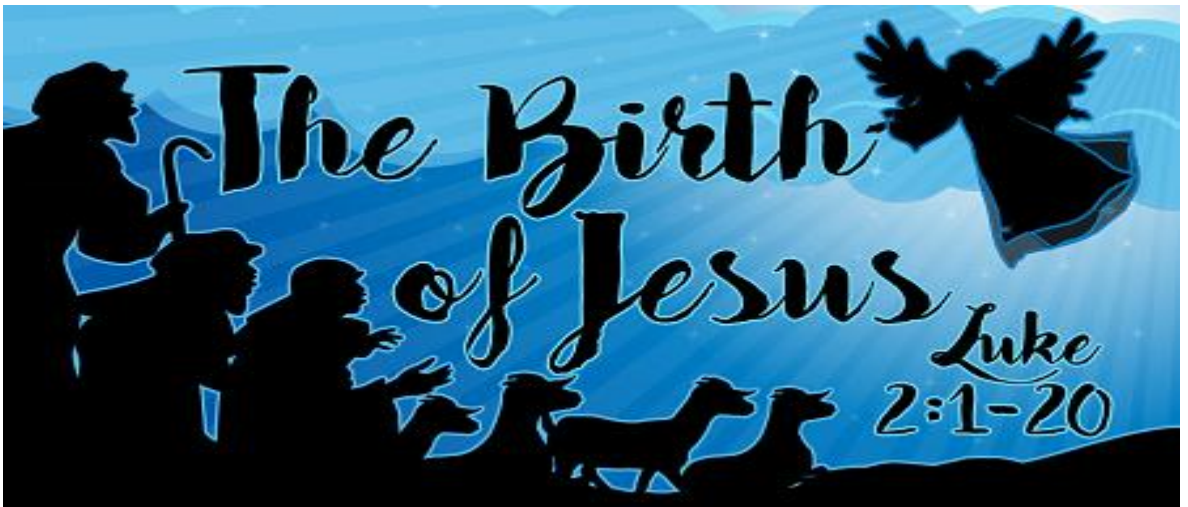


Welcome to St. Stephen's Episcopal Church



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

Sunday 24 December 5pm & Monday 25 December 10 am 2023



Prelude Music:

Christmas Eve - "Silent Night", Franz Gruber, arr Doreen J Oberg  
& "Oh Holy Night", French traditional, arr Chip Davis

Christmas Day - "I Saw Three Ships", English Traditional arr Doreen J Oberg

**Welcome and Announcements -**

**The Rev. Allison Cornell**

## **Opening Hymns and lighting of the wreath:**

Christmas Eve - Christmas Carol Medley *See Insert for Carols and verses*

Christmas Day - #100 Joy to the world

## **The Greeting**

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

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

Presider “Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son and shall name him Immanuel.”

Gloria: (from Isaiah 9): All

**The people who walk in spiritual darkness**

**Will see a great Light;**

**Those who live in a dark land,**

**The Light will shine on them.**

**You, O God, will increase the nation,**

**You will multiply their joy;**

**They will rejoice before You.**

**For to us a Child shall be born, to us a Son shall be given;**

**And the government shall be upon His shoulder,**

**And His name shall be called Wonderful Counselor,**

**Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.**

## **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 given your only-begotten Son to take our nature upon him, and to be born this day of your chosen one, Mary: Grant that we, who have been born again and made your children by adoption and grace, may daily be renewed by your Holy Spirit; through our Lord Jesus Christ, to whom with you and the same Spirit be honor and glory, now and for ever. Amen.**

**The Lessons from Scripture** *(please be seated for the lessons)*

**First Reading:** from the book of Isaiah (26:16-19):

**HOLY ONE, in distress they sought you, they pressed out a whispered prayer when your chastening was on them. Just as an expectant mother writhes-in-labor and cries out in her pangs when her birthing time is near; thus were we because of you, Holy One.**

**We too were expectant, we writhed-in-labor, but it was as though we birthed only wind. No victories have we won on earth, neither do the inhabitants of the world fall.**

**Your dead shall live; their corpses shall rise. Awake and sing for joy you who dwell in the dust! For your dew is a radiant dew, and the earth shall release those long dead.**

**Reader:** The word of the Lord.

**People:** Thanks be to God.

### **The Psalm**

#### **Psalm 68: 4-11**

**4 Sing to God, sing praises to her Name; exalt her who rides upon the clouds;**

**HOLY is her Name, rejoice before her!**

**5 Mother of orphans and defender of widows,  
is God in her holy habitation!**

**6 God settles the solitary in a home bringing prisoners into prosperity;  
while the rebellious shall live in a wasteland.**

**7 God, when you marched before your people,  
when you moved out through the wilderness,**

**8 the earth shook, even the heavens poured down,  
at the presence of God, the One of Sinai,  
at the presence of God, the God of Israel.**

**9 Rain in abundance, God, you showered abroad;  
when your heritage grew weary you prepared rest.**

**10 Your creatures found a dwelling in her;  
God, you provided in your goodness for the oppressed.**

**11 The AUTHOR OF LIFE gave the word;  
the women who proclaim the good news are a great army.**

**Second Reading:** from the first Epistle to the Thessalonians (4: 13-18):

Now we do not want you to be ignorant, sisters and brothers, about those who have fallen asleep, so that you might not grieve as those do who have no hope. For since we believe that Jesus died and rose, they who sleep, God will, by Jesus, bring with him. For this we declare to you by the word of the -Most High God, that we who are alive, who remain until the coming of Jesus, will not precede those who have fallen asleep. For Jesus himself, with a command, in the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet of God, will descend from heaven, and the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive who are left, together with them, will be caught up in the clouds to meet Jesus in the air; and so we will be with Jesus forever. Therefore comfort one another with these words.

Reader: The word of the Lord.      **People: Thanks be to God.**

(Xmas Eve) Sequence Hymn —

#101 Away in a manger

## **Gospel Reading Luke (2:1-20)**

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

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

Now it happened in those days that a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered (for taxation). This was the first registration and occurred while Quirinius was governor of Syria. So all went to be registered; each to their own towns. Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth in to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, for he was from the house and heritage of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was betrothed and who was pregnant. So it was, that, while they were there, the time came for her to birth her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and swaddled him, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

Shepherds were in that region there staying in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Most High God came upon them, and the glory of the Living God shone around them, and they were greatly terrified. But the angel said to them, "Fear not. Look! For I proclaim to you good news of great joy for all the people: For there is born to you this day a Savior who is the Messiah, the Sovereign God, in the city of David. This will be a sign for you: you will find a baby swaddled and lying in a manger." And immediately there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly array,

praising God and saying,

"Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among peoples whom God favors ! "

And it happened when the angels had departed from them into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has come to be, which the Sovereign God has made known to us." So they came hurrying and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in the manger.

Now seeing this, they made known what had been spoken to them about this child. And all who heard marveled at what was spoken by the shepherds to them. But Mary preserved all these words and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen; it was just as it had been told them.

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: *We wait in the darkness, expectantly, longingly, anxiously, thoughtfully.*

**People: The darkness is our friend. In the darkness of the womb, we have all been nurtured and protected. In the darkness of the womb, the Christ-child was made ready for the journey into the light.**

Leader: *It is only in darkness that we can see the splendor of the universe—the blanket of stars, the solitary glowing of distant planets and suns.*

**People: It was the darkness that allowed the magi to find the star that guided them to where the Christ-child lay.**

Leader: *In the darkness of the night, desert people find relief from the cruel and relentless heat of the sun.*

**People: In the blessed darkness, Mary and Joseph were able to flee with the infant Jesus to safety in Egypt.**

Leader: *In the darkness of sleep, we are soothed and restored, healed and renewed.*

**People; In the darkness of sleep, dreams rise up. God spoke to Jacob and Joseph through dreams. God is speaking still.**

Leader: *In the solitude of darkness, we sometimes remember those who need God's presence in a special way: The sick, the unemployed, the bereaved, the persecuted, the homeless,*

**People: those who are demoralized and discouraged, those whose fear has turned to cynicism, those whose vulnerability has become bitterness.**

Leader: *Sometimes in the darkness we remember those who are near to our hearts: colleagues, partners, parents, children, neighbors, and friends.*

**People: We thank God for their presence and ask God to bless and protect them in all that they do — at home, at school, as they travel, at work, and at play.**

Leader: *Sometimes in the solitude of darkness, our fears and concerns, our hopes and our visions rise to the surface. We come face to face with ourselves and the road that lies ahead of us. And in that same darkness, we find companionship for the journey.*

**People:** In that same darkness, we sometimes allow ourselves to wonder and worry whether the human race is going to make it at all.

**Presider:** *We know you are with us, O God, yet we still await your second coming. In the darkness that contains both our bleakness and our expectancy, we watch for a sign of your hope and your light. We give you thanks for Jesus who is our light and our 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 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:**

*Xmas Eve* — #111 *Silent Night, Holy Night (with handheld candles)*

*Xmas Day* — #115 *What Child is This*



## The Holy Communion

The Great Thanksgiving

Rite II Prayer B BCP p. 367

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, was made perfect Man of the flesh of the Virgin Mary his mother, so 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 - Hymnal 1982 #S-125*

***Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might  
Heaven and earth are full of your glory  
Hosana in the highest, Hosana in the highest  
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord  
Hosana in the highest, Hosana in the highest***

*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 our savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say:

**The 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.**

## **Fraction: The Breaking of the Bread**

*(In silence the Presider breaks the bread)*

### **Fraction Anthem**

**H1982 # S-155**

**Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!  
Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;  
Therefore, let us keep the feast  
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!**

### **Invitation to Communion:**

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

*(In this church, everyone is welcome to receive the bread and wine of Holy Communion.*

*Gluten free bread and real wine are used. If you prefer to dip/intinct your bread into the wine, please come to the left altar rail. If you prefer to take a sip of wine from the cup, please come to the right altar rail. If you prefer to receive a priest blessing instead of the bread and wine, come to either rail and cross your arms over your chest. .*

Communion Music - *wait for all to receive communion and then sing:*

*Christmas Eve - Hymnal 1982 #84 Love came down at Christmas*

*Christmas Day - G#377 Infant holy , Infant lowly*

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

Presider: Let us pray: *Presider and People*

**Lord Jesus Christ, by your incarnation you united things earthly and things heavenly. Fill us with the sweetness of inward peace and goodwill, that we may join the heavenly host in singing praises to your glory; for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

# The Blessing

*The Presider says*

May you be filled with the wonder of Mary, the obedience of Joseph, the joy of the angels, the eagerness of the shepherds, the determination of the magi, and the peace of the Christ child. And may Almighty God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

## Closing Hymn

*Christmas Eve Dec 24th – Hymnal 1982 #89 It came upon a midnight clear  
(with candlelight and church lights dimmed)*

*Christmas Day Dec 25th – Hymnal 1982 #83 O Come all Ye Faithful*

## Dismissal

Deacon: *Let us go forth in the peace and spirit of Christ. Alleluia, alleluia!*

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

Postlude:

Christmas Eve - *“Oh Little Town of Bethlehem”*, Traditional arr Jim Brickman

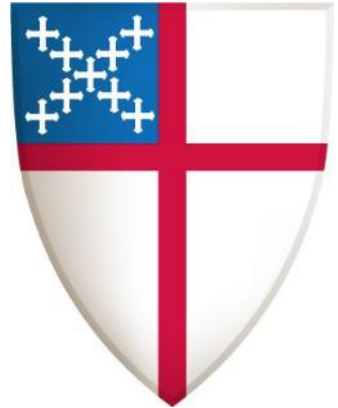
Christmas Day - *“The Gift”*, by Jim Brickman



*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.*



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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: \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_