



New Year's Eve Worship 2023

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 December 30 5pm & Sunday Dec 31 10am 2023



Prelude Music: "Morning Prayer", by Peter L. Tchaikovsky

Welcome and Announcements -

The Rev. Allison Cornell

Opening Hymn: “*O God whom neither time nor space*”

#251

Invocation

Presider: Light and peace are found in Jesus Christ our Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God**

Presider Let us pray (those gathered pray together)

All **Most gracious and merciful God, you have reconciled us to yourself through Jesus Christ your Son, and called us to new life in him: Grant that we, who begin this year in his Name, may complete it to his honor and glory; who lives and reigns with you, now and forever. Amen**

Leader Listen and hear:

People **Be still and know.**

The Readings from Scripture *(Please be seated)*

First Reading: The Book of Isaiah 43: 18-21

Do not remember the former things or consider the things of old. I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth; do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert. The wild animals will honor me, the jackals and the ostriches, for I give water in the wilderness, rivers in the desert, to give drink to my chosen people, the people whom I formed for myself so that they might declare my praise.

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

The Psalm

Psalm 33: 10-15, 18, 20-22

**10 The Lord brings the counsel of the nations to nothing;
he frustrates the plans of the peoples.**

**11 The counsel of the Lord stands forever,
the thoughts of his heart to all generations.**

**12 Happy is the nation whose God is the Lord,
the people whom he has chosen as his heritage.**

**13 The Lord looks down from heaven;
he sees all humankind.**

**14 From where he sits enthroned he watches
all the inhabitants of the earth—**

**15 he who fashions the hearts of them all
and observes all their deeds.**

**18 Truly the eye of the Lord is on those who fear him,
on those who hope in his steadfast love,**

**20 Our soul waits for the Lord;
he is our help and shield.**

**21 Our heart is glad in him
because we trust in his holy name.**

**22 Let your steadfast love, O Lord, be upon us,
even as we hope in you.**

Second Reading: from Paul's letter to the Philippians 4: 6-8:

Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable-if anything is excellent or praiseworthy-think about such things.

Reader: The Word of the Lord People: Thanks be to God

The Gospel Lesson:

Deacon: The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, according to **Luke 6:27-31**

People: Glory to you, Lord Christ

But to you who are listening I say: Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who mistreat you. If someone slaps you on one cheek, turn to them the other also. If someone takes your coat, do not withhold your shirt from them. Give to everyone who asks you, and if anyone takes what belongs to you, do not demand it back. Do to others as you would have them do to you.

Deacon: The Gospel of the Lord

People: Praise to you, Lord Christ

Sermon/ Meditation

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 “At The End Of The Year” -- by John O’Donohue

Leader: As this year draws to its end, we give thanks for the gifts it brought

People: And how they became inlaid within, where neither time nor tide can touch them.

Leader: The days when the veil lifted, and the soul could see delight;

People: When a quiver caressed the heart in the sheer exuberance of being here.

Leader: Surprises that came awake in forgotten corners of old fields

People: Where expectation seemed to have been quenched.

Leader: The slow, brooding times when all was awkward

People: And the wave in the mind pierced every sore with salt.

Leader: The darkened days that stopped the confidence of the dawn.

People: Days when beloved faces shone brighter with light from beyond themselves;

Leader: And from the granite of some secret sorrow

People: A stream of buried tears loosened.

Leader: We bless this year for all we learned, for all we loved and lost

People: And for the quiet way it brought us nearer to our invisible destination.

(c) John O’Donohue from To Bless The Space Between

Exchange of the Peace

Presider 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 Song: “Signs of ending all around us“

WLP#721

Signs of endings all around us

721



1. Signs of end-ings all a - round us— dark-ness, death, and win - ter days—
2. Can it be that from our end - ings, new be - gin - nings you cre - ate?
3. Speak, O God, your Word a - mong us. Bar - ren lives your pres - ence fill.



shroud our lives in fear and sad - ness, numb - ing mouths that long to praise.
Life from death, and from our rend - ings, realms of whole - ness gen - er - ate?
Swell our hearts with songs of glad - ness, ter - rors calm fore - bod - ings still.



Come, O Christ, and dwell a - mong us! Hear our cries, come set us free.
Take our fears, then, Lord, and turn them in - to hopes for life a - new:
Let your prom - ised realm of jus - tice blos - som now through - out the earth;



Give us hope and faith and glad - ness. Show us what there yet can be.
Fad - ing light and dy - ing sea - son sing their Glo - ri - as to you.
your do - min - ion bring now near us; we a - wait the sav - ing birth.

Holy Communion

The Great Thanksgiving

(New Zealand BCP, pp 467-473, revised)

Presider The Spirit of God be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Presider Lift your hearts to heaven.

People **where God's glory shines.**

Presider Let us give thanks to God.

People **It is right to offer thanks and praise.**

Presider: Through Jesus Christ, our Redeemer, the teacher and perfecter of our faith, the healer of our hearts, who is with us always, one of us, yet from the heart of God.

For with your whole created universe, we praise you for your unfailing gift of life. We thank you that you made us in your image and stay with us even when we turn from you to follow our own wills and desires that are counter to your will and ways.

All: God's love is shown to us: while we are often trapped in our wrongs, Christ shows us mercy, grace, and love.

In that love, dear God, you came among us in Jesus Christ. In Christ you fully share our life. Light of the world, joy of every heart, Jesus accepted our estranged and broken human condition and through your grace and spirit, gave us back our life: renewed, whole, healed - your gift!

In your mercy you are now our God. Through Christ you gather us, new-born in your Spirit, a people after your own heart. We entrust ourselves to you, for you alone seek justice and peace for all people.

See, now is the acceptable time, now is the day of salvation.

Therefore, with saints and martyrs, apostles and prophets, with all your Holy Ones in Heaven and on Earth, joyfully we praise you and say/sing:

All:

Sanctus - Hymnal 1982 #S-

***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.

All glory to you, Giver of life, abundant and full for all creation. Accept our praises, Holy One, for Jesus Christ, our teacher and guide, our best friend and constant companion, for the life of the world.

We remember Jesus who in the night that he was betrayed, took bread, and when he had given thanks, broke it, gave it to his followers, and said:

Take, eat, this is my body which is given for you; do this to remember me.

After supper he took the cup; 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, to forgive sins. Do this as often as you drink it to remember me.

Therefore, God of all creation, in our reflections upon our past year and our anticipation of your promises in the coming year: We lift up the cup of promise and blessing and call upon your name. Here and now, with this bread and fruit of the vine, we celebrate your great acts of liberation, ever present and eternal in Jesus Christ, who was and is and is to come.

People: Amen! Come Lord Jesus.

May Christ in majesty be manifested in our new year and our daily lives, our access to you, Holy One of Blessing and source of all newness and wholeness in life. In Christ we offer ourselves to you to follow your will.

People: Empower our celebration with your Holy Spirit (+), feed us with your life, fire us with your love, confront us with your justice, and make us one in the body of Christ (+) with all who share your gifts of love.

Through Christ, in the power of the Holy Spirit, with all who stand before you in earth and heaven, we worship you, God of all creation. **Amen.**

Let us pray with confidence in the words Jesus gave us:

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.

People: **May we who share these gifts be found in Christ and Christ in us.**

(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 Hymn - “Lord of all hopefulness “

#482

Post Communion Prayer: Prayer of St. Francis:

Presider Let us pray.

Lord, make us a channel of your peace that where there is hatred,

People I may bring love –

Presider: That where there is wrong,

People I may bring the spirit of forgiveness –

Presider: That where there is discord,

People I may bring harmony –

Presider: That where there is error,

People I may bring truth –

Presider: That where there is doubt,

People I may bring faith –

Presider: That where there is despair,

People I may bring hope –

Presider: That where there are shadows,

People I may bring light –

Presider: That where there is sadness,

People I may bring joy.

Presider: Lord, may I seek rather to comfort,

People than to be comforted –

Presider: To understand,

People than to be understood –

Presider: To love,

People than to be loved.

Presider: For it is by self-forgetting

People that one finds peace.

Presider: It is by forgiving

People that one is forgiven.

Presider: It is by dying

People that one awakens to Eternal Life. Amen.

Presider: And May Almighty God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit bless you and keep you now, in the coming year, and forever. **Amen.**

Closing Song: *“O praise ye the Lord”*

#432

The Dismissal:

Deacon: Let us go into the next year, 2024, having put 2023 to rest with the values and lessons that the past year has taught us written on our hearts and minds to guide us in the new year. Alleluia, alleluia!

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

Postlude: *“Sing Now for the New Year!”*, By Edward Broughton

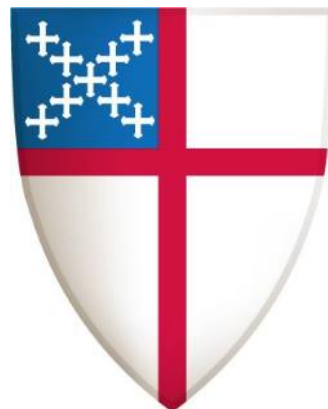


Happy New Year

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