



FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

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

Saturday, 2 Dec 5pm & Sunday 3 Dec 10am 2023



Prelude: "Now Is Born The Divine Christ Child", Traditional melody, arr

Gary Davidson

Welcome and Announcements

Rev Allison Cornell

Greeting

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

People **And blessed be God’s kingdom, now and forever. Amen.**

Lighting of the Advent Wreath - #60 verses 1-3: Creator of the Stars of night
(Congregation sings while the candle(s) on the wreath are lighted)

1 Cre - a - tor of the stars of night,
 2 In sor - row that the an - cient curse
 3 When this old world drew on toward night,

1 your peo - ple's ev - er - last - ing light,
 2 should doom to death a u - ni - verse,
 3 you came; but not in splen - dor bright,

1 O Christ, Re - deem - er of us all,
 2 you came, O Sa - vior, to set free
 3 not as a mon - arch, but the child

1 we pray you hear us when we call.
 2 your own in glo - rious li - ber - ty.
 3 of Ma - ry, blame - less mo - ther mild.

Collect of the Day

Presider The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Presider Let us pray.

All: 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 Word of God *(please be seated for the lessons)*

First Reading : Genesis 16:7-13:

Now the messenger of the ALL-SEEING GOD found Hagar by a spring of water in the wilderness, the spring on the way to Shur. And the messenger said, "Hagar, slave girl of Sarai, from where have you come and where are you going?" And she said, "From my mistress Sarai am I fleeing." The messenger of the INSCRUTABLE GOD said to her, "Return to your mistress, and subject yourself to her."

The messenger of the WELLSPRING OF LIFE said to Hagar, "Greatly will I multiply your seed, so they cannot be counted for multitude." Then the messenger of the FOUNT OF LIFE said to her,

"Look! You are pregnant and shall give birth to a son, and you shall call him Ishmael (meaning God hears), for the FAITHFUL ONE has heard of your abuse.

He shall be a wild ass of a man, with his hand against everyone, and everyone's hand against him; and he shall live in the sight of all his kin."

So Hagar named the LIVING GOD who spoke to her: "You are El-roi"; for she said, "Have I really seen God and remained alive after seeing God?"

Reader: The word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Psalm 71:4-11

- 4 My God, rescue me, from the hand of the wicked,
from the clutch of the cruel and the ruthless.**
- 5 For you are my hope, Sovereign, WORTHY ONE,
my trust, from my youth.**
- 6 Upon you I have leaned from birth;
from my mother's belly, you cut me.
You will I praise for all time.**
- 7 As a portent have I served to many,
yet you are my strong refuge.**
- 8 My mouth is filled with your praise,
All the day, with your glory.**
- 9 Do not cast me off in the time of old age;
When my strength is spent, do not forsake me.**
- 10 For my enemies speak about me,
And those who watch my life take counsel together.**

**11 They say “pursue and seize them,
God has forsaken them,
For there is none to deliver.**

Second Reading: Philippians 2:5-11

Let the same mind be in you all that was in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be seized, but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness; then being found in human form, he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.

Therefore, God also highly exalted Jesus and gave him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every heavenly and earthly knee should bend, along with those under the earth, and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Savior, to the glory of God the Sovereign.

Reader: The word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Gospel Reading

Deacon: The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to
Luke (1:26-38):

People: Glory to you, Lord Christ

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town of Galilee, Nazareth to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. And the name of the virgin was Mary. And the angel came to Mary and said, "Rejoice, favored one! The Most High God is with you." Now, she was troubled by the angel's words and pondered what sort of greeting this was.

Then the angel said to her, "Fear not Mary, for you have found favor with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and give birth to a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Sovereign God will give him the throne of his ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his sovereignty there will be no end."

Then Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I have not known a man intimately?" The angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit, She will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the one born will be holy. He will be called Son of God.

And now, Elizabeth your kinswoman has even conceived a son in her old

age, and this is the sixth month for she who was called barren. For nothing will be impossible with God." Then Mary said, "Here am I, the woman-slave of God; let it be with me according to your word." Then the angel left her.

Deacon: 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: Show us your mercy, O Lord;

All: And grant us your salvation.

Leader: Clothe your ministers with righteousness;

All: Let your people sing with joy.

Leader: Give peace, O Lord, in all the world

All: For only in you can we live in safety.

Leader: Lord keep this nation under your care;

All: And guide us in the way of justice and truth

Leader: Let your way be known upon Earth;

All: Your saving health among all nations.

Leader: Let not the needy, O Lord, be forgotten;

All: Nor the hope of the poor be taken away.

Leader: Create in us clean hearts, O God;

All: And sustain us with your Holy Spirit.

*Leader: In the Anglican cycle of prayer we pray for *The Church of North India (United).**

*In the Diocesan cycle of prayer we pray for *Imago Dei Middle School, in Tucson.**

We acknowledge and pay respect to the first peoples of this land especially the Apache and Tohono O'odham who call this area their home.

Rejoicing in the fellowship of all your saints,

All: We commend these we pray for, ourselves, and the whole creation to your unfailing love. Amen.

Confession of Sin

Deacon: Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

(The people stand, sit, or kneel. A short pause may be kept)

All: 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.

Absolution

Presider: 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.

Exchange of the Peace

Presider May the peace of Christ be always with you

All **And also with you.**

The Ministers and People exchange signs of peace (peace sign, hugs, handshakes, fist bumps...)

Offertory

The Presider: Ascribe to the Lord the honor due his Name, bring offerings and come into his courts.

Offertory Music *“Hark a thrilling voice is sounding”* #59

Holy Communion

The Great Thanksgiving

Rite II Prayer B 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

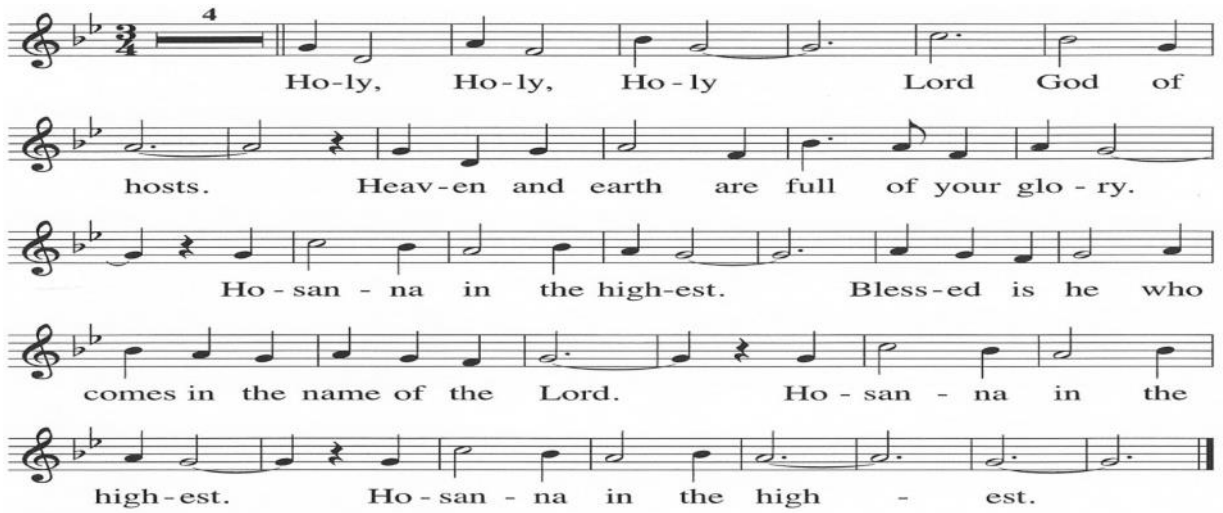
It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.

Because you gave Jesus Christ, your only Son, to be born for us; who by the mighty power of the Holy Spirit, became human of the Virgin Mary his mother; that that we might be delivered from the bondage of sin, and receive power to become your children.

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:

All:

Sanctus from Mass of Creation



4

Ho-ly, Ho-ly, Ho-ly Lord God of
hosts. Heav-en 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. Ho-san-na in the high-est.

The people stand, sit, or kneel.

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,

**We remember his death,
We proclaim his resurrection,
We await his coming in glory;**

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 forever. **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 *(In silence the Presider breaks the bread)*

Fraction Anthem:

Lamb of God S-163

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.

Invitation to Communion:

Presider: The gifts of God for the people of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you and feed on him in your hearts by faith and with thanksgiving.

(In this church, everyone is welcome to receive the bread and wine of Holy Communion. The bread is gluten free and it is real wine. If you prefer to dip/intinct your bread into the wine, please come to the left altar rail. If you prefer to sip the wine from the cup, please come to the right altar rail. If you prefer to receive a blessing instead of the bread and wine, come to either rail and cross your arms over your chest and the priest will bless you).

Communion Music *“I want to walk as a child of the light”* **#490**

Birthday, Anniversary, Healing, Travel and Gratitude acknowledgement

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

Presider: Let us pray:
Presider and People

**Almighty and ever-living 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.**

Blessing

Presider: May the simplicity, stillness, and serenity of this Advent season bring peace and fulfillment to your hearts and homes; and the blessing of God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit be upon you and remain with you now and always.
Amen.

The Dismissal:

Deacon: People of St. Stephen's, what does God call us to do?

People: We are called to love and serve.

Deacon: Go in peace to love and serve the Lord! Alleluia, alleluia!

People: Thanks be to God. Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia!

Closing Song/Hymn *“Prepare the way o Zion”*

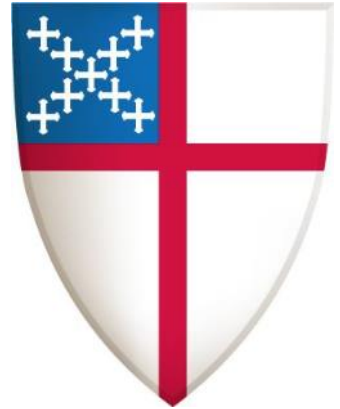
#65

Postlude : "Joy", based on Hark The Herald Angels Sing by Mendelssohn,
arr Doreen J Oberg

Notice: All church activities may be internet streamed, video recorded, and photographed for church uses. Entry on to the church campus or in to any church building constitutes consent to be streamed, videotaped, or photographed for church purposes.



2750 Cardinal Dr. Sierra Vista, AZ 85635
<https://ststephensaz.org>
520-458-4432



ST. STEPHEN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Rector: Allison Cornell
Off. Phone: 520-458-4432
Mobile: 562-743-3784

RevAllison@ststephensaz.org

Parish Administrator

Mark Sowards
Off. Phone 520-458-4432
Mobile: 408-892-1062
mark.sowards@ststephensaz.org
Office Fax: 520-458-8237

Deacon

Dorothy Gutwein
Hm: 520-515-9183
dottie85635@gmail.com

Church Accompanist :

Doreen Oberg
doreenoberg@hotmail.com

Vestry Staff

Senior Warden:
Jeff Speer
jeffrey5454speer@gmail

Cell:(520) 678-5688

Please leave voicemail message

Junior warden:

Pete Criscuolo
petesacct2014@gmail.com
Cell: 520-234-7687

Treasurer:

Anne Roth
Cell:303/917-8151
avd.roth@comcast.net

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: _____, _____, _____