

St. Stephen's
Episcopal Church



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
HOLY COMMUNION**

Wednesday 24 December 2025, 5pm

	Wednesday
Celebrant/Officiant	
Deacons	Dorothy Gutwein Sherry Simon
LEM	Tim Holsonback
Lector	Sandra Calhoun
Music Director	Doreen Oberg
Choir	Pat Wick Renee Oleinjak Katheleen Jarvis Peggy Brown + you

Prelude: "Jesu Parvule: by Alfred Burt

Processional Hymn: ***"O, Come all ye Faithful",***
Lighting of the Advent Wreath

#83

Celebrant: The people who have walked in darkness

People: **have seen a great light.**

Celebrant: For to us a child is born

People **to us a child is given.**

Celebrant: Glory to God in the highest

People: **and peace to God's people on earth..**

Celebrant: Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Gloria



1. Glo - ry to God in the high - est, _



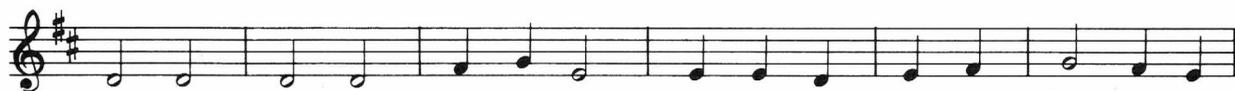
_ and peace to his peo - ple on earth. 2. Lord God, hea - ven - ly King,



al - might - y God and Fa - ther, we wor - ship you, we give you thanks, we



praise you for your glo - ry. 3. Lord Je - sus Christ, on - ly Son of the



Fa - ther, Lord God, Lamb of God, 4. you take a - way the sin of the



world: have mer - cy on us; 5. you are seat - ed at the

world: have mer - cy on us; 5. you are seat - ed at the
right hand of the Fa - ther: re - ceive our prayer. 6. For you a -
lone are the Ho - ly One, you a - lone are the Lord,
7. you a - lone are the Most High, Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly Spi - rit,
in the glo - ry of God the Fa - ther. A - - men.

Presider: Lord, have mercy.

People: **Christ, have mercy.**

Presider: Lord, have mercy.

The Collect Christmas Eve

Presider: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Presider & People: **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.**

1st Lesson: A Reading from the Book of Isaiah (7:10-16)

The first reading is from the book of Isaiah Isaiah 7: 10-16

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 all the boots of the tramping warriors and all the garments rolled in blood shall be burned as fuel for the fire. 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**

The Psalm

Psalm 96

- 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.
- 10 **Tell it out among the nations: "The Lord is King! ***
he has made the world so firm that it cannot be moved;
he will judge the peoples with equity."
- 11 Let the heavens rejoice, and let the earth be glad;
let the sea thunder and all that is in it; *
let the field be joyful and all that is therein.

**12 Then shall all the trees of the wood shout for joy
before the Lord when he comes, *
when he comes to judge the earth.**

13 He will judge the world with righteousness *
and the peoples with his truth.

2nd Lesson: A Reading from 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**

Sequence Hymn "Angels from the Realms of Glory ", #93 vs 1-3

The Gospel Lesson: Luke (2:1-29):

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

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

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. All went to their own towns to be registered. Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see-- I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and 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 heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!"

[When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place,

which the Lord has made known to us." So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.]

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

Sequence Hymn "Angels from the Realms of Glory", #93 vs 4

Sermon

Nicene Creed (Traditional)

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: Form IV

— In the course of the silence after each bidding, the People offer their own prayers, either silently or aloud.

Leader: Let us pray for the Church and for the world.

Grant, Almighty God, that all who confess your Name may be united in your truth, live together in your love, and reveal your glory in the world.

Silence Lord, in your mercy

People: Hear our prayer..

Leader Guide the people of this land, and of all the nations, in the ways of justice and peace; that we may honor one another and serve the common good.

Silence Lord, in your mercy

People: Hear our prayer.

Give us all a reverence for the earth as your own creation, that we may use its resources rightly in the service of others and to your honor and glory.

Silence Lord, in your mercy

People: Hear our prayer..

Bless all whose lives are closely linked with ours, and grant that we may serve Christ in them, and love one another as he loves us.

Silence Lord, in your mercy

People: Hear our prayer.

Comfort and heal all those who suffer in body, mind, or spirit; give them courage and hope in their troubles, and bring them the joy of your salvation.

Silence Lord, in your mercy

People: Hear our prayer.

We commend to your mercy all who have died, that your will for them may be fulfilled; and we pray that we may share with all your saints in your eternal kingdom.

Silence Lord, in your mercy

People: Hear our prayer.

Prayer for St. Stephen's:

Presider: **Almighty God, giver of every good gift; look graciously on your church, and so guide the minds of our search committee, wardens, and vestry, who are in discernment for St. Stephen's church, Sierra Vista, that we may receive a faithful pastor, who will care for your people and equip us for our ministries; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen**

The Celebrant adds a concluding collect

Presider: (. . .) **Amen.**

Confession of Sin and Absolution

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

Minister and People: **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.**

The Peace:

Presider: The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Welcome & announcements

Birthday's, Prayers of Healing, Blessings and gratitude.....

Offertory sentence;

Presider: (. . .)

Offertory Hymn: "It came upon a Midnight Clear",

#89

Doxology

(Hymn #380 v. 3)

**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. Amen.**

Skip to the Lord's Prayer...



The Lord's Prayer:

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your Name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial, and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

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, with thanksgiving.

People: Christ invites us all to be known and fed here.

(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: “Silent Night, Holy Night”,

#111

Post Communion Prayer

Presider: Let us pray:

All: Eternal God, heavenly Father, you have graciously accepted us as living members of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ, and you have fed us with spiritual food in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood. Send us now into the world in peace, and grant us strength and courage to love and serve you with gladness and singleness of heart; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Benediction:

Presider: May the peace of God which surpasses all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God, and of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. And the blessing of God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit be among you and remain with you now and always. Amen

Closing Hymn: “Hark! The Herald Angels Sing”,

#87

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.

People Thanks be to God.

Postlude: “O Holy Night”, 19th century French tune arr Chip Davis

PARISH CYCLE OF PRAYER

Kathleen Jarvis – Ron Breedlove, Peggy Brown, Sandra Calhoun,
Marietta Conley, Peter Criscuolo (12/31).

DIOCESAN CYCLE OF PRAYER

- We Pray for the Archbishop of Canterbury, Sara, for Sean, our Presiding Bishop, for Jennifer, our Diocesan Bishop, for our Deacons, Dottie and Sherry, and for Fr. J.J., our Priest.
- In the Anglican cycle of prayer we pray for The Diocese of São Paulo – Igreja Episcopal Anglicana do Brasil
- In the Diocesan cycle of prayer we pray also for Saint Barnabas on the Desert in Scottsdale.

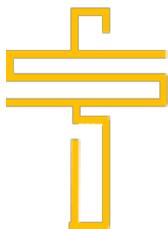
PLEASE PRAY FOR THE HEALTH OF

Penelope McKay, new born daughter of Sharol and Caleb McKay, born 3 weeks early(1/18); Alma Vasquez (12/31), Deacon Robin Hollis (12/30), Janet Treder (12/31), Family and friends of Deacon Fritz & Paula Jones (12/31) repose of their souls.

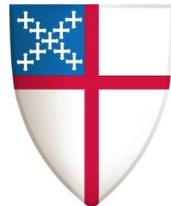
SPECIAL PRAYER

- The victims of war around the world and renewed efforts for peace. (12/31)

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: _____, _____, _____