's death and his descent among the dead, proclaiming his resurrection and ascension to your right hand, awaiting his coming in glory; and offering to you, from the gifts you have given us, this bread and this cup, we praise you and we bless you.*

**We praise you, we bless you, we give thanks to you, and we pray to you,  
O Lord our God.**

*The Celebrant continues*

*Lord, we pray, that in your goodness and mercy, your Holy Spirit may descend upon us (+) and upon these gifts, sanctifying them and showing them to be holy gifts for your holy people, the bread of life and the cup of salvation, the Body and Blood of your Son Jesus Christ.*

**Grant that all who share this bread and cup may become one body and one spirit, a living sacrifice in Christ, to the praise of your Name.**

*Remember, Lord, your one holy catholic and apostolic Church, redeemed by the blood of your Christ.*

**Reveal its unity, guard its faith, and preserve it in peace.**

*And grant that we may find our inheritance with the Blessed Virgin Mary, with Matriarchs, Patriarchs, Prophets, Apostles, and Martyrs, and all the saints who have found favor with you in ages past.*

**We praise you in union with them and give you glory through your Son Jesus Christ our Lord.**

*Through Christ, and with Christ, and in Christ, all honor and glory are yours, Almighty God and Father, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, for ever and ever. AMEN.*

And now as Jesus taught us, we pray:

**Lord's Prayer:**

**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

**Fraction:** *(In silence the Presider breaks the bread)*

*Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us.*

*Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us.*

*Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, grant us peace.*

**Invitation to Communion:**

Presider: The gifts of God for the people of God.

*(Everyone is invited to come forward and receive communion or a blessing).*

Communion Music

Recognition of a Birthday, Anniversary, Healing, Gratitude

**Post Communion Prayer** *The people stand as they are able.*

Presider: Let us pray:

*Presider 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.**

**Blessing**

*The Presider says*

*Be a people of peace. Let peace live in your heart and share the peace of Christ with all you meet, and the blessing of God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit be upon you and remain with you always. Amen.*

**Closing Hymn** (Silent Night, Holy Night)

the 1982 Hymnal #111

Christmas Eve - {Let's all gather outside to sing Silent Night}

Christmas 111

1 Si - lent night, ho - ly night, all is calm,  
2 Si - lent night, ho - ly night, shep - herds quake  
3 Si - lent night, ho - ly night, Son of God,

all is bright round yon vir - gin mo - ther and child.  
at the sight, glo - ries stream from hea - ven a - far,  
love's pure light ra - diant beams from thy ho - ly face,

Ho - ly in - fant, so ten - der and mild, sleep in hea - ven - ly  
heaven - ly hosts— sing al - le - lu - ia; Christ, the Sa - vior, is  
with the dawn of re - deem - ing grace, Je - sus, Lord, at thy



peace. Sleep in hea - ven - ly peace.  
 born! Christ, the Sa - vior, is born!  
 birth. Je - sus, Lord, at thy birth.

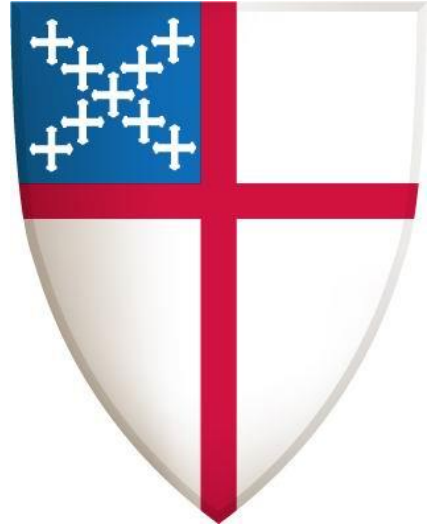
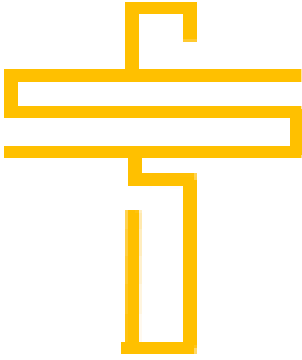
Words: Joseph Mohr (1792-1848); tr. John Freeman Young (1820-1885)  
 Music: *Stille Nacht*, melody Franz Xaver Gruber (1787-1863); harm. Carl H. Reinecke (1824-1910) Irr.

## Dismissal

Presider: *Let us go forth in the name of Christ. Alleluia, alleluia!*

People **Thanks be to God. Alleluia, Alleluia, (Alleluia!)**





# ST. STEPHEN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

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## Welcome Visitor!!!

Please leave your name and contact info below. If you'd like to speak with someone, please check here

Or you can also use the QRC here to fill this out online.



Info Update      Giving Envelopes       Mail News Letter     

Name \_\_\_\_\_ (first) \_\_\_\_\_ (Mid.) \_\_\_\_\_ (Last)

Hm: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Anv. Date \_\_\_\_\_

Adrs: \_\_\_\_\_ BrthDate \_\_\_\_\_

City, St., Zip: \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_