

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.

MORNING PRAYER—THE PRESENTATION OF OUR LORD

10 am Sunday, 2 Feb 2025



Prelude: *"Where is this Stupendous Stranger"*, music by Kit Smart Hymn# 491
Welcome and Announcements - Cheryl Stone

Leader: Let us pray:

All: Almighty God, we commend to your gracious care and keeping all the men and women of our armed forces at home and abroad. Defend them day by day with your heavenly grace; strengthen them in their trials and temptations; give them courage to face the perils which beset them; and grant them a sense of your abiding presence wherever they may be; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Opening Hymn: "How Bright Appears the Morning" #496

Opening Sentences (*Please stand as you are able*)

Leader: Send out your light and your truth, that they may lead me, and bring me to your holy hill and to your dwelling. (*Psalm 43:3*)

Confession of Sin

Deacon: Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.
(a short silence is observed)

Deacon: We have wounded your love.

People: O God, heal us.

Deacon: We stumble in the darkness.

People: Light of the world transfigure us.

Deacon: We forget that we are your home.

People: Spirit of God, dwell in us.

All: Eternal Spirit, living God, in whom we live and move and have our being, all that we are, have been, and shall be is known to you, to the very secret of our hearts and all that rises to trouble us. Living flame burn into us, cleansing wind, blow through us, fountain of water, well up within us, that we may love and praise you in deed and in truth.

Deacon: Almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us all our sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen us in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep us in eternal life. Amen.

The Invitatory and Psalter

Leader: O God, make speed to save us.

People: O Lord, make haste to help us.

All: Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit:
As it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.

Leader: The Holy One is in our midst: O come let us worship.

Venite: *(In unison)*

Come, let us sing to the Lord; *

let us shout for joy to the Rock of our salvation.

Let us come before his presence with thanksgiving *

and raise a loud shout to him with psalms.

For the Lord is a great God, *

and a great King above all gods.

In his hand are the caverns of the earth, *

and the heights of the hills are his also.

The sea is his, for he made it, *

and his hands have molded the dry land.

Come, let us bow down, and bend the knee, *

and kneel before the Lord our Maker.

For he is our God,

and we are the people of his pasture and the sheep of his hand. *

Oh, that today you would hearken to his voice! Amen.

The Lessons *(Please be seated)*

First Lesson: A Reading from the book of Malachi (3:1-4):

Thus says the Lord, See, I am sending my messenger to prepare the way before me, and the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple. The messenger of the covenant in whom you delight-- indeed, he is coming, says the Lord of hosts. But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears?

For he is like a refiner's fire and like fullers' soap; he will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the descendants of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, until they present offerings to the Lord in righteousness. Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the Lord as in the days of old and as in former years.

Reader: The Word of the Lord

People: Thanks be to God

Psalm 84

**1 How dear to me is your dwelling,
O Lord of hosts! ***

**my heart and my flesh rejoice in
the living God.**

**My soul has a desire and longing
for the courts of the Lord;**

2 The sparrow has found her a house

- and the swallow a nest where she
may lay her young; *
- by the side of your altars, O Lord
of hosts, my King and my God.
- 3** Happy are they who dwell in your
house! *
they will always be praising you.
- 4** Happy are the people whose
strength is in you! *
whose hearts are set on the
pilgrims' way.
- 5** Those who go through the desolate
valley will find it a place of
springs, *
for the early rains have covered it
with pools of water.
- 6** They will climb from height to
height, *
and the God of gods will reveal
himself in Zion.
- 7** Lord God of hosts, hear my prayer; *
hearken, O God of Jacob.
- 8** Behold our defender, O God; *
and look upon the face of your
Anointed.
- 9** For one day in your courts is better
than a thousand in my own room, *
and to stand at the threshold of
the house of my God
than to dwell in the tents of the
wicked.
- 10** For the Lord God is both sun and
shield; *
he will give grace and glory;
- 11** No good thing will the Lord
withhold *
from those who walk with
integrity.
- 12** O Lord of hosts, *
happy are they who put their
trust in you!

The Second Lesson: A reading from the book of 1 Hebrews (2:14-18):

Since God's children share flesh and blood, Jesus himself likewise shared the same things, so that through death he might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil, and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by the fear of death. For it is clear that he did not come to help angels, but the descendants of Abraham. Therefore he had to become like his brothers and sisters in every respect, so that he might be a merciful and faithful high priest in the service of God, to make a sacrifice of atonement for the sins of the people. Because he himself was tested by what he suffered, he is able to help those who are being tested.

Lector: *The word of the Lord.*

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Gospel Lesson: Luke 2:22-40

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

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

When the time came for their purification according to the law of Moses, the parents of Jesus brought him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord (as it is written in the law of the Lord, "Every firstborn male shall be designated as holy to the Lord"), and they offered a sacrifice according to what is stated in the law of the Lord, "a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons."

Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon; this man was righteous and devout, looking forward to the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit rested on him. It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Messiah. Guided by the Spirit, Simeon came into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him what was customary under the law, Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying,

"Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace,
according to your word;
for my eyes have seen your salvation,
which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples,
a light for revelation to the Gentiles
and for glory to your people Israel."

And the child's father and mother were amazed at what was being said about him. Then Simeon blessed them and said to his mother Mary, "This child is destined for the falling and the rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be opposed so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed-- and a sword will pierce your own soul too."

There was also a prophet, Anna the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was of a great age, having lived with her husband seven years after her marriage, then as a widow to the age of eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshiped there with fasting and prayer night and day. At that moment she came, and began to praise God and to speak about the child to all who were looking for the redemption of Jerusalem.

When they had finished everything required by the law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favor of God was upon him.

Leader: The Gospel of the Lord. **People:** **Praise to you, Lord Christ**

Reflection—Cheryl Stone

The Apostles Creed:

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth;

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen

The Prayers

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Leader: Let us pray.

All: Almighty and ever living God, we humbly pray that, as your only-begotten Son was this day presented in the temple, so we may be presented to you with pure and clean hearts by Jesus Christ our Lord; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

The Suffrages (B)

V. Save your people, Lord, and bless your inheritance;

R. Govern and uphold them, now and always.

V. Day by day we bless you;

R. We praise your name for ever.

V. Lord, keep us from all sin today;

R. Have mercy upon us, Lord, have mercy.

V. Lord, show us your love and mercy;

R. For we put our trust in you.

V. In you, Lord, is our hope;

R. And we shall never hope in vain.

Collect for Sundays:

Leader: O God, you make us glad with the weekly remembrance of the glorious resurrection of your Son our Lord: Give us this day such blessing through our worship of you, that the week to come may be spent in your favor; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

**Other Intercessions and Thanksgivings:
Birthdays, Anniversaries, Healing, Travel, Gratitude**

Prayer of General Thanksgiving (All in unison)

Leader: Let us Pray

All: Accept, O Lord, our thanks and praise for all that you have done for us. We thank you for the splendor of the whole creation, for the beauty of this world, for the wonder of life, and for the mystery of love. We thank you for the blessing of family and friends, and for the loving care which surrounds us on every side. We thank you for setting us at tasks which demand our best efforts, and for leading us to accomplishments which satisfy and delight us. We thank you also for those disappointments and failures that lead us to acknowledge our dependence on you alone. Above all, we thank you for your Son Jesus Christ; for the truth of his Word and the example of his life; for his steadfast obedience, by which he overcame temptation; for his dying, through which he overcame death; and for his rising to life again, in which we are raised to the life of your kingdom. Grant us the gift of your Spirit, that we may know Christ and make him known; and through him, at all times and in all places, may give thanks to you in all things. Amen.

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

People: We are called to love and serve.

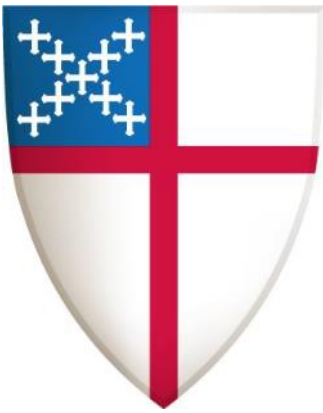
Deacon/Leader: Let us go forth into the world, rejoicing in God's Spirit.

Alleluia! Alleluia

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

Postlude : "*Marche Solennelle*", Louis Niedermeyer, arr by Gerard Alphenaar

Please join us for some refreshments in the Parish Hall. (Birthday Sunday)



ST. STEPHEN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

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



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Hm: _____ Cell _____

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Adrs: _____ BrthDate _____

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