



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.

CHRISTMAS EVE

Tuesday, 24 Dec 2024, 5pm



Prelude: *"Thou Didst Leave Thy Throne"*, Tune Margaret by Timothy Matthews,
arr David Paxton

Welcome and Announcements

Rev. Allison Cornell

Opening Hymns and lighting of the wreath:

Christmas Carol Medley

<p>1) #83 O Come All Ye Faithful O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant! O come ye, o come ye to Bethlehem Come and behold Him Born the King of Angels! O come, let us adore Him. O come, let us adore Him; O come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord</p>	<p>2) #87 Hark the Herald Angels Sing Hark! the herald angels sing glory to the new-born King! Peace on earth and mercy mild God and sinners reconciled! Joyful, all ye nations, rise! Join the triumph of the skies! With the angelic host proclaim Christ is born in Bethlehem! Hark! the herald angels sing Glory to the new-born King!</p>
<p>3) #79 O Little Town of Bethlehem O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie! Above thy deep and dreamless sleep, the silent stars go by; Yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting light The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight</p>	<p>4) #109 The First Noel The First Noel, the Angels did say was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay In fields where they lay keeping their sheep on a cold winter's night that was so deep Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel Born is the King of Israel!</p>
<p>5) #93 Angels From The Realms Of Glory Angels from the realms of glory, wing your flight o'er all the earth Ye who sang creation's story now proclaim Messiah's birth Come and worship, come and worship, Worship Christ the newborn king</p>	<p>#115 What Child Is This What Child is this who laid to rest on Mary's lap is sleeping? Whom Angels greet with anthems sweet, while shepherds watch are keeping? This, this is Christ the King, whom shepherds guard and Angels sing! Haste, haste, to bring Him laud, the Babe, the Son of Mary.</p>

**7) # 105 God Rest Ye Merry Gentle-
men**

God rest ye merry gentlemen,
let nothing you dismay
Remember Christ our Savior
Was born on Christmas Day
To save us all from Satan's pow'r
When we were gone astray

**8) #96 Angels We Have Heard On
High**

Angels we have heard on high,
singing sweetly through the night,
And the mountains in reply
echoing their brave delight:
Gloooooo-ri-a in excelsis deo,
Gloooooo-ri-a in excelsis deo.

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.”

The Collect of the Day

Presider *The Lord be with you.*

People And also with you.

Presider *Let us pray.*

All: O God, you have caused this holy night to shine with the brightness of the true Light: Grant that we, who have known the mystery of that Light on earth, may also enjoy him perfectly in heaven; where with you and the Holy Spirit he lives and reigns, one God, in glory everlasting. Amen.

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

First Reading: A reading from the book of Isaiah (9:2-4,6-7):

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness -- on them light has shined. You have multiplied the nation, you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as people exult when dividing plunder. For the yoke of their burden, and the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian.

For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace for

the throne of David and his kingdom. He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time onward and forevermore. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

Reader: The word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Psalm 96: 1-9

- 1 Sing to the Lord a new song; *
sing to the Lord, all the whole earth.**
- 2 Sing to the Lord and bless his Name; *
proclaim the good news of his salvation from day to day.**
- 3 Declare his glory among the nations *
and his wonders among all peoples.**
- 4 For great is the Lord and greatly to be praised; *
he is more to be feared than all gods.**
- 5 As for all the gods of the nations, they are but idols; *
but it is the Lord who made the heavens.**
- 6 Oh, the majesty and magnificence of his presence! *
Oh, the power and the splendor of his sanctuary!**
- 7 Ascribe to the Lord, you families of the peoples; *
ascribe to the Lord honor and power.**
- 8 Ascribe to the Lord the honor due his Name; *
bring offerings and come into his courts.**
- 9 Worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness; *
let the whole earth tremble before him.**

Second Reading: from the first Epistle to Titus (2:11-14):

For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all, training us to renounce impiety and worldly passions, and in the present age to live lives that are self-controlled, upright, and godly, while we wait for the blessed hope and the manifestation of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ. He it is who gave himself for us that he might redeem us from all iniquity and purify for himself a people of his own who are zealous for good deeds.

Reader: The word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

(Xmas Eve) Sequence Hymn — It Came Upon the Midnight Clear **G #379**

Gospel Reading Luke (2:1-20) KJV

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

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

And it came to pass in those days, that there went out a decree from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be taxed (And this taxing was first made when Cyrenius was governor of Syria.) And all went to be taxed, every one into his own city.

And Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judaea, unto the city of David, which is called Bethlehem; (because he was of the house and lineage of David). To be taxed with Mary, his espoused wife, being great with child.

And so it was, that, while they were there, the days were accomplished that she should be delivered. And she brought forth her firstborn son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn.

And there were in the same country shepherds, abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid.

And the angel said unto them, "Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, which is Christ, the Lord."

And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger.

And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men."

As the angels were gone away from them into heaven, the shepherds said one to another, "Let us now go even unto Bethlehem, and see this thing which is come to pass, which the Lord hath made known unto us."

And they came with haste, and found Mary, and Joseph, and the babe lying in a manger. And when they had seen it, they made known abroad the saying which was told them concerning this child. And all they that heard it wondered at those things which were told them by the shepherds.

But Mary kept all these things, and pondered them in her heart.

And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things that they had heard and seen, as it was told unto 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: *Occasionally, 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 humanity can be all that you, Christ, desire us to be.

Presider: *We know you are with us, O God, and we 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 signs of peace.)

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:

#101 Away in a Manger

Doxology - *(Peoples' offerings are brought to the altar)*

Praise God from whom all blessings flow

Praise him all creatures here below

Praise him, above, ye heavenly host

Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost

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-130

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might (x2)

Heaven and earth are full, 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:

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

Lamb of God by Matt Maher

Lead Singer:

Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Prince of Peace, Emmanuel,
Morning Star, King of Kings, And Lord of Lords:

Lead Singer (Chorus echoing)

1. Lamb of God (Lamb of God)

You Take Away (You Take Away)

The Sins of All (The Sins of All)

The World (The World)

Mi-se-re-re no-bis (Mi-se-re-re no-bis)

2. Bread of Life (Bread of Life)

You Take away (You Take away)

The sins of all (The sins of all)

The world (The world)

Mi-se-re-re no-bis (Mi-se-re-re no-bis)

3. Agnus Dei (Agnus dei)

You take away (You take away)

The sins of all (The sins of all)

The world (The world)

Do-na No-bis Pa-chem (Do-na No-bis

Pa-chem)

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, for the lights to be dimmed and then sing:

Silent Night, Holy Night #111

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

Presider: Let us pray:

All: 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 :

Presider: 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 *Joy to the World* #100



Dismissal

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

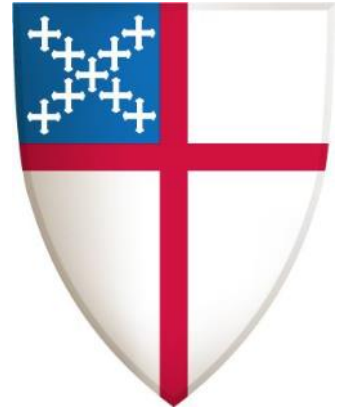
People: **Thanks be to God. Alleluia, Alleluia, (Alleluia!)**

Postlude: Reflections on "Greensleeves" English melody arr Steven Scott

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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.com

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.



<input type="checkbox"/> Info Update	Giving Envelopes	<input type="checkbox"/> Mail News Letter	<input type="checkbox"/>
Name _____ (first) _____ (Mid.) _____ (Last)			
Hm: _____ Cell _____			
Email: _____		Anv. Date _____	
Adrs: _____		BrthDate _____	
City, St., Zip: _____, _____, _____			